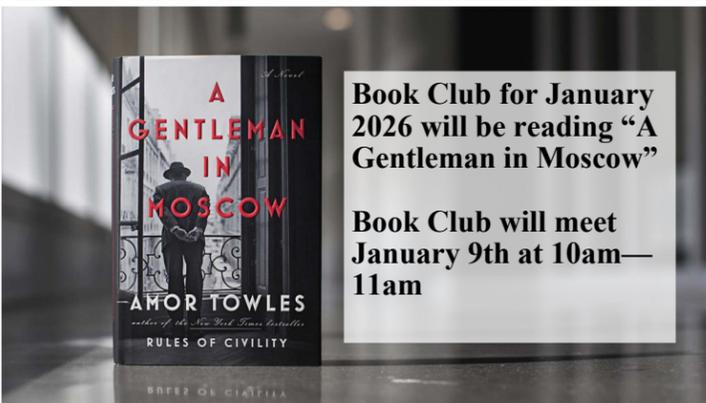


*Weekly News of Zion Lutheran Church*



Book Club for January 2026 will be reading "A Gentleman in Moscow"

Book Club will meet January 9th at 10am—11am



This week we pray for: Neal, Ruth and those affected by war.

Submit your prayer requests to Jayne Schrader at Prayer@Zion-NC.com



Bible Readings for January 4th, 2026

- ~ Isaiah 60: 1-6
- ~ Ephesians 3:1-12
- ~ Matthew 2:1-12

**Today's Worship Leaders**

Guest Minister: Rev. Steve Johnson  
 Assisting Minister: Ken Reinoehl  
 Acolyte: Ben Keith  
 Accompanist: Digital Music  
 Audio/Visual Technicians: John Rhodes/  
 Chris Thompson  
 Chancel Guild: Darlene Milavickas/Harriet Bowers  
 Reader: Ruth Reinoehl  
 Trustees: Rob Frock and Scott Gross  
 Flowers By: Janet Slease in memory of John & Marge Mavrich, & in honor of Sister, Linda Schuckert

**January 4, 2026 Worship Leaders**

Guest Minister: Pastor David Rice  
 Assisting Minister: Beth Heller  
 Acolyte:  
 Accompanist: Susan Kaschak  
 Audio/Visual Technicians: Chris Thompson and Paul Bagocius  
 Chancel Guild: Connie Riffle  
 Reader: John Long  
 Trustees:  
 Flowers By:



**December 28, 2025**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**  
**Traditional Worship Service**



Zion  
Evangelical  
Lutheran  
Church

349 Lindy Lane Ave. NW  
North Canton, Oh 44720  
330-499-3909

*Living in Faith,  
Known by Love,  
Serving like Jesus*

**STAFFED CHILD  
CARE**

Available during  
worship service.

**WIFI = Zion Guest**  
No password required

[www.zion-nc.com](http://www.zion-nc.com)

Like us on Facebook  
[@zionnorthcanton](https://www.facebook.com/zionnorthcanton)

Congregation responses are in bold

Guest Minister (PM) - Rev. Steve Johnson

Announcements made prior to the start of our service

Prelude

*Please stand as you are able  
Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the worship space  
Welcome Jesus into our presence*

**Verses 1-4**

**The Bells of Christmas**  
*Det kimer nu til julefest*

*Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer*  
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly  
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled  
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

*for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve*  
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a  
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who  
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

*lyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.*  
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.  
 glad - dens them, the love - ljest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.  
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!

5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,  
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,  
great David's Son, great David's Lord:  
6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,  
and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,  
shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823-1883, alt.  
Music: DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806-1855

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.  
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

PM: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, \$ bless you with  
endless grace, peace, and joy.  
**Amen.**

PM: Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

The Lord's Supper (Communion) at this congregation is practiced as an open table – all are welcome. Jesus said this is his body and blood given and shed for you; come receive the loving grace God provides for you.

Those who do not commune may come forward for a blessing, for all are loved by God.

Children who commune at their home congregation are encouraged to commune here today too.

Gluten free wafers available. Request at time of receiving communion.

Communion Music

*Please stand as you are able*

PM: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

AM: Let us pray,  
Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.  
**Amen.**

AM: Let us enthusiastically commit to our mission as we pray,  
**Lord, my hope and strength come from you. Open my eyes and heart to become the person you want me to be; a person who cares for the widows and orphans, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, frees the oppressed, and visits the sick and imprisoned. Give me and this congregation a vision to make a difference in our community. Enliven me to spread the good news of your Son. I pray this all for Jesus' sake.**  
**Amen.**

PM: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you \$ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.  
**Amen**

*Turn to follow the cross as it processes through the Worship Space.  
Then follow it out to join in God's work.*

PM: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \$ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

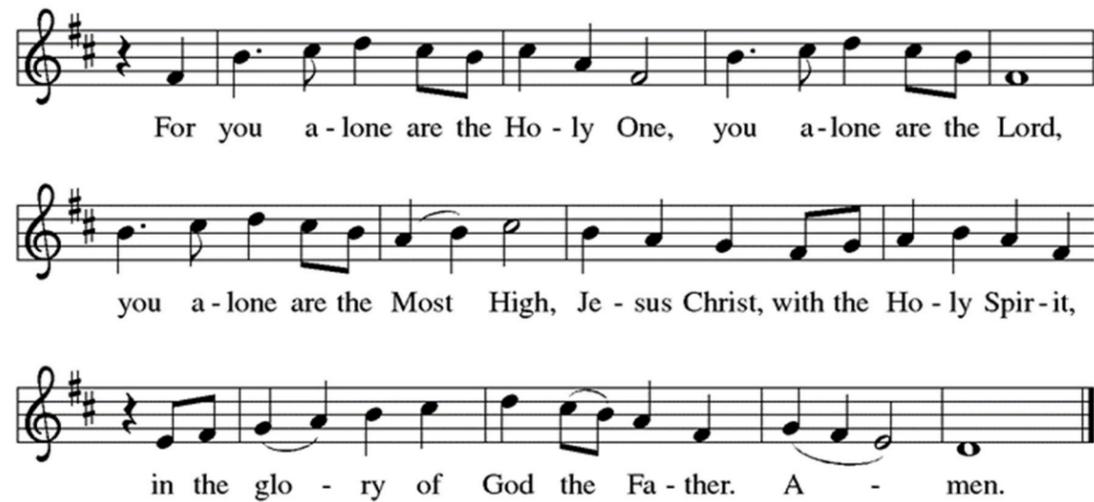
Reconciling God,  
**we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

PM: God's grace upon grace flows over you. \$ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!  
**Amen.**

Assisting minister  
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All  
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we  
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;  
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PM: Let us pray.

**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, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

A reading from Isaiah:

(Isaiah 63:7-9 Pew Bible  
 Old Testament, page 537)

The reading concludes with:

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 148**

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**young men and maidens, old and young together.**

Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your Light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy God, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

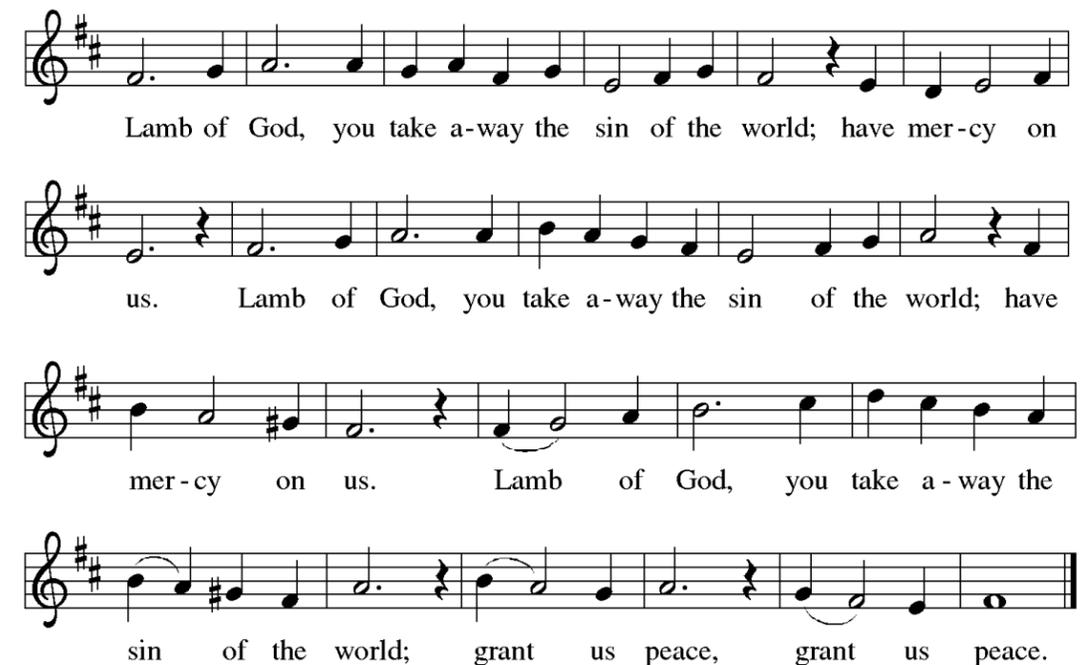
Let us enthusiastically pray as Jesus taught us,

**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.**

God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Offering of our tithes, gifts and sacrifices is gathered for the mission of Christ's church, including the care of those in need.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

PC = <https://onrealm.org/ZionLutheranChurchNC/give/now>

Smartphone = <https://onrealm.org/ZionLutheranChurchNC/give/now>

OR Scan QR code for mobile giving

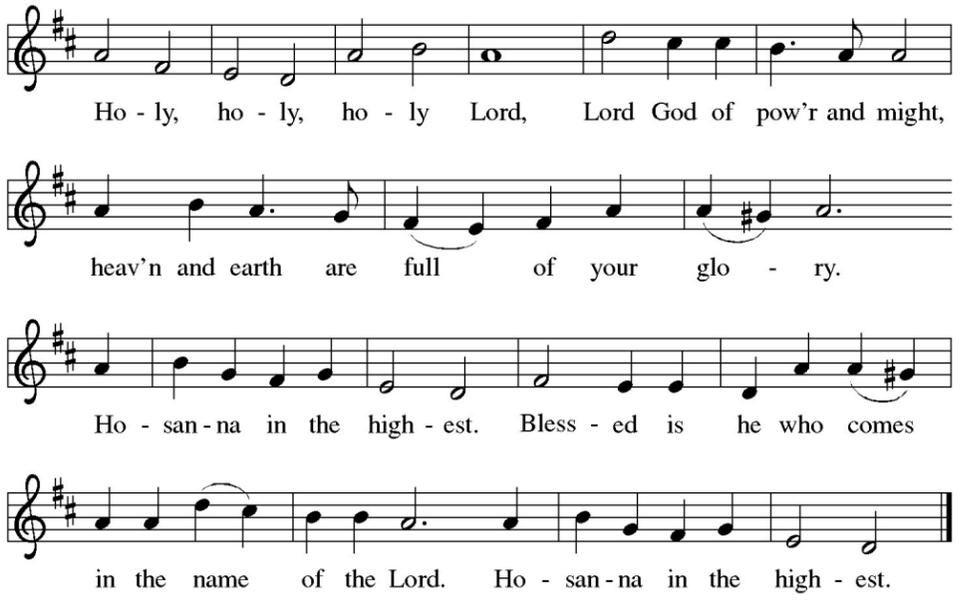


AM: Let us enthusiastically pray our prayer of stewardship, Holy Lord,  
**I gladly return, for your work, a portion of your abundant provision to me. All that I have is yours alone, entrusted Lord, to my care. Amen.**

PM: The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PM: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

PM: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

A reading from Hebrews :

(Hebrews 2:10-18 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 170)

The reading concludes with:  
Word of God, Word of Life  
**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as you are able*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

(Matthew 2:13-23 Pew Bible, New Testament, page 1-2)

The reading concludes with:  
The gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

*Please be seated*

Children's Time with Pastor

Sermon

*Please stand as you are able*

## What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va-tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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.

AM: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

AM: God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

AM: God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

AM: God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

AM: God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

AM: God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for the life of our birthday siblings,

**Linda Tvorik, Gracie Haga, and Dave Palumbo**

AM: God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (*especially*). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

AM: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

PM: Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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.**