



From the Pastor's Cup...⁹

January 2024

GO AND...Rest (Nebraska Synod theme for the month of January)

At the start of a new year, we are pushed to get organized, exercise more, and make New Year's resolutions. How do we take rest among all this? What does it mean to be like Jesus? It means taking time to pause, rest, and embrace the day. That might mean taking a nap, getting together with old friends, reading a good book, or enjoying the arts as we recognize God makes all things new.

Questions to consider:

- > What brings you rest?
- > What does Sabbath mean for you? What does it look like in your life?
- > Let **GO**, what you are going to give up this year so you can rest?

Prayer: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths at yet untrodden, through perils and joys unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear Church Family,

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” -Jeremiah 29:11

I like to shop used bookstores. I look for favorite authors among the myriad of books stacked according to genre. I do find some gems from time to time like Mark Twain's **The Prince and the Pauper**. I have always wanted to read it so when I found it I gladly paid the used book price because I am more interested in what's inside rather than the condition or appearance of the book cover.

The title reveals the plot of the book, a prince and a pauper change places and clothing, and discover the pros and cons of each other's life. I don't want to give away too much of the plot just in case you haven't read it, but I recommend it as a good read if you haven't. It also teaches the morale lesson that it doesn't matter whether you were born with a silver spoon in your mouth or a wooden ladle, doing good comes from the heart. Samuel Clemens (ergo Mark Twain) on the page before the contents page, quotes **The Merchant of Venice** with:

**The quality of mercy...is twice bless'd;
It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes;
'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes
The throned monarch better than his crown.**

Mercy does become any **“throned monarch better than his crown”** except where Jesus is concerned. The cross was the throne Jesus ascended and the crown of thorns was what he wore when he said, **“Father, forgive them for they do not know [nor understand] what they doing.”** That is the quality of Jesus' mercy! The one who created both earth and man, now with mercy, forgives those who are crucifying him and seeing him as a pauper instead of the Prince of Peace.

Here are Jeremiah's words to ALL who seek God, "**You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.**" How is your heart in this post-holiday season of Epiphany? I hope you do not suffer from congestive faith failure or rapid palpitations over Christ's salvific redemption for ALL humanity. Jesus' nature is to bless and our nature is to receive with thanksgiving this blessing. And this was all designed before the creation of the world. Jesus gladly changed places with us, taking on the clothing of our human sin, and doing ALL this for the sake of our brokenness. So please remember that the quality of mercy is twice the blessing for both the giver and the taker!

Sincerely Pr. Jer

NLOM Leadership Camp: Grades for Grades 9-12

3 week Comprehensive Leadership Development Program

Leadership Camp is designed to teach and train participants to be future leaders of camp and their community. Current high schoolers are invited to apply for this comprehensive, 3 week experience to learn valuable skills:

Leadership – Character Development – Problem Solving – Program Facilitation – Communication – Relationship Building – Safety

Leaders in Training commit to all three weeks of this program to participate in Leadership Camp.

Education Weeks (complete 1) June 2-6 or June 23-28

Practicum Weeks (complete 2) June 9-14 or June 16-21 or July 7-12 or July 14-19

To learn more and apply, visit **CarolJoyHolling.org/leadership**

Questions? Contact Bailey Neitzel at **BNeitzel@NLOM.org** or 402-944-2544

Lutheran Family Services January Donation Box

Joel Stotlenow of Lutheran Family Services in Lincoln, stopped by and asked if he could leave a collection box for personal care products after the holiday season. These donations boxes have been dropped off at ELCA, LCMS and WELS churches throughout southeast Nebraska.

So many of the people LFS serves find themselves with little or no extra money after the holiday season so donations of personal care items can help stretch the money they have for food, rent, and utilities. The list of items are:

Toothpaste – Toothbrushes - Body soap – Shampoo – Deodorant - Hand soap or hand sanitizer - Toilet paper - Men's/women's razors & shaving crème – Combs - Hair brushes - Tissues - Sanitary products and ***please new items only!***

9 am SUNDAY COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IN JANUARY 2024

What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey – It's one thing to talk about grace; it's another to taste its power. Through candid video interviews, Philip Yancey integrates true-life faces and experiences in ten powerful sessions that might just change popular preconceptions and bias.

1/14/2024 – The Missing Ingredient: A Beautiful Word, a Powerful Concept

1/21/2024 – Letting Grace Soak In: God's Love for the Undeserving

1/28/2024 – An Unnatural Act: Extending Grace When You Have Been Wronged

8th GRADE CONFIRMATION WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY 2024

Reminder to start thinking about your Bible verse and My Faith Project for Confirmation Sunday on April 28, 2024. My Faith Project will be displayed on Sunday, April 21, 2024 in the fellowship hallway. My Faith Project is explained at the end of this booklet.

1/10/2024 6-7 p.m. – The Greatest Prayer (The Lord's Prayer)

Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Avery Busboom's family

1/17/2024 6-7 p.m. – God's Kingdom and Will (The Lord's Prayer)

Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Logan Busboom's family

1/24/2024 6-7 p.m. – God Gives and Forgives (The Lord's Prayer)

Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Henry Garton's family

1/31/2024 6-7 p.m. – Temptation, Trial and Deliverance (The Lord's Prayer)

Snack & drink plus staying the hour: Harley Grone's family

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 6, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Alan Folkerts

Members present: Brenda Gronewold, Kristi Dorn, VeAnn Jurgens, Neal Meints, Kenny Reed, Cindy Parde, DeAnn Oltman, Carrye Meints

Absent: None

Pastor Jer shared: Regroup & Reflect

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 12/6/2023 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from November 8, 2023 meeting.

Upcoming Baptisms:

- **12/10/2023** - Kinley Ella Novotny & Lucas Mark Novotny and Millie May Dyer

Upcoming Weddings:

- **7/27/2024** – Emily Lenners & Brendan Lipovsky
- **11/2/2024** – Maggie Parde & Cole Baumgartner

December Events:

- **12/3/2023** – Candles, Carols, and Christmas Stories
- 12/24/2023 - Christmas Eve Program at 6:00 p.m.

October's Mileage: 541 miles

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- **Ushering** - We have not received any feedback on not ushering after the church service. We will continue not to usher after church.
- **Candlelight Service** - We have received very positive feedback.
- Doors** - We are still waiting on a bid. The fiberglass doors will be smooth and no paneling.

Discerning God's Will – New Business

- **Christmas Tree** – Thank you to everyone who helped with setting up the tree and decorating. We will take down the tree on Jan. 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
- **5th Sunday Offering for December** – The offering will go to Mother-to-Mother Ministry
- **Budget Meeting** - Council will meet Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 7:00 p.
- **Non-member fee for Funerals** - Discussion on whether we charge non-members for funerals. Fox Funeral Home has a letter stating we charge \$250.00. We will be going over this letter.

Ministry Team Report as of December 6, 2023

- Financial-General Fund Balance on hand 12/1/2023 \$106,680.33
- Income - \$35,229.78
- Balance on hand – 11/30/2023 \$125,803.78
- Sinking Fund - \$55,700.04
- Seminary Fund - \$41,813.73
- Thrivent Mutual Fund - \$2,776.58
- Open Savings - \$28,789.07

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

Next Council Meeting will be January 10, 2024.

Devotions - 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Carrye Meints, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS for November

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Larry Gronewold, Kelly Lenner, & Denise Schlake Ideus
Minutes read & approved by Kelly, Larry seconded, and motion passed.

Treasurers report: 12/5/23 \$ 136,590.08

Balance on hand - total Endowment Funds \$ 206,861.63

Denise made a motion to approve treasurers report, Larry seconded, approved.

New Business: Next meeting - discuss terms of members and officers.

A CD matures on 1/22/24. Larry moved that this CD be invested in a 6-month CD. Denise seconded, approved.

Discuss the CD's maturing in February & March next meeting.

HOSPITALITY: Did not meet

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Did not meet.

PARISH ED: 12/6/23 Meeting Notes

Members Present: Heather Hippen, Kate Meints, Allison Lane, Nicole Behrends, & Jay Bartlett

Members Absent: Lanette Nelson

- Balance as of 12/6/23:
 - \$1,767.20
- Expenses
 - \$612.29 1517 media
 - \$253.36 to Allison for Target gift cards, tissues, paper sacks, & stamps
 - \$147.75 for FFA fruit
- Old Business
 - Curriculum for winter was ordered on 11/8 (Kate taught Lanette process)
 - Tree of Warmth
 - During the month of December people brought hats/gloves etc. to place under the tree & Heather delivered to First Christian Church in Beatrice for distribution
 - Thank you to Elnora Lenners for writing a Thrivent grant for this.
 - 5th grade Christmas gift shopping
 - Jennifer Mahler took the 5th graders to Wal-Mart during Sunday School on 12/10 to purchase gifts from 3 stars at the mall & board games for distribution as requested by Amber Lovitt (CASA)
 - Thank you to Bernice Parde for writing a Thrivent grant for this.
 - Gift Exchange between teachers was 12/17, thank you to everyone.
 - Christmas Eve candy bags
 - Ordered fruit from Henry Garton through FFA
 - Paul & Cindy Jurgens donated popcorn balls.
 - Les & Cindy Lieneman donated the candy.
 - We are looking for another member to join Parish Ed in January 2024
 - Please reach out to any Parish Ed member if you are interested in joining.
 - Nicole will order SCUBA Vacation Bible School material (in Jan/Feb)
 - Heather Hippen plans to write a Thrivent grant for this after the first of the year.
- New Business
 - Heather is working on the annual report.
 - We are still looking for one more member to join Parish Ed in January
 - The Christmas Program was a success.
 - Thank you to everyone for making practices a priority.
 - Thank you to Paul & Cindy Jurgens for donating popcorn balls.
 - Thank you to Les & Cindy Lieneman for donating the candy.
 - Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers and music leaders for your contributions throughout the year and your help with the Christmas program.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Doug Parde, Neal Meints, Conner Mason, Kenny Reed, Jordan Busboom

Old Business: Got a quote for white cedar doors on the fellowship hall, waiting on a fiberglass quote.

New Business: Looking into repairing the lighted cross on top of the church.

Park Board:

Treasurer's Report: Savings \$ 4,206.00
Checking \$ 9,895.41
Balance on Hand \$ 14,101.08

Old Business: Freeman Foundation for Landscape \$ 7,800.00
Landscape cost – base rock, blocks, & caps \$ 3,801.53
Labor Donations: Southeast Excavating
Harms Farms donated track backhoe
Kim & Connie Thornburg – fill dirt
New Business: Election of officers next month

Publicity: Did not meet

STEWARDSHIP: Did not meet

WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS ENDOWMENT: Did not meet.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Alnora Daubendiek, Shirley Gronewold, Carrye Meints
Picked out hymns through February 4th.

YOUTH: Did not meet

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.

Bulletin's sponsored December:

For December 3rd the bulletin was sponsored by Mary McKee in Memory of her husband Lynn McKee.

For the Sunday of December 10th, the bulletin was sponsored by Dennis & Rhonda Fossler and Don and LeAnn Fossler in honor of Mildred Fossler for her 90th Birthday what will be on December 18th.

For December 17th the bulletin was sponsored by Betty Daubendiek, Annette and Jill & Scott and Granddaughter Megan in Memory of Roger Daubendiek.

For the Sunday of December 24th the bulletin was sponsored by Lynette Jurgens in Memory of her mother Anna (Johnsen) Jobman's heavenly birthday on December 22nd. Anna would be 100 and her sister Marilyn (Jobman) Folkerts heavenly birthday on December 29th, Marilyn would be 75. Happy Heavenly birthdays to Anna and Marilyn!

For the December 31st the bulletin was sponsored by the Family of Ron Graham in memory of his birthday on January 1st. Happy heavenly birthday Ron!

Baptism

Welcome to our newest members in Christ today with the Baptisms of: Millie Mae Dyer daughter of Colton & Jodeen Dyer. The sponsor for Millie today is Katrina Novotny.

An afternoon baptism of Kinley Ella Novotny daughter of Lucas & Katrina Novotny. The sponsor for Kinley is Jodeen Dyer.

Lucas Mark Novotny, husband of Katrina. And the sponsor for Lucas is Katrina Novotny. Grandparents of Millie and Kinley are Les & Mert Rademacher.

Thank you's recieved

Dear Friends

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00 to Special Olympics Nebraska and for helping us give every athlete the chance to feel like a champion.

Every day, we work to create opportunities of acceptance and inclusion for more than 6,000 individuals with and without intellectual disabilities through programming in sports, health, athletes and our state, and we would not be successful without support like yours.

Special Olympics Nebraska allows people with intellectual disabilities to discover new strengths and abilities, skill and success. Our athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.

We believe in a world where there are millions of different abilities but not disabilities. And we're spreading this message everywhere. Your gift helps us do just that.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely

Carolyn Chamberlin

President/CEO

12 Days of Christmas Giving – Zion's 6 Sundays of Christmas at Zion

Thank you to all who donated food for this endeavor! Zion you are so giving, and I am sure the families are so appreciative also this holiday season and throughout the year also!

6 more items from last Sunday for a total of 386 items!

Thank you to the Council and the Church family for the addition to our Willow Tree Nativity Set. This set is something I have always wanted.

Pastor Jer and Karen

Thank you's Continued

A BIG note of Thanks to all who participated in ZION'S SILENT AUCTION. A grand total of \$1060.00 was raised for the 150th Anniversary Celebration to be held in 2024.

Silent Auction Donors included: Pastor & Karen Gilbreath, Burdette Schoen, Alan & Sheryl Wiese, Gary & Annette Wiese, Steve Oltman, Laurie Wallman and AJ & Makayla Wiese

Silent Auction Winners were:

John Deere Quilt & Vintage Chair – Dale Hrenchir
Wii Game Set & Vintage Student Desk – Kenny Reed
T-shirt Quilt, Hair Care Items & Sour Dough Kit – Dan & Sandy Parks
Zion Painting – Don Schuster
Wooden Checkerboard – Doreen Remmers
Kids Wooden Barn – Brenda Gronewold
Lawn Care – Mary Lenner
Quilt Rack & Sour Dough Kit – Jeni Bohlmeier
Other Sour Dough Kits – Connie Thornburg, Mert Rademacher, Jordan Freeman

Thank you to all who donated to the Blue Valley Community Action Christmas program.

Together Zion donated over \$2000 which included the Candlelight offering and a \$250 Thrivent Grant written by Dorothy Trauernicht. This grant filled 7 stars in addition to those filled by other Zion members.

God Bless you all for your giving spirit.

A BIG Thank you to Hannah Hrenchir. She has volunteered to help with our JYO and LYO programs. We have many youth who will benefit from her support.

If anyone else is interested in these programs, there are more openings!
Thanks again Hannah, Zion is lucky to have you!



Thank you to Denise Schlake -Ideus for making this beautiful Advent/Christmas banner for Church. Such a beautiful addition to the sanctuary!

Youth News



The 7th Grade Sunday School Class

Received a name of a family of 7 from (Amber) CASA that they made 2 tie blankets for on November 26th – shopped on December 3rd with Doreen Remmers, Hannah Hrenchir & Connie Thornburg bought gifts and food items - then wrapped the gifts on December 10th.

Lindsey Remmers wrote a Thrivent Grant for \$250.00 to support this endeavor.

A BIG thank you to all involved!

Parish Ed is currently looking for one more volunteer to Join!

Keeping Zion Sunday School going takes a lot of volunteers, if you have kids enrolled in Sunday School and are looking for something to do during the hour, they have class this is your opportunity to give back! **Reach out to Kate Meints at 402-806-1466** for more information Special shout out to all of our teachers and current Parish Ed members for volunteering many years and hours of their time for all of the Zion children, Sunday School would not happen without all of you!!!



YOUR VOCATION FOR THE MONTH

What you do for God!

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

January 7th

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Bella Buhr
Kipton Lovitt
Lector: Sammie Garton
Greeters: Council
Special Music:
Breakfast Club: Need a volunteer

January 14

Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Avery Busboom
Logan Busboom
Lector: Gerald Ideus
Greeters: Gerald & Denise Ideus
Billy & Janet Harms
Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom
Breakfast Club: VeAnn Jurgens

January 21

Keyboard: Janelle Ideus
Guitar: Deric Bloom
Acolytes: Henry Garton
Colt Rinne
Lector: Peggy Johnson
Greeters: Dave & Karla Holland
Craig & Jess Ideus
Special Music: Endless Hallelujah
Breakfast Club: Diane Oltman

January 28

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Paxton Parde
Colt Rinne
Lector: Les Lieneman
Greeters: Les & Cindy Lieneman
Stan & Mary Lenners
Special Music: Amigos
Breakfast Club: Karla Holland

January Altar Committee: Danelle Evers, Carrye Meints, Linda Blackwell, Denise Ideus, Cheryl Folkerts.

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

Snow Brigade – January

Week of January 1 – Alan Wiese Captain, James Meints - Tractor, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold

Week of January 8 – Mark Buhr Captain, - Gary Gronewold Tractor, Stan Lenner – Tractor, James Lenner, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen

Week of January 15- Greg Dorn – Captain, Dean Zimmerman- tractor, Russ Wallman Tractor, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Dave Holland, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom

Week of January 22 – Matt Meints Captain, Les Lieneman Tractor, David Meints Tractor, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese, Jason Lovitt

Week of January 29 – Jordan Busboom Captain, Eric Parde Tractor, Chris Fossler Tractor, Duane Jurgens, Greg Robinson, Larry Johnson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Steve Oltman, Don Schuster

That time of year again to update information



If you have had an address change, phone number changed, or something just isn't typed correct, birthdays added, or not receiving the newsletter.

**Let Karen know in the church office at
402-661-9362.**

It's also that time of year to start thinking about the Annual Reports

I would like to have the reports to the church office by the **morning of Friday, January 12th so I can print and have them ready for Sunday the 14th.** The Annual Meeting then is the following Sunday, January 21st. Thank you for your help!

Altar Guild ladies please check your mailboxes for your copy of the monthly schedule for 2024. If you don't have a mailbox it will be mailed to you. FYI some of you might get them in the mail even if you have a mailbox – If you are a leader of your group or you may be serving in January.

JANUARY
BIRTHDAYS

2 Scott Johnson	10 Lauren Parde	21 Patti Busboom
Sheryl Wiese	Sadie Fehringer	Rose Gronewold
Finn Sturek	11 Mickey Larkins	23 Brock Robinson
Hayden Frost	Nichelle Schuster	Nolan Robinson
Hannah Hrenchir	13 Shirleen Miller	Kelsey Murphy
4 Linda Hooper	Bella Burr	Kylee Brown
5 Larry Miller	16 Ashley Parde	25 Deric Bloom
6 Gary Gronewold	17 Chesleigh Ideus	Brogan Ideus
Tavin Lieneman	Reagan Rinne	Everlee Mae Glynn
7 Gary Hooper	18 Darin Huls	26 Rory Detert
Trevor Parde	19 Addison Dorn	27 Lisa Riha
Jacob Behrends	David Meints	28 Mark Kujath
9 Kade Wiese	Sydney Brauer	Chelsea Leners
Tholen Buss	20 Lisa Hostetler	29 Katelyn Bohlmeier
	Jeremy Thomas	30 Lindsay Detert
		31 Zachary Meints
		Sandy Parks
		Chloe Remmers

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 Gilbreath 402-660-9362

Poinsettias

Alvera Bade & family in Memory of Victor Bade, Emil & Margaret Wallman, & Ralph & Neva Bade

Dennis Buhr & family in Memory of Beverly Buhr

Karen Buhr & family in Memory of Leonard & Bruce Buhr

John & Marcia Busboom in Memory of Cora Everly Church

Karla Carstens & family in Memory of Susie & Tayten Buhr and Judy Carstens

Mark & Cerice Cornelius & family in Memory of Ron & Adeline, Diane Cornelius & Stephanie Morris

Betty Daubendiek, Carol Keller, Connie Thornburg & families in Memory of Walt & Angeline Johnson, Dean Thornburg, Roger Daubendiek, Roger Keller & JT Thornburg.

The Detert Family in Memory of Rich Newton

Eddie & Lynette Dorn & James & Kelly Lenners and families in Memory of Ernest & Emma Meints, and Dennis & Terry Meints

Dennis & Rhonda Fossler & families in Memory of Marilyn Zimmerman, Rodney Zimmerman and Harvey Fossler

Pastor Jer & Karen Gilbreath in Memory of Dale & Ruth Soderquist & Don & Eveyln Gilbreath

Shirley Gronewold & family in Memory of Ehme Gronewold

Paige & Steve Harwood & family in Memory of Ron & Adeline Cornelius, Diane Cornelius & Stephanie Morris

Gary & Linda Hooper in Memory of Henry & Thelma Busboom, Ellery & Ella Hooper, Dennis Busboom

Deb, Hannah & Dale Hrenchir in Memory of Thess & Aleha Ehmen

Dale & Hannah Hrenchir in Memory of Gordon & Pat Madsen

Robert & Doreen Ideus & family in Memory of Ted & Irene Busboom

Peggy Johnson, Janie Vrtiska, Nancy Stumme and Neil Meints family in Honor of Evelyn Meints and in Memory of Vernon Meints

Lynette Jurgens in Memory of Ernest & Anna Jobman, Sarah Jurgens, Marilyn Folkert and Alisa Knipe

Don & Elnora Lenners in Memory of Loved ones

Les & Cindy Lieneman in Memory of their parents John & Edna Lieneman and Clarence & Teda Meints

Kent & Jennifer Mahler & family in Memory of Cliff & Idella Mahler, Keith Mahler, Lowell Rahe

Chris & Renae Mason in Memory of George & Velma Ideus & Louis & Tena Schoen

Mildred Meints In Memory of Lawrence Meints & Loved Ones

Walt & Katie Family in Memory of Walt Katie, Jim & Johnny Meints Meints

Terry, DeAnn, Brett & Ashley Oltman in Memory of Lenhart, Angeline & Gilbert Oltman, LaVerne Wolken

Bernice Parde & Family in Memory of Edward Parde

Devonna Primavera & Betty Schone & families in Memory of Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

Les & Mert Rademacher in Memory of John & Emma Thompson

Marilyn Robinson & family in Memory of Kenneth Robinson

Patty Thomas in Memory of Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold, Leonor and George Wolken, Willie & Esther Gronewold & Loved ones.

Lorene Wallman & Family in Memory of Eldon Wallman & Scott Higgins

The Church was so beautiful with so many poinsettias – thank you to all who purchased them this year!

Grace Circle News

Grace Circle met at 11:30 Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at the Villa. After an enjoyable time of visiting over pizza and sweet treats brought by Marsha, Irene and Alnora (delicious goodies ladies), some of the group shared their most memorable memories of past Christmas's. Elnora had a reading titled "Hope and Light". She also shared some Thrivent T-shirts and notebooks. We presented a Christmas gift to Pastor Jer and Karen in appreciation for their service and friendship to our Circle. Thank you for joining us.

A short business meeting was held to finish our year. We signed Christmas/birthday card to be sent to our shut-ins and Jon Gronewald (Military). An offering of \$44 was received of which Grace Circle will keep \$15 and \$20 will go to our general treasury. With the December offering we have a balance of \$155 to share. We divided this amount by purchasing two shirts for \$40 to give to Randy Oltman living at Our Home Assisted Living in Lincoln, \$110 to Salvation Army and \$5 to our circle treasury for 2024.

In January, we have our General Meeting, so Grace Circle will meet again in February. No other business, so we wished each other a Merry Christmas and adjourned.

Secretary,
Lorene Wallman

REVIEWING THE YEAR AT ZION 2023

Baptisms

<u>Name</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Baptismal</u>
Bexley Rae Schuster Parents: Cole & Nichelle Schuster	1/22/23
Kit Kelly Meints Parents: Zac & Britan Meints	3/12/23
Avery Grace Frerichs Parents: Adam & Morgan Frerichs	3/19/23
Emma Marie Frerichs Parents: Adam & Morgan Frerichs	3/19/23
Hooper Michael Mencil Parents: Elliot & Dusty Mencil	4/23/23
Sloane Gene Sturek Parents: Kelly & Brittany Sturek	5/28/23
Everlee Mae Glynn Parents: Josh & Sabrina Glynn	6/25/23
Kathryn Marie Lineweber Parents: Cari Buss	7/16/23
Barrett Dean Buss Parents: Dillon & Cari Buss	7/16/23
Aspyn Kay Schmitter Parents: Jordan Schmitter & Paige Buss	9/17/23
Wilke Henry Siebert Parents: Kurt & Anna Siebert	11/05/23
Millie Mae Dyer Parents: Colton & Jodeen Dyer	12/10/23
Kinley Ella Novotny Parents: Lucas & Katrina Novotny	12/10/23
Lucas Mark Novotny Adult baptism	12/10/23

Confirmation

Cale Behrens Mahler	Savannah
Max Behrens Nicole Davison Hudson Fikar Kyson Kolm	London Meints Kameron Riha Reagan Rinne Gage Smith
Braxton Trauernicht	

Marriages

	<u>Date</u>
Abby Mason & Heath Hovendick	6/10/23
Jamison Theye & Mason Roth	6/24/23
Dale Hrenchir & Hannah Ley	9/16/23
Trip Cornelius & Amya Beach	10/21/23

Funerals

Age

Funeral Date

Caroline Gronewold 88	2/11/23
Gary Ideus 75	4/03/23
Marilyn Folkert 74	4/28/23
Elsie Zimmerman 100	5/24/23
Ethel Wallman 89	5/19/23
Brenda Jurgens 84	7/19/23
Ron Graham 68	7/59/23
Marie Schoen 98	7/31/23
Evelyn Kisling 86	11/20/23

New Members Received

Amya Beach
Brandy, Brixton, Brooks Coffin
Zach & Natalie Coffin & Chloe & Sydney Brauer
Ryan & LeAnn, Coral Harms
Heath Hovendick
Dale & Hannah Hrenchir
Deb Hrenchir
Ernie & Janice Jurgens
Janie Vrtiska

Transfers from Zion

No one transferred to another church.

The Willie and Anna Meints scholarship applications are located in the back of the church on the Welcome Center. Students entering college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years. **Applications must be received by February 15, 2024 following the start of the students first college year.** Applications received after the February 15, 2024 deadline will not be considered. **NOTE: Please make sure to read through the qualifications listed on the application. A printout of the student's grades are needed upon completion of their 2023 Fall semester.**

Committee Members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

THE HERTIAGE ROOM

The Anniversary Committee has been working on creating a Heritage Room in the German School House that will be used to display artifacts and a historical timeline that “Reflects Zion’s Past”. That has been made possible by many including the time or supplies donated by Craig Ideus (installing ceiling lights/wiring), Nick Meints (dry walling ceilings), Chad Buhr (installing doors/trim), Doreen Ideus (window shades), and the painting crew (fresh coat of paint for walls/trim).

Not only has this project been supported by the time and skills given by individuals but also financially, which have helped cover the cost for supplies. This has been done by the Zion council who gave the committee a budget to work with but also by Zion members and those outside of Zion who have been willing to write Thrivent grants or given items/bid on items during the first Silent Auction which was just completed (\$1060 was raised).

Several Zion members offered items for the Silent Auction that were not used because of the timing; too short of a timeframe before bidding would be finished. However, the committee has decided to conduct a Silent Auction in conjunction with each of the Recognition Sundays; a SPRING auction which will conclude on March 10th, a SUMMER auction with ending date of July 21st, and a FALL auction finishing up on our final Sunday of October 27th. If you have any items that you would like to donate for any of these auctions, please inform a committee member. They will be added to the items that did not make the 1st auction. Dates for beginning the summer and fall auction will be set at a later date. The bidding for the SPRING auction items will begin Feb 11th.

Now that the walls and floor of the Heritage Room are almost complete, the committee is ready to start making decisions on how to display the history held in those 150 years. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to help with this endeavor, **PLEASE** give us a shout. We know there are those who love history and have a gift of sharing that with others. **WE NEED YOU!!!**

But we also need your stories. If you are going through family treasures and find items/pictures/stories that you think can help tell the story of Zion’s past and would like to share by displaying in the Heritage Room, please feel free to talk to one of the following committee members; Mert Rademacher, Janet Harms, Sandy Meints, Connie Thornburg, Steve Oltman.

Reflecting Zion's Past and Growing in God's Grace

On Saturday, March 14th, 1874, a group of seven German Lutheran farmers held a meeting in the dugout home of Albert Mueller and organized Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church without a pastor being present.

On **Sunday, March 10th, 2024**, the 150th Anniversary Recognition year of that Zion Lutheran Church organization will begin with two pastors present: Pastor Jer Gilbreath and Bishop Scott Johnson. A catered/potluck meal will follow the March 10th Sunday service.

Two additional Sundays; **July 21st** and **October 27th**, have been designated as Recognition Sundays for "Reflecting Zion's Past". Two sons of the Zion congregation, Arden Dorn in July and Casey Lineman in October, will be assisting Pastor Jer on these two Sundays.

Mark your calendars now for Zion's three recognition/celebration Sundays. More details regarding each of the three will be forthcoming. And always keep Zion in your prayers that this organization continues to "Grow in God's Grace" as it has for 150 years.

JANUARY 2024

	1	2	3	4	5	6
			<u>NO 7 & 8</u> Confirm			9 am Council will take down Christmas Tree
7 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/ Adult SS 10 am Worship/ Communion	8	9	10 7 & 8 Confirm 6 pm Committees 7 pm Council 7:30 pm	11	12 <u>**Deadline for Annual Report**</u>	13
14 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/ Adult SS 10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom 11 am WELCA after church	15	16	17 6 pm practice for Endless Hallelujah 7 & 8 Confirm 6 pm	18 Ladies Aid	19	20
21 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/ Adult SS 10 am Worship/ Communion/Endless Hallelujah/ Annual Meeting	22	23	24 7 & 8 Confirm 6 pm	25 Ladies Aid <u>**Print NEWSLETTER**</u>	26	27 Pastor & Karen gone
28 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/ Adult SS 10 am Worship/Amigos	29	30	31 Pastor & Karen back 7 & 8 Confirm 6 pm			