

## 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.***



**Second Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion  
April 7, 2024**

***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**

The overarching theme of Easter is one of ***belonging***. When we find our place and sense of ***belonging*** within the abiding, Triune God, we are also reminded that there are others who belong to God with whom we are encouraged to build community.

### **Nebraska Synod Theme for April: GO and Tell the Story**

Jesus isn't in the tomb anymore – God is on the loose! God is active and up to something! The story of Easter is an ongoing one, similar to the story of our own faith. Our response as disciples is to ***GO and...***to go out, go share, go proclaim and go tell the story.

#### **Questions to consider:**

- What is one of your favorite Bible story?
- Is there a prop or a tangible item you might use to help you tell the story?
- How will you ***GO and tell the story?***

## **Easter Gathering**

P- Christ is risen!

**C- Christ is risen!**

P- The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John.

**C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

P- Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for sign, and Jesus offers his wounded self in the broken bread,

**C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

P- From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and sharing so that no one among us is in need.

**C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!**

## **Gathering Hymn – Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain *ELW* 363**

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!

God has brought forth Israel

into joy from sadness,

loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke

Jacob's sons and daughters;

led them with unmoistened foot

through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today:  
Christ has burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun has risen.  
All the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from the Light to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strain  
Jesus' resurrection!

4 Neither could the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal,  
hold you as a mortal:  
but today, among your own,  
you appear, bestowing  
your deep peace, which evermore  
passes human knowing.

5 Alleluia! now we cry  
to our Lord immortal,  
who triumphant burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
Alleluia! with the Son  
God the Father praising;  
Alleluia! yet again  
to the Spirit raising.

## **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*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,  
the wellspring of grace,  
our Easter and our joy!

**C- Amen**

P- Look, here is water!

**C- Here is our water of life!**

**Alleluia!**

P- Immersed in the promises of baptism,  
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thank, O God, for in the beginning  
your voice thundered over the deep  
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's blue water rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into the new day.  
Miriam led the dance as your people passed through the sea  
into freedom's land.

In the desert the pool the Ethiopian official  
entered your boundless baptismal life.

P- Look, here is water!

**C- Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P- At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection  
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,  
freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,  
giving all honor and praise to you,  
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,  
in unity with the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C-Amen.**

P- Look, here is water!

**C- Here is our water of life!**

**Alleluia!**

*Please be seated.*

### **Children's Time – Sharing It All**

The early believers were so good at sharing that there wasn't a needy person among them.

### **Readings**

#### **Acts 4:32-35**

*Lector – While the disciples testified to others about the resurrection of Jesus, the early Christian community shared what they owned or sold their possessions to help their fellow believers who were in need.*

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. Here ends this reading.

## **Psalm 133, The Blessedness of Unity - *Read responsively.***

How very good and pleasant it is

**when kindred live together in unity!**

It is like the precious oil on the head,

**running down upon the beard,**

on the beard of Aaron,

**running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon,

**which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

For there the LORD ordained his blessing,

**life for evermore.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> John 1:1-2:2**

*Lector – The opening of this letter serves as a reality check. The reality of God is light, but our confessed has been sin. God cleanses us from our sinful reality through Christ's so that we live in fellowship with Christ and walk in God's light.*

### **The Word of Life**

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

## **God Is Light**

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

## **Christ Our Advocate**

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Here ends this reading.

## **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Almighty God,

**C- with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord's resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.**

**Gospel – John 20:19-31** *Please stand if you are able.*

P- The story of Easter continues as the risen Jesus appears to his disciples. His words to Thomas offers a blessing to all who entrust themselves in faith to the risen Lord.

### **Jesus Appears to the Disciples**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

### **Jesus and Thomas**

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'



## **The Purpose of This Book**

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name. The Gospel of the Lord.

**C- Praise to you, O Lord!**     *Please be seated.*

## **Special Music – Men’s Choir**

### **Message – Ever Had One of Those Days**

Which will it be? The weight of the whole world on your shoulder?  
Or the whole and your life, in God’s hands?

### **Offering Song – Let Us Break Bread Together *ELW 471***

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

### **Offering Prayer**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Risen One,

**C- you call us to believe and bear fruit.**

**May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.**

**Form us to be witnesses in the world,  
through Christ our Savior. Amen**

### **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!**”*

### **Words of Institution - Song of Consecration**

*Please join in singing the final verse in bold print.*

The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.  
He broke it as he blest it, and then he said,  
“My body broken for you...is what this means;  
remember now my children what you have seen!”

And then he took the chalice and raised it high,  
“*My blood is given for you, a full supply...*  
a covenant, a promise...a cleansing stream;  
remember now my children what you have seen!”

**We share this food together, remem’bring Christ:  
we share a common treasure and know the price;  
we share it without measure...a gift of love;  
we share our life forever, with God above!**

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## **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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

P- The risen Christ is made known to us  
in the breaking of the bread.

Come eat at God's table!

*The ELCA and Zion Lutheran Church practices open communion. If you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are welcome to come forward and partake in the bread and wine of communion. Please fill out a communion card in the pew rack. Please hand your communion card to the usher when you come forward.*

## **Communion Song – Thine Is the Glory    ELW 376**

1 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!

2 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]

3 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]

### **Post Communion Prayer**

P- Shepherd God,

**C- you have prepared the table before us  
and nourished us with your love.**

**Send us forth from this banquet  
to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,  
our redeemer and friend, amen.**

### **Announcements in the Life of Our Church**

## **Blessing & Dismissal**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C- Christ is risen indeed!**

**Alleluia!**

P- The God of resurrection power,  
the Christ of unending joy,  
and the spirit of Easter hope  
+ bless us now and always.

**C- Amen.**

P- Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad!

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

## **Sending Hymn – The East Day with Joy Was Bright** *ELW 384*

1 That Easter day with joy was bright;  
the sun shone out with fairer light  
when, to their longing eyes restored,  
the apostles saw their risen Lord!

2 O Jesus, king of gentleness,  
with constant love our hearts possess;  
to you our lips will ever raise  
the tribute of our grateful praise.

3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all  
in this our Easter festival,  
for you will be our strength and shield  
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.

4 All praise, O risen Lord, we give  
to you, once dead, but now alive!  
To God the Father equal praise,  
and God the Spirit, now we raise!

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

**[jkgil1979@yahoo.com](mailto:jkgil1979@yahoo.com)**

**Karen's number – 402-661-9362**

**Email [-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com)**

### **Helping with Worship Today**

**Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath**  
**Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek**  
**Acolytes.....Jayden Wiese**  
**Henry Garton**  
**Lector.....Jenny Busboom**  
**Greeters.....Council**  
**Special Music.....Men's Choir**  
**Breakfast Club.....VeAnn Jurgens**

### **Vital Statistics for Last Sunday**

**Sunday Sunrise Service 248 Giving \$ 2933.27**  
**Second Service 247 Giving \$ 4789.00**  
**No Sunday School**



## **THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION - Today**

8:45 Sunday School

9 am Breakfast Club/Adult Sunday School

10 Worship/Men's Choir/Communion

### **Monday**

9-3 Blanket Sewing

### **Tuesday**

9-3 Blanket Sewing

6:30 pm The Chosen Bible Study

### **Wednesday**

1:30 Grace Circle

6 pm 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation

7 pm Committee Mtg

7:30 Council

### **Next Sunday**

8:45 am Sunday School

9 am BFK Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom/

### **Helping out Next Sunday**

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes.....Konnor Kolm

Kipton Lovitt

Lector.....Todd Bohlmeier

Greeters.....Todd & Jeni Bohlmeier

Darwin & Susan Buss

Special Music.....Kids of the Kingdom

Breakfast Club.....Ivy Bloom

**April Altar Guild:** Cindy Jurgens, Carrie Reed, Janet Harms, Peggy Johnson, Rose Gronewold.

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

### **Snow Brigade**

**For the Week of April 8:** Jordan Busboom \*\*Captain, Eric Parde – Tractor, Chris Fossler – Tractor, Duane Jurgen, Greg Robinson, Larry Johnson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Steve Oltman.

**For the Week of April 15:** Alan Wiese \*\* Captain, James Meints – tractor, Kenny Newman, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold, AJ Wiese.

**For the Week of April 22:** Mark Buhr \*\* Captain, Gary Gronewold – tractor, Stan Lenners – Tractor, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen.

**For the Week of April 29:** Greg Dorn \*\*Captain, Dean Zimmerman – tractor, Russ Wallman – tractor, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Dave Holland, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to worship!** A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that 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 unity room or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!

**HANDICAP PARKING** - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

**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.

**Today's bulletin is sponsored by** Larry & Macy Gronewold, Patty, Brittnay & Jeremy Thomas in memory of Lawrence Gronewold (their father and grandfather). Lawrence would have been 86 years old on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Happy heavenly birthday Lawrence.

**Thank you to Alnora and the Men's choir** for their special music today.

**Breakfast Club sign-up sheet** is on the Welcome Center - Hard to believe May is the last month needed - and only one Sunday is needed to be filled and then Summer is upon us! **A BIG THANK YOU to all of you that have provided since last Fall and through the Winter!**

**Don't forget your bowls or pans** from last Sunday in the Parish Hall Kitchen!

**If you haven't done so already please pick up your Easter Lily after the service today.** They are in the Fellowship Hall on the table.

**Thank you to all the high school youth that helped with the Sunrise Service and the Middle school youth that helped with the breakfast last Sunday!** Zion is truly blessed with many so youth in the Church!

**Also, thank you to Marcia Busboom** for organizing the breakfast again this year and lining up the worship service for the Sunrise Service! **Thank you to Karla Holland, Hannah Hrenchir, Natalie Niles, Cindy Parde and Iris Wiese** for helping with the worship service also!

**And to all the members** that helped set up, provide food, serve & clean-up for the breakfast between the services!

**Thank you, the Endless Hallelujah, Janelle Ideus and Deric,** for your special music also! Such beautiful songs!

**Zion is truly a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!**

**Endless Hallelujah is looking for people to join their musical group.**

Please come and practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and they are also adding a Wednesday night practice once a month from 6-7 pm. They will practice the Wednesday night before the Sunday that they are scheduled to sing. Come and have fun and fellowship.



**Garden Party Luncheon**

**April 13, 2024**

**11:00 am – 1:00 PM**

**Filley American Lutheran Church**

**RSVP: Carol Frerichs 402-223-7919**



**Card Shower**

**The family of Ernie Zimmerman is having a card shower for Ernie's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday.** Ernie's birthday is April 9<sup>th</sup>. Let's see if he can receive at least 95 birthday cards. Happy Birthday Ernie!



**Our deepest sympathy to Gerald & Denise Ideus and family** on the passing of Gerald's sister June Hagemeyer. June passed away on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and her funeral was on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Christ Community Church in Beatrice. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**The Council is looking for volunteers to set up the Nativity Scene in the Fellowship Hall for the Christmas season.** This



committee would be responsible for putting it up and taking it down. **We are also looking for volunteers to put up the crosses in the Fellowship Hall for the Lenten season.** The duties would include setting up and taking down.

These were wonderful donations to our church family. These decorations look beautiful each year. It adds so much to the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for carefully considering helping out with these special projects. **If you are interested, please contact a Council Member.**

## Volunteer Opportunity

### Parish Ed is in need of a few more teachers for the next Sunday School year

beginning in September. If you have been wanting to get involved or volunteer your hour while you wait for your child/children during Sunday School, this is your time to shine! If you have a buddy this would be a great opportunity to do things together and split responsibilities and not feel the pressure of needing to be available every single week! It works great when you have a partner in teaching so you can work together to switch every other week, every other month, only fill in when the other is gone and have a primary person teach, etc. Whatever works best for you and your partner would be fine. Or you can volunteer solo too! **We need volunteers to keep our youth program thriving!** Don't wait, contact a Parish Ed member today if you're interested!



## Beatrice Educational Foundation

**On behalf of the Lincoln Food Bank/Beatrice Public Schools Backpack Program we would like to thank you for your contribution.** Your commitment to helping provide food-filled backpacks to hungry children and their families in our community is sincerely appreciated. The backpacks provide much-needed food to children in the Beatrice Public School system that otherwise may go hungry during the weekends.

This is a program that, with continued community support such as yours, we hope will grow each year to meet the needs of our school children and their families. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children in our community!

Sincerely,  
Patty Kaufmann  
Jill Zimmerman  
Backpack Program Planning Committee

**In thanking Zion Lutheran for providing money and food for the Beatrice Backpack program and the Food Pantry they have given Zion tickets to the Empty Bowls Luncheon on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Vintage Venue from 11:30-1:00. If you are interested in attending there are free tickets on the sound booth in the back of the church.**

### **Congratulations Zion!**

The goal of 150 items for birthday kits was easily surpassed & almost doubled! 295 items were delivered this past week to the Community Food Pantry & Mother to Mother Ministry! In addition, another \$250 worth of highly needed items were donated to the pantry using Thrivent Funds using a grant written by Mickey Larkins!

**God Bless all who contributed!**

### **Middle School and High School Parents – Summer Retreat**

**opportunity!** July trip to Colorado. Check out the Welcome Center for the brochures and parental consents. Any questions please contact Hannah Hrenchir.

**Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman**

**Good Samaritan – Ernie Zimmerman**

**Homestead House - Evelyn Meints, Anora Schoen**

**Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman**

**Wilbur Care Center – Ernie Jurgens**