

Zion Reformed Church – Floodlight 2026



PASTOR'S POSTS

Living with Expectation

Advent means "coming." For the four weeks before Christmas, the church joins God's people through the ages in waiting with expectation.

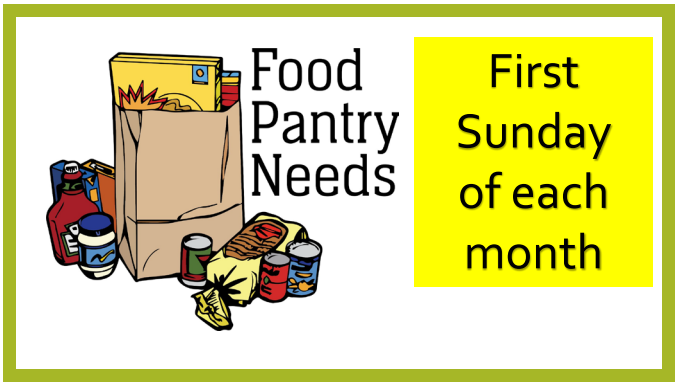
Israel waited centuries for the promised Messiah. Prophets spoke, kings came and went, and still the people watched. Then, in a quiet stable in Bethlehem, God kept his word: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." (John 1:14).

But Advent is not only about looking back. The Christ who came once has promised to come again. We live between the manger and his return, and that changes how we wait. We wait with hope, not worry. We wait with joy, because our King is faithful.

This Advent, slow down. Read the promises. Light the candles. Pray with the early church, "Come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20). He came. He is coming. Let us be ready.

In Christ,
Pastor Petri







Please tune into KLMJ (104.9) for church service/event cancellations or postponements.





Sunday, Dec. 6
10:30am
BRING Own pencil!

ANNUAL MEETING OVERVIEW

1- Meeting will begin directly after worship service. Everyone should report to the fellowship hall to sign in, take a packet and grab a snack/drink.

2- The roll of the members will be taken by consistory.

3- Meeting will begin as shown on Agenda.

4- Deacons & tellers will distribute the ballot for election of elder & deacons. Those on the ballot for Deacons: (need 2) Russell Allen, Nick Bretz, Joe DeVries, Jesse Mollenbeck; Elder (need 1): Brian Lupkes, Merrill Meese

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

2027 WOZ Books will be placed in your church mailbox.

WOZ President

A Season of Gratitude

As another year comes to a close, it is a good time to pause and reflect on all that God has done through our church and the Women of Zion. From our gatherings and fellowship to the many projects, events, and acts of service throughout the year, there have been so many opportunities to come together, encourage one another, and serve others in His name.

One thing I have been reminded of is that it takes many hands and willing hearts to make things happen. Whether it is planning an event, preparing a meal, donating items, lending a helping hand, or simply showing up to support one another, every contribution matters. So much of what we do happens behind the scenes, but each act of service is meaningful. We may not always see the impact of our efforts, but God can use even the smallest acts of kindness to make a difference.

As I reflect on my time serving as Women of Zion President, I am especially thankful for the women who have shared their time, ideas, talents, and encouragement along the way. It has been a blessing to work alongside so many willing hearts, and I am grateful for the friendships and fellowship that come with serving together.

As we look ahead, may we continue to find joy in serving, strength in fellowship, and purpose in the work God places before us. Positions and responsibilities may change, but the opportunity to encourage one another and be the hands and feet of Christ never does.

Thank you for being part of Women of Zion!

Tonya Halsne
WOZ President



It is time to update the prayer chain! If anyone (women, men, youth) would like to be added by email or the calling tree, please let Ann Lupkes know by Dec. 6. Reminder that if you have a prayer concern and you would like those on the prayer chain to be praying, please contact Ann Lupkes, lupkesa@gmail.com or 641-425-5367 and she will begin the prayer chain.

WOZ SPIRITUAL LIFE

I recently heard someone use the phrase “be soft”…. “let your body soften”. And it hit me deeply. It made me wonder…. how do I soften? What does it mean to soften? Am I living my life softly? Or am I carrying burden, stress, and worry?

The world often tells us we need to have life figured out. We need to hold it all together. We need to balance life, work, and family perfectly. And sometimes, on top of everything in our own life, we also carry the burdens of others as well.

So many times we tell ourselves we need to be strong. My mind immediately jumps to the Bible verse in Joshua 1:9 that says, “Be strong and courageous.” Does this mean I need to have it all figured out? That I’m weak if I can’t do it alone?

Of course, this Bible verse can give us strength to continue on, but I think so many times we miss the end of that verse that says “for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”.

Yes! That is something I need to cling to - I need to be courageous enough to bring my burdens, my worries, my thoughts and my feelings to God. I need to have courage to tell him I’m struggling. I need to have courage to share my true feelings with him. And to have courage to tell him that I need help. As Matthew 11: 28-30 says, God can carry my burdens, He will give me rest. No matter the situation, no matter what I’m carrying, God says to take His yoke and through God, I will find rest for my soul.

When I give God all the things running through my mind, big or small, I can soften. I can take a breath and feel God’s peace. I can imagine being in the place David describes in Psalm 23. I can lie down in green pastures, beside quiet waters… and in that, God can refresh my soul.

Megan Oehlert, Spiritual Life 2026

White Gift Offering

Monetary donations are being accepted in the burlap container until December 6.
Proceeds will be used to provide winter coats, boots, Christmas gifts, etc. for area families currently experiencing financial difficulties. Q: See Megan M.



Order forms are by the Catch-All box. The cost is $18.00/plant & the order/payment deadline is noon on December 6. If you want to provide your own plant – see the order form for details. Questions? See ROSE.



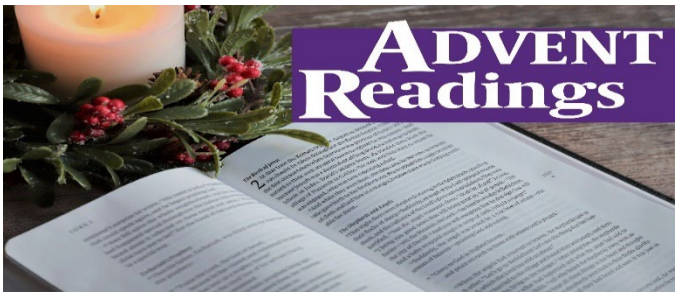
SNOW!! If you are at Zion during the week, please use the south driveway and east parking area as these will be kept clear throughout the week. The remainder of the grounds will only be cleared on Sunday mornings or for funerals.

JOIN THE Youth Group

Ages 8th grade – HS are welcome!



December 24 @ 6:00pm



Sunday, Nov. 29: Jim and Jan Dorenkamp

Sunday, Dec. 6: Matt and Chandler Koenen

Sunday, Dec. 13: Dave and Deanna Harms

Sunday, Dec. 20: Chandler and Natasha Smith

Candlelight: Merrill and Deb Meese



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Wednesday, December 2 - 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 9 – 6:30pm
Wednesday, December 16 – 6:30pm
Sunday, December 20: rehearsal during Sunday School
Sunday, December 20 - Students arrive by **4:40 pm** for the 5:00 pm - SHOWTIME
ALL invited to stay after; PLEASE bring a goodie tray to share

Tithes Attendance

	General	Benevolent	Attendance
Nov 1	$3,906.00	$905.00	155
Nov 8	$3,094.00	$415.00	163
Nov 15	$3,481.00	$1,204.00	129
Nov 22	$2,640.31	$2,285.00	183

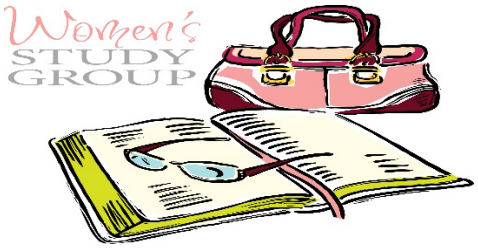


Please keep the following in prayer:

DIANE HUGHES, SHARON OLSEN, JON SUNTKEN, DARWIN BUTSON, BRIAN LUPKES, TED HUGHES, MAYNARD KOENEN, AL MUHLENBRUCH, LAVONNE MCCORMICK, CHERYL SCHNOES
Homebound Members: Duane & Lenora Payne, LaVonne McCormick



Janette*, Megan Mollenbeck, Megan Oehlert



CIRCLE MEETINGS

No meetings during December

AUDIO & VIDEO TECHNICIANS

	AUDIO	VIDEO
DEC 06	Dave	Duane
DEC 13	Jesse	Carma
DEC 20	Nick	Tonya
DEC 24	Dave	Duane
DEC 27	Jerry	Tonya

WITH Gratitude

Muhlenbruch: Thank you to everyone who has reached out to me, shared their concerns, offered help, and most of all prayed for me since my triple by pass heart surgery. I am so blessed to be a part of Zion's wonderful church family. Also, thank you to Pastor Petri for his visits, prayers, and words of encouragement. -Al

Flower Committee: The flower committee would like to thank everyone in advance who will help with decorating the church for Christmas. It's fun to work together and make our church beautiful for the Christmas season.

RCYF is shouting "thank you" to every person who will support our Thanksgiving supper! We appreciate your support.

-Blessings, Clayton, Mariah, and the RCYF kids

Operation Christmas Boxes / Samaritan's Purse: Thank you so very much for those of you that donated items and filled a shoebox(es), left money for shipping and most importantly prayed or continue to pray for those in need. Thank you to our RCYF for delivering the boxes.

Faith & Fellowship

Fellowship

Dec. 6	Consistory
Dec. 13	'26 Bazaar Commmittee
Dec. 20	Hosts are needed
Dec. 27	Jeff and Shelly Buseman



Children's Time during church service

DATE	NAME
Dec. 6	Dave
Dec. 13	Molly A.
Dec. 20	Megan M
Dec. 27	Shelly



DAYCARE PROVIDERS

After Children's Time !

* If your Sunday does not work, please find a replacement. Your efforts are very much appreciated*

DATE	NAME
Dec. 6	Shelly
Dec. 13	Marli/ /Morgan
Dec 20	Sammy/Edrich
Dec 27	NA

COLOR ME!



IN THE Spotlight

By: M. L. Dickson

Discipleship in Everyday Life

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus today? A disciple is more than someone who believes in Jesus or attends church. A disciple is a learner and follower—someone who seeks to become more like Christ and puts his teachings into practice in everyday life.

Discipleship matters because faith is meant to shape the whole person. Jesus calls his followers to love God and their neighbors, to serve rather than seek status, and to offer forgiveness and mercy. Following him gives purpose to our choices and helps us become a source of hope in our families, workplaces, and communities.

A modern-day disciple may not stand out through dramatic gestures. Often, faith shows in ordinary decisions. A disciple might make time for prayer and Scripture, take part in worship and Christian community, and ask for guidance when facing a difficult choice. They may choose honesty when a shortcut would be easier, speak with kindness when others are dismissive, or refuse to join in gossip or cruelty.

Discipleship also means noticing people who are overlooked. It can look like visiting someone who is lonely, welcoming a newcomer, serving a neighbor in need, or giving generously. It means seeking reconciliation when possible, admitting mistakes, and treating people with dignity—even when they disagree with us.

These choices can set Christians apart from the surrounding culture, but not through judgment or a sense of superiority. The difference is a life shaped by Christ's love: conviction joined with humility, truth spoken with grace, and service offered without needing recognition.

No one lives this out perfectly. Discipleship is a lifelong journey of learning, stumbling, receiving forgiveness, and beginning again. Each day brings another opportunity to follow Jesus in a concrete way. As we do, our lives can point beyond ourselves to the One we follow.



An Invitation to Women of Every Generation

An 8-Week Multigenerational Women's Bible Study

Come as you are. Grow together. Women of all ages and seasons of life are invited to gather around God's Word, build meaningful relationships, and learn from one another. Whether you are opening a Bible for the first time or have studied Scripture for years, there is a place for you at the table.

Over eight weeks, we will explore biblical truth, join in honest conversation, prayer, and encouragement. Together, we will discover how God uses every generation to strengthen faith, share wisdom, and inspire hope.

STUDY BOOK: EVERYDAY THEOLOGY:
What You Believe Matters

STUDY DETAILS

When: Wednesday's starting Jan. 13 ending March 24
5:30 – 6:30 PM

Where: Zion Reformed Fellowship Hall

Cost: $20

Register: Sign up on the bulletin board or contact Ann Lupkes, 2027 WOZ Spiritual Life Secretary

What to Expect

- Welcoming, Christ-centered community across generations
- Practical Bible study and thoughtful small-group discussion
- Encouragement, prayer, and friendships that extend beyond the study

Bring a friend—or come ready to meet one. Join us for eight meaningful weeks of connection, growth, and renewed faith.

Save your seat today!

Deadline to Register: Sunday, December 6



Flowers during the month of November

*Baptism of Sadie Kay Suntken, Nov. 8
*Baptisms of Dottie and Noella Stevens, Nov. 22
*Birthday of Noella Stevens, Nov. 22





03 Charlane Janssen
07 Natasha Smith
09 Duane Payne
10 *Duane & Lenora Payne*
11 Harlyn Janssen
12 Andy Sheeler
13 Tyler Campbell
16 Morgan Ault
Russell & Molly Allen
19 Elijah Kinseth
20 Lauren Stevens
Steve & Linda Wells
21 Tonya Halsne / Miranda Neff
22 *Dennis & Judy Crom*
Gene & Jane Elphic
26 Piper Bretz
27 Tanner Buseman /
Jean Mollenbeck
29 *Mark & Deb Brandon*
30 Nadine Goodwin
31 Drake Neff

Celebrate the Light

Bursting through December nights
that could be long and cold,
our Christmas lights bring warmth and joy
with colors soft or bold.

Cascading from the rooftops,
and from trees both small and tall,
the lights cry out, "We have good news!
We want to shout to all.

"You've seen the darkness earth can hold,
the sorrow, war and fear;
but God has sent his Son for all,
to show his Love is here.

"The darkness can't put out God's Light.
Christ's with us day by day,
illuminating paths so we
can follow in his way."

Light homes and streets and candles.
Make your world shine clear and bright.
God's love surrounds and blesses us.
Come, celebrate God's Light!

—Peggy Ferrell



Christian symbol

POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

Zion Reformed Church

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Sheffield, IA 50475 (zionchurch2029@gmail.com)
641-579-6186 / www.zionreformed.com
Pastor Petri van Rooyen; 641-231-2361



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*** Every Sunday *** 09:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School / Kids' Choir0	Office Hours: M/T/W 8am-noon (unless noted)	1	2 6:30pm Sunday School Christmas Program Practice	3	4	5 WOZ Christmas Luncheon/ Installation
6*Food Pantry* 8:30am Men's Bible Study 2nd Sunday in Advent 10:30 am Annual Church Mtg	7	8	9 6:30pm Sunday School Christmas Program Practice	10	11	12
13 Welcome, Molly Allen to pulpit 3rd Sunday in Advent Kentucky Ministry	14	15	16 6:30pm Sunday School Christmas Program Practice	17	18	19
20 4th Sunday in Advent SS Christmas rehearsal 5pm Children's Christmas Program	21	22	23	24 6:00pm Candlelight Svc	25 Our Savior is Born! Merry Christmas!	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		
