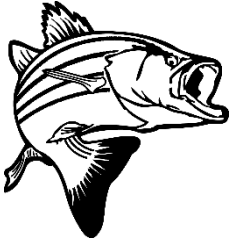


Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.



Third Sunday after Easter

April 14, 2024

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

Prelude – Bell

The overarching theme of Easter is one of ***belonging***. When we find our place and sense of ***belonging*** within the abiding, Triune God, we are also reminded that there are others who belong to God with whom we are encouraged to build community.

Nebraska Synod Theme for April: GO and Tell the Story

Jesus isn’t in the tomb anymore – God is on the loose! God is active and up to something! The story of Easter is an ongoing one, similar to the story of our own faith. Our response as disciples is to ***GO and...***to go out, go share, go proclaim and go tell the story.

Questions to consider:

- What is one of your favorite Bible story?
- Is there a prop or a tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?
- How will you ***GO and tell the story?***

Easter Gathering

P- Christ is risen!

C- Christ is risen!

P- The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John.

C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

P- Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for sign, and Jesus offers his wounded self in the broken bread,

C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

P- From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and sharing so that no one among us is in need.

C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

Gathering Hymn – Hallelujah! Jesus Lives! ELW 380

1 Hallelujah! Jesus lives!
He is now the Living One;
from the gloomy halls of death
Christ, the Conqueror, has gone,
bright forerunner to the skies
of his people, yet to rise.

2 Jesus lives! Why do you weep?
Why that sad and mournful sigh?
Christ who died our brother here
lives our brother still on high,
lives forever to bestow
blessings on his church below.

3 Jesus lives! And thus, my soul,
life eternal waits for you;
joined to Christ, your living head,
where he is, you shall be too;
with the Lord, at God's right hand,
as a victor you shall stand.

4 Jesus lives! Let all rejoice.
Praise him, ransomed of the earth.
Praise him in a nobler song,
cherubim of heav'nly birth.
Praise the victor king, whose sway
sin and death and hell obey.

5 Hallelujah! Angels, sing!
Join with us in hymns of praise.
Let your chorus swell the strain
which our feebler voices raise:
Glory to our God above
and on earth his peace and love!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.

P- Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy!

C- Amen

P- Look, here is water!

C- Here is our water of life!

Alleluia!

P- Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thank, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's blue water rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into the new day.

Miriam led the dance as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.

In the desert the pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.

P- Look, here is water!

C- Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P- At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C-Amen.

P- Look, here is water!

C- Here is our water of life!

Alleluia!

Please be seated.

Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom

Children's Time – The Author of Life

The story of your life might be filled with adventure; there may be some sad parts, there may be some scary parts. But because you are a child of God, most of your life book should be about love.

Readings

Acts 3:12-19

Lector – After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you."

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and

turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,” Here ends this reading.

Psalm 4. Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies

Read responsively.

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;

the LORD hears when I call to him.

When you are disturbed, do not sin;

ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the LORD.

There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!”

You have put gladness in my heart

more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

1st John 3:1-7

Lector – God has loved us in order to make us children of God.

Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Holy and righteous God,

C- you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of our Son, Jesus Christ your Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Gospel – Luke 24:36b-48

P- In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as the Messiah. Jesus convinces them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled

and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.” The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord! *Please be seated.*

Message – The Good News Even When We Act in Ignorance

Thank goodness that like the disciples, when we are called by Jesus, he has already accounted for our failures and shortcomings to recognize and follow him.

Offering Hymn – Just As I Am, without One Plea ELW 592

1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Risen One,

C- you call us to believe and bear fruit.

**May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love
and form us to be witnesses in the world,
through Christ our Savior. Amen**

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again 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.**

Prayers of the Church – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy” please respond with “hear our prayer!**”***

Lord's Prayer

**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.

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P- Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C- Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

P- The God of resurrection power,
the Christ of unending joy,
and the spirit of Easter hope
+ bless us now and always.

C- Amen.

P- Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad!

C- Thanks be to God! ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Song – In Christ There is No East or West ELW 650

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding human-kind.

3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpszionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping with Worship Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes.....Konnor Kolm
Kipton Lovitt
Lector.....Todd Bohlmeier
Greeters.....Todd & Jeni Bohlmeier
Darwin & Susan Buss
Special Music.....Kids of the Kingdom
Breakfast Club.....Ivy Bloom

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Sunrise Service 129 Giving \$ 2598.00
Sunday School 45 Giving \$ 38.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION - Today

8:45 Sunday School
9 am Breakfast Club/Adult Sunday School
10 Worship/Kids of the Kingdom

Wednesday

6 pm 7th & 8th grade confirmation
6 pm Endless Hallelujah practice

Thursday

Ladies Aid

Next Sunday 8th grade Faith projects after church with the Council

8:45 am_Sunday School

9 am BFK Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Endless Hallelujah/Communion

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Keyboard.....Janelle Ideus

Guitar.....Deric Bloom

**Acolytes.....McCoy Peters
Karlee Riha**

Lector.....Linda Blackwell

**Greeters.....Karla Carstens
Eddie & Lynette Dorn**

Special Music.....Endless Hallelujah

Breakfast Club.....Jennifer Mahler

April Altar Guild: Cindy Jurgens, Carrie Reed, Janet Harms, Peggy Johnson, Rose Gronewold.

April Table Troop: Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenner, Al Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr.

Snow Brigade

For the Week of April 15: Alan Wiese ** Captain, James Meints – tractor, Kenny Newman, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold, AJ Wiese.

For the Week of April 22: Mark Buhr ** Captain, Gary Gronewold – tractor, Stan Lenner – Tractor, James Lenner, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen.

For the Week of April 29: Greg Dorn **Captain, Dean Zimmerman – tractor, Russ Wallman – tractor, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Dave Holland, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the unity room or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!

HANDICAP PARKING - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

IF INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A WEEKLY BULLETIN you may do so by contacting the Church secretary and making a check out to Zion Church for \$75.00.

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Dennis & Rhonda Fossler and Rosie Fossler: in honor of Ernie Zimmerman on his 95th Birthday that was April 9th. Hope you had a fabulous birthday Ernie!

Thank you to Shirley and the Kids of the Kingdom for their special music today!



Reminder to sign up for VBS – Deadline is 5/11

Preschool will be all four days this year due to willing volunteers
We are thankful for all of our volunteers
May 28-31 8:30-11:30am
Program & Picnic 6/2 @ 10am

The Breakfast Club sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Center -
Hard to believe May is the last month needed - and only one
Sunday is needed to be filled and then Summer is upon us! **A**
BIG THANK YOU to all of you that have provided since last Fall
and through the Winter!

Don't forget your bowls or pans from last Sunday in the Parish Hall Kitchen!

If you haven't done so already please pick up your Easter Lily after the service today. They are in the Fellowship Hall windows.

Endless Hallelujah is looking for people to join their musical group.

Please come and practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and they are also adding a Wednesday night practice once a month from 6-7 pm. They will practice the Wednesday night before the Sunday that they are scheduled to sing. This group takes a break during the summer months. **Come and have fun and fellowship.**



Middle School and High School Parents – Summer Retreat opportunity! July trip to Colorado. Check out the Welcome Center for the brochures and parental consents. Any questions please contact Hannah Hrenchir.

The Council is looking for volunteers to set up the Nativity Scene in the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season. This committee would be responsible for putting it up and taking it down. **We are also looking for volunteers to put up the crosses in the Fellowship Hall for the Lenten season.** The duties would include setting up and taking down.



These were wonderful donations to our church family. These decorations look beautiful each year. It adds so much to the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for carefully considering helping out with these special projects. **If you are interested, please contact a Council Member.**

150th Anniversary committee now accepting donations for our next Silent Auction to be held June 2nd - July 21st! Contact anyone on the committee if you have questions or are interested in donating!



Anyone interested in a Stop the Bleed Tourniquet there are some on the Welcome Center for the taking!

Volunteer Opportunity

Parish Ed is in need of a few more teachers for the next Sunday School year beginning in

September. If you have been wanting to get involved or volunteer your hour while you wait for your child/children during Sunday School, this is your time to shine! If you have a buddy this would be a great opportunity to do things together and split responsibilities and not feel the pressure of needing to be available every single week! It works great when you have a partner in teaching so you can work together to switch every other week, every other month, only fill in when the other is gone and have a primary person teach, etc. Whatever works best for you and your partner would be fine. Or you can volunteer solo too! **We need volunteers to keep our youth program thriving!** Don't wait, contact a Parish Ed member today if you're interested!



Congratulations Zion!

The goal of 150 items for birthday kits was easily surpassed & almost doubled! 295 items were delivered this past week to the Community Food Pantry & Mother to Mother Ministry! In addition, another \$250 worth of highly needed items were donated to the pantry using Thrivent Funds using a grant written by Mickey Larkins!

God Bless all who contributed!

Our next Food Pantry Drive will be collecting popular foods invented during 1924-1974 which coordinates with Zion's next celebration. Stay tuned for future details!

Dear members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for letting me come and give a short update about my ministry with the Navigators to you all. It was encouraging to see many of you and get up and share and the encouraging responses I received from you so thank you! The Lord really strengthened and encouraged my heart through it!

Thank you also for your generous offering donation! I fundraise for all of my salary, benefits, and ministry expenses so it was a huge blessing to me!

"3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:3-5

Laboring with you,
Cassie Thornburg

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman

Good Samaritan – Ernie Zimmerman

Homestead House - Evelyn Meints, Anora Schoen

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Wilbur Care Center – Ernie Jurgens