

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.”



**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost & Mission
Sunday September 24, 2023**

Table Grace Café Omaha NE

Speakers: Simone & Matt Weber

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 – To Live is Christ sung by Simone Weber

Nebraska Synod Theme for September: GO and Serve with Neighbors

As Mr. Rogers asked us – “Who is your neighbor?” Love grounds us as we engage with our neighbors living next door, the people in surrounding communities, and those living beyond our own horizons. Accompaniment calls us to use our God-given gifts and talents as we collaborate, learn from each other, and together walk in agape love.

Questions to Consider:

Who is your neighbor? How do you know?

What did you discover in walking with your neighbor?

As you **GO** with your neighbors, how do you describe your vocation?

LWR Quit & School Kit Dedication

Gathering

P- Matthew tells one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work,

C- Open our hearts, O Lord, to hear what is said by your Son.

P- When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

C- Open our hearts, O Lord, to hear what is said by your Son.

P- In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

C- Open our hearts, O Lord, to hear what is said by your Son.

Gathering Hymn – I Speak Jesus

Verse 1 I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over ev'ry heart and ev'ry mind
'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence
I speak Jesus

Verse 2 I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
'Til ev'ry dark addiction starts to break
Declaring there is hope and there is freedom
I speak Jesus

Chorus ('Cause) Your Name is power
Your Name is healing
Your Name is life
Break ev'ry stronghold
Shine through the shadows
Burn like a fire

Verse 3 I just want to speak the Name of Jesus
Over fear and all anxiety
To ev'ry soul held captive by depression
I speak Jesus

Verse 4 Shout Jesus from the mountains
Jesus in the streets
Jesus in the darkness over ev'ry enemy
Jesus for my fam'ly
I speak the holy Name Jesus

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 God,
the one who forms us,
+ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C- Amen

P- Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for
reflection.*

P- Steadfast and faithful God,

**C- you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

For the harm we have caused,

known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others,
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

P- Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
in + Christ you are already and always forgiven.

C- Amen

P- Peace of the Lord be with you all!

C- And also with you!

P- Please share this sign of God's love safely.

Glory to God ELW Setting 8, pages 185 & 186

Prayer – Simone Weber

Children's Time – Simone Weber

Readings

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Lector – After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented, and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy the plant that was providing shade. The book ends with the

question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be more concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred

and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?” **Here ends this reading.**

Philippians 13:21-30

Lector – Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission. Paul writes to the Church in Philippi:

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. Here ends this reading.

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia ELW Setting 8, page 188

Gospel – Matthew 18:15-20

Simone Weber - Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another. To his disciples, Jesus said:

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message – Table Grace Ministries, Simone Weber

Offering Hymn – Each One, Reach One

Written and sung by Simone Weber

Congregation stay seated and join in singing the chorus:

Each one reach one, each one teach one

Love one another, sister and brother

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- God of power, God of plenty,

C- all things belong to you.

**We bring your gifts to the altar,
that all may be fed, clothed and sheltered.**

**Form us into the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come 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 – Simone Weber

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P- The God of glory,
+ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C- Amen.

Sending Hymn – Lead On, O King written by Simone Weber

Congregation is invited to join in singing the chorus:

Lead on, Oh King

Lead on, Oh King

Lead on, Oh King

I’m listening for your call. (Repeat)

P- Go in Peace and Remember the Poor.

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

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

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping With the Service Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Special Music/Speakers.....Matt & Simone Weber and family

Acolytes.....Henry Garton

Konnor Kolm

Lector.....Kenny Reed

Greeters.....Darvin & LaDonna DeBuhr

Tony & Kristin Hoffman

Breakfast Club.....Carrye Meints

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Worship Service Attendance 171 Giving \$ 4234.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today – Misson Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

9 am Breakfast Club/Adult Sunday School

10 am Worship/Weber Family/Food Truck Lunch following Church today.

Monday

******Newsletter Deadline**** - will print Monday**

7 pm Men's Choir practice

Tuesday

Serve Warrens Table

5 pm Freeman JV Raymond Central

6:30 pm Varsity vs Raymond Central

Wednesday

6 pm 7th & 8th grade Confirmation

Thursday

Ladies Aid

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

9 am Breakfast Club/Adult Sunday School

10 am Worship/Communion/Men's Choir

Helping with next Sundays Worship

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

**Acolytes.....Harley Grone
Kipton Lovitt**

Lector.....Sandy Meints

Greeters.....Council

Breakfast Club.....Jennifer Mahler

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

October Table Troop: Gary Wiese (L), John & Marcia Busboom, Doug & Rhonda Dorn, Duane & Janice Parde, LeAnn Fossler.

September Altar Guild: Lynette Jurgens, Caroline Ideus, Dianna Andrew, Susan Buss, Patti Behrens

October Altar Guild: Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, Karen Gilbreath, Annette Wiese, Rhonda Fossler.

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 Patty Thomas and family in honor and memory of her parents Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold. It is their wedding anniversary on the 25th of September.

Breakfast Club sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Center for the Fall/Winter. Please consider helping feed our hungry high school youth on Sunday mornings.

Fifth Sunday Offerings for the remainder of the year.

October 29th – Endowment

December 31st – TBA

Photo Directory Update – Photo Directory has been printed and you may pick up your directory - the cost of the printed version is **\$10.00 per copy.** There will be a table set up at the back of the church. We have a few extras if you didn't get signed up for a paper copy and would like a printed version.

The great thing about the online version is it will never be outdated – you can always update your information and family photos by going to **instantchurchdirectory.com.**

Thank you!

Praising God for 126 LWR School Bags stuffed & packaged for use in needed parts of our world! Special thanks to all those that purchased items as well as those members who helped fill them on Rally Sunday!

A extra special thanks to Doreen Remmers for writing the Thrivent grant to generously support purchases for this project!
“God’s Work - Our Hands”!

Attention all men – Men’s Choir practice Monday night at 7 pm in the fellowship Hall. The men’s choir will sing the first Sunday in October.

MISSION SUNDAY/FOOD TRUCK – TODAY!!!!

Today, Sunday, September 24, 2023, our Mission Sunday speaker will be Simone & Matt Weber from **Table Grace Café** located in downtown Omaha, NE. **Not only do they believe in One God, but they also serve God by rendering GOOD to God's other children.** Matt and Simone. They also brought their **Table Grace Café Food Truck** to serve burgers and brunch after worship at a very **reasonable price (\$8-\$10)!**

Today - we need junior high and senior high to help our wisest members to navigate both the food truck and seating. Please plan on meeting at the food truck to help with this need.



Starting with the wisest members, usher out to the food truck in groups of 20 so as not to overload the food truck crew. Asking both high school and junior high youth to help the wisest members navigate both the food truck and seating.

Electronic Recycling Event **Saturday, October 14 from 9-1** **Indian Creek Mall Parking Lot**

Computer Monitors, Computer Parts & Accessories, Home Theatre machines, Audio Electronics. **NO toner or VCR tapes!**

Questions contact Keep Beatrice Beautiful at 402-228-4576

Sponsored by Keep Beatrice Beautiful, Ashley Furniture Homestore, and Star City Recycling

Parents of middle school and high school youth~

We are hoping to get 2 parents from each grade level to help organize and carry out an activity. Those activities would be similar to the 'buddy system for Mission Sunday and include but are not limited to organizing youth to light candles at pews during candle light service, organization of practice and Easter Sunrise service, treats/recognition of confirmation class, treats/recognition of graduation, and possibly a mission trip. If you would be interested in organizing an activity for the youth to carry out -

Please contact Brenda Gronewold at 402-520-0397.

WARRENS TABLE Serving Event - Tuesday September 26th.

This is an open invite to anyone that would like to help with this annual community service opportunity, **we are asking for volunteers** who would want to participate either individually, as a family or small group with either organizing, preparing, or providing food and/or serving for this event.

Warrens Table is a weekly evening free meal served to those in need in the Beatrice Community. It is organized and held at the Episcopal Church of Christ on 524 N 5th in Beatrice, **5:30-6:30 every Tuesday night**. If you would like to be included in this outreach or would like more details, **reach out to Marcia Busboom.**

10/4/2023 – 6-7 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade SERVICE PROJECT

Stewardship with Benefits

This is our annual service project event each fall for Zion's confirmation group and parents. We walk the roads picking up trash on both sides of the road leading to Zion. We receive both money (\$50 a mile) plus resources (gloves, vests, gloves, etc.) from **Keep Beatrice Beautiful Inc.**



The money raised (usually \$200) goes to pay for Confirmation Sunday robes, pictures, etc. We appreciate our parents' help in this service project to make it work.

Supper is served following this event. Sloppy Joes, chips, cookies and drinks.

HUGE Thank You to those who have worked getting the schoolhouse updating done:

Nick Meints, Meints Drywall, for hanging sheetrock/finishing ceiling.

Craig Ideus for electrical and putting in recessed lighting.

Doreen Ideus, Nebraska Window Covering, who will provide window shades and installation.

Annette Wiese for donating extra paint.

Property & Management for removal of items no longer needed.

Volunteer painters: Annette Wiese, Sandy Meints, Connie Thornburg, Mert Rademacher, Diane Oltman and Janet Harms.

GOOD NEIGHBOR & NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023

During the past year, Zion has received thirteen new church family members. These new members have transferred their church membership to us, and it is now time to recognize them.



Amya Beach from St. John's Beatrice
Brandy Coffin, Briston, & Brooks from St John's Beatrice
Zach & Natalie Coffin, Chloe & Sydney Brauer from Holy Cross

Beatrice

Dale & Hannah Hrenchir - Dale was a former Zion member in 1984. Hannah from First Evangelical Church Lincoln

Ernie & Janice Jurgens from First Lutheran in Wilbur (also former members of Zion)

Janie Vrtiska – Sheridan in Lincoln

This will all happen on Sunday, October 8, 2023! Along with their recognition, Zion has assembled a new member gift to be presented to them.

If you are interested in becoming a new member and being a part of this group recognition, please contact the church office so we can send a letter of transfer.

Misson Sunday Today – with the quilts Displayed and the ones we already have boxed up for delivery – **the ladies have so far completed 139 beautiful quilts.** We will be distributing them to CASA, The City Mission in Lincoln, The Sober House in Beatrice and LWR.

We have 4 more sewing days to complete more in October.
Consider coming and helping with this project. God's Work our Hands! Mildred has sewed together over 100 tops over the summer.

Delivery days will be the week of October 30th – November 3rd from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. **The drop off spot in Omaha is 10611 Gertrude St, LaVista, NE 68128. We will need at least 1 more driver, possible 2 depending on the number of boxes.**

Gold Crest Annual Fall Benefit

Today 2:00 pm-3:30pm

Silent Auction, Fall Refreshments, Quilt Raffle, Entertainment & More.

Raffle tickets can be purchased at the reception area.

Entertainment provided by Swing Fever 2:15-3:15

Silent Auction winners announced at 3:30 pm

Children & parents are invited to enjoy games, prizes, food and cotton candy!

Funds raised go towards the residents and the Childcare center.

Gold Crest will be honoring Henry Max Gramann for his years of service and his retirement as the president of the Board of Directors.

**Early Bird registration is now open for
Confirmation/Summer Camp 2024 at Camp Carol Joy
Holling.**

Reach out now to registrar@NLOM.org to reserve your group's week at Camp. **Don't wait too long because last year slots were filled and some didn't get to go to camp.**

Please keep Jon & Emily & Ada Gronewold in your prayers.

Jon and others from his National Guard Unit are being deployed to Germany for up to a year. Keep them and their extended families in your prayers. We received Jon's address, and it is as follows:

CAPT Jon Gronewold
39th IBCT
TF BOWIE
APO AE 09016

Please Keep Quintin Hartig also in your prayer. Along with his parents. Son of Cally & Jerod Ideus and John Hartig. He has been deployed to Kuwait and will be stationed there for about a year. We will be posting a new address when he gets to where he is going.

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman

Good Samaritan – Thees Busboom, Anora Schoen

Homestead House - Evelyn Meints

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman