

*“Behold,*  
THE LAMB OF GOD,  
*who takes away*  
THE SIN  
OF THE WORLD!”

**JOHN 1:29, ESV**

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**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 18, 2026**

*Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.*

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## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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### **PRELUDE**

***I Love to Tell the Story***

Arr. E.L. Ashford

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***Savior, Like a Shepherd***

William B. Bradbury, arr. Ross James Root

***I Will Serve Thee***

William J. Gaither, arr. Ross James Root

### **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.  
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**

**We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.  
Turn us to seek your face.  
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.  
**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

***Arise, Your Light Has Come!* RED ELW #314  
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

- 1 Arise, your light has come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God  
which shines on you today.**
- 3 Arise, your light has come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.**

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Holy God,

**our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

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## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

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### FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant's ultimate assignment is to bring news of God's victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

<sup>1</sup> Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The LORD called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the LORD  
and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the LORD says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the LORD,  
and my God has become my strength—  
<sup>6</sup> he says,  
“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
“Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently upon the LORD,  
who stooped to me and heard my cry.  
<sup>2</sup> **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,  
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.  
<sup>4</sup> **Happy are they who trust in the LORD!**  
**They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**  
<sup>5</sup> Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none  
can be compared with you!  
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can  
count.

<sup>6</sup> **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;  
you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

<sup>7</sup> And so I said, "Here I am; I come.  
In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

<sup>8</sup> **'I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep within me.'**"

<sup>9</sup> I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly;  
I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

<sup>10</sup> **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

<sup>11</sup> You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God's church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind <sup>6</sup> just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you <sup>7</sup> so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**  
**You have the words of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: John 1:29-42**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist's witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

<sup>29</sup> [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"<sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'<sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."<sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."<sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'<sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,<sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"<sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.<sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"<sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.<sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.<sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).<sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON ON THE STEPS

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*I Love to Tell the Story* RED ELW #661  
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

#### *Refrain*

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

- 2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911  
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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL AND NEWLY ELECTED LEADERS**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Merciful God, receive our prayer.**

**Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for  
whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
Amen.**

### **THE PEACE**

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## OFFERING

*Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

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### OFFERING

***Bouree***

J.S. Bach, arr. Rick Parks  
One License #241472

### OFFERING HYMN

***We Give Thee but Thine Own*** RED ELW #686  
**(Vs. 1 )**

- 1 We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.  
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### OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

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## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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## **BLESSING**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise

✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus* RED ELW #742

- 1** What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;  
oh, what needless pain we bear--  
all because we do not carry  
ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2** Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3** Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge--  
take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you;  
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886  
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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

## *Go Now in Peace*

Arr. D. Besig & N. Price  
One License #206851

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

## *On Our Way Rejoicing*

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## Weekly Announcements

Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers: Dilshad & Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

**Hunger Jar** for the month of January is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

**Nominating Committee**—is still looking for a council secretary, and a Sunday School Superintendent. Please consider serving on one of these positions. See Larry Gieseke, Joe Prasad, Nancy Mathwig, Wendy Kube, Jane Scharpe or Pr. Gretchen.

**AGAPE CONCERT**—Wednesday, January 28, Hutchinson Event Center. We will leave Zion at 5:00pm. See Pr. Gretchen for details.

**Elephant Joe's Coffee**—Only 8 bags of Elephant Joes Scandinavian Blend coffee are left. \$17 per bag. Proceeds to the parking lot fund. See someone from the Stewardship Board-Mary Kallhofff, Jackie Alsleben, Janet Rowe, Jane Scharpe or Pam Schiroo.

**Board Reports**—Please have all board reports turned into the office by Monday, January 19.

**ZCW General Meeting** will be held today after worship at 10:15am. This is in place of the meeting on Thursday, January 22.

**MN Valley Action Council** would like to thank everyone at Zion who participated in the Adopt-a-Family program.

## Worship Assistants

### January 18

Usher: Rich Nagel, Nick Schiroo  
Larry & Pam Schiroo  
Greeter: Lyle & Betty Rud  
Acolyte: Jacqueline Christeson  
Reader: Bruce Kallhoff  
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &  
Elton Hazelwood  
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

### January 25

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel  
Gordon & Barb Bergs  
Greeter: Deb Stenzel  
Acolyte: Harper Drexler  
Reader: Peg Kamps  
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen  
Parameters: Stacy Haggenmiller

## **Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla**

952-237-1060  
pastor@zionarlington.org

Hours for the week of January 18

Monday, January 19—2:30p-4:30p

Tuesday, January 20—11:30a—4:30p

Wednesday, January 21—2:30p-6:00p

Thursday, January 22—12:30p—4:00p

by appointment

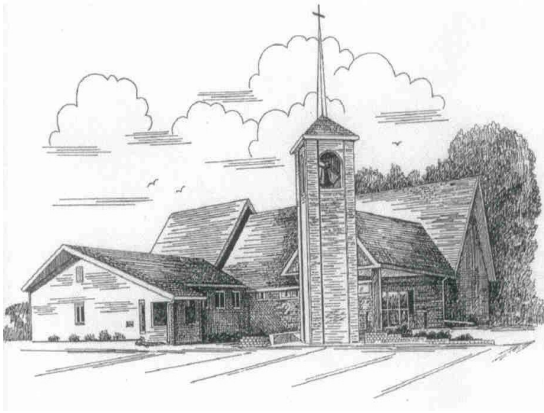
Stacy's Office Hours

Monday—Thursday, 2:30p-5:00p

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Church: 507-964-5454

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Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



## Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

### This Week at Zion:

Sunday, January 18	<b>9:00a</b> 10:00a 10:15a	<b>Worship</b> Sunday School ZCW General Meeting
Monday, January 19		Annual Meeting Report Deadline Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, January 20	9:00a	Quilting
Wednesday, January 21	4-5:30p 6:30-8p	6, 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation 9th Grade Confirmation
Thursday, January 22	9:00a 10:00a	Quilting Adult Bible Study
Sunday, January 25	<b>9:00a</b> 10:00a	<b>Worship</b> Sunday School

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

