

**Sunday Worship**  
**January 4, 2026**  
**Second Sunday of Christmas**



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

Within the gospel reading’s profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God’s grace and truth.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

Arr. Sadowski

### 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 #300 (v 1-3)**

*The First Noel*

**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: **Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**THE WORD**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

R: <sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together; a great company, they shall return here. <sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock." <sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>2</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>3</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 147:12-20**

R: <sup>12</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

C: <sup>13</sup>**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

R: <sup>14</sup>God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

C: <sup>15</sup>**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

R: <sup>16</sup>God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

C: <sup>17</sup>**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

R: <sup>18</sup>The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

C: <sup>19</sup>**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

R: <sup>20</sup>The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

R: <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

R: The Word of the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Gospel according to **John 1:1-18**

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

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**SERMON** Pastor Jaren Summers

**HYMN** Red Hymnal #295 (v 1- 4)

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

### 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.

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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** Purple hymnal #914

*Jesus, the Light of the World*

**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 joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare on Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Arr. Hobby

*The altar flowers are given to the honor and glory of God  
by Matt & Pam Sauls in celebration of their mothers' birthdays.*

*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	Kervyn Mach
Ushers	Madison & Charlotte Dorn
Greeters	Dale & Debbie Rudisill

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MISSION OF THE MONTH: *A Little Kindness*

We will be collecting items for ***Little Kindness*** during the month of January. Pam Hale (sister of Terri Darrah) heads up this non-profit which provides Chemotherapy Care Bags through *Pink Ribbon Girls* to local hospitals and churches. Please take one or two mittens from the basket in the narthex. Purchase the item(s) and return them to the mission box by January 31<sup>st</sup>. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please write it out to Women of Zion. Any questions contact Deb Keppel.

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

**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. The **KICK OFF DINNER is January 18th at 11:00**. The church is supplying chicken, coffee, water, lemonade and iced tea. Please sign up for either vegetable, fruit or dessert in the fellowship hallway. Bring your own service ware.

**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.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** are available for pick up in the back of the church.

### THIS WEEK AT ZION

<b>Monday, January 5</b>	10:30 am	Mission Quilts
	3:30 pm	TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Sunday School Teacher Mtg.</b>
	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Property Meeting</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Pastoral Relations Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday, January 6</b>	10:00 am	Mission Quilts
	8:00 pm	AA
<b>Thursday, January 8</b>	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Undecorating Party</b>
<b>Sunday, January 11</b>	<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Secret Sis Reveal Party</b>
	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Women of Zion Meeting</b>