

## Announcements

**WAYS TO GIVE AT ZION** – there are many ways to give financially to Zion - along with your offering envelope with cheque or cash inside, we accept e-transfer (sent to [zion.office@sasktel.net](mailto:zion.office@sasktel.net) – it is set up for auto-deposit) and we can also set up monthly withdrawals from your bank account. You can also donate to Zion through [canadahelps.ca](http://canadahelps.ca).

**Please join us for an Advent Organ Recital on the Walker Tracker organ in the Heritage Hall today at 3 pm.** All are welcome; no admission fee.

**Social Outreach- This year's Christmas focus is going to be CLWR Gifts from the Heart.** You are able to purchase specific gifts with prices starting at \$10.00 or make general donations which are distributed to areas of the world in most need. Donations can be made through Zion or directly on the CLWR website. Information is available on the CLWR bulletin board in the narthex. **The Mitten Tree** will also be set up to collect new or gently used mitts, toques and socks which will be distributed to an inner-city school in the New Year. Thanks so much for your support!

**A Candlelight Service of Remembrance, hosted by the Stephen Ministers, will be held at Zion on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Please join us in a service of prayer, scripture, communion and music knowing that God is present.**

**OFFICE HOURS:** The Zion office will be closed from Monday, December 25 through Tuesday, January 2. Normal office hours will resume Wednesday, January 3.

**ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE by December 31.** Please email them to Kaylyn (in word format) at [zion.office@sasktel.net](mailto:zion.office@sasktel.net)

**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Walter Tastad!** A come and go birthday tea is planned for January 1 from 2-4 pm at the Luther Special Care Home – more details can be found on the poster on the bulletin board.

**In Our Prayers:** Derwin, Andrea, Nandari, Weldeyesus family, Mallory, Betty, Aaron, Borgny, Samhara & Saraq, Thor, Ivar, Don, Louise, Mary, Linda & Steven, Jennifer, Bereket & family, Alice, Gloria, Kaye, Maxine, Ione, Ron & Doreen, Clara, Connie, Marilyn, Fred, Lorna, Walter, Betsy, Anne, Maureen, Gail, Gordon, Susan

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon – Fri 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
WWKC HOURS: Tues – Thurs 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

### Zion Contact Information

Pastor: Ron Bestvater  
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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranSaskatoon>  
YouTube: search Zion Lutheran Church, Saskatoon

**WELCOME VISITORS!** If you would like more information about us, please fill out a communion card (found in the pew) and give it to an usher. Communing members of Zion are encouraged to fill out a communion card each time they commune. **All who are baptized in the Christian faith are invited to commune.** If you do not commune, we invite you to come forward to receive our Lord's Blessing from our Pastor. If you wish to receive communion in your pew, please notify your usher. Grape juice (in the middle of the tray) and red wine are available. Gluten free communion wafers available on request. **Please follow the directions of the ushers when proceeding to the altar.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** charitable contributions for 2023 must be placed in the locked white box by the office by the end of the day December 31 to be counted towards 2023. The box is accessible outside the office using the mail slot.

**2024 offering envelopes** are now in your mailboxes; please contact Kaylyn in the office if you need more.

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARDS** can still be handed in to the office. These pledge sheets assist when preparing the annual budget.

Naomi Bible Study – Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm

### Christmas Services Schedule:

December 24, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Worship – 10:30 am  
December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:00 pm  
December 25, Christmas Day Communion Service – 10:30 am  
December 31 Sunday Worship – 10:30 am

## Order of Service

### GATHERING

Prelude: "Puer Nobis Nascitur"

Welcome

**Confession & Absolution** – ELW pg. 95

**Gathering Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"**  
– ELW #264

**Kyrie** – ELW pg. 165

**Prayer of the Day:** (see front of bulletin)

**Lighting of the Advent Candle: "We are Waiting for Jesus"** ACS #905

### WORD

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 40:1-11

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

**Handbell Choir: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

**Second Lesson:** 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel Acclamation – ELW pg. 171

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 1:1-8

Sermon

**Handbell Choir: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

**Nicene Creed**

**Prayers of Intercession** (P: Hear us, O God

**C: Your mercy is great)**

### COMMUNION

The Peace

**Offering: "Emmanuel" – Choir**

The Great Thanksgiving – ELW pg. 172

Holy Lord – ELW pg. 173

**The Lord's Prayer**

Lamb of God – ELW pg. 174

**Communion: "Christ the Lord"; "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"** – ELW #257 (vs. 1, 4, 5, 6 & 7)

Communion Blessing

### SENDING

**Blessings & Announcements**

**Sending Song: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"**  
– ELW #249

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**"Thanks be to God!"**

Postlude: "Lob sei dem allmachtigen gott"

**Isaiah 40:1-11**  
Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’

A voice says, ‘Cry out!’  
And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
‘Here is your God!’  
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

**2 Peter 3:8-15a**  
But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

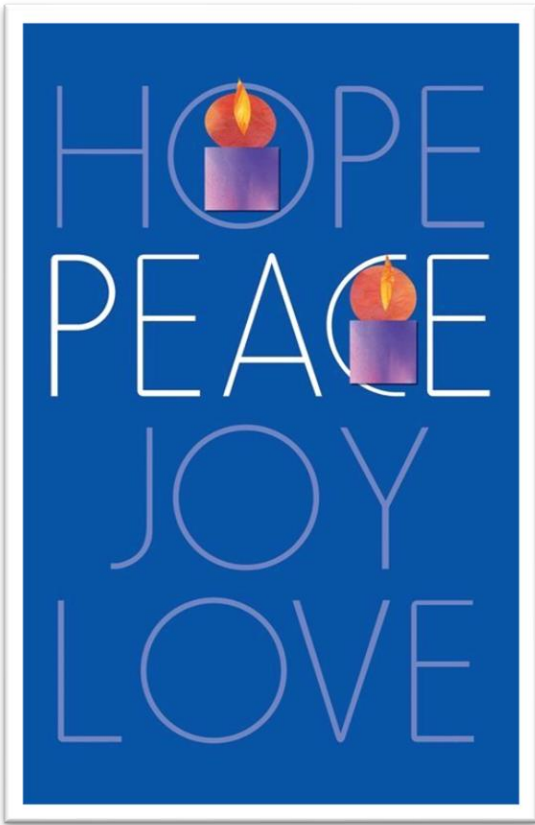
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

**Mark 1:1-8**  
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,  
John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Second Sunday in Advent  
December 10, 2023  
10:30 am  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prayer of the Day:  
Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son.  
By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.



Zion Lutheran Church  
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A Congregation of the ELCIC  
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada)