



From the Pastor's Cup...^π

January 2025

Dear Church Family,

Paul writes to the church in Ephesus:

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” -Ephesians 3:20-21

God says, “Come to me with positive expectations, knowing there is no limit to what I can accomplish.” Karen and I know this to be true. Every step of our ministry journey has been accomplished by one positive expectation after another. Time is a trainer, teaching us to wait with patience and trust for the next step of the journey God has planned for us. God says, “Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed.”

The Old Testament book of Proverbs, Solomon shares, “In his heart a man plans his journey, but the Lord determines his steps (16:9).” Sometimes the pace of our steps comes slowly. Other times the pace of our steps become a dead run. A close walk with God is a life of continual newness and change. We should not cling to the old ways as we step into this New Year! As we focus our thoughts on God, please know that God is fully attentive on each of us. God sees us with a steady eye because his attention span is infinite.

To the church in Rome, Paul writes,

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect (12:2).”

Karen and I have given ourselves over to this adventure! We keep increasing our attentiveness to God's presence. This simple practice helps us to see God in every situation, and also his control over the entire universe including our little part in it. When you see it this way, fear loses its grip and adverse circumstances become opportunities for growth. Because God is our constant companion, there is a lightness in our step that is noticeable to those around us.

In the Old Testament book of Jeremiah, God states,

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give a future with hope (29:11).”

If you do not already know this, Karen and I are active planners. We are always working out what needs to be accomplished six months to a year out. I confess that I had my four years of college mapped out on what courses to take and when to take them. I was a full-time student along with both of us working full-time along with being active in church and civic groups. We were raising three children with a house mortgage and car payment just to make things interesting.

I also confess that one of my biggest struggles is with procrastinators and those who do not do their due diligence where important tasks are concerned. After almost 30 years in ministry, I have learned to read people well, especially where the church is concerned. I have a Bible verse that gives me hope and inspiration when I feel as dismal as a grey day in winter.

This verse is Psalm 73:23-24:

Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you take me into glory.

May this New Year be as bright for you as it is for us!

Sincerely Pr. Jer

SUNDAY 9 am Adult Coffee Fellowship in **January,**

We invite you to coffee fellowship and a time of informal discussion over the gospel reading for each Sunday worship service. This might even give you a better understanding of the context of each story.

Sunday, January 12 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 19 – John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 26 – Luke 4:14-21

8th GRADE JANUARY 2025 CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Reminder to start thinking about your Bible verse and My Faith Project for Confirmation Sunday on April 27, 2025. My Faith Project will be displayed on Sunday, April 20, 2025 in the fellowship hallway. My Faith Project is explained at the end of this booklet.

1/8/2025 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: Konnor Kolm's family

1/15/2025 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: Kipton Lovitt's family**

1/22/2025 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: Karlee Riha's family**

1/29/2025 6-7 p.m. – Temptation, Trial and Deliverance (The Lord's Prayer)

Video Clip by The Skit Guys – Dennis

Bible Text: Luke 4:1-15; Exodus 15:1-18; Matthew 6:9-13; 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Lesson Focus: God promises to save us from evil and temptation and to hear our prayers always.

Big Question: God will really save me from all evil?

Key Words: DISCIPLINE, DELIVERANCE, REDEMPTION, AMEN, GLORY, POWER

- **Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Colt Rinne's family**

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting

December 4, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Cindy Parde.

Members present: Cindy Parde, Kristi Dorn, Kenny Reed, Jason Wallman, Paul Jurgens, Carrye Meints, DeAnn Oltman, Neal Meints,

Absent: Kevin Buhr

Pastor Jer shared: Pastor Jer shared Regroup & Reflect

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 12-4-2024 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from November 6, 2024 meeting.

Upcoming Baptism

- 12/8/2024 - Levi James Hovendick, son of Heath and Abby Hovendick

Upcoming Weddings

- 2/8/2025 - Cole Jurgens & Jenilee Wright
- 10-4-2025 - Shelby Baehr & Anthony Hernandez

Upcoming Events:

- Zion's Advent Candlelight Service will be Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- Cluster wide Leadership Meeting - This will be held December 17, 2024, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Beatrice. Arden Dorn is going to represent Zion.

October Mileage: 508 miles

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- Nominating Committee - The committee is still contacting a list of people. Hope to have the list finalized by December.
- Funeral/Sunday Service Assistants - Putting together information of share at the annual meeting.
- Fellowship Doors - Received a bid from Myron Jurgens on Pella doors. Presenting to Pickrell Lumber. Myron Jurgens will be doing the labor. Waiting on final bid.

Discerning God's Will – New Business

- Church Secretary - We will be advertising the position soon. It will be in the bulletins and newsletter. There will be a list of guidelines and duties. Karen has generously put together a book of all of the duties and responsibilities she handles.
- Committee Replacements - If you are going off of a non-elected committee, you will need to find a replacement.
- Christmas Services - Christmas Eve Service will be Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Christmas Day Service will be Wednesday, December 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Christmas tree take down will be Sunday, January 5, 2025 right after church.
- Annual Meeting - Annual meeting is Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Ministry Team Report as of December 4, 2024

- Financial-General Fund Balance on hand - 11/1/2024 - \$130,195.44
- Income - \$27,045.73
- Balance on hand – 11/30/2024 - \$134,734.41
- Sinking Fund - \$58,925.98
- Seminary Fund - \$58,727.19
- Thrivent Mutual Fund - \$3,017.02
- Open Savings - \$25,890.79

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

Budget Meeting Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30

Next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Devotions - 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carrye Meints, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: members present – Paul Remmers, Keith Parde, John Gronewold, Larry Gronewold, Kristi Dorn, Denise Schlake-Ideus

Larry called meeting to order, Larry moved to accept Sec & Treas report, Keith seconded.

Treasurer's report:	Balance on hand 1/1/24	\$ 137,470.02
	Expenditures	25,000.00
	Balance on hand	\$ 115,688.59

Old Business: The \$ 32,560 CD was redeemed, \$ 25,000 to General Fund for AC/Heating. The remaining \$ 8,846 was put into checking

- New Business: 1. Tuck pointing – Paul Remmers made a motion to set aside \$10,000
Seconded by Larry
2. Cemetery – The will receive 5th Sunday Offering. Consider donating in the future.
3. Stagger CD's – table about this at future meeting

Closing Prayer: Larry moved and adjourned mtg & John seconded

HOSPITALITY: VeAnn Jurgens, DeAnn Oltman, Angie Grone, Karla Carstens, Jeni Bohlmeier, Debbie Rinne. Absent: Cally Ideus

Upcoming Events: Feb 2nd. 1-3 pm \$10/PP – Pay in advance

Card Making – Make and give to others

Next BIG Event??? Blush painting studio winter Pots

Treats in Church - Feb 9th VeAnn in Charge

Ideas for smaller events: German Cookie Making

Gardening

Flower arrangements

Sour dough – Spring – find a date

Next year's program practice ideas:

Card making

Cookie exchange

Old business - Char board night was a success!!

New business – Plans for new members – a way to make sure they feel part of Zion

“Booklets”

Make them flexible

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Did not meet.

PARISH ED: Did not meet this month – Christmas program practice going on

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Luke Ideus, Deric Bloom, Neal Meints, Kenny Reed

Old Business: Fellowship doors

Closer for North Church Door

New Business: Snow blowers will be serviced for this winter

Outlet for heat tape for downspouts and gutters

Park Board: Did not meet

Publicity: Did not meet

STEWARDSHIP: Did not meet

WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS ENDOWMENT: Did not meet.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Committee members present: Alnora Daubendiek, Shirley Gronewold, Carrye Meints Picked hymns for February and first Sunday in March

YOUTH: Did not meet

Exciting news and another option for giving will be available for our Zion members beginning with the first Sunday in November.

A QR code has been added to the Sunday bulletins and newsletter. Simply scan the QR Code to the right to access Zion's Venmo account and submit your offering.

Offering envelopes and online giving via Vanco are still available to members as well. Any members with questions regarding these options can reach out to a church council member.

Zion Lutheran Church

@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

CHURCH SECRETARY JOB OPPORTUNITY



The Church Council is looking to fill the church secretary position. This would be a 16-20 hour per week position. The Council's intention is to fill this position by the end of January or the first of February, as Karen plans to retire at the end of April.

If you have an interest or would like additional information, **please reach out to DeAnn Oltman at 402-223-0561 or Carrye Meints at 402-520-6346.**

The Willie & Anna Meints scholarship applications

are located on the welcome center located in the Fellowship Hall. Students entering college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years. Applications must be received by February 16, 2025, following the start of the student's first college year. Applications received after February 16, 2025, deadline will not be considered. NOTE: Please make sure to read through the qualifications listed on the application. In addition to the application, a printout of the student's grades are needed upon completion of their 2024 Fall semester.

Committee Members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

Grace Circle

Grace Circle met at the Legion on Dec. 11 at 11:30. After a delicious lunch, a business meeting was held.

Minutes and treasurers' report was given. 12 members answered roll call. Offering of \$62.00 was taken. A motion was made and seconded to give our Thank Offering monies to Lutheran World Relief.

Alnora Daubendiek read a thoughtful devotion from Samaritans' Purse.

It was decided to have Secret Sisters next year. Names were drawn.

Stephanie announced that she is returning to work and probably won't be able to do our Bible Study any longer. Karen Buhr volunteered to do the Bible Study in Feb. if Stephanie is unable to be there.

Meeting adjourned with the Lords' Prayer.

Sec. Mickey Larkins

The WELCA General Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th in the fellowship hall following Worship. Please plan to attend as will vote on the budget and information for the upcoming year.



Youth



Baptisms

Welcome to our newest member in Christ Levi James Hovendick

Son of Heath & Abby Hovendick. Was baptized December 8th. The sponsors for Levi are Daryle & Shelby Petrzilka and Sam & Nick Thompson. Grandparents are Chris & Renae Mason and Steve & Carolyn Hovendick.

Births

Congratulations to Daniel and Brooke Barr on the birth of their twin babies - Everett Charles Barr and Ellie Gene Barr born on Thanksgiving Day – November 28th. Grandparents of Everett & Ellie are Ginger Mason, Tim Mason and Jim & Marsha Barr. Please keep Daniel, Brooke and Everett & Ellie in your prayers.

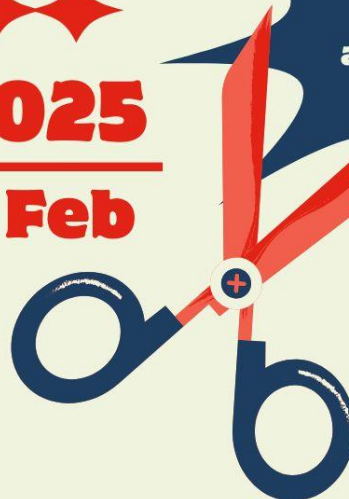
The Hospitality Committee presents...

Handmade Cards



Only
\$10

◆◆
2025
2 Feb



**Limited
seats
available**

Let's get creative!

Join us for a fun and creative afternoon at our Handmade Card Class, where you'll make four unique cards—perfect for every occasion! You'll leave with cards that are as personal as they are beautiful. Our guest expert has designed these cards just for us. She'll bring everything you need. In this class, you'll create:

- A Valentine's Card
- A Sympathy Card
- A Birthday Card
- A General Occasion Card

No previous crafting experience is required—just bring your positive vibes!

- Cost: \$10 non-refundable supplies fee (via Venmo to Deb Rinne or cash).
- RSVP: Please reserve your spot by January 20th to ensure we have enough supplies for everyone. Payment is required to reserve your spot.
- Deb Rinne 402-499-3420 Venmo: @Deb-Rinne

We can't wait to see you there and help you make beautiful, personalized cards for all of life's moments!

Snow Brigade

For the week of Jan 6th – Mike Busboom – Captain, Dean Zimmerman – tractor, Russ Wallman – tractor, Greg Dorn, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr, Bob Freeman

For the week of Jan 13th – Jason Lovitt – Captain, Les Lieneman – tractor, David Meints – tractor, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Nelson

For the week of Jan 20th – Steve Oltman – Captain, Eric Parde – tractor, Chris Fossler – tractor, Jordan Busboom. Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Kyle Schlake

For the week of Jan 27th – AJ Wiese – Captain, James Meints – tractor, Alan Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold

Bulletins sponsored in the month of December

For the week of Dec 1st - the bulletin was sponsored by Mike & Doreen Busboom and family in Memory of Doris Dorn. Doris's 86th birthday was November 29th. Happy heavenly birthday Doris.

For the week of Dec 8th – the bulletin was sponsored by Mary McKee in Memory of Lynn McKee. Lynn's birthday was December 1st. Happy heavenly birthday Lynn.

For the week of Dec 15th – by Karla Holland & family in Memory of Dave's birthday. Dave's birthday was Dec 15th. Happy heavenly birthday Dave.

Thank you's

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$500 to Mother-to-Mother Ministry of Beatrice. Respectfully Folisatey Dunn, Coordinator

Merry Christmas! Have a safe & happy holiday season! Thank you for the generous gifts for our residents! We appreciate it
The Homestead House

Thank you very much for the Willow Tree pieces we received from the Council and the Congregation. This completes the set that was started for us a few years ago. I have always wanted this set and never had gotten around to starting it. I leave it out year around because it means so much to me! It will continue to be on our china-hutch in our new home – and will remind me/us of Zion also. Thank you! Karen & Pastor

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Scott Johnson

Sheryl Wiese

Finn Sturek

Hayden Frost

Hannah Hrenchir

11 Mickey Larkins

Nichelle Schuster

13 Shirleen Miller

Bella Burr

23 Brock Robinson

Nolan Robinson

Kelsey Murphy

Kylee Brown

25 Deric Bloom

Brogan Ideus

Everlee Mae Glynn

4 Linda Hooper

16 Ashley Parde

5 Larry Miller

17 Chesleigh Ideus

Reagan Rinne

26 Rory Detert

6 Gary Gronewold

Tavin Lieneman

19 Addison Dorn

David Meints

27 Lisa Riha

7 Gary Hooper

Sydney Brauer

28 Chelsea Leners

Trevor Parde

Jacob Behrends

20 Lisa Hostetler

Jeremy Thomas

29 Katelyn Bohlmeier

Brandon Hofstetter

9 Kade Wiese

10 Lauren Parde

Sadie Fehringer

21 Patti Busboom

Rose Gronewold

30 Lindsay Detert

31 Zachary Meints

Sandy Parks

Chloe Remmers

YOUR VOCATION FOR THE MONTH

What you do for God!

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

January 5

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Brogan Ideus
Aiden Hanshaw
Lector: Jenny Busboom
Greeters: Council
Special Music:
Breakfast Club: Hannah Hrenchir

January 12

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Max Cornelius
Hunter Grone
Lector: Jordan Freeman
Greeters: Bob & Jordan Freeman
Dale & Hannah Hrenchir
Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom
Breakfast Club: Mert Rademacher

January 19 – Annual meeting

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Presleigh Borgman
Korbin Busboom
Lector: Lynette Jurgens
Greetings: Jim & Carol Young
Steve & Rose Gronewold
Special Music: Men's Choir
Breakfast Club: Jennifer Mahler

January 25

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Keyboard: Janelle Ideus
Guitar: Deric Bloom
Acolytes: Colt Rinne
Nora Glynn
Lector: Pam Trauernicht
Greeters: Pam Trauernicht
Art & Sharon Schuster
Special Music: Endless Hallelujah
Amigos
Breakfast Club: Jess Ideus

January Table Troop: Don Schuster

(Leader), John Gronewold, Paul & Shellie Remmers, Les & Mert Rademacher, Robert & Linda Ideus

January Altar Guild: Susan Buss

(Leader), Patti Behrens, Lynette Jurgens, Caroline Ideus

January 2025

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45 am SS 9:00 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Communion/ Baptism Council &WELCA Volunteers will take down Christmas tree	6:15 pm Quartet Practice 7 pm Men's Choir		6 pm Confirmation 7 pm Committee mtg 7:30 Council			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 am SS 9:00 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom	7 pm Men's Choir		6 pm Confirmation		***Plan to print the Annual reports today***	
19 Annual Meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 SS 9:00 BKF Club/Adult SS 10am Worship/Communion	7 pm Men's Choir		6 pm Confirmation			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8:45 am SS 9:00 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Endless Hallelujah/Amigos WELCA General Mtg following worship	****Print Newsletter**** 7 pm Men's Choir		6 pm Confirmation			