TOGETHER IN FAITH

"Bonded in Christ's love, we teach, preach, and equip God's people for discipleship here and throughout the world."
~Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Zion Lutheran Church
"A place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become.

Sunday Service 10:00am

Interim Pastor –Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler

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December Message and Prayer from Pastor Renae

A Christmas message from Pastor Renae

May this Christmas season find you in the midst of ordinary miracles: family, friends, good food and kindness you didn't expect. May you discover, in the small and holy moments of these days, that joy doesn't have to be grand to be real, and love doesn't have to be loud to change the world. Wishing you and those you love a Christmas filled with peace, wonder, laughter, and the quiet assurance that you are held in love.

Contact **information for Pastor Renae**
cell: 402-867-4044. email:Renaek7@gmail.com

Prayer of Christmas Joy

Holy One, Giver of stars and shepherds,
of manger straw and midnight songs, open us
to the abundance already gathering at our doors.
Let us receive the joy of a child's laughter,
the warmth of a shared meal, the sweetness of
memory, and even the tender ache of those
whose presence we miss. May we welcome the
unexpected gifts tucked into ordinary hours,
unwrap the wonder hidden in familiar things,
and taste the sacred in every act of kindness.
With grateful hearts, may we carry Christmas
beyond the candles and carols, allowing its light
to take root in our hands, our homes, and our world.
For the gifts we cannot purchase, the love we
cannot measure, and the hope that rises anew,
we give thanks. *Amen.*



Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting: November 4, 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Les Lieneman. Devotions were given.

Members present: Les Lieneman, Laurie Leners, Todd Bohlmeyer, Paul Jurgens, Kevin Buhr, Dennis Remmers, Laurie Wallman, Jason Wallman, & Tony Hoffman
Member absent- Jenny Busboom

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for Nov 4, 2026 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from Oct 7, 2026 meeting.

Celebrating God's Work in Progress-Old Business

- None

Discerning God's Will – NEW Business

Council would like to have an Itemized Property and management account each month.

- Looking ahead to have Parish Hall doors to be replaced.
- Work needs to be done on refrigerator in Parish Hall- repair needed.
- Christmas programs being discussed.
- November 22nd service - Les will take the service
- Date for Christmas Tree project- 10 a.m. on Friday after Thanksgiving
- Candlelight Service will be Dec 6th 6 p.m. special music will be arranged
- Annual Church Budget meeting will be Dec 16th 7:30 at Les's House.
- Tanks and Water lines need to be hooked up for the new heating system. Scheduled for end of next week.
- Subsplash giving platform is up and running. Discontinued Venmo and Vanco.
- Motion was made to increase wedding cost to couple to $300 from $250
- Mileage at 583 was approved for Pastor Renae.

Weddings in 2026 & 2027

- **5/22/27 - Kale Harms & Cassie Janzen**
- **6/18/27 - Katie Bohlmeyer & Travis Hula**
- **8/28/27 - Carley Leners & Collin Hartig**
- **6/26/27 - Trevor Parde & Elsie Woerner**

Ministry Team Report as of November 4, 2026

- Financial-General Balance on hand as of 10/1/2026- $94,358.49
- Income - $40,509.85
- Balance on 10/31/26 $91,896.55
- Sinking fund $62,920.35
- Seminary Fund - $73,667.55
- Thrivent Mutual Fund - $3,213.38
- Open Savings - $46,014.25

Motion was made to approve the Financial and Ministry Team Reports.
Next Council Meeting will be Wednesday December 9, 2026.

CHURCH STATISTICS

November 1st
Attendance: C - 176 S - 48
Offering: C - $5,402 S - $127.00

November 8th
Attendance: C – 160 S - 65
Offering: C - $5,663.00 S - $141.11

November 15th
Attendance: C – 192 S - 64
Offering: C - $4,349.00 S - $133.25

ADULT BIBLE STUDY – Themes for the Month.

All adults are welcome to join in these classes led by Pastor Renae at 9AM in the fellowship hall.

December 6th - The Genealogy of Jesus

December 20th - A deep look into the Christmas stories from the Gospels of Luke & Matthew

Come learn, pray, and grow in your relationship with God!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:

Meeting held on November 4, 2026.
Members Present: Doreen Busboom, Kevin Trauernicht, Lynette Dorn, and Linda Ideus
Members Absent: Paul Remmers and council member Jenny Busboom

The minutes from the August meeting were read. Doreen Busboom made a motion to approve the minutes. Kevin Trauernicht seconded. Motion approved.

Kevin gave Treasurers Report:

Checking Account: $32,828.21
Certificate of Deposits: $100,277.51

A donation from Anora Schoen Memorial was given and a than you will be sent. A motion by Lynette to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Linda Ideus. Motion carried.

Old Business:
Discussion on the funding of the heating system was tabled at this time. The council will not have a final bill until December.

New Business: None

Next meeting will be held on January 6, 2027

HOSPITALITY: Did not meet.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Did not meet.

PARISH ED:
Members Present: Courtney Schlake (Chair), Kari Parks (Treasurer), Alyssa Lieneman, Brooke Jensen
Members Absent: Jordan Freeman (Secretary)

Balance: $3,036.92

- Christmas Program
    - Script has been picked out, roles need to be decided
    - Program Practice Schedule
        - Wednesday, December 2nd 6:30 – 8:00 7th & 8th Grade Only
        - Wednesday, December 9th 6:30 -7:30 2nd – 8th Grade
        - Wednesday, December 16th 6:30 -7:30 2nd – 8th Grade
        - Wednesday, December 23rd 6:30 – 7:30
    - All Sunday School Students

- Christmas Eve Program Thursday, December 24th @ 6:00
  - Christmas Goodie Bags
  - Popcorn Balls – Cindy Jurgens
  - Candy – Cindy Lieneman
  - Fruit – FFA Fruit Sales
- December Sunday School Schedule
  - Sunday School Christmas Party
    - December 20th
    - Will send out Teacher Wish List items
  - No Sunday School
    - December 27th & January 3rd
- Tree of Warmth
  - Thrivent Grant – Alyssa Lieneman
- 5th Grade Shopping Trip
  - Thrivent Grant – Courtney Schlake
- Parish Ed New Member
  - Jocie Gronewold will be taking Courtney Schlake's position in 2027

PUBLICITY: Did not meet.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT:

- Boiler Update: The radiators are installed. In the next couple weeks we will bury the 1000-gallon propane tank behind the Fellowship Hall and the new system will then be complete.

- Parish Hall Doors: Jordan Busboom will contact Pickrell Lumber about ordering new doors and organizing the contractor to do the installation in the next couple of months.

- Parish Hall Fridge/Freezer: Don Schuster will contact Jamison Wallman to arrange for a repair contractor to look at the non-working fridge/freezer unit; if it is fixable, it will be repaired.

STEWARDSHIP: Did not meet.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Did not meet.

PARK BOARD: Did not meet.

WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS ENDOWMENT:
Date: 11/4/2026

Members present: Committee did not meet

Treasurer's Report:

Balance on hand as of 9/25/26	$365,884.17
Balance on hand as of 10/30/26	$360,963.07

Old Business:

- Any youth attending confirmation camp or a summer Christian based camp, may qualify for reimbursement of 75% of the camp cost based on the "Early Bird Discount", if applicable. Application deadline is 12/1/2026.

New Business:

- The Committee reimbursed 5 youth who attended Confirmation and/or summer camp this past summer.

- Starting in December, reminders will be placed in the weekly bulletins & the December, January & February newsletters, reminding college students to complete the Scholarship application. A copy of their grades is required when submitting the application. Students entering college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall & must be received by February 15, 2027. Applications received after the deadline, will not be considered.

GRACE CIRCLE:

Grace Circle met on Nov. 11. We opened by singing 3 verses of the hymn "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant." We said a prayer. The lesson "I am because you are" was given by Dorothy T. Business meeting was opened with reading of minutes and 10 members answering roll call. Treasury report shows a balance of $114. Offering was taken and fines paid. A service was held to present our Thank Offering boxes.
Alnora D. reported that 22 Samaritan Purse boxes will ship next week. Christmas cards for shut-ins were signed. We finalized our yearbook information.
The Christmas meeting will be held on Dec. 9 at 11:30 at the American Legion with lunch and Secret Sister revel. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

YOUTH:


Sunday School
OCTOBER
Perfect Attendance
Well done, Good and faithful servant!
Matthew 25:21
Little Angels
Emma Frerichs
Avery Frerichs
Monroe Podany
Mary Freeman
Kit Meints
Kindergarten
Burke Meints
Dorothy Freeman
Palmer Parks
Pre-K
Maverick Podany
Micah Jensen
Watson Gronewold
1st Grade
Henry Behrends
2nd Grade
Rory Detert
Weylan Gronewold
3rd Grade
Claire Freeman
Tucker Parks
Vonn Behrens
4th Grade
Carson Behrends
Connor Jensen
Madison Detert
6th Grade
Gus Garton
Layton Lieneman
7th Grade
Austin Folkerts
Ellis Freeman
Jace Behrends
Your faithfulness makes a difference!


Important Dates to Remember for
DECEMBER
5th Grade
Christmas Shopping Trip
Sunday, December 13th
Sunday School
Gift Exchange
Sunday, December 20th
A Gift of Friendship
Christmas Break -
No Sunday School
Sunday, December 27th
and Sunday, January 3rd
Jesus is the greatest gift of all!


Christmas
PROGRAM SCHEDULE
Christmas Program Practice
Wednesday, December 2nd
6:30 – 8:00pm
7th & 8th Grade Only
Wednesday, December 9th
6:30 – 7:30pm
2nd – 8th Grade
Wednesday, December 16th
6:30 – 7:30 pm
2nd – 8th Grade
Wednesday, December 23rd
6:30 – 7:30 pm
ALL Sunday School Students
Christmas Eve Program
Thursday, December 24th
at 6:00 pm

MISCELLANEOUS

THANK YOU - A **BIG** thank you to Perry Jurgens for his donation of 2 Vice Grip C- Clamps requested by Ladies Aide. This donation is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU - to the Breakfast Club for loading Burdette Schoen's trailer last Sunday with the LWR school kids and blankets. Thank you to Jay Bartlett for leading the kids and for Burdette for making the trip to LaVista to deliver it all.

THANK YOU - Thank you to everyone who helped make the Warrens Table outreach such a success! Many hands joined together to prepare and serve a warm meal, and 87 neighbors were welcomed and fed at the community table. Meals were also shared with our congregation and community members. Your generous gifts of food and time were a true blessing to many.

THANK YOU - The Zion 3rd Grade Sunday School class would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Fall Blessings Food Pantry Drive this past month. After the class took inventory, they bagged over 350 items. This included: 50 noodle pkgs, 20 paper products, 23 seasoning packets,13 hard/soft taco shells, 8 pkgs of crackers, 8 salad dressings, 90 canned items,14 mustard & ketchup, 17 spaghetti jars, 26 mac-n-cheese boxes, 28 applesauce's, 50 miscellaneous items along with 20 pkgs of sliced ham and $100 cash donation. Special thanks to Stan & Mary Lenners for writing a $250 Thrivent Grant!
Class members include: Aceson Weldeln, Allison Ideus, Bennett Wiese, Claire Freeman, Coral Harms, Emmalynn Blecha, Hayes Grone, Jake Buhr, Lane Grummert, Luna Meints, Mast Fast, Paul Nelson, Tucker Parks, Vonn Behrens

THANK YOU - On behalf of the entire GGFAN family, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for your generous support and partnership. Your kindness and willingness to stand with us in our mission are deeply appreciated. Your contribution will make a meaningful difference in the lives of the children and communities we serve. We are truly grateful for your generosity. Thank you for being part of this work. We do not take your support for granted. May God richly bless Zion Lutheran Church, Pastor Renae, the church leadership, and the entire congregation.
Blessings, Bishop Simon Mwaura, GGGFAN

THANK YOU – Twenty-three Christmas shoeboxes filled with gifts for children ages 5–14 was shipped in November! These boxes will help bring joy, smiles, and a brighter Christmas to children in need. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, packed, and helped make this project possible. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

POINSETTIA SIGN-UP – The clipboard is located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. Please list who is giving the poinsettia and who it is in memory or in honor of. Names will be listed in the bulletins and January newsletter. If possible, please do not deliver your poinsettia until December 18th. If they arrive too early, it is difficult to keep them watered and looking pretty during the remainder of the month.

ALL ZION MEMBERS - Please take a moment to complete the 2027 Time & Talent sheet prior to December 20, 2026 and return to the church office, place in the offering plate, or give to a Council member. The time & talents of our members is what makes Zion such a special place to worship. What a perfect way to volunteer & give back to Zion! Sheets are located on the tables at each entrance, on the Welcome Center, and the colorful paper here in this newsletter. Thank you!

YOUTH CAMP REIMBURSEMENTS - Any youth who attended confirmation camp or a Christian based camp during 2026, may qualify for reimbursement up to 75% of the camp cost based on the "Early Bird Discount" (if applicable). Funds are provided through the Willie & Anna Meints Endowment Fund. Qualifications are as follows:

- Applicant must be a member of Zion Lutheran Church
- Active in Sunday School & other youth activities at Zion.
- Complete camp before any reimbursement will be honored.
- Submit application & copy of paid receipt to
  DeAnn Oltman
  6677 E Pickrell Rd.
  Pickrell, NE 68422
  or email: deannoltman@gmail.com. Application deadline is **12/1/26.**
- Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the fellowship hall.

WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP - Students attending college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years, following the start of their first college semester. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. Please review all qualifications listed on the application. **Applications are due by February 15, 2027.**
Committee Members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 17, 2026
The Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Please take note of the following dates & start thinking about your year-end reports. Reports will be due to the Church Secretary on Friday, January 9th.

- Sunday January 3, 2026 – Year-end reports are due from all committees
- Sunday, January 10, 2026 – Annual Report will be available for members to review
- Sunday, January 17, 2026 – Annual meeting immediately after church

BREAKFAST CLUB SIGN-UP – Please consider helping with providing breakfast for our high school youth on a Sunday morning. Use the link or the QR code to sign-up https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D44AFAD2FA0FEC52-66766232-breakfast

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE - We invite you to attend our annual candlelight service, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. and experience the light of Christ along with the hope, peace and joy as we await the birth of Jesus. Plan on an inspirational evening, as many of our members will share their musical talents. The Hospitality Committee will host a hot cocoa bar and cookies following the service. All are welcome to attend.



NEW GIVING OPTION - Visit https://subsplash.com/u/-5WBGMS/give or scan the QR code to the right to make your gift today. We will no longer use Vanco or Venmo for giving. Instead, all offerings and donations will go through Subsplash. **Traditional giving isn't changing!** You can still give during weekly worship services using cash, check, or offering envelopes. **Any members with questions regarding these options can reach out to a church council member.**

online GIVING easy. fast. effective.

BULLETIN SPONSORS:
November 1st: None
November 8th: None
November 15th: Sponsored by Patty Thomas & Doyle Scott in memory of Eleanor Wolken's birthday Nov. 4th & Shirley Gronewold's birthday Nov. 13th.
November 22nd: Sponsored by Janice Jurgen's & Family in memory of Ernst Jurgen's birthday today.
November 29th:

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.



SNOW BRIGADE:
December 7th - Eric Parde (Captain) - Tractor, Chris Fossler, Steve Oltman, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Taiten Harms, Kyle Schlake
December 14th - Alan Wiese (**Captain)** -Tractor, AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold
December 21st - Gary Gronewold (Captain) -Tractor, Stan Lenners (Tractor), Justin Hippen, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus
December 28th - Dean Zimmerman (Captain) - Tractor, Russ Wallman (Tractor), Dan Jurgens, Greg Dorn, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom



WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

December 6th - 10:00am
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Macy Oltmans
Mason Hippen
Lector: Kenny Reed
Greeters: Gary & Annette Wiese
Karen & Dean Zimmerman

December 13th - 10:00am
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Brixton Coffin
Bryleigh Ideus
Lector: Amy Wallman
Greeters: Sharon Schuster
Kim & Alan Folkerts
Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom
Men's Choir & Quartet

December 20th: 10:00am
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Piano: Janelle Ideus
Guitar: Deric Bloom
Acolytes: Cash Harwood
Grayson Borgman
Lector: Jordan Freeman
Greeters: Jordan & Bob Freeman
Carol Young
Special Music: Endless Hallelujah

December 25th – 10:00
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes Council Member
Lector: Council Member
Greeters: Council Members

December 27th - 10:00am
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes Micah Hofstetter
Nolan Buhr
Lector: Carrie Reed
Greeters: Eddie & Rhonda Dorn
Dennis & Rhonda Fossler
Special Music: Amigos

December Altar Guild: Janet Harms, Peggy Johnson, Rose Gronewold, Cindy Jurgens, Carrie Reed

December Table Troops: Mark Buhr (Leader), Alex Buhr, Stan & Mary Lenners, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom





December Birthday's

2 Heath Grone

3 Peggy Johnson
Allison Lane

4 Henry Behrends
Steve Harwood
Ainsley Hostetler
Cole Parde
Deborah Rinne

5 Amber Dorn

6 Lincoln Eickhoff
Anthony Hoffman
Breanna Pennisi

7 Janice Jurgens

8 Hunter Blackwell
Henrietta Jurgens

9 Baylor Scott
Duane Schuster

10 Beth Buhr
John Gronewold
Sarah Bartlett
Shelby Petrzilka
Watson Gronewold

12 Paige Buss
Maizy Wollenburg

13 Stephanie Wallman

14 Alex Busboom
Kiera Busboom
Jonathan Rademacher
Nicole Behrends
Kit Meints
Chris Fossler

15 Terry Gronewold

16 Lynette Jurgens
Jayden Wiese

17 Janet Harms
Garrett Lenners
Mildred Meints

18 LeAnn Fossler
Mildred Fossler
Debra Thompson
Dean Zimmerman

19 Dusty Mencl

21 Christy Buhr
Abbie Hoffman

22 Shane Parde

23 Peyton Winkle

24 Declan Leehy

25 Joyce Harms
Marilyn Robinson

27 Avery Busboom
Mari McKee

28 Kristen Meyer
Clara Fehringer
Laura Fikar
Les Lieneman
Jeff Wallman
Emma Frerichs
Avery Frerichs
Collin Hartig

29 Ada Gronewold

31 Paige Mahler
Mavis Dorn



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 **** **Deadline for Camp reimbursement** ****	2 6:30-8pm – 7th & 8th Program practice 7pm – Committee Meetings 7:30pm – Council Meeting	3	4	**5**
6 8:45am SS 9:00am BKF Club/Adult Bible Study/Endless Hallelujah practice 10:00am Worship/ Communion 6:00pm – Candlelight Service	7 7pm -Men's Choir Practice	8	9 Grace Circle @ The American Legion Hall 6:30-7:30pm – 2nd -8th grade program practice	10	11	12
13 8:45am SS 9:00am BKF Club/Endless Hallelujah practice 10:00am Worship/ Kids of the Kingdom/Men's Choir/Quartet	14 7pm -Men's Choir Practice	15	16 6:30-7:30pm – 2nd -8th grade program practice 7:30pm – Annual Budget Meeting for 2027 TBD – Endless Hallelujah practice	17 Ladies Aide	18	19
20 8:45am SS 9:00am BKF Club/Adult Bible Study 10:00am Worship/ Communion/ Endless Hallelujah	21	22	23 6:30-7:30pm Program Practice for **ALL Sunday School Students**	24 Christmas Eve 6:00pm - Christmas Program	25 Christmas Day 10am - Worship	26 ***Newsletter Printing**
27 **No Sunday School** 10:00am Worship/ Communion	28	29	30	31		

Non-Profit Organization
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Pickrell, NE 68422

Zion Lutheran Church
18219 S 80TH Rd
Pickrell, NE 68422
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

"ZION A PLACE TO BELONG, A PLACE TO BELIEVE, A PLACE TO BECOME."

Sunday Worship – 10:00am
CAN'T MAKE SERVICE WATCH US LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE "ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - PICKRELL"
SUNDAY SCHOOL- 8:45am
Adult Bible Study – 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month 9:00-9:45am

CHURCH OFFICE: 402-806-3601

EMAIL: zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com

Simply scan the QR Code to access Zion's online giving account to submit your offering. Offering envelopes and cash/check giving is still available to members as well.