

The Baptism of Christ  
First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 11, 2026 10:15 a.m.  
(\* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

---

### WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE  
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS  
PASSING OF THE PEACE

### WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP *All Are Welcome*

#### \*OPENING SENTENCES

L: John The Baptist told the crowds that one was coming who was greater than he, who would baptize with the Spirit of God. They did not know yet who it would be, but we know it was Jesus.

P: **God, beloved Son, with whom God was well pleased,**  
L: Who came that we too might be called children of God,  
P: **May our worship this day, and our lives each day, be pleasing to God, who in Christ has revealed His love for us.**

\*HYMN *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*

\*PRAYER **Lord Jesus, at your baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon you to reveal you as God's beloved Son and our Savior. You sent the same Spirit on Pentecost to empower your disciples for ministry. At our baptisms we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts now to welcome that same energizing and empowering Spirit and to become more faithful, effective disciples. Amen.**

ANTHEM *Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God*

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

### GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 3:1-17

MESSAGE *Why Jesus Was Baptized*

### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### Renewal Of Baptismal Promises

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you affirm your baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**People: I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

**People: I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**People: I promise, with the help of God.**

\*HYMN *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE George Siebert, Hubert Keutzer Family, Lois Wilmot Family, Ed Lopeman, Stephanie Heilstedt, Larry Grosenbach, John Dergance, Karin, Chelsea, George, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Maxine, Crosby Family, K. J., Karen Hauser, Holly and family of Bob Antkowiak, Steve Theisinger,

Debbie, Ristau Family, Family of Gene, Kevin Kramer, Dixie, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam.

PASTORAL PRAYER  
THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)  
PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

OFFERING INVITATION  
OFFERTORY  
\*RESPONSE *We Give Thee but Thine Own*  
\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **As Christ's disciples, baptized into His service, we are commissioned to go out to the world to make more disciples, baptizing and teaching all that Jesus has commanded us. Bless these gifts, O God, and our use of them. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE

### Announcements New Prayer Requests

-George Siebert, for health  
-Family of Hubert Keutzer

Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Hubert Keutzer. Hubert passed away January 4. Services will be January 24<sup>th</sup> at Hurst Funeral Home in LaSalle with Pastor Alex officiating.

Memorials for Lois Wilmot were given by Holly Antkowiak and Shirley Janz & son Bill.

Please join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today. There is a new sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide treats after worship.

\*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

**Join the CREW!** Our Sunday School program, **CREW**, is meeting every Sunday at 9:00 AM. Kids in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join us for stories, games, crafts, and activities that help build faith and friendships. We're excited to see you this Sunday!

**Bible Study** is underway again on Tuesdays! We start at 6:30pm and you can participate in person at the church or Zoom on-line. The Zoom link can be found on our WEB page, [zionperu.org](http://zionperu.org). We will be discussing Episode 2 of season 4 of The Chosen. You can view that episode (and many other programs) by opening a free account on BYUtv.

Let's continue to grow in faith and community together. See you Tuesday! All are welcome!

2026 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Zion Church again thanks you for your continued support during these hard times. Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion.

**Zion Diners** The Diners will meet at Angelo's this Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm with Bill & Phyllis Bender as hosts. All are welcome!

**New Member Sunday** will be January 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are considering becoming a member, please see Pastor Alex. He would love to discuss it with you!

**Souper Bowl Sunday** will run Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is asked to bring cans of soup to worship and use them to vote for the team they think will win the Super Bowl, or the team they hope will win. The Sunday after the game, those who voted for the losing team are asked to bring one can of soup for every losing vote they cast. Jim Greening also says those who voted for the winning team should bring more soup to celebrate their team's victory. All the soup will be given to the Food Pantry. So who are you going to vote for?

**The Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> after worship. If you have a report, please turn it into the office by Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Feeding the Future** – The Illinois Valley Food Pantry launched a major fundraiser to fund their new building purchase, necessary renovations, and expanded food programs—so that we can continue to serve the growing number of individuals and families in need across our region. Local individuals, churches and businesses are joining together to make this vision a reality. Learn more or donate at [www.ivfoodpantry.com](http://www.ivfoodpantry.com) or by contacting the Pantry directly.

**Did you know?** Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

**Prayer Requests In the Bulletin** We are grateful for the privilege of praying for one another. To help us keep our prayer list current, each new request will be included in the bulletin for four weeks. After that time, we will remove it unless we are asked to continue sharing it longer. If you would like a request to remain, please let us know—we want to walk alongside you in prayer for as long as you need.

Zion UCC is providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note "**PADS Meals.**" Or go online and donate through the

Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

**HELP WANTED!** Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email [ushers@zionperu.org](mailto:ushers@zionperu.org) to be added to the ushers list. Evangelism: We are updating our visitor information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting. If you would like to help the Evangelism Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email [evangelism@zionperu.org](mailto:evangelism@zionperu.org).

**Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group)** meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

**The Compassionate Friends Group** meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

**Weight Watchers** is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: \*Bar soap \*Shower gel \*Shampoo Razors \*Deodorant \*Toothbrushes \*Toothpaste \*Combs or Brushes \*Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

**You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954**

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

New copies of "These Days" are available in fellowship hall.

Zion United Church of Christ  
6<sup>th</sup> & Grant Streets, Peru, IL

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL  
office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org

Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Erin Lewis
Liturgist	Lauren Knutson
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Marcia & Jim Brown

**Attendance Dec. 28:** In Person: 36 + 5 children  
On YouTube: 15

**This week:**

Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Live Life Group meeting

Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Bible Study

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

6:00pm Zion Diners

Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

10:15am Worship in person or on You Tube

Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

# *Zion United Church of Christ*

## **Jesus came to be baptized.**

Mt 3:13



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

815-223-2671

1521 6<sup>th</sup> St. Peru, IL 61354