

Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.



Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask a council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

Prelude & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Gathering our Spirits for Worship *(As you are able please stand)*

P - We have walked roads of hope and disappointment,

C - Christ walks beside us, though we do not recognize him.

P - Our hearts stir with a fire we cannot name,

C - For the Holy is near, even in our wondering.

P - Come, let us gather at the table of ordinary grace,

C - Where bread is broken and eyes are opened.

Gathering Hymn - Thine is the Glory ELW #376

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won!

Lo, Jesus meets thee,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets thee,
scatters fear and gloom;
let his church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting! [Refrain]

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee;
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conqu'rors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. [Refrain]

Prayer of Opening our Hearts to God

P - Risen Christ,

C - you are already here among us; walking beside us in our questions, listening to our stories, and kindling a holy fire within our hearts. You meet us not in spectacle but in simple companionship and hospitality. Our eyes are finally open, and we recognize you in the ordinary moments of our lives. Now that we have seen, give us courage to rise and to go where you lead us. Amen. (*Please be seated*)

Special Music - Men's Choir

Holy Baptism of Owen James Frerichs

Baptism Sung Response - Baptized in Water ELW #456 vs 3

Bap-tized in wa-ter, shealed by the Spir-it, marked with the sign of Christ our king; born of the Spir-it, we are God's chil-dren; joy-ful-ly now God's praise we sing.

Reading of the Scriptures

First Reading - Ruth 1:16-17 Not even death can part us.

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Psalm 116:1-2 (Please read responsively)

I love the Lord because he has heard

my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me,

therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Second Reading - 1 Peter 1:22-25 You are of imperishable seed.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable

but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God. For

“All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord endures forever.” *Here ends this reading.*

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel - Luke 24:13-35 Meeting Christ on the road to Emmaus.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his

glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Gospel - Sing Response #361 vs 3 The Day of Resurrection
Now let the heav'ns be joy-ful, let earth its song be-gin, the round world keep high tri-umph and all that is there-in. Let all things, seen and un-seen, their notes of glad-ness blend; for Christ the Lord has ris-en, our joy that has no end! (Please be seated.)

Special Music – Amigos

Children's Message

Sing Blessing of our Children - Now All the Vault of Heaven
Resounds ELW #367 vs 1

Now all the vault of heav'n re-sounds in praise of love that still a-bounds; "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!" Sing, choirs of an-gels, loud and clear! Re-peat their song of glo-ry here; "Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv-ing!" Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Homily - Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Offering Hymn - What a Friend We Have in Jesus ELW #742

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear --
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged --
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness --
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge --
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

(Please stand as the offering is brought forward.)

Offering Sing Response - #365 vs 4 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
**Sing we to our God a-bove, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise e-ter-nal as his
love; Al-le-lu-ia! Praise him, all you heav'nly host, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. Al-le-lu-ia!**

Offering Blessing

P - God of the road and the table,

**C - we offer these gifts as signs of hearts awakening. Take
what is ordinary and make it a vessel of grace. As bread is
broken and shared, so may these offerings bring hope,
healing, and holy presence into the world. Use them and us, so
that others may feel their hearts burn with the nearness of
your love. Amen. *(Please be seated)***

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation**

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church - *When the pastor says, "Lord in your
mercy" please respond with "Hear our Prayer."*

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

**and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Holy Communion Liturgy

P - The Lord be with you.

C - And also with you.

P - Lift up your hearts.

C - We lift them to the Lord.

P - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C - It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P - It is our joy, at all times and in all places to give God thanks and praise.

The Words of Institution

Holy Communion - *All visitors are welcome at the Lord's Table with us.*

Communion Hymn - Just As I Am, Without One Plea ELW #592

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Prayer After Communion

P - Almighty God,

C - We rejoice in the reviving power taking place within us right now; healing us in the places where we were hurting. For these gifts of love and life within your holy meal, we give you thanks. Amen.

Benediction Litany

P - Go now, for Christ walks beside you on the roads you travel,

C - We go, knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us.

P - When your hearts burn and your eyes are opened,

C - We will carry the good news with joy.

P - In every ordinary moment, Christ is revealed,

C - We are living the resurrection. Amen.

Announcements in the Life of the Church

C - ZION... a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Hymn - The Strife is O'er ELW #366 vs 1-3

The strife is o'er, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won!
Now be the song of praise begun.
Alleluia!

The pow'rs of death have done their worst;
Jesus their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

The three sad days have quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen head!
Alleluia!

P - Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler - Interim Pastor 402-867-4044

Les Lieneman - Council President 402-223-0433

Michele Kolm - Church Office number 402-806-3601

Email -zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com

Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Organist:.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Micah Hofstetter

Hunter Grone

Lector:.....Carrye Meints

Greeters:.....Duane & Janice Parde

David & Carrye Meints

Special Music:.....Men's Choir
Amigos

April Altar Guild: Carol Young, Sandy Meints, Marcella Rademacher, Susan Newman

April Table Troop: **Mark Buhr (Leader)**, Alex Buhr, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom

Snow Brigade:

April 20th - Jeff Wiese (Captain), Les Lieneman (Tractor), David Meints (Tractor), Jason Lovitt, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson

April 27th - Kyle Schlake (Captain), Eric Parde (Tractor), Chris Fossler, Steve Oltman, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Taiten Harms

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship: 165 Giving: \$2,437.72
SS: 42 Giving: \$ 52.50

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45am - Sunday School

9:00am - BKF Club

10:00am - Worship/Communion/Baptism/Men's Choir/Amigos/8th grade faith projects on display

Monday

9-3:00 - Blanket Sewing

Tuesday

9-3:00 - Blanket Sewing

Wednesday

6:00pm - 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation

Thursday

Ladies Aide

6:30 - Adams A's 10U vs Lincoln Raptors Baseball

Friday

Newsletter Printing Day

Next Sunday

8:45am - Sunday School

9:00am - BKF Club/Adult Bible Study

10:00am - Worship/Confirmation Sunday

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor:.....Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Grayson Borgman

Korbin Busboom

Lector:.....DeAnn Oltman

Greeters:.....Terry & DeAnn Oltman

Mickey Larkins

Special Music:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We are so glad you are here & would love to have you visit again! Please sign a visitor card located in the pews and place the information section of the card in the offering plate. We hope to see you again!

THIS WEEKS BULLETIN IS SPONSORED BY: Patty Thomas & Doyle Scott in Memory of George & Eleanor Wolken's wedding anniversary April 19th.

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 Alnora and the Men's Choir & the Amigos for their special music today.

THANK YOU SANDY MEINTS - Thank you to Sandy for taking the time to teach the First Communion class, we truly appreciate the time you put into helping the kids learn so much.

FAITH PROJECTS - Confirmation Faith Projects will be displayed today please stop by and take look at the 8th graders work.

FLOWERS – The flowers under the hymn board are in honor of Owen James' baptism today. Given by grandparents James & Kelly Lenner and Brad & Susan Frerichs.

WELCOME - to our newest member in Owen James Frerichs son of Adam and Morgan (Lenners) Frerichs. Sponsors are Emily Lipovsky, Garrett Lenners, Isaac & Riley Frerichs. Grandparents are James & Kelly Lenners and Brad & Susan Frerichs.

Recognition Sunday is May 17th. Please get your graduates



information to the church office (402-806-3601 or zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com) if you would like your family member who is graduating either high school or college recognized.

FARM FRESH EGGS - Farm fresh eggs are now available for purchase! Suggested price is \$3 per dozen and can be found on the Welcome Center. Proceeds will support various projects around the church. Eggs have been generously donated by Don Schuster—thank you for your kindness and support!

SEALED BIDS BEING ACCEPTED - The Council is accepting sealed bids for the sale of a Roland Fantom-G8 electric piano (Model: Fantom-G8, Serial No. Z3A9026). All bids must be received by **May 15th** and may be submitted to any Council member. The item is being sold as-is, with no warranties expressed or implied. For additional information or to arrange inspection of the equipment, please contact any council member

2026 BACCALAUREATE SERVICE - Adams Lutheran Church is hosting the Freeman Baccalaureate Service at 7pm on Wednesday, May 13th. All are welcome to attend to honor our church graduates & others graduating this year.

Beatrice Baccalaureate Service is May 6th at 7pm. All are welcome to attend to honor our church graduates & others graduating this year.

****If any of the Beatrice graduates are interested in reading scripture during this service please contact our church office.**

AMERICA 250 - The Nation's upcoming birthday July 4, 2026, honors the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, with a focus on gratitude, religious freedom, and service. As part of the "America 250" we are planning to commemorate this historic moment in our nation's history here at Zion. On Sunday morning, **June 14th**, we will gather to celebrate and honor America. As this event is still in the planning stages, we do have a plan to include a display of Quilts of Valor from our present and past Zion members. We are also hoping to award a Quilt of Valor. **At this time, we are looking for "Quilts" of Valor that have been presented to service members or veterans that attend or have attended Zion. We are also seeking names and contact information for service members or living veterans who may be eligible to receive a Quilt of Valor. As there is a protocol to nominate a candidate, this information is needed in a timely manner. Please contact Denise Schlake-Ideus or Marcia Busboom with any of the above information or if you would like to help with planning this celebration.** We are grateful to be collaborating with Quilts of Valor organizations through Quilt Stitches in Beatrice and "Piecemakers" in Firth.

****The Mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover Service Members and Living Veterans touched by war with a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor.*



GIVING OPTION - 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

Bailey Pointe - Vivian Schuster

Gold Crest - Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman, Marilyn Robinson

Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller, Marsha Zulauf

Our Homes Assisted Living - Randy Oltman

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

May 26 - 29th

8:30 - 11:30 AM

for kids in PreK - 5th Grade



Register by May 11th
Volunteer Opportunities Available
\$10 Registration Fee

