

Sunday Worship
December 21, 2025

LOVE



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

Thanks for coming to be with us at Zion Lutheran Church. If you are visiting with us for the first time, will you please fill out a visitor card, available in the pew rack in front of you, and drop it in the offering plate. Whether this is your first visit or you worship here regularly, we are delighted that you chose to share with us. We worship together on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. If you have a “prayer request” or a “praise report”, please let the pastor know. God bless you on your journey of faith.

INTRODUCTION

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew’s account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Arr. Keesecker

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS James 5:16; 1John 1:8-9

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #260 (v 1-3)

The King Shall Come

GREETING / PRAYER OF THE DAY 2 Corinthians 13:13

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . .

C: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - ELW #240

Light four candles to watch for Messiah

Let the light banish darkness

He is coming, tell the glad tidings

Let your lights be shining

CHANCEL CHOIR Director Bill Jones

Rise Up, Shepherds!

Words: Nancy Price Music: Don Besig

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

R: ¹⁰ The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

R: ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C: ² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

R: ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: ⁴ **O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

R: ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C: ⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

R: ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: ¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

R: ¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

C: ¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

R: ¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Red Hymnal #257 (v 1 & 7) Isaiah 7:14

**O Come O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
Refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **Matthew 1:18-25**

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON Pastor Jaren Summers

HYMN Red Hymnal #265

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

RESPONSE TO GOD’S WORD

APOSTLE’S CREED

P: Let us confess our faith.

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He**

is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS *(Response after each petition)* 1 Timothy 2:1-2

P: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer . . .

OFFERING—Invitation—God’s Work Continues

OFFERTORY SONG #188 *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit.

COMMUNION PREFACE #107 & 108

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

C: **We lift them to the Lord**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYERS WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

(This liturgy comes from Hippolytus who was a bishop in Rome writing around 215 AD. Hippolytus was recording the liturgy as it had been practiced up to that point, having been handed down by the apostles. Today we are celebrating communion as it was celebrated over 1800 years ago!)

LORD’S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION *(All who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament are invited to receive Holy Communion.)*

BLESSING Numbers 6:23-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Red hymnal #244

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

P: What is the mission of Zion Lutheran Church?

C: **The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is:
"Serving Christ through serving others."**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The King Shall Come

Arr. Burkhardt

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God
by Linda Holt in memory of loved ones.*

*Prayer concerns for Zion's prayer chain may be submitted
using a 'Prayer Request' card from the pew rack.*

In Helpful Service

Pastor	Jaren Summers
Communion Assist	Bob Keppel
Reader	Jeffrey Slyman
Ushers	Judy & Ken Bailey
Greeters	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE HELPERS NEEDED The last services of December have openings for ushers and greeters. Please sign up in the fellowship hallway.

ZION'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2026 On the table in the narthex there are two forms; a schedule for the activities planned for 2026 and a member questionnaire. **Please fill out the questionnaire and place it in the box on the table.** Thanks!

2026 CALENDARS are available in in the Narthex. The cost is \$15. There is an envelope on the table for the money. This is a fundraiser for youth gathering fund.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: ELCA GOOD GIFTS

On the Christmas tree in the narthex, you will find ornaments that have pictures of animals and other needed items for those in need throughout the world. For example, you may pay for ten chicks for \$10, honeybees for \$20, seeds and gardening tools for \$50, a clinic visit for a child for \$10. You can also donate any amount of money and the Women of Zion can put the money toward a more expensive animal - like a goat for \$50! Please take an ornament and return it with a check made payable to Women of Zion. Please place your check in the basket on the table in the narthex by December 31st. Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

YOUTH/KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS and anyone else interested are invited to come to a meeting on **January 5th** at 5:30pm to discuss the future of youth/kids Sunday School.

BACK BAY MISSION—FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING The first official mission trip meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 25th**, immediately after worship service. All those interested in participating are warmly welcome to join us in the adult Sunday school room. All those 16 and over that would like to attend please come as we begin planning this meaningful outreach opportunity.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

Monday, December 22	10:30 am	Mission Quilts
	3:30 pm	TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
Tuesday, December 23	10:00 am	Mission Quilts
	8:00 pm	AA
Wednesday, December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 25	Merry Christmas Office closed	
Friday, December 26	Office Closed	
Sunday, December 28	No Sunday School Randall Residence Outreach	

Staff

Jaren Summers, *Pastor*; Bill Jones & Susie Gray, *Choir Directors*;
Lori Sebastian, *Organist*; Jessica Dorn, *Christian Education Director*;
Annette Calicoat, *Office Admin*; Sue Rambeau, *Treasurer*; Tina Putnam, *Custodian*