



From the Pastor's Cup... כב

January 2023

Dear Church Family,

A new year and a new start! Maybe it is time to take your biblical literacy seriously by blowing the dust of your Bible and opening it up on a regularly scheduled time each day. You might be surprised by what you will retain by reading this love letter from God to **you!**

Chuck Swindoll, the great preacher and teacher, in his commentary on the Gospel of John, wrote this on the general biblical illiteracy in our nation. Church wrote:

Several students at this nationally acclaimed school thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were lovers, and many named the four gospels as "Matthew, Mark, Luther and John." According to these top-ranked students, Eve was created from an apple, Moses baptized Jesus, Jezebel was Ahab's donkey (not far from the truth), and Jesus spoke in "parodies (p, 22)."

John wrote his account of Jesus' life to reveal the identity of Jesus so that we might respond in **belief**. My belief began at home and continued at home. Sunday school reinforced my belief in God's love letter. My journey continued throughout my life by voluntarily serving both community and church. So much in life and church depends on volunteers and what truly is saddening is the slow death of the volunteer spirit. "Let someone else do it!" seems to be the post-COVID cheer.

Chuck Swindoll continued his story about his time with Campus Crusade on the campuses of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Texas talking with students, asking the simple question, "Who in your opinion was Jesus of Nazareth?" The most common response was, "The Son of God." That surprised Chuck because he expected "a great teacher," or "the founder of Christianity," or "a martyr who died for his belief." Chuck further wrote:

When I asked the follow up question, "How did you come up with that conclusion?" the most common response was "I don't know." I find the same to be true among Christians today. They know the right answer, but they don't know **why** the answer is true (p, 23).

Again, a new year and a new start! Maybe it is time to take your biblical literacy seriously by blowing the dust of your Bible and opening it up on a regularly scheduled time each day. You might be surprised by what you will retain by reading this love letter from God to **you!**

Sincerely, Pr. Jer

9 a.m. Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship

We will be showing Rev. Ray Vander Laan's **In the Dust of the Rabbi** starting 9 a.m. Sunday, January 8, 2023. We will travel to the Holy Land without leaving the comfort of the fellowship hall without the need to purchase an airplane ticket or our passport. **AND** we offer a warm room, good company, and hot coffee for all who participate!

1/8/2023 – When the Rabbi Says, “Come” - Galilee

1/15/2023 – When the Rabbi Says, “Go” – Galilee]

1/22/2023 – The Presence of God : A Countercultural Community - Priene]

1/29/2023 – Living Stones - Priene

2/5/2023 – The Very Words of God - Didymus

8th GRADE CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY 2023

Reminder to pick ASAP your Bible verse and My Faith Project for Confirmation Sunday on April 30, 2023. My Faith Project is explained at the end of this booklet.

1/11/2023 6-7 p.m. – The Greatest Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

Video Clip by The Skit Guys – God's Chisel

Bible Text: Matthew 6:5-15

Lesson Focus: When we say the prayer Jesus taught us, we connect with God.

Big Question: What's the big deal about the Lord's Prayer?

Key Words: RELATIONSHIP, PETITION, EXAMPLE, ACCESS, HOLY

- **Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Davison family**

1/18/2023 6-7 p.m. – God's Kingdom and Will (The Lord's Prayer)

Video Clip by The Skit Guys – Tug of War

Bible Text: Luke 1:46-55; 17:20-21; Mark 14:32-36

Lesson Focus: God's will and kingdom are all around us.

Big Question: What does God want from me?

Key Words: CO-CREATION, NOW AND NOT YET WILL WILLINGNESS, TRUST

- **Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Fikar family**
- **1/25/2023 6-7 p.m. – God Gives and Forgives** (The Lord's Prayer)
Video Clip by The Skit Guys – The Verdict
Bible Text: Exodus 12:16; Matthew 18:23-34; Luke 6:35-36; 22:14-23
Lesson Focus: God gives us gifts of daily bread and forgiveness.
Big Question: I'm doing okay. What do I need God for?
Key Words: MANNA, SIN, FORGIVENESS
- **Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Kolm family**

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 7, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Wiese

Members present: Kristi Dorn, Brenda Gronewold, Alan Folkerts, VeAnn Jurgens, Neal Meints, Cindy Parde, & Pam Trauernicht

Absent: Paul Remmers

Pastor Jer shared: Regroup & Reflect – When Our Work Becomes Drudgery

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from the 11/09/2022 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 12/07/2022 meeting.

Upcoming Weddings:

- 06/10/2023 -- Abby Mason & Heath Hovendick
- 06/24/2023 – Jamison Theye & Mason Roth
- 10/21/2023 – Trip Cornelius & Amya Beach

Pastor Vacation:

- Vacation February 12 - February 13th.

150th Anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church

- March 13, 2024.

November Mileage: 424 miles

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- **Picture Directory** – Assembling the pages and will have a proof copy available after the first of the year. Will be accepting photos through December 31, 2022. Please email them directly to camilledornphotography@gmail.com. Will be scheduling group photos in January/February.
- **Church Doors** – Continue looking at options for replacing or refinishing the doors to gain some more usability. Wood verses steel? Refinishing?
- **Fireproof file cabinet** – Looking at file cabinet vs fire safe. Will continue to look at options and move forward to purchase.
- **Christmas Eve Service** – Saturday, December 24, will start 6:00 pm
- **Sunday morning Service** – Sunday, December 25, 10:00am with communion.

Discerning God's Will – New Business

- **Communion Cards will be reinstating** - - Solidify membership numbers to establish a quorum as required by church bylaws.
- **Committee dissolvent?** – Some committees continue to struggle with membership which seems to have been compounded since Covid. Due to the lack of involvement, some committees may be moving towards being dissolved unless we can secure solid leadership.
- **Thank you's** – Discuss the generosity of many in our community. We are blessed to be surrounded by talented people, who are selfishly willing to share their time and talents for projects at Zion. We need to continue to make sure that we are collectively and individually thanking those who offer assistance. They are a true blessing.
- **Agenda items for Annual Meeting** – January 15, 2023 following church,
- **Budget Meeting - Wednesday**, December 14 at 6:30.

Ministry Team Report as of 12/07/2022

- Financial-General Fund-Balance on hand 12/01/2022 \$80,734.28
- Income- \$15,164.13 Expenses-\$17,577.98
- Balance on hand- 11/30/2022-- \$78,320.43
- Sinking Fund - \$139,644.86
- Seminary Fund - \$31,047.14
- Thrivent Mutual Funds - \$2,659.80
- Open Savings - \$45,689.93

Motion was made to approve the Financial and Ministry Team reports.

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Devotions – 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Gronewold, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Endowment Committee: Stan Lenners, Kristi Dorn, Denise Schlake Ideus, Kelly Lenners, Larry Gronewold

Old Business: Thank you to Ernie Zimmerman

New Business: John Gronewold

Endowment Brochures on welcome center

Expenditures 8,000.00 for new well

Treasurer's Report as of 12/7/22 - \$160,185.01

Hospitality Task Force:

New Business: Serving Christmas treats Dec 18th

Kari Parks & Lindsay Detert will be off committee in Jan 2023

Memorial Committee: Did not meet

Parish Ed: met during our program practice on Dec 7th. Details of Christmas Eve were discussed. Items for the goody bags were organized. The 5th grade shopping trip for the less fortunate was a success, items will be donated to CASA of Beatrice this week. We also discussed new Parish Ed members and preparation for the annual meeting in January.

Park Board: Did not meet

Property & Management: Alan Folkerts, Michael Busboom, Chris Mason

New Business: Looks at AC & Heating units repaired, in church low on gas?

Elevator drywalled ready – hope done before Christmas

Publicity: Did not meet

Stewardship: Did not meet

Grace Circle News

Grace Circle met for their December meeting on Wednesday December 14th at 11:30 am at Valentino's restaurant. After an enjoyable time of visiting and pizza, we had a short meeting to finish out our year. Minutes were read, and eleven members answered roll call. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$116.00. A third of our offering for December gave us a total of \$135.00 to contribute to the food pantry, which was our choice for distribution this year.

Betty had some Christmas cards for us to sign. It was decided to hold out birth/ann bank money and use it for the Warren's table next time Zion serves. Betty shared some Christmas handouts with us. Thank you, Betty.

The rest of the afternoon was spent playing Christmas bingo. Thank you, Elnora, for the prizes, candy and putting this together for us. A fun time was had by all.

Secretary, Lorene Wallman

WELCA will be meeting January 29th following Church in the fellowship hall for our January meeting. Hope you can all make it!

WELCA ladies the Expression Magazine is in and there are copies on the Welcome Center if you would like one.

Altar Guild ladies - the 2023 list is out and either has been mailed to you or if you have a Church mailbox it is in your mailbox. Also, if you would like a Church mailbox and don't have one, please let the Church office know.

Picture Directory Update

Thank you to all who have sent pictures.

Anyone who hadn't paid for pictures taken by Camille for the picture directory can pay Camille, Brenda or Rhonda.

The committee would like to take pictures of the following groups on the following Sundays in January.

- 1/8/23 – Kids of Kingdom, Organists, Bookkeeper**
- 1/15/23 – Endless Hallelujah (Praise Team), Custodians**
- 1/22/23 – Amigo's, Quartet**
- 1/29/23 – Men's Choir, Church Council**

Brenda Gronewold 402-520-0397

Rhonda Dorn – 402-520-1320

Camille Dorn camilledornphotography@gmail.com

Congratulations to Zach & Britain Meints and big brother Berke on the birth of Kit Kelly Meints born December 14th. And congratulations to grandparents Neal & Barb Meints and great grandma Evelyn Meints.

Congratulations to Breanna (Trauernicht) & Daniel Pennisi who were married on Saturday, December 3rd at Lincoln Berean Church. May God Bless this union.

Congratulations to all the December Graduates including our own from Zion! Don't want to start to post names in fear that will miss someone. None the less Congrats and job well done!

Our Sympathies to the family of LeVerne Wolken who passed away December 6th. Please keep DeAnn & Terry Oltman, Brett & Ashley and Allison & Andy Lane, Emma & Jaxson and the rest of the Wolken family in your prayers at this time of loss.

Our Sympathies to the family of Greg Bloom who passed away December 6th. Please keep Deric and Ivy and the rest of the Bloom family in your prayers at this time of loss.

Thank you's

We want to thank Pastor for doing the service for Marilyn Zimmerman. We also want to thank everyone for the food that was brought to us, the cards, the visits. Thanks again much appreciated. God Bless each and every one of you.

The Family of Marilyn Zimmerman

THANK YOU to all who musically participated in **An Advent Service of Candles & Carols!** Everyone I asked to share their musical gift that night said, "Yes!" We also say "thank you" to Zion's Youth for passing the light of Christ to the congregation before we sang "Silent Night, Holy Night" by candlelight. There were 187 worshipers that night who contributed an offering of \$2,030 to the Rainbow House in Omaha, NE associated with Children's Hospital.

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving Greetings from Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach!

During the season of giving, please accept our sincere **thanks** for your recent gift of **\$500.00!** Your donation helps support daily hunger relief, outreach, housing, and other homeless prevention efforts 365 days of the year.

In addition to serving two meals daily-services such as shower, laundry, mail distribution, housing, substance use evaluations and counseling are ongoing and increasing. Each month this year we have provided more meals than the month before. The rising costs of gas and groceries is taking a toll on all of us but especially those with limited means. This not only impacts our guests but volunteers as well who contribute mightily to our hunger relief program.

This month marks Thanksgiving, and we have much to be thankful for. Our gracious guests, a generous community and tremendous volunteers have kept us going for 30 years! **And like we did that first year, we will be serving Thanksgiving dinner again this year as well.** We are so thankful to open our dining room for a traditional feast to our guests. It will be given with love and received with appreciation.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

Sincerely,

Susanne M. Blue, MSW

Executive Director

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Blue Valley Behavioral Health Foundation of Gage County would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your 2022 donation of \$500.00.

We are touched by your generosity and want you to know that your donation helps Blue Valley Behavioral Health in Beatrice to continue providing mental health and substance abuse services to the individuals in our community who need it.

Blue Valley Behavioral Health Foundation of Gage County is a nonprofit, exempt organization as described under section 501 (c) (3). To comply with the United States Internal Revenue Service regulations, this acknowledgment confirms that you are receiving no goods or services in connection with this contribution.

Thank you so much for your contribution & support.

Sincerely,

Amber Ferguson LIMHP

Blue Valley Behavioral Health Foundation of Gage County, Inc.



Thank you to Courtney Schlake for writing a Thrivent Grant for the movie night. Yummy donuts and juice were served for snacks. Some of the kids weren't too sure about our Green friend – some didn't make it into this photo. But fun was still had by all who attended!



We also want to thank Stan & Mary Lenner for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support the **Sunday School Excursion** for those less fortunate.

ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL

November 2022 Perfect Attendance

Little Angels

Jaxon Lane

Pre-K

Claire Freeman

Jake Buhr

Kindergarten

Aiden Schlake

Beau Gronewold

Chesleigh Ideus

Everett Meints

Hudson Schlake

Logan Hippen

Second Grade

Gus Garten

Luke Kolm

McKenzleigh Ideus

Third Grade

Devyn Gronewold

Ellis Freeman

Mason Hippen

Bryleigh Ideus

Ava Meints

Fourth Grade

Nolan Buhr

Fifth Grade

Alexis Folkerts

Amelia Garton

Sadie Gronewold

Sixth Grade

Brogan Ideus

Konnor Kolm

Presleigh Borgman

Seventh Grade

Jayden Wiese

Eight Grade

Kyson Kolm



COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Willie and Anna Meints Scholarship applications are located on the Welcome Center. Students entering college can apply for scholarships for up to 4 years. **Applications must be received by January 15, 2023, following the start of the students first college year.** Applications received after the January 15, 2023; deadline will not be considered. **NOTE:** Please make sure to read through the qualifications listed on the application, as the students must be an active communing member of Zion Lutheran Church & a printout of the student's grades are needed upon completion of their 2022 Fall semester.

Committee Members: Doreen Wallman, Steve Oltman & DeAnn Oltman, Brenda Gronewold Council Rep

Poinsettia Plants

(Given by, In Memory of)

Betty Daubendiek & Carol Keller &

Kim & Connie Thornburg

*Walt & Angeline Johnson, Roger Daubendieck
Roger Keller*

Pastor Jer & Karen Gilbreath (2)

*Don & Evelyn Gilbreath
Dale & Ruth Soderquist*

Larry Gronewold & Patty Thomas (2)

*Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold
George & Eleanor Wolken
Willie & Esther Gronewold and Loved ones*

Gary & Linda Hooper

*Henry & Thelma Busboom
Ellery & Ella Hooper (Grandparents)*

Kent & Jennifer Mahler

*Cliff & Idella Mahler
Keith Hahler, Lowell Rahe*

Bernice Parde & Family

Edward Parde

Les & Marcella Rademacher

*John & Emma Thompson
Lubbe Rademacher*

Ernest Zimmerman, Dennis & Rhonda Fossler

Marilyn Zimmerman, Rodney Zimmerman

Devonna Primavera & families

Betty Schoen & families

Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

Marilyn Robinson & family

Kenneth Robinson

Meints Family

Walt, Katie, Jim & Johnny Meints

Eddie & Lynette Dorn

James & Kelly Lenners & family

Ernest & Emma, Dennis & Terry Meints

Chris & Renae Mason & family

*George & Velma, Donald, Dale, & Lyle
Louis & Tena Schoen*

Glynn Family

Mark & Robert Schoen

Karen Buhr & family

Leonard & Bruce Buhr

Evelyn Meints & family

Vernon Meints

Mildred Meints & Family

Lawrence Meints & Loved Ones

Lorene Wallman & family

Eldon Wallman & Scott Higgins & loved ones

Alvera Bade

*Victor Bade, Emil & Margaret Wallman,
Ralph & Neva Bade*

Lynette Jurgens & family

*Ernest & Anna Jobman
Sarah Jurgens & loved ones*

Karla Carstens & family

*Judy Carstens, Susie & Tayten Buhr
& loved ones*

Tracy Lidolph & family

Wayne & Dorothy Lidolph & Larry White

**Thank you for all the poinsettias for the church
this Christmas Season. The Church was so
beautiful.**

YOUR VOCATION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

What you do for God! WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

January 1

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Reagan Rinne,
Gage Smith
Lector: Kenny Reed
Greeters: Council
Breakfast Club: No Sunday School

January 8

Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Nicole Davison
Savannah Maher
Lector: Sammie Garton
Greeters: Jacob & Nicole Behrends
Paul & Jenny Busboom
Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom
Breakfast Club: Connie Thornburg

January 15

Keyboard: Janelle Ideus
Acolytes: Avery Busboom
James Scholl
Lector: Carrye Meints
Greeters: Darwin & Susan Buss
Dean & Andrea Siefkes
Special Music: Endless Hallelujah
Breakfast Club: Cindy Parde

January 22

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Jayden Wiese
McCoy Peters
Lector: Stan Lenner
Greeters: Dennis & Rhonda Fossler
Duane & Marsha Zulauf
Special Music: Amigos
Breakfast Club: Diane Oltman

January 29

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Cale Behrens
Max Behrens
Lector: Doug Parde
Greeters: Brian & Danelle Evers
Steve & Diane Oltman
Special Music: Men's Choir
Breakfast Club: Marcia Busboom

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

January Table Troop: **Paul & Shellie Remmers (leaders)**, Les Rademacher, Mert Rademacher, Linda Ideus, Robert Ideus, Don Schuster, John Gronewold

Snow Brigade:

Week of Jan 2: **Gary Wiese * Council, Matt Meints Captain**, Less Lieneman Tractor, David Meints Tractor, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese, Jason Lovitt

Week of Jan 9: **Neal Meints Council, Joran Busboom Captain**, Eric Parde Tractor, Chris Fossler Tractor, Duane Jurgen, Greg Robinson, Larry Johnson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Steve Oltman, Donny Schuster

Week of Jan 16: **Alan Folkerts Council, Alan Wiese Captain**, James Meints Tractor, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold, AJ Wiese

Week of Jan 23: **Brenda Gronewold Council, Mark Buhr Captain**, Gary Gronewold Tractor, Stan Lenners Tractor, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen

Week of Jan 30: **Kristi Dorn Council, Greg Dorn Captain**, Dean Zimmerman Tractor, Russ Wallman Tractor, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Dave Holland, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom, Dan Jurgens

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.

Thank you to the family of Marie Schoen for sponsoring the bulletin for January 8th in honor of Marie's birthday. Marie will be having a birthday on January 11th; she will be 98 years young. If you would like to send a card to her – her address is:

Marie Schoen
Gold Crest
200 Levi Lane
Adams, NE 68301

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

1 Ron Graham	11 Mickey Larkins	23 Brock Robinson
2 Scott Johnson	Nichelle Schuster	Nolan Robinson
Sheryl Wiese	Marie Schoen	Kelsey Murphy
Finn Sturek	13 Lindsay Detert	Kylee Brown
Hayden Frost	Shirleen Miller	25 Deric Bloom
4 Linda Hooper	Bella Burr	Brogan Ideus
5 Larry Miller	16 Ashley Parde	26 Rory Detert
6 Gary Gronewold	17 Chesleigh Ideus	27 Lisa Riha
Tavin Lieneman	Reagan Rinne	28 Mark Kujath
7 Gary Hooper	18 Darin Huls	Chelsea Leners
Trevor Parde	19 Addison Dorn	29 Katelyn Bohlmeier
Jacob Behrends	David Meints	31 Zachary Meints
9 Kade Wiese	20 Lisa Hostetler	Sandy Parks
Tholen Buss	Debra Scheidler	Chloe Remmers
10 Lauren Parde	Jeremy Thomas	
	21 Patti Busboom	
	Rose Gronewold	

**If I have missed your name on the calendar, please text or call me and we will get you added for next year. And I apologize for missing it!
Karen G. - 402-661-9362**

JANUARY 2023

Happy New Year!!!

1 9 am No Sunday School 10 am Worship/Comm	2	3 Text Study	4 7/8 Confirm 6pm Committees 7pm Council 7:30 pm	5 <u>DEADLINE FOR ANNUAL MTG REPORTS!!!!</u>	6	7
8 8:45 SS/Endless Hallelujah practice 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Kids of the kingdom	9 Men's Choir Practice 7 pm	10 Text Study	11 7/8 Confirm 6pm	12	13	14
15 8:45 SS/Endless Hallelujah practice 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Comm/ ANNUAL MEETING	16 Men's Choir Practice 7 pm	17 Text Study	18 7/8 Confirm 6pm	19 Ladies Aid	20	21
22 8:45 SS/Endless Hallelujah practice 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Baptism - Amigos	23 Men's Choir Practice 7pm	24 Text Study	25 7/8 Confirm 6pm	26 Ladies Aid	27 <u>**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**</u>	28
29 8:45 SS/Endless Hallelujah practice 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Comm/Men's Choir	30 Men's Choir Practice 7 pm	31 Text Study				