

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.”

Endless Hallelujah Contemporary Service



Second Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion

March 16, 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- Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God’s desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God’s people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure.

C- In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter.

P- Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

C- In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter.

Gathering Song – You Are My King (Amazing Love)

I'm forgiven

Because You were forsaken

I'm accepted

You were condemned

I'm alive and well

Your Spirit is within me

Because You died

And rose again

Chorus

Amazing love

How can it be

That You my King

Would die for me

Amazing love

I know it's true

It's my joy to honor You

In all I do I honor You ***(Repeat all 1x then to ending)***

Ending

You are my King

You are my King

Jesus You are my King

Jesus You are my King

Amazing love

How can it be

That You my King

Would die for me

Amazing love

I know it's true

It's my joy to honor You

In all I do I honor You

In all I do I honor You

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

Children's Time – The Fox and the Hen

Readings

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Lector – God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram’s trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God’s promise.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, Here ends this reading.

Psalm 27 – *Read responsively.*

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,

and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!

‘Come,’ my heart says, ‘seek his face!’
Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
**and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
**for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage;

wait for the Lord!

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Lector – Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps. Paul writes to the Church in Philippi:

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- O God,

C- by the passion of your beloved Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us to so glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

Gospel – Luke 13:31-35

P- Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' " The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord!

(Please be seated).

Message – Straight Talk for Tough Times

Offering Song – Road to Zion

Verse 1

There is a way that leads to life
The few that find it never die
Past mountain peaks
Graced white with snow
The way goes brighter as it goes

There is a road inside of you
Inside of me there is one too
No stumbling pilgrim in the dark
The road to Zion's in your heart
The road to Zion's in your heart

Verse 2

The river runs beside the road
Its waters living as they flow
In liquid voice the water calls
On thirsty knees the pilgrim falls

There is a road inside of you
Inside of me there is one too
No stumbling pilgrim in the dark
The road to Zion's in your heart
The road to Zion's in your heart

Verse 3

Sometimes a shadow dark and cold
lays like a mist across the road
But be encouraged by the sight
where there's a shadow there's a light

There is a road inside of you
Inside of me there is one too
No stumbling pilgrim in the dark
The road to Zion's in your heart
The road to Zion's in your heart

Verse 4

Sometimes it's good to look back down
We've come so far
We've gained such ground
But joy is not in where we've been
Joy is who's waiting at the end

There is a road inside of you
Inside of me there is one too
No stumbling pilgrim in the dark
The road to Zion's in your heart
The road to Zion's in your heart

There is a road inside of you
Inside of me there is one too
No stumbling pilgrim in the dark
The road to Zion's in your heart
The road to Zion's in your heart

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Jesus you are the bread of life

**C- Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with a hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name. 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 by singing, “O Lord, hear the prayer we offer up to
you; O Lord 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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John Ylvisaker c/o Fern M. Krueger, P.O. Box 321, Waverly, Iowa 50677

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- Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

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 – ROUND THE TABLE

Come together round the table
Come and taste the wonder
A healing touch and a deep connection
From the living center of it all

Seeking meaning on the run
you try and save the day
But all is ready will you come?
Love invites the way. (*chorus*)

Bring a friend or enemy
or one you hold or blame
With each other we are one
Here in Jesus name (chorus)

Hear creation groan for life.
Will Hate and hunger cease?
In the roar of violence,
the world cries for peace. (chorus)

We Remember You

In broken bread
And the cup that we share
We remember You
In broken bread
And the cup that we share

We remember You
We remember You Jesus
We remember Your love for us
We remember the blood You shed
We remember You *(Repeat all)*

King Of My Heart

Verse 1

Fill me I'm an empty vessel make me whole
King of my heart King of my heart
Fill me I'm an empty vessel make me whole
King of my heart King of my heart

You are Lord Lord
You are Lord and King of my heart (our hearts)

Verse 2

Bread of life blessed and broken make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts
Bread of life blessed and broken make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts

You are Lord Lord
You are Lord and King of our hearts

Verse 3

Sacred cup of our salvation make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts
Sacred cup of our salvation make us whole
King of our hearts King of our hearts

You are Lord Lord
You are Lord and King of our hearts

Post Communion Prayer

P- Generous God,
as the grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C- 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 Song – Shout to the Lord

Versus 1

My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Chorus

Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

AMAZING LOVE YOU ARE MY KING Billy J. Foote © 1996 worshiptogether.com songs

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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

Keyboard.....Janelle Ideus

Guitar.....Deric Bloom

Acolytes:.....Korbin Busboom

Konnor Kolm

Lector:Marcia Busboom

Greeters:Darvin & LaDonna DeBuhr

Wes & Sandy Meints

Special Music:Endless Hallelujah

Breakfast Club:Paul Remmers

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 184 Giving \$ 4,234.00

Sunday School 45 Giving \$26.00

Ash Wednesday 119 Giving \$1,132.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 am BKF Club / Adult SS

10 am Worship/Communion/

Endless Hallelujah

Monday

9-3 Blanket Sewing

Tuesday

9-3 Blanket Sewing

Wednesday

6 pm 7 & 8 grade Confirmation

7pm Lenten Service

Thursday

Ladies Aid

6pm Exit Interview w/ Pastor & Rev. Greg Berger from the Synod

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 BKF Club/ Adult SS

10:00 Worship/Amigos

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Colt Rinne

Nora Glynn

Lector:Sammie Garton

Greeters:Don & Elnora Lenners

Mickey Larkins

Special Music:Amigos

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 17th: **Mike Busboom (Captain)**, Dean Zimmerman-Tractor, Russ Wallman - Tractor Greg Dorn, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr, Bob Freeman

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!

This week's bulletin is sponsored by: Patty, Jeremy, Brittany Thomas & Larry & Macy Gronewold in honor of Gilbert Wolken's birthday which would have been today.

A special thank you to Janelle, Derick, and the Endless Hallelujah for their special music today.

FAREWELL CELEBRATION - Mark your calendar

We are planning a Farewell Celebration for Pastor Jer & Karen on Sunday, April 13th. A catered lunch will be served following the service. 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 located on the Welcome Center. Place your message in the "Memory Box," also located on the Welcome Center. We will present the memories on Sunday April 27th, which is Pastor Jers last service at Zion.

Spring Cleanup has been scheduled for March 29th at 9:00am.

This is the spring service project for the 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to be here that day to help get the church ready for Easter and confirmation Sunday.

FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING IN MARCH

March 31st offering will be designated to the Cemetery.

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.

WANTED - Past Confirmation Clothing /Memorabilia for a temporary display in the Heritage Center for Confirmation Sunday April 27. Likewise, if you have a story to share about your confirmation classes or that special day we'd love to hear about them. **Please call or contact** Connie Thornburg or anyone on the committee for further info.



First Communion classes are just around the corner. Classes will start on Wednesday, March 19th at 6 PM in the parish hall and run for 5 weeks. The fifth week will be the Wednesday prior to Maundy Thursday (April 16th). On this night we will be meeting with Pastor Jer and asking that one parent attend as we will be practicing for their First Communion celebration that will take place at the Maundy Thursday service. Contact Karla Carstens with any questions.

Blanket Sewing will meet next on Monday, March 17th and Tuesday March 18th from 9-3. If you are staying the day, please remember to pack a lunch. All are welcome and no experience is necessary to attend. All are welcome and no experience is necessary to attend.

Come join the ladies of American Lutheran for a **SOCK HOP** on March 29th from 11:30 to 1:00pm. RSVP Carol 223-7919 or Betty 662-4175 by March 20th. More information on the bulletin at both church main doors.

**American Legion hosting a
Breakfast Fundraiser.**

Proceeds go to the American
Legion Baseball Program.

Today from 8am-1pm



THANK YOU RECEIVED.....

Thank you for all that you do as God's people in Pickrell. Thank you also especially for your continued participation in mission shar. Through you, and because of you, so much good work is done in the world and so many lives are changed out of God's deep love made real through you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I hope to see you and thank you in person at synod assembly and as part of the synod on the road again experience on June 28th in Davenport, October 11th in Wahoo, and/or next spring in Cook. Please know that your congregation is prayed for daily by your grateful siblings in Christ, near and far.

Thank you for sharing God's love and Christ's light with the world!
God's blessings and peace,
Timothy Siburg- Nebraska Synod

THRIVENT NEWS...

March 31st is the deadline to designate your Thrivent Choice

dollars. Zion's Choice Dollars received for 2024 will go to the Zion Cemetery Fencing Project currently underway. So far over \$1800 in choice dollars has been received this past year. You can go online or call 800-847-4836 & say choice dollars when prompted.

Thanks to everyone who contributes!

- As we head into 2025, a quick reminder that policy holders are eligible to apply for two, up to \$250 mini grants. Have an idea & looking for help in writing/acquiring a grant? See any Zion Thrivent team member for assistance: Elnora Lenner, Dorothy Trauernicht, Mert Rademacher, Denise Schlake Ideus, Doreen Remmers, Connie Thornburg

Meals are planning a 60,000 meal packaging event in Odell at the Odell Community Mercy Building on Monday, March 17, 2025. It's a great opportunity to serve!

Each shift is 2hrs long. Shifts are 10 - noon, noon - 2 pm, 2 - 4 pm, 4 - 6 pm, 6 - 8 pm and then clean up. If anyone, including those that can't help, would like to bring snacks for the volunteers, that would be greatly appreciated.

This event is such a blessing to starving children right here and all over the world. Thanks for considering to participate in this very worthwhile event. **If interested contact Connie Thornburg 402-673-3605.**

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.



The 2025 Cattlemen's Ball will be held near Blue

Springs, NE on June 6-7. This year marks the 27th year for this annual event and works to make communities all across Nebraska healthier and cancer-free. More than \$21 million has been raised through the Ball and its' events and activities. Ninety percent of all proceeds from The Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska will be given to the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, which is a National Cancer Institute designated facility that provides cutting-edge cancer research and outstanding patient care right here in Nebraska. The remaining ten percent of proceeds are graciously returned to local communities for support of local health and wellness initiatives.

Our own Zion families have been impacted by Cancer. Each and every dollar raised goes directly to this cause and together we can make a difference! If you would like to donate, there will be a "Cattlemen's Ball Donation Boot" in the fellowship hall on March 2nd, 9th & 16th to place your donations in. The amount of total funds donated will be shared in April and will be directly donated to The Cattlemen's Ball of Nebraska. **If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kelly Lenners at klenners05@hotmail.com or (402) 806-5129.**

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