

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 in Lent

March 23, 2025

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

Prelude – Bell

No season of the church year invites our church family into a journey more than the forty-day season of Lent. What is the Lenten journey? One compelling description comes from the Invitation to Lent in the ELW Leader’s Edition. It beautifully sets out the goal of the journey that God has established from the beginning: “We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.”

Gathering

P- The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get gut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen so that you may live.”

C- Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!”

P- The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for us. Thanks be to God!

C- Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!"

Gathering Hymn – Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW 618

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises

I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.

Confession and Forgiveness

As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.

P- Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C- Amen

P- Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Holy God,

C- we confess that we are caught in the snare of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins you only know forgive us Lord. Amen

P- Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

C- Amen

Special Music- Amigos

Children's Time – Food for the Soul

Readings

Isaiah 55:1-9

Lector – To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 63:1-8 - Read responsively.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
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1st Corinthians 10:1-13

Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness. Paul writes to the Church in Corinth:

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Eternal God,

C- your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

Gospel – Luke 13:1-9

P- Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on

this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ” The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord!

(Please be seated.)

Message – The Nature of God (INSERT)

Offering Hymn – How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds ELW 620

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away all fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the heart's unrest;
'tis manna to the hungry soul
and to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury,
filled with boundless stores of grace.

4 By thee my prayers acceptance gain
although with sin defiled.

The devil charges me in vain,
and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
how cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death!

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Jesus you are the bread of life

C- and fill the hungry with good things. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this bread of life but with a hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic** church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.**

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P- Beloved, you are God's own people, holy, washed and renewed.
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage, and give + you peace.

C- Amen.

P- Go in peace. Share your bread!

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

Sending Hymn – Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

ELW 623

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleansing me from guilt and pow'r.

2 Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyelids close in death,

when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Michele's number – 402-239-0417

Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Presleigh Borgman

Konnor Kolm

Lector:Sammie Garton

Greeters:Don & Elnora Lenners

Mickey Larkins

Special Music:Amigos

Breakfast Club:Connie Thornburg

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 164 Giving \$ 2,769.93

Sunday School 63 Giving \$155.01

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 am BKF Club / Adult SS

10 am Worship/Amigos

Monday

Printing April Newsletter

Wednesday

5:30 1st Communion

6 pm 7 & 8 grade Confirmation

7pm Lenten Service

Thursday

Ladies Aid

Saturday

9:00 Spring Cleanup

11:30 Sock Hop @ American Lutheran Filley

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 BKF Club/ Adult SS

10:00 Worship/Barr's Baptism/
Communion/Men's Choir

2:00 Sourdough Class

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Kipton Lovitt

Sadie Gronewold

Lector:Amy Wallman

Greeters:Alan & Kim Folkerts

Gary & Linda Hooper

Special Music:Men's Choir

Breakfast Club:**Need Volunteer**

March Altar Guild:

Susan Newman (Leader), Carol Young, Sandy Meints, Marcella Rademacher

March Table Troop: Steve & Peggy Johnson (Leader), Larry

Gronewold, Eddie & Lynette Dorn, Gary & Brenda Gronewold,

Dave & Carrye Meints, Kenny & Janet Schuster, Lynette Jurgens

Snow Brigade

For the week of March 24th: Jason Lovitt (Captain), Les

Lieneman – tractor, David Meints – Tractor, Matt Meints, Gary

Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson,

Jeff Wiese

This weeks bulletin is Sponsored by: Caroline Ideus & family in memory of Gary who passed away 2 years ago this month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the Fellowship Hall or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!

FAREWELL CELEBRATION - Mark your calendar

We are planning a Farewell Celebration for Pastor Jer & Karen on Sunday, April 13th. Following church, a meal catered by BigFoot BBQ will be served in the Parish Hall. A clipboard will be passed around & located on the Welcome Center to sign up for the lunch. Sign up deadline is 4/6/25.

SHARE A MEMORY with Pastor Jer & Karen

Share your favorite memory or special moment with Pastor Jer & Karen by completing a memory card and placing your message in the "Memory Box" located on the Welcome Center. We will present the memories on Sunday April 27th, which is Pastor Jers last service at Zion.

FAREWELL TEA PARTY for Karen

Join us to Celebrate our Friendship and the Ministry of a special lady, **Saturday, April 12th @ 2:00 pm.** Fellowship Hall (note change of location) RSVP to Linda Hooper @ 402-239-8656 or sign up at Welcome Center by April 7th.



FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING IN MARCH

March 30th offering will be designated to the Cemetery.



SPRING CLEANUP - Calling all Zion Members

Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, March 29th at 9:00 a.m. We welcome help from all members. In addition, this is a service project for the 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes. Students & parents are strongly encouraged to attend & help get the church ready for Easter & Confirmation Sunday.

A special thank you to Amigos for their special music today.

Men's Choir will sign next Sunday March 30th. There will be no practice on March 31st.

Help Wanted - Serving Opportunities at Zion

Fuller Park is looking for concession stand help this summer and fall. We currently have about 5 home games a month this spring/early summer of 8/9U Baseball during the months of April/May/June.



Starting at the end of August we will have about 4-6 Freeman Softball Home Games. The concessions are always a great hit at our games and we would appreciate your help. All ages welcome!

Please contact Terry Oltman at 402-416-4902 if you would like to help us this summer.

Parish Ed is looking for a Co-Teacher for 7th grade starting immediately. Please reach out to any member of Parish Ed if you are interested in co-teaching.



RECOGNIZE & REPORT SCAMS

Ryan Sothan, Outreach Coordinator with Nebraska Attorney General's Office, will have a presentation on **April 3, 2025** at the **Pickrell Community Center at 6:00**

p.m. Sponsored by First State Bank.

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman,
Marilyn Robinson

Homestead House - Anora Schoen

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Wilber Care Center – Ernie Jurgens