

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.”



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 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

The reading from John’s gospel this week contains truths and wisdom we hope young people can hold onto as they grow.

Gathering

P- In today’s gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones.

C- I wait for you, O Lord in your word is my hope. Psalm 130:5

P- To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God’s promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ

that we might also be raised with him to new life.

C- I wait for you, O Lord in your word is my hope. Psalm 130:5

Gathering Hymn – Beneath the Cross of Jesus *ELW 338*

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears,
two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love
and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine
than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

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

Children's Time – Dry Bones

Readings

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Lector– *Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that
Israel a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land*

through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on

your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.” Here ends this reading.

Psalm 130 - Waiting for Divine Redemption

Read responsively.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,

so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities.

Romans 8:6-11

Lector – For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which

God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead. Paul writes to the church in Rome:

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Almighty God,

C- your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Gospel – John 11:1-45

P- Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to new life. Due to the length of this gospel please be seated.

The Death of Lazarus

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at

home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Jesus Weeps

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So, the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four

days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message – Jesus Weeps

Offering Hymn – Jesus the Very Thought of You ELW 754

1 Jesus, the very thought of you
fills us with sweet delight;
but sweeter far your face to view
and rest within your light.

2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame,
nor can the mind recall
a sweeter sound than your blest name,
O Savior of us all!

3 O Hope of ev'ry contrite soul,
O Joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall!
How good to those who seek!

4 O Jesus, be our joy today;
help us to prize your love;
grant us at last to hear you say:
"Come, share my home above."

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 in this meal
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- Break Now the Bread of Life *ELW 515*

1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.

2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All in all!

3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

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.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes.....Savannah Mahler

Jayden Wiese

Lector.....Linda Blackwell

Greeter.....Linda & Gary Hooper

Lorene Wallman

Breakfast Club.....VeAnn Jurgens

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Church Attendance 148 Giving \$ 2703.10

Sunday School 54 Giving \$ 52.75

Wednesday night Attendance 72 Giving \$ 3650.00

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

Monday- morning

*****Newsletter Deadline*******

Wednesday

7 & 8th Confirmation 6 pm
First Communion Class 6 pm
Lenten Service 7 pm

Thursday

Ladies Aid

NEXT Sunday – Palm Sunday – Dramatic Reading

8:45 am Sunday School\No Endless Hallelujah Practice
9 am BKF Club/Adult SS
10 am Worship/Amigos/Communion

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Special Music.....Amigos
Acolytes.....Cale Behrens
James Scholl
Lector.....Denise Schlake Ideus
Greeter.....Council
Breakfast Club.....Ivy Bloom

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

April Table Troop: Stan Lenners (L) Mary Lenners, Al Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr, Duane Zulauf.

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

April Altar Guild: Linda Ideus (L), DeAnn Oltman, Karen Gilbreath, Annette Wiese, Rhonda Fossler.

Snow Brigade

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

The Week of April 3: Mark Buhr** Captain, Gary Gronewold, - tractor, Stan Lenners – tractor, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen.

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.

Mother to Mother Ministry

As you are busy spring cleaning, if you have any unopened travel size bottles of shampoo, lotion or soap, the basket to collect bottles is in the back of the church on the Welcome Center.

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!

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.

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!

Men's Choir – no choir practice but going to sing Good Friday and Sunday, April 16th (the Sunday after Easter).

Amigos will sing in Church next Sunday – Palm Sunday

A BIG THANK YOU to Donny & Gayle Schuster, and Gary Wiese for putting up the three crosses east of the German School again this year. And getting spotlights to highlight the crosses at night. A great addition to the Lenten/Easter session.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Our high school youth will again take the lead of the Easter Sunrise Worship Service! Join us as we gather as they did that early morning, to hear the news of the Risen Christ! The 7:00 am service will include communion and music lead by our Endless Hallelujah. Breakfast fellowship immediately following service.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH...There will be a practice for the Sunrise Service on the Saturday before Easter 4/8 at 9:00 am. If you would let Karla Holland, Carrie Reed or Natalie Niles know prior to the practice if you want to participate. Thank you to these moms for their help!!

Sign up for the Easter Breakfast food donations and volunteers are at the welcome center! This year the breakfast fellowship following the Sunrise Service will receive free will offering to help the youth with expenses of attending Nebraska Synod Journey to Denver July 10-15, 2023. We again will be asking for the donations of breakfast casseroles, baked sweets, (cinnamon rolls, muffins or coffee cakes) and fruit, (bowls, plates, cups) milk and juice. Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve, and clean up! Thanks everyone for your help and a special *Thank you to Linda Blackwell for the Thrivent grant for the supplies for breakfast!*

Thank you for all the youth and adults that helped get the Church, Fellowship Hall and Parish Hall basement ready for the WELCA Ingathering and for Easter! Many hands make light work! (Two and a half hours of hard work! 37 X 2.5 hrs = 92.5 hours of cleaning) **Here is a list of all the volunteer helpers: again, a BIG THANK YOU!** (Sorry if anyone was missed)

Hudson Fikar	Jayden Wiese	McCoy Peters
Nicole Davison	Sandi Davison	Savannah Mahler
Kent Mahler	Kameron Riha	Cale Behrens
Henry Garton	Max Behrens	Kyson Kolm
Michele Kolm	Bella Burr	Brenda Gronewold
Lisa Riha	Cindy Parde	Doug Parde
Deann Oltman	Terry Oltman	Pastor Jer
Cindy Jurgens	Iris Wiese	Rose Gronewold
Neal Meints	Alan Folkerts	Michael Busboom
Art Schuster	Paul Remmers	Connor Mason
Rhonda Fossler	Sandi Johnson	Elnora Lenners
Lynette Dorn	Karen Gilbreath	Linda Hooper
Annette Wiese		

Servicemen Deployment

Please Keep Quintin Hartig also in your prayer. Along with his parents. Son of Cally & Jerod Ideus and John Hartig. He has been deployed to Kuwait and will be stationed there for about a year. His address for letters and packages is as follows:

SGT Quintin Hartig
2-130FAR/C TRP 1-134th
APO, AE 09366

Please keep Jon & Emily & Ada Gronewold in your prayers.

Jon and others from his National Guard Unit are being deployed to Germany for up to a year. Keep them and their extended families in your prayers. We will be posting a mailing address when he gets to Germany.



Zion's 150th Anniversary (March 10, 1874 - March 10, 2024) To kickoff this once in lifetime celebration, Karen and I have two handcrafted quilts (Thrivent T-shirt and John Deere) and two handmade quilt racks both painted white satin. These four items will be auctioned to raise both interest and funding for next year's **150th Anniversary** on March 10, 2024.

These items will be displayed in the fellowship hall at a future time. We invite any church family members who would like to donate any of their handcrafted and handmade items to be auctioned at a future date.

Table for Eight – Still Time to Sign-up!

1. What is Table for Eight?

Table for Eight is a great way to meet folks from church and to get to know your church family better. Groups plan their own meals and get together 4 (or more) times in a six-month period. We will have a 6-month summer session and a 6-month winter session. You may choose to participate in one or both. You share meals at participants' homes, at local restaurants, the church, a park or wherever the group decides. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, so you don't have to be a gourmet cook to participate.



2. How does a Table for Eight Group work?

Simply fill out the registration form (see back of this FAQ) and return it via the offering plate or fill out the Google Form. This QR code will link you to the Google Form.

3. What does a Group Coordinator do?

This is the point person for the Group. The Group Coordinator contacts group members to select the location, date, and food sign-ups for the gatherings.

4. Who cooks the meals?

It's potluck! Usually, the host will make the main dish, and other participants will bring coordinating sides or desserts. Some groups may also choose to visit local restaurants or other venues.

5. I don't have room to host a dinner, or I really can't cook!

Our desire is for you to spend time together getting to know each other and include everyone. Your group may choose to repeat a host home or eat out. If finding a host home is difficult, your group is welcome to schedule dinner in the Parish Hall basement. We want everyone to feel that they can participate.

6. How are the Table for Eight groups formed?

As Tables for Eight groups are formed, our goal will be to put people together so that each group has, at most, eight adults. Couples will be kept together. The mystery is part of this ministry's excitement!

Children are part of the church family, and we encourage each group to allow children to participate.

Sign-up sheets on the Welcome Center or scan the code above and get signed up!

First Communion Class - taught by Karla Carstens

Korbin Busboom

Alexis Folkerts

Amelia Garton

Hunter Grone

Sadie Gronewold

Nora Glynn

Tavin Lieneman

These young people have been meeting for the past few weeks on Wednesday evenings to prepare for their First Communion that will take place on Maundy Thursday. During these sessions they have been learning about God's unending love and sacrifices made for each one of them. We have discussed the two sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. How each of these sacraments are God showing his love "For Us". They have been studying how to prepare their hearts and minds each time they are blessed in partaking of this communion meal by understanding the significance behind the Bread and Wine, the Body and Blood of our Savior.

May this life-giving Bread always feed your soul and nourish your spirit. May you always know the peace of Jesus, the light of his love and the joy of his life within you.

Karla Carsten

Kids Night Out

Kids Night Out is an event being put on by Dan and Breanna (Trauernicht) Pennisi to help cover the cost for their upcoming mission trip to Kenya. This is an opportunity for kids, grades K-5, to have a fun time while their parents get a much needed (kid free) night! Kids will be able to make crafts, play games, and watch the movie "Around the World in 80 Days." Pizza will be provided.

The cost for this event is:

1 child: \$30

2 children: \$25/ child

3 children: \$20/ child

*Payment can be brought to Zion the night of the event (cash, check, venmo)

Who: Kids in grades K-5

What: Kids Night Out

Where: Zion Lutheran Church

When: April 28th - 6-9pm

If you are interested in registering your child(ren) for this event, please reach out to Breanna at bretrauernicht@gmail.com or (402) 806-3238

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

Homestead House - Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman,
Evelyn Meints

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman