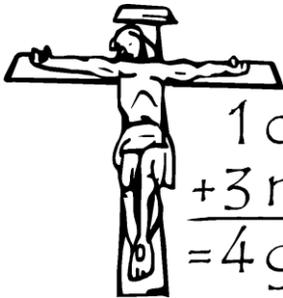


Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



1 cross
+ 3 nails

= 4 given

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 2022

His Nail

Prelude & Bell

*Why a **nail** during Lent? Throughout these forty days we will try to give some answers to that question. Some of the answers are probably obvious.*

Others will be more subtle.

*Why a **nail** during Lent? To help us think about something specifically about the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ and about the meaning of that suffering and death for us personally.*

+ Gathering +

P- The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus.

C- Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. –Psalm 32:11

P- Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away...the disgrace” of former times.

C- Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. –Psalm 32:11

P- Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that are sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

C- Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. –Psalm 32:11

+ Confession & Forgiveness +

As you are able, please stand.

P- In the name of God,
who makes a way in the wilderness,
walks with us,
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C- Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P- Holy One,

**C- we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.**

Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you.

**Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

P- Beloved in Christ,

the Word draws near to you,
and all that call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches how to live in love.

C- Amen. Please be seated.

Children's Time

Special Music - Amigos

+ We Sing +

Hymn - Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

+ The Word of God +

Joshua 5:9-12

Lector – By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the Promised Land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 32 – *Read responsively.*

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’,
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

You are a hiding-place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

2nd Corinthians 5:16-21

Lector – One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth. Paul writes:

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you

on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Here ends this reading.

+ Prayer of the Day +

P- God of compassion,

C- you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love through, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P- Jesus tells a about a son who ponders his father's love only after he had spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in his father's home.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable:

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one

gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Christ!

Reflection by Arden W. Mead

Who are the enemies Christ has “disarmed” for you? One of the greatest, we must admit is **temptation**. How many times hasn’t it mastered us? But how triumphantly Jesus has mastered it! In the wilderness, in the garden, and on the Cross—Jesus proved that temptation is “disarmed.” We need not to succumb to it, for we belong to him and he is the One who orders our lives.

“if the Son makes you free,” Jesus promised, “you shall be free indeed”(John 8:36). And free we are, for he was the one **nailed** to the cross, not us. By his death there, he has rendered every temptation—“shattered, empty, and defeated.”

When temptation comes use **your nail** to remind you that temptation is no longer your master. Think of Christ and his victory.

Message

+ We Sing +

Offering Hymn – Restore in Us, O God ELW 328 Restore in us,
O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.
2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.
4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,

**that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face**

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- We humbly gather up these gifts for use in your church,
in your ministry and for your mission.

**C- For that grace and for all your gifts,
we offer up our thanks and praise. Amen**

+ Apostles' Creed +

P- By **HIS nail** we seek to profess our faith found in the Apostles'
Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker 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 he 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 +

**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**

+ Our Faith Statement +

P- The First Commandment demands from us a whole love for God—“with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might.” Nothing less is acceptable. Is there anyone or anything we love more than God?

C- How well have we kept it?

P- Perhaps more honestly, how seriously have we broken it? Is there anyone or anything we fear more than God?

C- Like our own reputation, what others might think of us if we truly live according to this commandment.

P- Is there anyone or anything we love more than God?

C- Like money or pleasure or even a soft pillow on Sunday morning.

P- Is there anyone or anything we trust more than God?

C- Like our own wisdom or will or abilities.

P- The nail we carry is our nail. Think about that.

P- But it is also Christ's nail...may we think on that!

+ Our Sending +

P- Help me speak what's right and good

C- and keep silence on occasion;

P- help me pray, Lord, as I should,

C- help me bear my tribulations.

P- Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

C- to keep his statutes!

P- Oh, that my God would grant me grace.

C- to know and do his will!

P- You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God,
majestic and mighty,
+ bless you this day and forever.

C- Amen

P- Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

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

+ We Sing +

Sending Hymn – Amazing Grace ELW 779

1 Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

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

Britan's number – 308-730-0599

Pastor..... Rev. Jerry Gilbreath

Organist..... Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes..... Morgan Behrens,
Braxton Trauernicht

Reader..... Kelly Lenners

Special Music..... Amigos

Vital Statistics

Church 131 6298.00

3rd Wednesday 70 1025.00

This Week

Sunday School, 8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

God's Grace DVD series, 9 am 2

Worship/Holy Comm10 am

Monday

Men's Choir Practice 7 pm

Wednesday

Fourth Wednesday in Lent 7 pm

7th and 8th Confirmation 6-7 pm

Thursday

Ladies Aide

Next Sunday

Sunday School,8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

God's Grace DVD series, 9 am

Worship 10 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! 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. We are so glad you are here!

HANDICAP PARKING-IN THE NEED FOR MORE HANDICAP PARKING FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES, WE WILL BEGIN TO

USE ALL SPACES FROM PARSONAGE TO NORTH DOORS OF CHURCH FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIFFICULTY WALKING OR USE WALKERS. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THOSE THAT TRULY NEED THE CLOSER PARKING. THANK YOU!! ~*The Church Council*

CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST in fellowship with breakfast immediately following the 7:00 am Sunrise service. We are asking for breakfast casseroles, sweet rolls, fruit, juice and milk donations from congregation members. Also needed are volunteers for kitchen help before, during and clean up following. You can find the food donation and volunteer sign up clipboards in the unity room. A freewill offering will be received at the door to benefit the family of Terry Ideus. Along with our monetary support, we also ask that you lift up prayers of comfort and peace for Janelle, Will, Matt and Anastasia at this time of sorrow. May the promise of the resurrection be a blessing of joy to them and all believers this Easter!

Welcoming ALL 4,5- and 6-year-olds to be a part of Zion's newly formed Coed T-ball team. Sunday, 5 pm. game dates include May 22, June 5, 12, 19 & 26. Contact Connie Thornburg if interested.

Council would like to compile a list of phone numbers of people in our congregation that have some kind of medical training (Doctors, Nurses, EMT's) that we could contact in case of an emergency. Text Cindy Parde (402)-988-8032. Or contact any council member.

Memorial service for Rev. Elwin Bergstaesser will be 2 pm Saturday, April 23, 2022 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Linnsborg KS. Pastor Elwin served Zion from 1964-1968. Rev. Evelyn Philips (Elwin's 2nd wife) said that the obituary can be read on the Crick-

Christians Funeral Home's site

www.Christians@ChristiansFuneralHome.com

The family asked that memorials go to Oaks Indian Center and can be sent to Crick-Christians Funeral Home, 103 N. Washington Street, Linnsborg KS 67456

LWR BLANKET SEWING All are welcome to come and help assemble blankets for Lutheran World Relief. NO experience needed! If you know how to use a stick pin and enjoy a day or part of a day of fellowship you are welcome. March 14,15,28,29 from 9-3 come for a few hours or spend the day bring your own lunch if you plan to spend the day contact Denise Ideus (402)806-2236 or Karen Gilbreth (402)661-9362 with any questions!

Zion currently has a couple Thrivent Action Grants we are applying for!

Who are they for? Beatrice Community Food Pantry and a family in need in

Gage County due to overwhelming medical bills.

How can you help? The pantry has a **great need** specifically for boxed cereal, oatmeal, egg noodles, spaghetti noodles, cream of chicken soup, condiments, shampoo and jelly. Our family in need requests Goodnite Pull-ups in size Large or XL or Gas Gift Cards for medical travel needs.

Why? Reflect on God's Words in Galatians 6:2

"Carry each other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Direct Thrivent Dollars Now Go to Thrivent.com/thrivent choice or call 800-847-4836. **Does it matter??** In 2021 alone, \$3,913 were received & designated to the Upstairs Parish Hall Renovation. Over the past 10+ years Zion has received over \$35,000 in choice dollars.

1st Communion Classes for 5th Grade Students will be March 16th - April 13th. Check the March Newsletter for more information.

Helping out Sunday, April 3rd

Acolytes – Kalleigh Bender, Addison Kastanek

Reader – Judy Carstens

Breakfast Club Food – Need Someone

Special Music –

March Altar Guild- Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, Karen Gilbreath, Annette Wiese

March Table Troop volunteers- Steve & Peggy Johnson, Dave & Carrye Meints, Kenny & Janet Schuster, Larry Gronewold, Eddie & Lynette Dorn

March 28 Snow Brigade – Brenda Gronewold * Council, James Lenner * Captain, Gary Gronewold -Tractor, Stan Lenner – Tractor, Billy Harms, Mark Buhr, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen

SHUT INS

Gold Crest –Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

Homestead House – Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman

Whispering Winds Cottage – LaVern Parde

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman