

The Baptism of Christ
First Sunday after Epiphany

January 12, 2025 10:15 a.m.
(* Indicates: all who are able to please stand.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP *Sweet Sweet Spirit*

OPENING SENTENCES

L: We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God.

P: Surely, God is in this place and calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

L: God's love is for you and for all people everywhere.

P: That we may share God's love and life, may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ.

L: The living Christ is with us.

P: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN *Called As Partners*

*PRAYER **Holy God of glory and majesty, you have called us by name. We pray in this moment for the courage and the strength to answer your call. As we open our ears to hear the story of your Son's baptism, open our hearts also, that we may experience again the renewing power of rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Inspire us in this time of worship, that we may claim our own identity as your beloved children. We pray in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

MESSAGE *Baptism: Why Does It Matter?*

HYMN *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Karen, Shelly, Anthony, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Family of Larry Aldman, Orval family, Hopkins family, Shawna & Family, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Evie Coulter, Jim Brown, Karen Kradle, Dixie Tonozzi, Austin, Maxine, Shirley, and Jackie, Brianna, Jim Greening, Pam, Audrey Clements family, Zimmer Family, Tim P., Michelle, Eric & Tina, Jackson, Rusty & Mary Thies, Dale Jacobson, Jeff, Paul Nave, Jeff Rietgraf, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Kathy Radke Family, Ryan, Josie, Steve & Audrey, Carol Harris Family, Ben Vowels, Sr. Family, Dick & Alice Tostovarsnik,

Priscilla Dean, Tom & Gretchen Kaszynski, Lindenmier family, The Smith Family, Art Ramey Family, Jean Spayer, Emily, Renewal Team, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Hear Our Prayer O Lord*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

RESPONSE *Give Thanks*

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 *Sing a New Church*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

-Shelly, for health

-Karen, grieving (Husband has passed away)

-California fire victims and first responders

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

Join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today.

Exciting Announcement: Join the CREW!

Hey Families! Get ready for an adventure because our Sunday School program, CREW, is back and better than ever! Join us every Sunday morning at 9:00AM for a fun-filled hour designed for kids in kindergarten through 6th grade. At CREW, we dive into amazing stories, unleash our creativity with awesome crafts, and play exciting games that will keep everyone engaged and smiling! It's a great opportunity to make new friends, learn about faith, and have fun! Don't miss out on the fun—come join the CREW this Sunday! We can't wait to see your smiling faces! See you there!

Join Us for Bible Study!

Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 6:30 PM! Our study is based on the inspiring series *The Chosen* and is open to all adults.

This is a **hybrid event**, so you can join us **in person at the church** or **via Zoom**—whichever works best for you. This week, we'll dive into **Episode 6**, so be sure to watch it beforehand and come ready to share your questions and insights.

Let's grow in faith and community together. **See you Tuesday!**

Listen to Pastor Alex at 8:25 every Sunday morning on 103.9 **WLPO**. Tell your friends!

*Choir practice will resume Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 6:30pm. The Choir will sing during worship on Feb. 2.

The next **Zion Diners** will be hosted by Bill and Phyllis Bender at Angelo's in Spring Valley Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6:00. Please notify Phyllis if you plan to attend.

2025 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. If you have not been able to pick up your 2025 envelopes, use any envelope and put your name and date on it when you donate your contribution. Your envelope number will be the same as you have this year. If you have leftover 2024 envelopes, you can use one of those and write the 2025 date on it. If you are giving for more than one week, you do not have to use a separate envelope (or a separate check) for each week. You can mark the envelope for the weeks that are covered in it. Zion Church again thanks you for your continued support! Your generosity has been a blessing for the continued operation and mission of Zion.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th after worship. If you have a report, please turn it into the office by January 17th.

Souper Bowl Sunday will run Jan. 26th – Feb. 9th. 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?

Kitchen Shower

The church kitchen is in need of: Bottled water, *Paper towels* (most needed), toilet paper, 9oz cold cups, and plastic forks. We appreciate your help in resupplying our church for Sundays and events!

Each month, Zion UCC delivers a hot, nutritious meal to the **Peru PADS** homeless shelter, supporting those in need in our community. With the increased demand, the shelter reopened earlier this year, and your help is essential to continue this ministry through May. We invite you to make a difference by donating. Every contribution, big or small, helps us provide a hearty, healthy meal to those who need it most. To give, please write a check to the church with "PADS Meals" in the memo or donate online through the Giving page on our website. Thank you for opening your hearts to this mission of compassion!

Support Needed for Food Pantry Expansion!

The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is seeking donations as it searches for a new, larger facility to better serve those in need. A larger space will allow for the storage of additional perishable and non-perishable food

items, ensuring that we can meet the increasing demand in our community. Your financial support can make a real difference! Contributions can be sent to:
Illinois Valley Food Pantry 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301
Together, we can work to end hunger in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

A new publication of "These Days" is now available in fellowship hall!

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 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.

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.

A retirement banquet for Pastor Dr. Ron McNeill will be held today at noon in Bonucchi Hall at Granville UCC. If you would like to attend, please RSVP by calling (815) 878- 2652 or (815) 252-0741. Cards may be sent to the church: 103 Church St. Granville, IL 61326

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).

Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

Zion United Church of Christ 6 th & 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	Terri Kelly
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Erin Lewis

Attendance: January 5: In Person: 32 + 7 children

On YouTube: 15

This week:

Monday, January 13th

6:30pm Live Life Group

Tuesday, January 14th

6:30 Bible Study

Thursday, January 16th

6:30 Bible Study

Saturday, January 18th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, January 19th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person, also available on YouTube

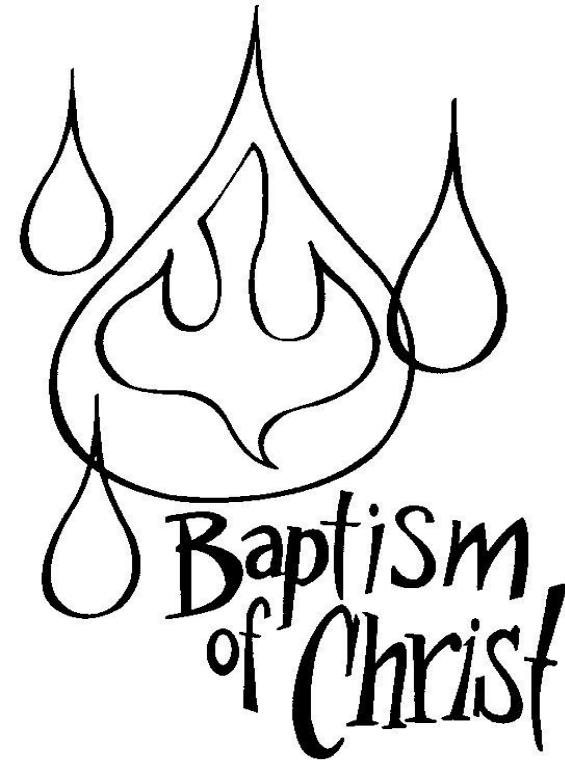
Followed by fellowship refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 12:30pm -6:00pm

*Zion
United Church of Christ*



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

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