

life together

THIS WEEK'S NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

WEEK OF DECEMBER 17-23, 2023



ZION
LUTHERAN | ANOKA

WORSHIP LEADERS

PREACHING:

Pastor Connie Tiede

ASSISTING:

SUN Pr Brent Campbell

READERS:

5 PM Kathy Johnson
8 AM Marcia Wilson
9 AM Caroline Baker
11 AM Steve Dussl

today - 3rd Sunday of Advent/Choral Worship

CHRIST CARE PRAYERS... We pray for the family of Sharon Beatty who mourns her death.

COMMUNION... Please let an usher know if you would prefer communion to be served to you in the pew.

ALTAR FLOWERS... Given in memory of Char Nelson by Floyd Nelson.

THANK YOU RECENT RADIO BROADCAST FUND SUPPORTERS

- Randall & Ida Boike in honor of grandson and sister-in-law who passed this year.
- Mary & Charles Kucera in memory of Pastor Brent's mother .

NO ADULT FORUM TODAY - THEY WILL RESUME ON JANUARY 21

HOLY SHENANIGANS SUNDAY SCHOOL

TODAY | 10 AM | CHAPEL

PRAYER TEAM 7

11:00 AM | FIRESIDE ROOM

KID CITY SUNDAY SCHOOL

TODAY | 10 AM | THEATER

YEAR-END GIVING

The church office will be closed Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and Monday, January 1 (New Years Day). Please place your year-end gifts in the offering plate on December 31 or mail them (postmarked) by December 31 or give online at www.zionanoka.org by December 31. Thank you!

GREEN PRAYER CARDS are available in the pew holders for you to write a prayer request. Place them in the wooden prayer collection boxes located in the Sanctuary, Chapel or at the Welcome Desk. All prayer concerns or thanksgivings are confidential and are shared only with the Prayer Team.

Please silence your cell phone. Thank you.

Welcome Guests!

Thank you for worshipping with us today. To learn more about Zion please fill out the information below and give to an usher or pastor as you leave or place in the offering plate. Or use this QR code.→ 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 New Member Orientation

this week

PASTORS

Pastor Brent Campbell
Lead Pastor

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

Pastor Sue Wallager
Pastor for Spiritual Care

Ken Johnson
Visitation Minister

Michael Busbey
*ELCA Missionary in
Central America*

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

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We welcome you exactly as God created you.

We worship God with everyone who chooses to participate, including the youngest of God's children who make noise to praise God in their own way. We find strength in our diversity, and strive to be united by our common humanity, while celebrating our differences.

We welcome people of all: races, ethnicities, backgrounds, generations, socio-economic status, political affiliations, physical and mental abilities; sexual orientations, gender identities, and their families.

All are welcome and encouraged to be involved in all aspects of our life together.

"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."

1 John 4:7-8

Welcome Statement adopted by
Zion's Church Council,
October 2022

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Global Health Ministries

9:00 AM | OFFSITE

Open Pickleball

2:30 PM | CLC

TOPS Group

5:30 PM | FIRESIDE ROOM

Divorce Care Group

6:30 PM | LEGACY ROOM

Pack 233

6:30 PM | ART ROOM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Open Pickleball

9:00 AM | CLC

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Toddler Open Gym

10:30 AM | CLC

Knit One, Purl Two

1:00 PM | FIRESIDE ROOM

Pizza Dinner

5:00 PM | CORNERSTONE

Confirmation Christmas Party

6:00 PM | VARIOUS ROOMS

Ringmasters

6:00 PM | HANDBELL ROOM

Adult Choir

7:00 PM | SANCTUARY

Common Ground

7:00 PM | YOUTH ROOM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

The Gathering

9:30 | YOUTH ROOM

Caregivers Support Group

10:00 | FIRESIDE ROOM

Funeral for Sharon Beatty

Visitation | 10 am | Upper Commons
Service | 11 am | Sanctuary

Open Pickleball

2:00 PM | CLC

Blue Christmas Worship Service

6:30 PM | SANCTUARY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

4th Sunday of Advent

Traditional Worship Service

5:00 PM | SANCTUARY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service with Communion

10 AM, 1:30, 3, 4:30 & 10 PM | SANCTUARY

ALL SERVICES LIVESTREAMED

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25*

Christmas Day

Christmas Worship Service

10:00 AM | SANCTUARY

**Building will be closed after Christmas Day worship on Monday. 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.*

THANK YOU -

CARING TREE DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated gift cards to the Caring Tree which supports four local agencies: Alexandra House, Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center, Bridgeview Drop-in Center at Lee Carlson Center and Stepping Stone Emergency Housing. Gift cards totaling \$4800 were distributed to the agencies for used by families this Christmas.

THANK YOU

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to all who helped deliver meals last week!

THANK YOU

FARE FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to all those who helped with *Fare for All* last Thursday. Our next *Fare for All* is Thursday, January 25.

coming up

BLUE CHRISTMAS - A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

THUR, DEC 21 | 6:30 PM | SANCTUARY

This time of year can be a mix of emotions that make it a challenge. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service that offers comfort and hope for those carrying pain or loss during this Holiday Season. Join us for this service of reflection, song, comfort and hope for hurting hearts.

6TH GRADE RETREAT

SUN, JAN 14 | NOON - 4 PM | CLC

We will gather for lunch and participate in activities centered around what it means to reaffirm our baptism. All 6th grade confirmation students are required to attend, email kweiland@zionanoka.org if you have a conflict.

OUR NEXT SMALL GROUP STUDY

Starts the week of January 15 with a study by Adam Hamilton entitled: "Why? Making Sense of God's Will." Sign up at the Welcome Desk. Books on sale at the front desk for \$10.

WHIRLY BALL

FRI, JAN 19 | 7 - 8:30 PM | OFFSITE

All middle through high school students are invited to join us for the first Lutheran Late Night - an evening of fun at Whirly Ball Twin Cities! Whirly Ball is a lacrosse style game played on bumper cars. The fast-paced game requires teamwork and is an exciting way for our youth to build relationships. The event is \$20, you must register in advance online at <https://cutt.ly/WhirlyBall> or email kweiland@zionanoka.org.

JEST KIDDING - "GROANER"

What is found in Matthew and Mark, but not in Luke and John? The letter "a".

ZION PAGES BOOK CLUB

JANUARY 22 | 6:30 PM | THEATER

We will be discussing *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* by Isabel Wilkerson. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America. Wilkerson compares this epic migration to the migrations of other peoples in history. All are welcome.

PRAYER TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As a Prayer Team member you pray, as a team, for the requests (joys/concerns) from the green prayer cards received and gathered before the 11AM service. This is also a great time to share any of your own personal prayers of concern/thanksgivings and pray for the ministry we share at Zion. The commitment would be about 6 times/year from 11 AM - 12 PM. All are invited to join. If interested please contact Pastor Sue.

MATTHEW BAG MINISTRY

Matthew Bags are 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. We are also still collecting donations of adult-size crew socks, bottled water (16 oz), granola bars, and Kleenex (individual packs). They can be dropped in the *Matthew Bag* donation bin at the Welcome Desk. Financial donations are also accepted at the front desk. Please write "Matthew Bags" on the memo line of your check. Thank you.

MISS A SERMON?

Zion's sermons are available each week in audio form. Find us on Spotify - search Zion Lutheran Church - Anoka MN.

LIVE STREAM

SUNDAY 9 & 11 AM

www.zionanoka.org
(click "Worship Online")

or

[www.facebook.com/
ZionLutheranChurch
AnokaMn](https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranChurchAnokaMn)

(Available anytime)

CABLE TV

Metro Cable Network
Channel 6

SUNDAY | 10 AM & 5 PM

RADIO BROADCAST

106.1 BOB FM
SUNDAYS | 9:10 AM

HEARING ASSISTANCE

Hearing assistance units are available at the sound booth at the back of the Sanctuary.

HOME VISITS

If you would like a visit from one of our pastors or lay visitors, please call the office at 763-421-4656 and we will be happy to visit you.

TEXT TO GIVE

With Vanco's GivePlus, you can quickly and easily give to Zion using your smartphone. For more info call the church office between 9 AM & 5 PM.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Go to:

<https://cutt.ly/ziongivetoday>
or Scan this QR code



growing in faith together

UPCOMING GOSPEL READINGS

DECEMBER 23
4th Sunday of Advent
Luke 1:46b-55

DECEMBER 24/25
Christmas Eve &
Christmas Day
Luke 2:1-14; 15-20

DECEMBER 30/31
Luke 2:22-40

encouraging words

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

prayer corner

Merciful God of peace, your work, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world. Amen.

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.

Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-10

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Ah, sinful nation, people laden with iniquity, offspring who do evil, children who deal corruptly, who have forsaken the LORD, who have despised the Holy One of Israel, and daughter Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a shelter in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we would have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah. Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED!

We are in need of communion servers. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, there is a notebook in the Sacristy where you can sign up for the weekend and worship service time that is convenient for you. Thank you!

GREETERS NEEDED - 11 AM SERVICE

To help us be a welcoming church, we need you and your smile. Come share a smile and a warm greeting with all who come to worship. Please contact Linn Hauck at linn.hauck@gmail.com or Suzanne at sgaboury@zionanoka.org if you are interested or have questions.

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

