



Christmas Eve Family Service December 24, 2025 4:00 p.m.





Welcome to Zion!

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Welcome – whether this is your home congregation or your first visit, we're glad you're here!

We welcome all people in the name of Christ to experience God's goodness and grace in Word, water, and meal. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you to belong at Zion.

Get Connected at Zion

The best ways to stay connected are to visit our website, follow us on social media (@zionchurchdfb on Facebook and Instagram), and subscribe to our weekly newsletter.

Children in Worship

Children are God's gift to our church! They are not the future of our church; they are the right now. The way we welcome children here directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another.

We welcome children and their families to sit near the Prayground at the front of the sanctuary. There are coloring activities, puzzles, books, and a toolbox to engage in our worship together.

Giving

We appreciate your stewardship of treasure, talent, and time at Zion. You may leave your offerings in the offering plates or give online via our website or this QR code.



Livestreaming

Zion livestreams all our services on Facebook and YouTube. Any person present gives consent to being filmed or photographed.



Zion is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community, and extends God's radical welcome to all people, because we're all created in God's image.

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

ELW Hymn #283, Verse 1

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together...Dear God, tonight is bright and beautiful because Jesus was born. Help us walk in his light—showing love, joy, and kindness—every day. And when our life is done, bring us into the full brightness of his forever home. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

READING Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light!

For a child has been born—for us! The gift of a son—for us! He'll take over the running of the world. His names will be: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going with fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always. The zeal of God-of-the-Angel-Armies will do all this.

HYMN

ELW Hymn #279, Verse 1

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

READING Luke 2:1-7

A reading from the gospel according to Luke:

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the

census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the guesthouse.

HYMN

ELW Hymn #277, Verse 1

"Away in a Manger"

READING Luke 2:8-14

The reading continues:

There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Lord. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights, peace to all people on earth who please him.

HYMN

ELW Hymn #289, Verse 1

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

READING Luke 2:15-20

The reading continues:

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed. Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

HYMN

ELW Hymn #290, Refrain & Verse 1

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Happy Birthday Jesus"

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May the light of Jesus, born for us tonight, shine in your hearts and homes. May his joy fill your celebrations, his peace calm your worries, and his love guide you wherever you go.

And may Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless you and keep you, this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

The worship has ended. Now the service begins.
Go and tell the good news that Christ is born anew this night!
Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN

ELW Hymn #267, Verse 1

"Joy to the World"

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ZIONMinistries Under the Cross

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