



January 2025

G RACELINES

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

Worship 8:30am In-Person
&
Live-streamed on YouTube
Posted to Facebook after
Worship.

Church Office Hours:
Mon - Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm

Contact Zion:
Church Office: 235-7045
Pastor Erika: 319-504-2630

Please leave a message
and we'll get back to you.

Email Addresses:
Church Office:
office.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com

Pastor Erika:
pastor.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com

Web Page:
www.zionluthwaterloo.com

Facebook Page:
[https://www.facebook.com/
zionluthwaterloo](https://www.facebook.com/zionluthwaterloo)

YouTube:
[https://www.youtube.com/
@zionlutheranchurchwater-
loo5011](https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranchurchwaterloo5011)

Zion Lutheran Church
810 Kimball Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702

As we begin 2025 and leave 2024 behind, there are many things I'm praying to leave in 2024, and you might be, too: school shootings and all mass shootings and violence, war in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere, homelessness, hunger, policies that demonize and harm people, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, white nationalism and antisemitism; political rhetoric that replaces facts with opinion, and negotiation with inflexible ideology. You likely thought of other things. We don't have much power to keep those things in 2024, unfortunately, but it's still worth praying about.

As daunting as those things are to keep in the past, there are others that we do have the power to not carry with us into 2025: our guilt and shame, our could-have-dones and should-have-dones, our mistakes, our failures, the places where we didn't succeed in ways that we hoped to. Those we can let go of, so put them in the trash bin with the rest of the junk. We can also leave behind our resentments, jealousies, and hatred. Our fears, hesitations, and despair. Move into 2025 with a spirit of hope and expectation. Enter the new year with a resolve to take more risks in generosity, friendliness, openness to others, compassion, mercy, and hope. Maybe even finally take the risk to do something you've long wanted to do.

With God, every day is a new day. We can let go of the past and move forward any time—we don't have to wait for the changing of the year. But this is a good time to think about it. Let the past live in the past, and let us live in the now. The temptation to try to live in the past is very strong; I see many who do it, and I see how unhealthy it is. And for we who follow Jesus, living in the past means that we aren't faithfully living in God's present, trusting in the new life and new chances that God is always offering us. Trust in God's grace, and enter 2025 like a newborn, free of the burdens and baggage of the past, ready to join the new opportunities and abundant life that God has intended for us.

May your 2025 be filled with blessings and goodness, and the courage to let go of whatever you need to let go of so that you may live into the newness that God offers!

With the Greatest of Hope!

Pastor Erika

Study

January 5

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:10-18

January 12

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

January 26

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Pray

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

January Calendar

Wednesday, Jan. 1

Thursday, Jan. 2

Sunday, Jan. 5

Monday, Jan. 6

Wednesday, Jan. 8

Thursday, Jan. 9

Friday, Jan. 10

Sunday, Jan. 12

Tuesday, Jan. 14

Wednesday, Jan. 15

Thursday, Jan. 16

Sunday, Jan. 19

Monday, Jan. 20

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Thursday, Jan. 23

Friday, Jan. 24

Sunday, Jan. 26

Tuesday, Jan. 28

Wednesday, Jan. 29

Thursday, Jan. 30

Office Closed for New Year's Day

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

8:30am - Worship

NO Youth Sunday School

12:00pm Church Row Meeting

Epiphany Begins

Newsletter Articles Due

12:00pm - Brown Baggers

6:00pm - Bell Choir

7:00pm - Chancel Choir

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

6:00pm - Council Meeting

9:30am - Mahjongg (Fireside)

8:30am - Worship

9:30am - Youth Sunday School

4pm-9pm Goodwill Game Night

9:30am Book Club (Dec. Book)

12:00pm Brown Baggers

6:00pm Bell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

8:30m - Worship w/Ritterchor

NO Youth Sunday School

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Goodwill Game Night

12:00pm Brown Baggers

6:00pm Bell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup

9:30am - Mahjongg (Fireside)

8:30am - Worship

9:30am Budget Forum (Following Worship)

9:30am - Youth Sunday School

6am-9pm Special Election

12:00pm Brown Baggers

6:00pm Bell Choir

7:00pm Chancel Choir

9:00am - Coffee & Conv. @ Fat Cup



Celebrating our Church Community

January Birthdays

2	Steve Pierce
5	Bob Faust
6	Aubrey Tieskoetter
7	Mary Lou Garms
8	Gary Heidt-Johnson
9	Diana Hawker Mathew Kruse
10	Nicole Carlson Amy Lesyshen Brad Shatzer
12	Kathy Jones
13	Thomas Byvank
14	Beverly Larson Carol Mitchell
17	Adam Wedeking
18	Alex Matthias
19	Diann Campbell
20	Jim Graves Spencer Odekirk
23	Katie Olson Bill Williamson
24	Susan Price
26	Steven Ketels Tim Stuber Hadley Guetzlaff
27	Bob Peck
28	Gary Baish Kristine Martin
29	Shawn Caslavka
30	Dixie Elefsrud
31	Matthew Campbell

Wedding Anniversaries this Month

4	Rhonda & Thomas Hayes
22	Bradley & Elizabeth Voves
25	Doug & Nancy Carpenter
26	Dean & Marcia Olson



Happy 85th Birthday to Jim Graves!!

Your Zion family wishes you a Happy Birthday on January 20th. If you'd like to send Jim a birthday card and wish him a Happy Birthday, his contact information is:
1511 Prospect Blvd.,
Waterloo, IA 50701-4971.

Happy 95th Birthday to Mary Lou Garms!!

Your Zion family wishes you a Happy Birthday on January 7th. If you'd like to send Mary Lou a birthday card and wish her a Happy Birthday, her contact information is:

214 Washington Street, Apt. #902,
Waterloo, IA 50701.



When there is a death, Zion members offer ministry to the family in many ways. The following people helped with the funeral service and lunch for Bob Engelmann. Thank you!

Bonnie Guetzlaff	Eleanor Meyerhoff	Mike & Julie Simbric
Francis & Sandy Meyer	Jen Wedeking	Ron & Janet Keister
Ross & Kathy Jones	Kathy Tarr	Mary Nicholas
Sherry Crowley	Jeff James	Vickie Hamilton
Lisa Bergman	Gloria York	
Brande Eilers	Kris Hirsch	

Being the Church

Our Mission Ministry this month is:

Americans for Independent Living (AFIL)

These donations will help our Veterans make a difference in their lives in the Cedar Valley.

Donations Needed:

Toilet Bowl Cleaners and Brushes,
Floor Lamps, Pillows, Blender, Space Heater,
Stock Pots, Pasta Pots, Manual & Electric Can
Openers, Small Kitchen Appliances (Toasters,
Toaster Ovens, Microwaves, Coffee Makers,
Hand & Stand Mixers, etc.)



You are important to our church family!

If you need prayer, or have suffered a family loss, please contact the church office at (319) 235-7045. All requests will be treated with confidentiality, and information will be forwarded appropriately.



The PRAYER TREE contacts are:

Sheila Gardiner - gardinergarry28@gmail.com (319) 291-8404,
Deb Grimson - hrgbear@mchsi.com (319) 233-2179,
Kathy Jones - kltjones@mchsi.com (319) 231-4278,
and Jen Wedeking (church office) - (319) 235-7045
office.zionluthwaterloo@gmail.com.

The Mitten Tree is up in the Coffee Area and ready for children's mittens, gloves and hats. These will be distributed at Lowell School in Waterloo during the winter months.



Please place items in the SHOPPING CART by the Mission Cross in the sanctuary.

We will be collecting for the NEIA Food Bank for the month of:

January
Soup & Crackers



Zion Book Club

Next meeting January 15th @ 9:30am.

All are welcome!



Upcoming Dates & Books:

Jan. 15th - "The Violin Conspiracy"
by Brendan Slocumb

Brown Baggers - Wednesdays at Noon

Bring your own lunch or snack (if you want) and join us for an hour or so of conversation and study of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Discussions are held in the Coffee Area.



Caffeinated Conversations

Every Thursday morning from 9-11am
Fat Cup Coffee (37 Fletcher Ave.).

This is a time of open discussion about the church, faith, life, whatever you want.



Being the Church

Happy 80th Anniversary, Zion!
January 5, 1945-January 5, 2025



We will be celebrating with a cake reception following the worship service on Sunday, January 5th, 2025.

We will continue to celebrate throughout the coming year!

Budget Forums

The 2025 Budget Forums will be held on Sunday, January 26th and Sunday, February 2nd, following the Worship Service. Your attendance is important!

Zion's ANNUAL MEETING

will be held on Sunday, February 9th, following the Worship Service. Your attendance is important!



The Zion Office will be Closed on Wednesday, January 1st.



Join us on Sunday, January 19th at 8:30am for Worship. Ritterchor/Festeburg will be joining us for Worship with some beautiful music.

Supporting the Church

FINANCIAL UPDATE (as of December 27, 2024)

TOTAL OFFERING TO GENERAL FUND	MISSION PLAN YEAR-TO-DATE	ACTUAL YEAR-TO-DATE
	\$134,500.00	\$133,549.00
Total General Fund Expenses	Mission Plan Year-to-Date \$153,950.00	Actual Year-to-Date \$148,561.00

Support the Church

You may provide financial support to Zion:

- In-person Giving
- By Mail
- Online: - Tithe.ly OR - VANCO

Offering Contributions for December

December 5

Total General Fund: \$1,991.00

December 8

Total General Fund: \$1,752.25

December 15

Total General Fund: \$1,411.00

December 22

Total General Fund: \$6,594.45

December 24

Total General Fund: \$950.00

TOTAL OF ALL GIVING: \$12,698.70

Council Minutes and complete Treasurer reports are available on the bulletin board in the Coffee Area and in the Church Office upon request.

**Serving in
January**

Sundays	5	12	19	26
<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	Jackie Shatzer			
<u>VAN DRIVERS</u>	Dave Hamilton	Mike Grimson	Mike Simbric	Tim Davis
<u>GREETERS</u>	Vickie Hamilton	Diane Solberg	Kathy Tarr	Janet Keister