

# life together

THIS WEEK'S NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

WEEK OF DECEMBER 22-28, 2024



**ZION**  
LUTHERAN | ANOKA

## WORSHIP LEADERS

### PREACHING:

Pastor Connie Tiede

### ASSISTING:

8 AM Pr Mike Pancoast

9 AM Pr Mike Pancoast

11 AM Pr Sue Wallager

### READERS:

5 PM Judy Bendiske

8 AM Deb Oas Koepsell

9 AM Doug Jones

11 AM Jim Bauer

## today - 4th Sunday of Advent/Choral Worship

**CHRIST CARE PRAYERS...**Prayer of thanksgiving for Joanne & Dennis Everson who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on December 20. Prayer of thanksgiving for the birth of Graham Hartvik, born December 11, to parents Joe Kempf and Lee Neitge, Zion's Director of Childhood Ministry.

**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**

• Tina Erickson

**NO ADULT FORUM TODAY**

Adult Forum will resume on January 5.

**KID CITY SUNDAY SCHOOL**

TODAY | 10:00 AM | THEATER

**HOLY SHENANIGANS SUNDAY SCHOOL**

TODAY | 10:00 AM | CHAPEL

**PRAYER TEAM 5**

TODAY | 11:00 AM | FIRESIDE ROOM

**NO WEDNESDAY PROGRAMMING - RESUMES JANUARY 8**

**BUILDING CLOSED - YEAR-END GIVING**

The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and Wednesday, January 1 (New Years Day). **Financial contributions for 2024 should be postmarked by December 31 or delivered to the church office by 4 pm on Tuesday, December 31.** Thank you for your generous and faithful stewardship!

**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.

**For safety reasons we kindly ask that parents and guardians attend to their children at all times in our church building.**

**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 Connie Tiede  
*Lead Pastor*

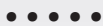
Pastor Sue Wallager  
*Pastor for Spiritual Care*

Pastor Mike Pancoast  
*Pastor for Adult Education*

Ken Johnson  
*Visitation Minister*

Michael Busbey  
*ELCA Missionary in Central America*

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



### 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, DEC 23

### Open Pickleball

2:00 PM | CLC

TUESDAY, DEC 24

### Christmas Eve Worship Service

12, 2, 4 & 10 PM | SANCTUARY

WEDNESDAY, DEC 25

Christmas Day

### Christmas Worship Service

10:00 AM | SANCTUARY

*\*Building will be closed after Christmas Day worship on Wednesday. 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.*

THURSDAY, DEC 26

### The Gathering

9:30 AM | YOUTH ROOM

### Open Pickleball

2:00 PM | CLC

FRIDAY, DEC 27

SATURDAY, DEC 28

### Traditional Worship Service

5:00 PM | SANCTUARY

SUNDAY, DEC 29

### Traditional Worship Service

8 AM | SANCTUARY

9 & 11 AM | SANCTUARY & LIVESTREAM

### MATTHEW BAG MINISTRY

Thank you to all who have generously donated to the Matthew Bag Ministry. We continue to accept donations throughout the year. In addition Matthew Bags are available, at the Welcome Desk, for you to pick up to give to a person in need that you encounter. Each bag contains water, food bars, personal hygiene items and socks.

### ZION: BUILDING STRONG

CONNECTIONS. REACHING FURTHER. TOGETHER - THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those who have made commitments to our congregation for 2025 through our Stewardship campaign, *Building Strong Connections. Reaching Further. Together.* As of December 11, there have been 497 commitments to the General Fund totaling \$1,078,276 and 331 commitments to the Building Fund totaling \$312,365. We have also received many generous gifts for the Technology and Building fund, totaling \$75,000. These gifts will be matched by the Zion Foundation. We look forward to announcing our first renewal project soon. Thank YOU for all the ways you support the life and work of our congregation! It's not too late to turn in your commitment for 2025. Extra stewardship materials are available at the front desk.

### BOUNDARY WATERS MISSION TRIP REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The registration deadline for this summer's mission trip to the Boundary Waters is January 8 – please register online to guarantee a spot on the trip! This year we are partnering with Camp Wapo's Wilderness Canoe Base. For youth who have completed grades 8-12, by summer 2025, the trip will be an exciting blend between service work at the canoe base and an outdoor adventure canoe trip. No experience camping or canoeing is necessary but do expect to paddle to our campsites and sleep in tents for several nights. Please register on Realm.



### MISS A SERMON?

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

# coming up

## CHURCH BUILDING CLOSED WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

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.

## NOISY OFFERING

The Noisy Offering buckets will be out again January 4/5. All proceeds go to our camp ministries. Thank you for supporting our children and youth.

## "THE CHOSEN" - SEASON 2 STARTS JANUARY 6

MONDAYS | 1 PM

TUESDAYS | 8:45 AM

WEDNESDAYS | 10 AM & 6 PM

Our small group study "The Chosen" begins Monday, January 6 following our usual schedule. We will not be using a pre-published book for the new session. Instead, we'll simply be focusing on the video presentation itself along with the study guide sheets. Even if you were not a part of the Season 1 study, you are still invited, encouraged, and welcome to come. You likely know "the Jesus story" well enough simply to pick up in Season 2 and/or if you would like to catch up, you can watch Season 1 for free and commercial free at <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>. Season 1 study guides are available at [www.zionanoka.org/ziondocumentcenter/](http://www.zionanoka.org/ziondocumentcenter/) (scroll down to the "Adult Ministry" option.)

## GRIEF SUPPORT

TUE, JAN 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 11 AM

All are welcome to attend this grief support group. For more information or if you have questions contact Pastor Sue at [swallager@zionanoka.org](mailto:swallager@zionanoka.org).

## BAPTISM CLASS

SUN, JAN 12 | NOON | LIBRARY

If you are expecting, have had a baby or adopting and would like to know more about baptism this class is for you. Contact Kristine at [kjohnson@zionnoka.org](mailto:kjohnson@zionnoka.org) for more info or to sign up for this class.

## CREATION CARE GIFT WRAPPING SUGGESTIONS

Zion's Creation Care Team invites you to stop by the Christmas tree in the upper commons right outside the Sanctuary. All of the gifts under this tree are wrapped either in recyclable paper (most gift wrapping paper, ribbons, and bows are NOT recyclable), repurposed items (notice the gift wrapped in an old road map!), or reusable materials (metal boxes; a dish-towel; fabric; even a "pillowcase," of sorts). There is even a small gift there that was wrapped without ANY tape at all (search on YouTube for "tapeless gift wrapping").

## 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 11 AM 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 is about 6 times/year from 11 AM-NOON. All are invited to join. If interested please contact Pr Sue.

## JEST KIDDING

Maggie, 3, and I were enjoying the holiday sights and sounds when she asked, "Mamma, what are you going to get me for Christmas?" I explained the true meaning of Christmas and how we do not think about what we get but rather what we give. A few thoughtful minutes later she asked, "What are you going to give me for Christmas?"

## LIVESTREAM

SUNDAY 9 & 11 AM

[www.zionanoka.org](http://www.zionanoka.org)  
(click "Worship Online")

or

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

(Available anytime)

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## CABLE TV

Metro Cable Network  
Channel 6

SUNDAY | 10 AM & 5 PM

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Go to:

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



# growing in faith together

## UPCOMING GOSPEL READINGS

DECEMBER 28/29  
Luke 2:41-52

JANUARY 4/5  
Matthew 2:1-12

JANUARY 11/12  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

## 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

Shepherd of Israel, you gently support the one who is with child and call forth the Lamb who dances in the womb, Stir our hearts to recognize Christ's coming, as Elizabeth recognized his presence in Mary's radiant obedience to your desire, and open our souls to receive the one who came to love your flock. 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](mailto:swallager@zionanoka.org).

## Reading: Luke 19:29-40

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

## ADULT FAITH FORUM

Topics and dates are still being worked on and will be included in the upcoming January Herald. BUT to pique your curiosity, some topics that are being efforted include a Music & Worship topic (facilitated by Jonathan Campbell); "The Art of Zion" (facilitated by Tim Sheie); and a guest speaker, Dr. Tamim Saidi from Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota who will invite us to continue in our learning of the basic understanding of Islam. Watch for more details in the January Herald.

## SNACKS FOR KIDS

Lincoln Elementary School for the Arts is in need of some snacks to have on hand for students. Individually wrapped items like Goldfish, Veggie Straws, Pirates Booty, granola bars without nuts, Rice Krispies treats, Scooby Snacks, cheesy sandwich crackers and any allergy friendly/gluten free options (brands like Partake or Made Good) are some examples of foods that work great for most of our students. Drop your donations off at the front desk.

## HOSPITAL VISITS AND PASTORAL CARE

If you or a family member are in the hospital or have had a change in your health status and would like a pastoral visit, please call the church office at 763-421-4656, email Kristine at [kjohnson@zionanoka.org](mailto:kjohnson@zionanoka.org) or Pr. Sue at [swallager@zionanoka.org](mailto:swallager@zionanoka.org) or let any of the pastors know. The pastoral staff will be very happy to visit you and provide pastoral care. Thank you.

## 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](http://www.zionanoka.org)

## OFFICE HOURS

MON - THU: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
FRI: 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

