



ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

IN JESUS' NAME WE WELCOME YOU!

Baptism of Our Lord

January 8 & 12, 2025

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

Worship Focus: Today's lessons show us the meaning of the name "Christ," the Anointed one.

This is the Second Sunday in the season of Epiphany. The readings during the Epiphany season carry forward the emphasis in the readings for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, the theme of Jesus revealing himself to us as God and Savior. In Christmas and Epiphany our attention is on getting to know Jesus, who he is and how he works; thus there is not so much emphasis on our response beyond the response of faith, which itself is always seen as his work and not ours.

LITURGY: Service of the Word

CW pg. 38

OUR FAMILY AT WORSHIP

BATHROOMS are located in the back of church, just down the hall toward the school. Please ask an usher for help finding them.

HEARING ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT is available as part of our sound system. Individual hand-held units are available. Please check with an usher if you would like a unit for today's worship service.

VISITORS are asked to please sign our fellowship registry in the back of church so that we will have a record of your visit. Thank you for joining us today!

For most of you, putting on perfume, cologne, or aftershave before coming to church is just routine. But for a growing number of us in the congregation, those smells will lead to nausea, headaches, shortness of breath, and migraines. We are asking if you could please re-evaluate your use of fragrances before you come to church, especially during the winter months when the enclosed heated space will magnify the effects of the fragrances. If you could wait until you get home from church to spritz on the smells, it would be greatly appreciated!

EPIPHANY

709 Christ, Your Footprints Through the Desert



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert Led to
 2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons As by
 3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan Led at
 4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us One with



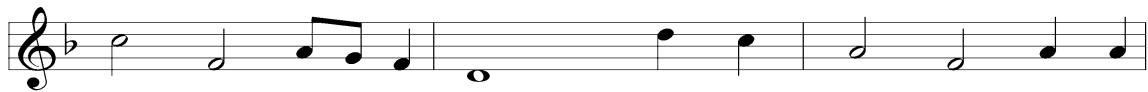
Jor - dan's flow - ing stream. There you heard the
 Jor - dan's bank you stood; Bathed, though sin - less,
 last to Cal - v'ry's hill. There up - on the
 Christ, our ris - en Lord; Freed us, claimed us,



her - ald cry - ing Is - rael's old pro - phet - ic
 with your peo - ple In the riv - er's cleans - ing
 cross for - sak - en, You ful - filled the Fa - ther's
 cleansed, for - giv - en Through the wa - ter and the



dream: “He is com - ing! He is com - ing! He will
 flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens o - pened; Came the
 will. Lamb of God, we see you dy - ing, Sin - less,
 Word. Help us hear your ur - gent sum - mons, Call - ing



cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners, plunge be - neath the
 Spir - it as a dove; Spoke a voice be - yond all
 yet for sin - ners slain. But where death rose up to
 us to serve you now. Send us forth, your sons and



wa - ters! Wash a - way your guilt and shame!”
 hear - ing: “See my Son, the one I love!”
 tri - umph, You be - gan your glo - rious reign!
 daugh - ters, With the cross up - on our brow.

This hymn not only underscores the significance of our Lord's baptism in his work of salvation but also demonstrates the intimate connection between his baptism and our own.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: BEACH SPRING (87 87 D) *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

P: The grace of our Lord (✠) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

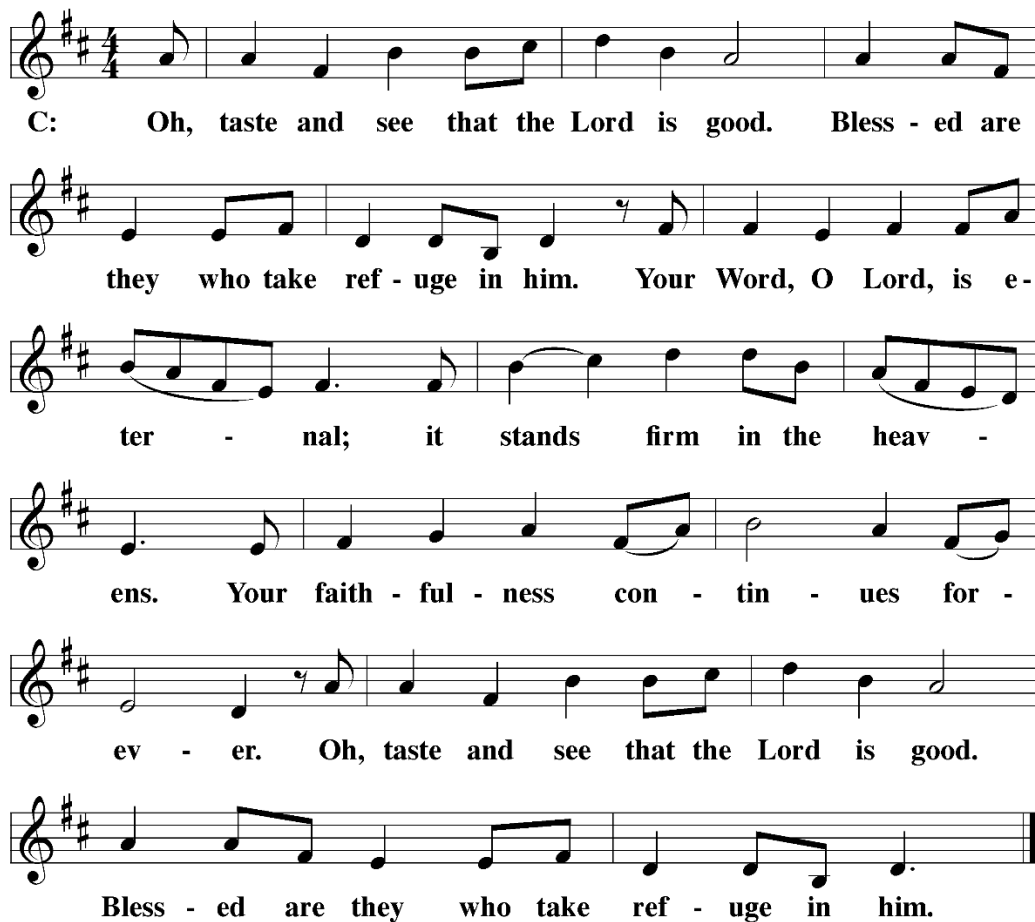
C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

The minister says the Prayer of the Day.

P: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him you beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

16 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I see a king for myself among his sons.”² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will let you know what you are to do. You are to anoint for me the person that I point out to you.”⁴ So Samuel did what the LORD had told him to do and went to Bethlehem. Trembling with fear, the elders of the city came to meet him. They said, “Do you come in peace?”⁵ He said, “Yes, in peace. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” He consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.⁶ When they had come, he looked at Eliab and said, “Certainly this is the LORD’s anointed.”⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at how tall he is, because I have rejected him. For the LORD does not look at things the way man does. For man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”⁹ Then Jesse had Shammah pass by. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel. Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Is that all of the young men?” Jesse said, “There still is the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him, for we cannot sit down to eat until he comes.”¹² He sent for him and brought him in. David had red hair and striking eyes, and was good-looking. The LORD said, “Get up! Anoint him, because this is the one.”¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers. The Spirit of the LORD rushed on David with power from that day forward. After that Samuel set out and returned to Ramah. (EHV)

Refrain

Great are the works of the Lord. Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le-
lu - ia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Psalm tone

Why do the nations conspire*
and the peoples plot in vain?

The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers
gather together against the LORD*
and against his Anointed One.

Refrain

The One enthroned in heaven laughs;*
the Lord scoffs at them.

Then he rebukes them in his anger
and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,*
“I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:*
He said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

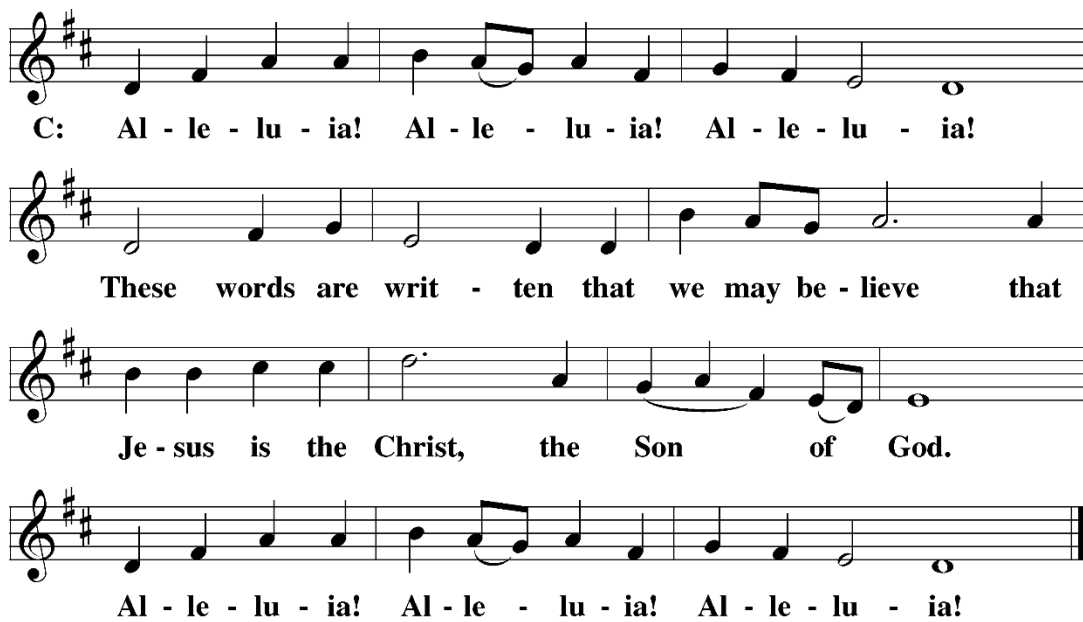
Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵ he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life. (EHV)

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11b)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL:

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. While he was praying, heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you.” (EHV)



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

EPIPHANY

89 To Jordan's River Came Our Lord



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The
 2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The
 3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And
 4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came
 5 The Fa - ther's word, the Spir - it's flight A -



Christ, whom heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The
 Son of God in flesh dis - guised— To
 John bap - tized the Lamb of God, The
 God's own voice with words pro - found: "This
 noint - ed Christ in glo - rious sight As



God from God, the Light from Light, The
 stand be - neath the Fa - ther's will And
 Ho - ly Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, De -
 is my Son," was his de - cree, "The
 God's own choice, from A - dam's fall To



Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
 all his prom - is - es ful - fill.
 scend - ed on him from a - bove.
 one I love, who pleas - es me."
 save the world and free us all.

6 Now rise, faint hearts: be resolute!
 This man in Christ, our substitute!
 He was baptized in Jordan's stream,
 Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

Text: James P. Tiefel, b. 1949. © 1993 James P. Tiefel. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Tune: WINCHESTER NEW (LM) *Musicalisch Hand-Buch der Geistlichen Melodien*, Hamburg, 1690, alt.

SERMON THEME BASED ON: Titus 3:4-7

A Fresh Start

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING: *The collection of the offering in the service is an opportunity for the members of Zion to give back to God a small portion of what he has given us in order to support the Gospel ministry of Zion Lutheran Church and School and of the WELS throughout the world. If you are a visitor today, while we appreciate an offering from you, please do not feel obligated to give.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death:

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

P: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

P: Prince of Peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

P: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

BAPTISM

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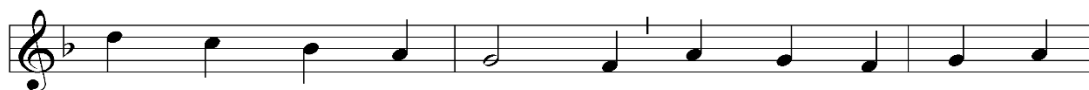
Baptized into Your Name Most Holy



1 Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O
 2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To
 3 My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your
 4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re -



Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a
 be - hence - forth your child and heir. My faith - ful
 prom - ise sure - ly will en - dure. Oh, cast me
 ceive it all, O Lord, from me. Let me con -



place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your saints, your
 Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of all your
 not a - way for - ev - er If words and deeds be -
 fess my faith sin - cere - ly And help me your own



cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
 sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort
 come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -
 child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or



sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
 me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.
 filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.
 own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

Text: Johann J. Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (KÖNIG) (98 98 88) Johann B. König, 1691–1758.

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (✠) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: CW 529

“Built on the Rock”

CHURCH

529

Built on the Rock



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for his
4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
5 Grant then, O God, your will be done, That, when the



stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth his
own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
God did re - ceive us. Th' al - tar re - calls Christ's
church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
grace us owns Heirs of his won - drous sal - va -
sac - ri - fice And what the sac - ra - ment gives
faith may come Where Christ his mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove
tion. Were we but two his name to tell,
us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
ing: "I know my own; my own know me.



But a - bove all the soul dis - tressed,
Choos - es to live with us in love,
Yet he would deign with us to dwell
Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
You, not the world, my face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
Mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
With all his grace and his fa - vor.
And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
My peace I leave with you al - ways.”

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Tune: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS (88 88 88 8) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–87.



Officiants

Accompanist: Dottie Bober

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Greg Sitzman

*ALL CHURCH SERVICE AND MUSIC ITEMS ARE PRINTED UNDER ONE LICENSE – A-717618.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Greg Sitzman: 734-309-7877; gsitzman@zionmonroe.org

Principal: Bryan Schneck: 907-331-7761; bschneck@zionmonroe.org

CALL UPDATE—The Members of Zion and St. Paul extended a call to Pastor John Moll. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he deliberates his call.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: Friends in Faith is holding a Christian Book Study – Living the Chocolate Life. Everyone is invited to join for four Sundays (January 12th & 26th and February 9th & 23rd from 2-4 pm). Each meeting will involve discussing two chapters of the book, enjoying fellowship and tasting chocolates.

Bottle Drive: Our Congregation is participating in the Change for Life program to support the ministry of New Beginnings—A Home for Mothers. New Beginnings is a WELS-based ministry that helps single mothers pave the way to self-sufficiency in a Christ-centered home. We will give gifts of LOVE to support the mothers and babies they serve. The bottle drive display is located in the back of the church and the school hallway. The fundraising effort is going to run from January 1st through February 23rd. Pick up a baby bottle, take it home and have everyone in your household fill it with their spare change. On Sunday, February 23rd please make sure all bottles are returned so we can send the money to New Beginnings. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP GIFT OF TIME OPPORTUNITY: Zion is in need of members who would be willing to input the attendance information into Church 360 following the service each week. Training will be provided and this is something that can be done from home. We hope that if we get five or six people to help it would have to be done once every month to month and a half. If interested, please reach out to Rob Krueger at 734-770-1149.

ALTAR GUILD FOR 2025 — There is a sign-up sheet in the west foyer for Altar Guild volunteers for 2025. We really do appreciate all the help we get through the year with this service of love. If you haven't ever done Altar Guild, please consider helping out. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office.

FRIENDS IN FAITH: In the East foyer Friends in Faith is selling greeting cards for \$1.00 each. There are different occasion cards available. The money raised from the sales is going towards future Friends in Faith projects, such as the Kleenex box ministry project and other shut in projects they do throughout the year.

Coming up at Zion

Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship Service
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
	2:00 p.m. Friends in Faith – Living the Chocolate Life Devotional
Monday	10:00 a.m. Pastor Circuit Meeting @ Zion
	7:00 p.m. Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
	1:30 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Worship Service (IC)
Thursday	6:00 p.m. Church Council
Sunday	9:00 a.m. Worship Service (IC/CC)
	10:15 a.m. Sunday School or Bible Class
	11:30 a.m. Friends in Faith Meeting
	1:00 p.m. Jesus Cares Worship Service

January Volunteers

	Jan. 1 & 5	Jan. 8 & 12	Jan. 15 & 19	Jan. 22 & 26	Jan. 29 & Feb. 2
Altar Guild			NEED VOLUNTEER		
Live Stream Helpers					
Ushers	<p><u>Jan. 1</u> No Service</p> <p><u>Jan. 5</u> Dave Bengé Alan Bober Matthew Hill Joe Koch Jeremy Robinson Jacob Robinson William Robinson</p>	<p><u>Jan. 8</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Matthew Loos Zach Turner</p> <p><u>Jan. 12</u> Ray Chandonnet Erich Freiny Rob Krueger Matthew Loos Zach Turner</p>	<p><u>Jan. 15</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p> <p><u>Jan. 19</u> Jake Burke Rich Heusman Jeff Heusman Juergen Koenig Matt McCormick Zach McCormick</p>	<p><u>Jan. 22</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier</p> <p><u>Jan. 26</u> Tony Affholter Jeff Douglas Mark Fuerstenberg Ray Palmatier</p>	<p><u>Jan. 29</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p> <p><u>Feb. 2</u> Mark Kipf Keith McBee Joe Schmeling</p>
Communion Helpers	<p><u>Jan. 5</u> Alan Bober Mark Kipf</p>		<p><u>Jan. 15</u> Ken Vagt</p> <p><u>Jan. 19</u> Jeremy Robinson Ray Palmatier</p>		<p><u>Jan. 29</u> Alan Bober</p> <p><u>Feb. 2</u> Erich Freiny Ron Krueger</p>