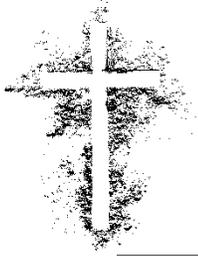


Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



Third Sunday in Lent with the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

March 12, 2023

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

Everyone needs water—what Nature Conservancy calls “that strange drinkable liquid that is not coffee or alcohol.” Water is essential, yet because clean water is so rare, roughly one in three people worldwide have access to it. Today’s readings lift up the preciousness of both literal and spiritual water, the unending flow of divine love and of Jesus providing “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life”

Gathering

P- In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers a living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism.

C- Give me this living water that I may never thirst again.

P- As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word offering us life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

C- Give me this living water that I may never thirst again.

Gathering Hymn – In the Cross of Christ I Glory *ELW 324*

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

Confession & Forgiveness

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,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C- Amen

P- Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our needs for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Holy God,

**C- we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

**P- Hear the Good News:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
+ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power..
C- Amen**

Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Kit Kelly Meints

Children's Time – Meanie in the Quicksand

**“But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners
Christ died for us.” –Romans 5:8**

Readings

Exodus 17:1-7

**Lector– *Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put
God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God***

commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?” Here ends this reading.

Psalm 95 *Read responsively.*

O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;

the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God,
**and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
**Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation
**and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways."**

Therefore in my anger I swore,
"They shall not enter my rest."

Romans 5:1-11

Lector – Through we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who have been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation. Paul writes to the church in Rome:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and

hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. **But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.** Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Merciful God, the fountain of living water,

C- you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Gospel – John 4:5-42

P- Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith. Due to the length of this gospel please be seated.

Due to the length of this gospel please be seated.

So [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was

there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink". (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink', you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that

Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Special Music: Jewel - by Britan Meints & Holly Blair

Message – Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. In the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, we find the longest conversation Jesus has with anyone in the Gospels.

Offering Hymn – Amazing Grace ELW 779

1 Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- God of good gifts,

**C- receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel,
Prepare our hearts to receive you
as you pour out your very presence
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker 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**

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. *Please be seated.***

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

P- God, giver of life,
+ Christ the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth,
bless you in this Lenten journey.

C-Amen.

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

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

Sending Hymn – Lord Jesus, Think on Me ELW 599

1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

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

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping With the Service Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Shirley Gronewold
Special Music.....Kids of the Kingdom
Britan Meints & Holly Blair
Acolytes.....Henry Garton
McCoy Peters
Lector.....Kenny Reed
Greeter.....Darvin & LaDonna DeBuhr
Craig & Jess Ideus
Breakfast Club.....Kenny Reed

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Church Attendance 180 Giving \$ 4281.90
Sunday School 64 Giving \$ 38.00
Wednesday night Attendance 54 Giving \$ 661.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45 am Sunday School/Endless Hallelujah practice
9 am BKF Club/Adult SS
10 am Worship/Communion/Kids of the Kingdom/Baptism
 Coffee Fellowship after Church today in the Fellowship Hall
3 pm Country Club 4-H at Parish Hall

Monday

Blanket Sewing 9-3
Men's Choir 7 pm

Tuesday

Blanket Sewing 9-3

Wednesday

7 & 8th Confirmation 6 pm

First Communion Class 6 pm

Lenten Service 7 pm

Thursday

Ladies Aid

Deadline in the morning for Bulleting – will be out of the office on Friday

Saturday

9-12 Indoor Spring Clean Up (Service Project for 7th & 8th graders)

All members welcome to come and help make the church beautiful!

NEXT Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School/Endless Hallelujah practice

9 am BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Communion/Comm/Baptism/Endless Hallelujah

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Key Board.....Janelle Ideus

Guitar:.....Deric Bloom

Special Music..... .Endless Hallelujah

Acolytes.....Bella Buhr

Nicole Davison

Lector.....Cindy Parde

Greeter.....Doug & Rhonda Dorn

Gary Gronewold

Breakfast Club.....Kenny Reed

March Table Troop: Eddie & Lynette Dorn(L), Gary & Brenda Gronewold, Dave & Carrye Meints, Kenny & Janet Schuster, Steve & Peggy Johnson, Larry Gronewold

March Altar Guild: Lynette Jurgens, Caroline Ideus, Dianna Andrew, Susan Buss, Patti Behrens.

Snow Brigade

The Week of March 13: Matt Meints ** Captain, Les Lieneman – tractor, David Meints – Tractor, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese, Jason Lovitt,

The week of March 20: Jordan Busboom ** Captain, Eric Parde – Tractor, Chris Fossler – Tractor, Duane Jurgen, Greg Robinson, Larry Johnson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Steve Oltman, Donny Schuster.

The Week of March 27: Alan Wiese**Captain, James Meints – Tractor, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold, AJ Wiese.

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.

Attention!!!!!!

It's That Time of Year Again to remind Thrivent Members of the March 31st Deadline to designate your choice dollars for the past year.

Call 800-847-4836 or visit the online site

Thrivent.com/thriventchoice

Zion would appreciate your support.

Last Call for Family Photo for the Picture Directory

Time is running out so if you haven't submitted a family photo, please do as soon as possible. Digital copies are to be sent to Rhonda or pictures to be scanned given to Brenda.

Rhonda – 402-520-1320 or rhondadorn@yahoo.com

Brenda – 402-520-0397 or brendag@diodecom.net

FARM FRESH EGGS! Donny and Gayle Schuster have eggs for sale in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will go to future projects. It is a free will offering with a suggested donation of \$3.50 minimum. Thank you!

GIVING OPPORTUNITY...

THANK YOU, members that contributed to the Foster Care Closet!

Close to 200 items have already been delivered including 81 personal hygiene products, 47 pairs of socks, 41 underwear items, 19 pajama sets, and 4 girl's dresses! Donations open till March 19th. Label Foster Care Closet & leave on the bench in the fellowship hall.

Hebrews 13:16 "Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices."

THANK YOU to all members who contributed to the 7th & 8th grade pancake feed drive for the food pantry. They exceeded their original goal of 43 items easily!

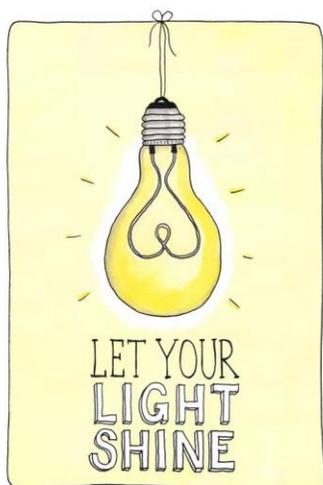
The inventory included 40 bottles of syrup; 41 pancake mixes; 5 cooking sprays, and 60 Misc. supplies for pancake making! Over 145 items were donated by Zion members alone and additional items were purchased using a cash donation and a \$250 Visa card from Thrivent.

Heartfelt thanks to Doreen Remmers for writing the grant and organizing this service-learning project for our youth as well as delivering service!

Luke 3:11 "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

Indoor Spring Cleanup will be March 18th 9:00-12:00. Everyone is welcome to come and help. **This will also be a 7th & 8th grade service project.** Sprucing up the Church and Fellowship Hall for the **WELCA Spring Gathering** that will be here at Zion the following weekend and to prepare for **Easter.**

There is an Easter Lily sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center for those of you who would like to help decorate for Easter Sunday. Please sign your name and in memory of - for the bulletin on Easter.



SPRING GATHERING 2023
THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA OF SOUTHEAST NE
Zion Lutheran Church- Rural Pickrell
Saturday March 25th
Program 10:00 am-2:30 pm
Registration begins at 9:30 am
Registration Fee \$20 due 3/15
Pre-Registration suggested but not required.

Tangible Offering collected for *CASA*
Personal Hygiene items: Shampoo, Conditioner Body Wash,
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hairbrushes, Toilet Paper, Kleenex
Program Speaker Christina Lyons
Bible study with Pastor Kathee Forrest

March 12th today - at 3 pm the Country Club 4-H group have their first meeting of the season at Parish Hall. New members are welcome! If you have questions, contact Connie Thornburg at 402-673-3605.

Sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center for April Breakfast Club
– Help feed the hungry High Schoolers!

Flowers under the Hymn board today are given by Arnold Baehr in memory of Delores – Delores passed away 2 years ago today.

Welcome our newest member in Christ today with the Baptism of Kit Kelly Meints – son of Zac & Britan Meints and big brother Berke. Sponsors for Kit are – Brody Blair, Bond Blair and Ben Meints.

Thank you to Britan Meints and Holly Blair for their special music today for Kits Baptism.

Let's Play Ball

We are excited to announce that we will have a modified t-ball team again for 2023.

Likely all games will be played at Fuller Field (Zion ballpark) and will be played on Sundays late afternoons - May through mid-June with 4-6 games depending on how many other team's sign-up. A few away games could be played in Adam depending on the schedule.

If your son/daughter is interested in playing, **go Zion's Facebook page** and complete the google form!

Thank you to Shirley Gronewold and the Kids of the Kingdom for providing special music for today's service. If you would like to provide special music on a Sunday or a Wednesday night – Contact Pastor Jer or one of the worship and music members.

Check out the bulletin boards on your way out of church for the Gage Co Historical Society and Museum Fundraiser. March 28th at 6:00 pm at Classics.

Thank you to the Hospitality Committee *for the treats today after Church in the Fellowship Hall.*

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

Homestead House - Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman,
Evelyn Meints

Our Homes Assisted Living - Randy Oltman