



# From the Pastor's Cup...

Dear Church Family,

So on Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 41 German Ost Friesland tourists plus a German public media film crew visited Zion Lutheran Church. The film crew was documenting the trip for NDR's (Norddeutscher Rundfunk/Northern German Broadcasting) for a program much like 10/11's Pure Nebraska.

The reason for their stop was to trace their family roots. Family roots that helped settle, farm and build Zion Lutheran Church once known as the Hanover Church. Of the 41 German tourists only 3 had visited Zion in 2019 so there was excitement in the air. As excited as the Germans were, I think the area platt deutsch (low German) speakers were more excited. It was fascinating to watch any possible language barrier just melt into smiling faces and laughter as new friendships were made. I wouldn't be surprised if some of our people travel over to Germany to visit their new friends and family.

Also what I find fascinating is how our people stepped up to coordinate, translate, host, cater, and serve on short notice. We need to thank Mert for her coordination with Wolfgang the German tour guide, Arden for translating into German Mert's program. Denny & Doreen for catering the meal, Jerald & Denise for their German tea and tea pots and stes doe the after dinner dessert, all the volunteers who served and cleaned up afterwards, and the cemetery board assisting in finding family graves. The Germans said that their visit to Zion had been the highpoint of their trip. God bless them!

It is certainly amazing at what we can do and accomplish when we choose to serve rather than be served. That is what biblical and Christian hospitality is all about, serving rather than being served. My prayer is that this will migrate into all Zion's mission and ministry!

Sincerely, Pr. Jer

**GriefShare Support Group** this August. **GriefShare is Your Journey from Mourning to Joy!** If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you've probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. That's the reason for **GriefShare**, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close.

We will be meeting at 10 am Saturday mornings in August, September and October. Our meeting site will be Zion's fellowship hall. We invite all who have participated before in a **GriefShare** seminar support group to attend again as a refresher! Here is the schedule of sessions and topics:

- #5 - 10 a.m. September 3, 2022, When Your Spouse Dies**
- #6 - 10 a.m. September 10, 2022, Your Family and Grief**
- #7 - 10 a.m. September 17, 2022, Where is God?**
- #8 - 10 a.m. September 24, 2022, Stuck in Grief or Moving On**
- #9 - 10 a.m. October 1, 2022, Growing Through Grief**
- #10 - 10 a.m. October 8, 2022 , Grief Recovery Tool Kit**
- #11 - 10 a.m. October 15, 2022, God' Spiritual Hospital**
- #12 - 10 a.m. October 22, 2022, Longing for Heaven (final session)**

These sessions are independent of each other so missing a session or two isn't a problem. Hopefully with scheduling this at 10 a.m. and in the months of August, September and October, we will miss Husker football & volleyball and the threat of bad weather.

**9 a.m. Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship starts on Rally Day, September 11<sup>th</sup> We** invite ALL to come to the fellowship hall to enjoy conversation with coffee. If you are dropping off children for Sunday school stop in and save yourself the trip home and back! Pastor will be showing some video series from time to time along with user friendly Bible stuff & studies.

Zion Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

August 10, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Wiese

**Members present:** Kristi Dorn, Brenda Gronewold, Alan Folkerts, Neal Meints, Cindy Parde, Paul Remmers, Pam Trauernicht & Gary Wiese

**Members absent:** VeAnn Jurgens

**Pastor Jer shared:** Regroup & Reflect – Using our gifts to work together.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from the 6/08/2022 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 8/10/2022 meeting.

**Upcoming Weddings:**

- 10/29/2022 - Brooke Mason & Daniel Barr
- 12/03/2022 - Breanna Trauernicht and Dan Pennissi (Berean, Lincoln)
- 06/10/2023 - Abby Mason & Heath Hovendick
- 6/24/2023 – Jamison Theye & Mason Roth (\$350 deposit informed)
- 6/24/2023 – Trip Cornelius & Amya Beach (\$350 deposit informed)

**Upcoming Baptisms:**

- 8/14/2022 Lane Andrew Frost (son of Hayden & Madison Frost) – rescheduled

## Good Neighbor Sunday & New Member Recognition

- October 9, 2022 10:00 am

July mileage: 568 miles

## Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- **Confirmation Schedule and Informational Booklet** – updated for 2022-2023 will be shared with parents and students before classes begin.
- **Well Update** – May continue to work on shortly
  - Waiting for wiring to come in
  - Waiting for pump to be set up.
- **Elevator** – Access Elevator of Omaha
  - Preparing to take final measurements and then the elevator will be built to those specs.
  - Bid was \$36,500 - received \$5,857 + \$20,000 leaves about \$11,000
- **Review the process and identified responsibility to update church membership lists, ledgers (baptism, confirmation, marriage, death), etc.**
- **Parrish Hall Bathrooms** – Work is continuing. Painting, flooring, sinks, toilet work, etc.
- **Picture Directory** – Committee is developing a template, and will begin scheduling sessions in September and then work to compile the directory.
- **Sweetcorn** – 2022 project encountered conflicts with weather, chemicals, etc.
- **Greeters** – Reinstating beginning on Rally Sunday.

## Discerning God's Will – New Business

- **Wedding Handbook** – Updating to included \$350 payment to 'save the date'. \$100 deposit, \$100 pastor, \$50 for cleaning, \$100 for organist. \$100 returned following wedding without damage.
  - Fee's will be sent by wedding couple to current treasure at the church's address prior to securing the date.
- **Bookmarks for welcoming bags** – Pastor Anderson created and has delivered.
- **All Saints flowers** – November 6. Council will need to delegate ordering flowers.
- **German School** – East door needs to have some work to eliminate leaks when it rains.

## Ministry Team Report as of 6/08/2022

- Financial-General Fund-Balance on hand 7/01/2022 \$91,071.93
- Income- \$11,977.28 Expenses-\$16,869.53
- Balance on hand- 7/31/2022-- \$86,179.68
- Sinking Fund - \$139,489.42
- Seminary Fund - \$30,949.80
- Thrivent Mutual Funds - \$2,694.00
- Open Savings - \$30,970.00

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

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Devotions – 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, *Brenda Gronewold*, Secretary

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Worship Committee:** Did not Meet

**Parish Ed:** Heather Hippen, Jess Ideus, Allison Lane, Kate Meints, Linsey Gronewold

Old Business: VBS Clean up Fall, Curriculum for 2022 ordered.

New Business: Reach out to teachers for the 22-23 School Year. Need money deposited for old/new expenses. Starting Talks on Christmas Program.

**Park Board:** Kenny N, Paul J, Neal M, Doug P.

**Old Business:** Fan Zone started and hop to have ready for first Freeman Game on August 25. Banners were ordered and will be here before first game.

**New Business:** Get everyone together to Mow, weed eat etc. before game. Build Bunker for agriline dirt for infield. Batting Cages 2: 1 baseball and 1 Softball side by side with a shed. Purchased new bases with memorial money from 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event. Voted to move forward with batting Cages. Paul will get Bids.

**Property & Management:** Did not meet

**Memorial Committee:** Did not meet

**Endowment Committee:** Did not meet.

**Hospitality Task Force:** Did not meet.

**Publicity:** Did not meet.

**Willie and Anna Meints Youth Endowment Fund:** Account Balance for July  
\$303,404.78

New Business: Wrote 9 Confirmation camp checks for \$285 each. Totaling: \$2,565

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **Dear Friends and Family,**

Happy Summer! As summer comes to a close, I'm looking back at what God did and am so thankful and I hope summer has been a time of rest and refreshment for you as well! I wanted to send a summer update to you all and thank you for your faithful financial support and prayer partnership in this ministry that God has called me to. One of the highlights of my summer was getting to visit our Dutch staff team in Amsterdam. Right now, the role I serve with the Navigators is a mobile alongside. I help recruit, train, and care for teams of missions staff sent overseas and part of that includes getting to visit staff overseas for what we call shepherding trips. These trips consist of visiting the teams we just sent after their first six months on the field to see how they are adjusting to culture, ministry, and living and working overseas. This trip was taken by my supervisor Laurence and I and visiting the two girls we sent, Dawson and Victoria, pictured above right. We got to take a tour of their city with their staff team by boat on the canals, and share lots of meals with them, and meet some of the students they are investing in in the city of Amsterdam. Sometimes these trips are hard as teams have a lot of conflict and this was one of them. I can feel like I never have the words to say as try to listen and offer perspective when staff feel alone and struggling while adjusting to living overseas. I went to a museum one morning alone to see VanGough and Rembrandts art, two famous Dutch painters and the Rembrandts painting of Jeremiah, really struck me and I was reminded that God knows His people and remembers His people and promises. It is not my job to fix all the problems and save everyone, but to be faithful to serve how God has asked me right now. I hope you are reminded of this too wherever God has you right now. "Those who know your name trust in you, for you Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you." Psalm 9:10

Thank you for being with me in this and seeing God glorified throughout the nations! Cassie Thornburg

**The family of Judy Carstens** would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for all the many acts of kindness shown with her passing. Thank you for all the visits, food, phone calls, cards and prayers sent our way. We could not be more thankful for each and everyone of

you. God has truly blessed us in so many ways with wonderful friends and family. Please keep the family in your prayers for continued healing, comfort and peace.  
With sincere thanks,  
The Family of Judy

**Zion's Phone Directory Update!** To be honest, whenever we print a new, updated phone directory it is already obsolete due to missed changes of address, cell phone numbers, disconnected landlines, and additions to family. Please contact Karen Gilbreath at 402-661-9362 by call or text, with those changes that keep Zion's Phone Directory current and fresh. Thank you!

**The Current Elevator Balance due is approximately \$9,000.**

**Spend an Evening Tying LWR Blankets:** On Wednesday, September 21st 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall, spend an evening in fellowship with others while tying LWR blankets. No sewing experience needed. We will just be tying knots with heavy crochet thread in blankets that have already been sewn together. Contact Karen or Denise if you have questions.

**The Praise Team is excited to regroup** and begin leading worship music this fall! We will begin practice Sunday morning September 11th @ 8:45 am in the choir loft. Anyone that would like to share your talent of singing with the group or join our musicians, we would love to have you!

**The landline and fax number at church have both been removed.** Please continue to contact Pastor Jer at (402)-404-0494 or Britan at (308)-730-0599.

**LWR Blanket Assembly:** The blankets made for Lutheran World Relief go all over the world, including Ukraine. No sewing ability or experience is necessary. If you use a stick pin and tie knots you can help make a blanket and enjoy a day, or part of a day of fellowship. We will meet in the Parish Hall basement on September 12, 13, 19 & 20 from 9 to 3. Come for a few hours or the day (bring a lunch). You can also volunteer to make a top or tie a blanket outside of these days. You can also arrange a group to assemble blanket(s) at another time. If you have questions please contact Karen Gilbreath (402) 661-9362 or Denise Schlake-Ideus at (402) 806-2236.

**Time and Talent sheets** will be distributed soon. Think about where/how you would be able to share your talents in our church community.

**Mark your Calendars!** The WELCA General Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Election of officers will be held and refreshments will be served. All women are invited!

**We will start having greeters on Sunday Mornings again! Greeters will begin on Rally Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**



# 10 Questions with Bishop-Elect Scott Alan Johnson

August 9, 2022

Pastor Scott took some time to answer some questions about himself and some reflections during his transition from Midland University's Campus Pastor to Bishop of the Nebraska Synod.

Where are you originally from?

I grew up on a family farm in Wakefield, Nebraska, just across the road from where my great-grandparents first farmed when they moved to Nebraska in the early 1900s. I was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Wakefield.

Where did you receive your education?

I was one of 18 out of a class of 32 who attended Wakefield Public Schools from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade – small-town Nebraska education in all its glory. I received my Bachelor of Arts in the Classics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1998 and my Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in 2003.

Tell us about you. (family, pets, hobbies, etc.)

My wife Kristin and I met at Luther Seminary and were married in 2004. Kristin is a Deacon with specialties in youth and family ministry and lifelong faith formation. We have two daughters: Ainsley (15) and Alanna (14) who are students at Fremont Public Schools. We also have a black lab mix named Jack who's been with our family since we adopted him in 2009.

My immediate family all live in Nebraska. My parents built a house in Wakefield 10 years ago, and they are both enjoying retirement together. I have two younger brothers: my middle brother and his wife are educators at Wakefield Public Schools and currently live out on the farm where we grew up, and my youngest brother is a banker with Pinnacle Bank in Columbus, where he lives with his wife and daughter.

I'm an Enneagram 7, which means I'm usually managing about 3 hobbies too many just to keep things interesting. I'm a voracious reader, particularly in the science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres. Before feeling called to ministry, I was a music major with plans to become a band director or a professional trombonist, and I've tried to keep active in local community bands over the years. Since moving to Fremont I've been playing in the Omaha Symphonic Winds and with the Midland University Concert Band as needed. I've also played guitar for a number of years and I enjoy a lot of artists in the folk or singer/songwriter genre. I love to putter around our house; mowing, redoing some of our landscaping, building a bookcase for our youngest daughter, and generally trying to keep a 100 year-old brick colonial functional.

When did you realize you were called to ministry, specifically Word & Sacrament ministry?

I was a summer camp counselor at Carol Joy Holling during college, and one night during my second summer on staff, Pastor Roger Sasse asked if I'd ever considered going into the ministry. Like a lot of people, I hadn't up to that point, but I couldn't stop thinking about it afterwards. I'd begun to realize that I didn't have the passion it would take to be a professional musician or a music educator, and the



more I thought about ordained ministry the more it seemed as though God was pulling me in that direction. I've very rarely felt as though ministry was not where I was supposed to be.

What has been your greatest joy professionally? Greatest challenge?

My greatest joy has been the privilege of accompanying people through all sorts of life experiences and doing my best to help them see what God might be up to in all of it. Baptisms, weddings, funerals, ordinations, anniversary celebrations, congregational recognitions – I've always been fascinated by the idea that God is *doing something* in the world in those moments, and ministers get to be witnesses to God's action in a lot of special ways. I keep a record of those events, and every time I open up that book to make another entry I spend a bit of time looking through the pages and remembering some of the special events that have been part of the ministry I've been lucky enough to carry out.

As to challenges, I've had plenty, some of which have come about because of my own mistakes or ignorance and some of which came about through other forms of dysfunction or simple bad luck. The hardest challenges to face have been the moments when something I've said or done has deeply hurt another person. It's one thing to acknowledge that a situation or circumstance isn't great: it's another thing to acknowledge that I've caused pain and suffering and have no excuse or justification. Letting people down is a miserable experience for most of the ministry leaders I know; it certainly has been for me. At the same time, I've learned something through each challenge I've faced, either about myself or about some other element of ministry in God's church; one thing I've definitely learned is the value of owning your own mistakes and apologizing for them.

What is your favorite hymn?

There are so many I'd love to put here! I've loved "Gather Us In" ever since I first heard it at the Lutheran Center in Lincoln way back in my college days, as well as "Day By Day" and "Thy Holy Wings." But in the end I'd have to choose "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" as it was arranged for acapella choir by F. Melius Christiansen – if you haven't heard the version that the St. Olaf Choir recorded for their "Great Hymns of Faith" CD series, it's worth a listen.

Aside from the Bible, what other books have influenced your life?

On the fiction side, I'd definitely lift up *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien; I first read it during high school and have probably read it close to 20 times over the years. *American Gods* and *Neverwhere* by Neil Gaiman are also on my list of favorites, as well as pretty much everything Stephen King has written over the years, particularly *The Stand* and *Insomnia*.

On the theological/non-fiction side, two theologians who have definitely shaped my theology, life, and ministry have been Gerhard Forde and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *On Being a Theologian of the Cross* by Gerhard Forde was a defining text for me during most of my seminary education, and Bonhoeffer's books *Discipleship*, *Life Together*, and *Ethics* have grown in influence for me in the years since seminary. I'd also raise up *A Failure of Nerve* by Edwin Friedman – this is a book about leadership and family systems theory that I've read and reread every few years since becoming a pastor, and one I may begin again this fall as I settle into this new calling.

What is your definition of leadership?

Right now I'd say this: leadership is identifying and using the gifts God has given us to support, draw out, develop and enhance the gifts God has given to others, all for the sake of the inbreaking of God's presence in the world. It's more than this, of course, but that's been sort of a developing idea for me



over the last few years, both through some really good professional development experiences and a lot of personal reflection.

How have you been preparing for your role as Bishop of the Nebraska Synod?

I've been praying. A lot. 😊 Aside from that, it's been a lot of juggling priorities as I've also been closing out my time at Midland and taking some planned vacation time with our family. I feel very fortunate that the Nebraska Synod has the financial capacity to allow me to shadow Bishop Maas for a few weeks; this is not the case in some of the synods of the ELCA, and I think it's going to help me get up to speed much more smoothly than it would have been otherwise. Now that I'm in a place where I can focus my energies entirely on one call instead of two, there will be a lot of reading, a lot of meetings, and a lot of listening as we settle into this new way of doing things.

What are you most looking forward to as Bishop of the Nebraska Synod?

I'm excited about seeing the panoramic view of all that we do together and figuring out how to be a vocal supporter for the good work that's already afoot in the Nebraska Synod. That's just one part of it, however: I'm excited to work with our strong Synod staff, and to help encourage and raise up new leaders in the church, and to learn more about what ministry looks like on the synodical and churchwide level after spending most of my career in local ministries in congregations and campus ministries. As an Enneagram 7, boredom is one of the things that I tend to avoid – I know that boredom will not be a problem for quite some time in this new call, and that's exciting as well!

### **FULLER PARK SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE**

**Thursday, September 15** 5:00pm  
Freeman SB JV vs Beatrice High School  
6:30pm Freeman SB Varsity vs Beatrice  
**Thursday, September 22** 5:00pm  
Freeman SB JV vs Norris 6:30pm Freeman  
SB Varsity vs Lincoln Northwest

**Sunday, September 25** 7:30pm Movie  
Night hosted by Zion's Movie Night  
Ministries Group  
**Thursday, September 29** 5:00pm  
Freeman SB JV vs Centennial  
6:30pm Freeman SB Varsity vs Centennial

### **Worship Leader Schedule**

#### **September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Acolytes:** Cale Behrens, Bella Buhr  
**Reader:** Sandy Meints

#### **September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Acolytes:** Max Behrens, Henry Garton  
**Reader:** Jenny Busboom  
**Greeters:** Paul & Jenny Busboom

#### **September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Acolytes:** London Meints, Paxton Parde  
**Reader:** Carrye Meints  
**Greeters:** Dave & Carrye Meints

#### **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Acolytes:** Hudson Fikar, Jayden Wiese  
**Reader:** Kelly Lenner  
**Greeters:** James & Kelly Lenner

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

**September Altar Guild:** Dorothy Trauernicht, Rose Gronewold, Cindy Jurgens, Carrie Reed, Janet Harms

# September Birthdays

1 Burke Meints

Laura Ideus

2 Hank Bartlett

Timothy Blecha

Kayden Glynn

Robert M. Ideus

3 Greg Robinson

Kerri Zeman

5 Kenny Reed

6 Rob Mierau

Keith Schuster

7 Lois Meints

Karen Zimmerman

8 Jay Bartlett

Greg Dorn

Kinsley Hoffman

9 Colton Gronewold

Callie Rademacher

Ava Remmers

Brett Wells

11 Kathy Barnard

DeAnn Oltman

12 Harley Grone

Marsha Zulauf

Max Mierau

13 Taylor Buhr

15 Kristi Dorn

18 Eric Parde

19 Isaac Frerichs

Blake Meints

20 Kayla Dorn

Ashton Huenink

21 Lanette Nelson

Jeremy Sutter

22 Sloane Cornelius

AJ Wiese

23 Gus Daubendiek

Don Lenners

Brandon Jurgens

Carson Robinson

25 Nicole Davison

Darin Jurgens

VeAnn Jurgens

28 Dan Parks

Haydon Scott

29 Taylor Carnell

Doug Davison

Amelia Garton

30 Larry Archer

Dorothy Jo Freeman

Blake Lenners

Emma Sieh

Regan Sieh

**HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR!!!**

# September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Worship 9 am	5 Labor Day	6	7 7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation Orientation Meeting w/ Parents	8	9	10
11 Rally/Sunday SSchool 8:45 Bible Study 8:45 Breakfast Club 9 Worship 10 am	12	13	14 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation 7pm	15 Ladies Aid Freeman Vs Beatrice SB JV 5pm Varsity 6:30	16	17
18	19 Oct Newsletter Deadline	20	21 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation 7pm	22 Freeman vs Norris SB JV 5pm Varsity 6:30	23	24
25 SSchool 8:45 Bible Study 8:45 Breakfast Club 9 Worship 10 am MOVIE NIGHT @ FULLER PARK 7:30pm	26	27	28 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Confirmation 7pm	29 Ladies Aid Freeman vs Centennial SB JV 5pm Varsity 6:30	30	