

Announcements

WAYS TO GIVE AT ZION: We accept cash, cheques, e-transfers (to zion.office@sasktel.net), pre-authorized debits, and donations through canadahelps.ca. Please fill out the message field on the offering envelope to designate your gift.

In From the Cold - Zion is once again supporting this valuable program this winter. Please bring donations of the following to the bins set up in the narthex: Winter outerwear (jackets, pants, toques, scarves and mitts). Please be sure the clothing is clean and all zippers are working; Hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant) that are new and in a sealed package; Blankets; Handwarmers, like HotShots

Knitting Club meets the first and third Tuesdays from 1 pm – 3 pm. All are welcome, even beginner knitters! Please enter through the south entrance. **Knitting will pause until the New Year – next meetings are January 6 and 20.**

We are in need of more volunteer members for Sunday School. If you are interested in helping in these areas, please contact Kaylyn in the office.

Annual Reports are due December 31, 2025. Please ensure your report is sent in to the office in a word processing document by the end of the year.

We want to extend a warm welcome to Hamid, Zion’s new caretaker!
Welcome Hamid, we are glad to have you on staff!

There is a sign-up sheet for Sunday morning coffee on the table in the narthex. We are grateful to those who provide coffee and goodies and clean up afterwards. Thank you!

Please stay for coffee and cake after the service with the Bestvater family following the service this morning to celebrate Ron’s final service before retirement.

Congregational celebration of Pastor Ron’s retirement will be held Sunday, February 15th, 2026 following the 10:30 service. The service will be led by Pastor Ron and Bishop Ali Tote with a retirement lunch to follow.

WELCOME TO ZION! If you would like more information about us, please fill in the communion card and give it to an usher. All Christians are welcome to commune. If you do not commune, please come forward to receive the Lord’s Blessing. If you receive communion in your pew, notify the usher. Grape juice is available in the middle of the tray. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Ushers will direct you to the altar.

Pastor: Ron Bestvater
Address: 323 4th Ave S., Saskatoon, SK S7K 1N3
Phone: 306-653-2442 (office) or 306-229-5982 (pastor)
Email: zion.office@sasktel.net
Website: zionsaskatoon.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranSaskatoon>
YouTube: search Zion Lutheran Church, Saskatoon
OFFICE HOURS: Mon – Fri, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

In Our Prayers

Andrea; Nandari; Mallory; Don; Louise; Mary; Linda & Steven; Jennifer; Gloria; Kaye; Doreen; Clara; Connie; Marilyn; Fred; Lorna; Betsy; Anne; Maureen; Susan; Ron; Lara, for justice; Carolyn; Alice; Neil; Helen; Ron; Brenda; Mary; Marie; Phyllis; Ina; Gordon; Ted; Dianah; Dolores

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LuMinHoS (Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon): The latest issue of the *Caregiver* newsletter is available at luminhos.org/Resources/Newsletters. We thank our faithful supporters for their prayers and financial donations.

The Mitten Tree has been set up in the Narthex. We are collecting new or gently used mitts, toques, scarves, and socks to donate to an inner-city organization in the new year. Thanks in advance for your donation.

A reminder that 2025 contributions need to be brought to the Zion main office by noon on December 31, 2025 to be counted towards your 2025 tax receipt.

2026 Contribution Envelopes are in your mailbox. Let Kaylyn know when you need more.

The Nominating Committee is seeking members for the call committee and to serve on council. Please contact Judy J (306-227-1438) or Marcel (306-380-2430) if you are interested.

Order of Service – Setting Three

GATHERING

Prelude
Welcome
Confession and Absolution (see screen)
Gathering Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”
– ELW #289
Kyrie – ELW pg. 138
Hymn of Praise – ELW pg. 139
Prayer of the Day: (see front of bulletin)

WORD

First Lesson: Hosea 11:1-12
Psalm 124:1-8
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 11:21b-31
Gospel Acclamation – ELW pg. 142
Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23
Sermon
Hymn of the Day: “Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”
– ELW #279
Apostles’ Creed
Prayers of Intercession (P: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.)

COMMUNION

The Peace
Offering: “Beautiful Star of Bethlehem”
The Great Thanksgiving – ELW pg. 144
Holy Lord
The Lord’s Prayer
Lamb of God
Communion: “In the Bleak Midwinter” – ELW #294;
“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” – ELW #284
Communion Prayer

SENDING

Benediction and Announcements
Sending Song: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”
– ELW #288
Go in joy. Embody God’s redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God!
Postlude

Hosea 11:1-12

¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
² The more I called them,
the more they went from me;
they kept sacrificing to the Baals,
and offering incense to idols.
³ Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
I took them up in my arms;
but they did not know that I healed them.
⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness,
with bands of love.
I was to them like those
who lift infants to their cheeks.
I bent down to them and fed them.
⁵ They shall return to the land of Egypt,
and Assyria shall be their king,
because they have refused to return to me.
⁶ The sword rages in their cities,
it consumes their oracle-priests,
and devours because of their schemes.
⁷ My people are bent on turning away from me.
To the Most High they call,
but he does not raise them up at all.
⁸ How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, O Israel?
How can I make you like Admah?
How can I treat you like Zeboiim?
My heart recoils within me;
my compassion grows warm and tender.
⁹ I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not
again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no
mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not
come in wrath.
¹⁰ They shall go after the Lord, who roars like a
lion; when he roars, his children shall come
trembling from the west.
¹¹ They shall come trembling like birds from
Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria;
and I will return them to their homes, says
the Lord.
¹² Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,
and the house of Israel with deceit;
but Judah still walks with God,
and is faithful to the Holy One.

2 Corinthians 11:21b-31

But whatever anyone dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to
boast of that. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they
descendants of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they ministers of Christ? I am talking
like a madman—I am a better one: with far greater labours, far more
imprisonments, with countless floggings, and often near death. ²⁴ Five times I
have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was
beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a
night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers,
danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger
in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers
and sisters; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and
thirsty, often without food, cold and naked. ²⁸ And, besides other things, I am
under daily pressure because of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak,
and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I am not indignant?
³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God
and Father of the Lord Jesus (blessed be he for ever!) knows that I do not lie.

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream
and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain
there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy
him.’ ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to
Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had
been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my
son.’

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated,
and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two
years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise
men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:
¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to
Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the
land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ ²¹ Then
Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of
Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his
father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he
went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called
Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled,
‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

First Sunday of Christmas
Commemoration of the Holy Innocents
December 28, 2025

10:30 am
Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prayer of the Day:

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own
powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the
needy from harm and adversity, though Jesus Christ, our Saviour
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)