

life together

But still 6 ft apart!

THIS WEEK'S NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

WEEK OF DECEMBER 26, 2021 - JANUARY 1, 2022

today - 1st Sunday of Christmas



ZION
LUTHERAN | ANOKA

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING:

Pastor Mike Rueckert

PRESIDING:

8 AM Pr Brent Campbell

9 AM Pr Connie Tiede

11 AM Pr Sue Wallager

READERS:

8 AM Deb Oas Koepsell

9 AM Sandy Benson

11 AM Steve Dussl

CHRIST CARE PRAYERS... We pray for those sick and/or hospitalized due to COVID-19 and for all our health care workers. We pray for the family of Joan Jedlicka who mourns her death.

ALTAR FLOWERS... Given in memory and in honor of Jack & Bea McGillivray's 60th wedding anniversary on December 30th, given by Lee McGillivray, Dean, Dawn & Maddy Sorenson, Spencer Legrid, and Tony, Kristi, Kora & Ivan Brown.

RADIO BROADCAST SUPPORT FUND... Thank you to these recent supporters:

- Cara Fish

CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED MONDAY, DEC 27 & FRIDAY, DEC 31

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call the Zion's main number, 763-421-4656 and the messaging service will reach the pastor on call.

NO ADULT FORUM, KID CITY OR TOT TOWN TODAY - They resume on January 9

WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT ORGANISTS

- **Katie (KT) Thompson (SATURDAY 5 PM):** KT Thompson is currently the pianist/organist at Eden Prairie United Methodist Church in Eden Prairie, Minn. She loves accompanying for local theaters and most recently wrapped up the show "Clue" at the Zephyr Theatre in Stillwater, MN. She works at the U.S. District Court and loves to paint and play the accordion in her spare time.
- **Deb Oas Koepsell (SUNDAY 8 AM):** Deb started playing the organ in high school. She is a retired vocal and instrumental music teacher and a member of Zion since 1977 where she has been involved in several ministries.
- **Shari Albrecht (SUNDAY 9 AM):** Shari is a lifelong Lutheran church organist, most recently at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. On weekdays she works as an attorney representing media companies. She lives in St. Paul with her husband Andy and children Mabel (7) and Charlie (5).

They will fill in for our lead organist, Mary Jo Gothmann, approximately once a month. These positions are all effective January 1.

Welcome Guests!

We are glad you are here. If you would like to learn more about Zion please fill out the information below and give it to an usher or pastor as you leave. Information bags are available at the Welcome Center on the lower level.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

- I'm looking for a church home I wish to join Zion Please have a pastor call me Invite me to the next New Member Orientation

this week

PASTORS

Pastor Brent Campbell
Lead Pastor

Pastor Mike Rueckert
*Pastor for Children, Youth
& Family*

Pastor Connie Tiede
*Pastor for Worship,
Welcome, & Missions*

Pastor Sue Wallager
Pastor for Spiritual Care

Pastor Jim Barsch
*Pastor for Adult
Education*

Ken Johnson
Visitation Minister

Michael Busbey
*ELCA Missionary in
Central America*

Steve & Kim Blewett
*Missionaries in
Papua, New Guinea*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

Building Closed

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

Ringmasters

6:00 PM | CLASSROOM B (204-205)

Adult Choir

7:00 PM | SANCTUARY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

Building Closed

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

Traditional Worship Service

5:00 PM | SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

Traditional Worship Service

8 & 9 AM | SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

Blended Worship Service

11:00 AM | SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

Worship at Farmstead

1:30 PM | OFFSITE

MORTGAGE REDUCTION OPPORTUNITY

The Zion Foundation has approved a matching gift to encourage the reduction, and eventual elimination of Zion's mortgage. New gifts of any amount, over and above current pledges in place for our capital appeal, will be matched dollar for dollar up to a total of \$300,000 over the next 3 years. Our church mortgage is currently around \$2,230,000. Our monthly payment is \$15,695. Over half of our monthly payment is for interest! It is scheduled to be paid off January 2039. If an additional \$200,000 is paid off at the end of each year in 2022, 2023 and 2024; our loan would be paid off 5-1/2 years sooner and save us over \$415,000 in interest. Please consider this special opportunity to pay it forward for future generations of Zion Lutheran Church. Special "Mortgage Reduction" envelopes are available at the front desk and the tables at the Sanctuary entrances. Questions? Call the Church office at 763-421-4656 or talk to Pastor Brent.

2022 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

If you haven't already returned your 2022 stewardship commitment please do so as soon as possible. You may mail it in, drop it off at the church office or place it in one of the offering boxes near the exits on Sunday morning. Thank you for your faithful stewardship! Additional stewardship packets are available at the front desk.

YEAR-END GIVING

The church will be closed Mon, Dec 27 (Christmas holiday) and Fri, Dec 31 (New Year's holiday). Please drop off your year-end gifts by 5 pm on Dec 30 or mail them (postmarked) by Dec 31 or give online at www.zionanoka.org by Dec 31. Thank You!

encouraging words

Start each day with encouraging words from Zion! Dial 763-506-8191 to hear a daily message of encouragement and hope.

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Jesus said to them,
"Why were you
searching for me?
Did you not know
that I must be in my
Father's house?"
Luke 2:49

HOODIES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Thank you to all who have donated mittens, gloves, hats, and socks for needy students at Anoka Middle School. Another need is hoodie sweatshirts. We are looking for gently-used hoodies that your children or grandchildren have outgrown to give to the many students who need them. A collection box will be at the Welcome Center. Shirts should be sized to fit 11-14 year-olds, which varies greatly, so even a few larger sizes will be needed.

CARING TREE UPDATE - THANK YOU

A huge thank you to all who gave gift cards for the Caring Tree - with your generosity we were able to give out over \$4500 in gift cards!

coming up

NEW SMALL GROUP STUDY -

"GRACISM" BY DAVID A. ANDERSON

In this 4-week study, beginning the week of January 3, Pr. David Anderson presents a biblical model for showing special grace to others on the basis of ethnicity, class or other social distinction and offers seven sayings of the gracist with practical examples for building bridges and including others. Sign up at the Welcome Desk. Books are available for \$12 at the front desk.

UPCOMING BAPTISM CLASS

SUN, JAN 9 | 10 AM | LIBRARY

If you would like to know more about baptism at Zion, we will be having an informational class. Baptisms are part of worship either Saturdays at 5 PM or at our blended service on Sunday mornings at 11 AM. To register contact Kristine at kjohnson@zionanoka.org or Pr. Connie at ctiede@zionanoka.org

ZION PAGES

MON, JAN 24 | 6:30 PM | ZOOM

We will be discussing Ernest Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. In 1937, Hemingway traveled to Spain to cover the civil war there for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Three years later he completed the greatest novel to emerge from "the good fight" and one of the foremost classics of war literature. All are welcome as we discuss one of the best war novels ever written. Contact Pastor Sue Wallager for Zoom invite at swallager@zionanoka.org.

MATTHEW BAG MINISTRY

Matthew Bags are now available, at the Welcome Desk, for you to pick up to give to a needy person that you encounter. Each bag contains water, food bars, personal hygiene items and socks.

LIVESTREAM EQUIPMENT -

SPECIAL DONATION REQUEST

During the pandemic we have relied heavily on our livestream equipment in the Sanctuary. Having this equipment has been a blessing. However, the cameras and other equipment are starting to show their age and are in need of being updated. The cost of this project is \$34,500. If you would like to make a donation to help us move forward with these updates, please send/drop off a check to the church and note in the memo line "Livestream Updates". For more info contact Pastor Mike at mru Eckert@zionanoka.org.

CAMP WAPO SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Zion has a long history of supporting kids and youth active in our children and youth programming to go to Bible camp at Camp Wapo, and we need your help to be able to continue to support our families through the Camp Wapo Scholarship Fund. Our main sources of funds for these scholarships are from Thrivent Choice Dollars and direct donations. If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you can look into your eligibility to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars at www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836, follow the prompts and a Thrivent representative will work with you to direct your Choice Dollars to Zion. You can also send donations to Zion for the Camp Wapo Scholarship Fund. Checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church and "Scholarship Fund" written in the memo line. Thank you for your continued support of our Bible camp scholarship fund at Zion!

LIVE BROADCAST

SATURDAY 5 PM
SUNDAY 8, 9 & 11 AM

www.zionanoka.org
(click "Worship Online")
and on
[www.facebook.com/
ZionLutheranChurch
AnokaMn](https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurchAnokaMn)
(Available anytime)

LIVE CABLE TV BROADCAST

on
Metro Cable Network
Channel 6

Traditional Service

SATURDAY | 5 PM
SUNDAY | 10 AM
Rebroadcast:
Mon @ 7:30 AM,
Tue-Thu @ 7 AM
Fri @ 2 PM

Blended Service

SUNDAY | 5 PM

RADIO BROADCAST

on
106.1 BOB FM
SUNDAYS | 9 AM

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Go to:
[https://cutt.ly/
ziongivetoday](https://cutt.ly/ziongivetoday)
or
Scan this
QR code



growing in faith together

UPCOMING LESSONS

JANUARY 1/2
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1-9, 46-55

JANUARY 8/9
Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

JANUARY 15/16
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

prayer request

If you have a celebration or concern you would like the prayer team to include in their prayers, email it to swallager@zionanoka.org.

prayer corner

From our mother's womb you have known us, O God. You call us to follow you through all our days and seek us even when we wander. As we advance in years, clothe us with your love, that we may grow in grace and find favor in your sight; through Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

Sermon Scripture: Luke 2:41-52

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." Jesus said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.



"AS SEEN ON A CHURCH SIGN"

- PRAYER – THE BEST WIRELESS CONNECTION
- DON'T GIVE UP!
MOSES WAS ONCE A BASKET CASE!
- LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS LIKE
AN UNSHARPENED PENCIL – NO POINT
- 6 FT APART TODAY IS BETTER THAN
6 FT UNDER TOMORROW
- WHAT'S MISSING FROM CH__CH?
- SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT PRAYER
MAKES ONE WEAK

WELCOME

God is here for you, in the word and sacraments, in the love of this community.

CONTACT

1601 4th Avenue
Anoka MN 55303
763.421.4656
www.zionanoka.org

OFFICE HOURS

MON - THU: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
FRI: 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
While in the building please wear a mask & maintain 6' social distancing.

