

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
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 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

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Easter Gathering

P- Christ is risen!

C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

P- This Sunday’s image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches, are alive in each other in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel.

C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

P- Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, we are sent to bear fruit for the life of the world.

C- Christ is risen indeed, alleluia!

Gathering Hymn – Change My Heart Oh God

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true
Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You

You are the potter, I am the clay
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true
Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You

Thanksgiving for Baptism

As you are able, please stand..

P - Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C - Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

P- In the name of ✝ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

C - Amen.

P - Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

P -Holy God,
we give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
C - make us one as you are one.

P - We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
C- make us one as you are one.

P - We give you thanks for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
C- make us one as you are one.

P - Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
C- Amen.
Please be seated.

Children's Time

Readings

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were

silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Psalm 148 - *(Please read responsively)*

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord, all you angels;

sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;

sing praise, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,

and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

who commanded, and they were created,

who made them stand fast forever and ever,

giving them a law that shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog,

tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars;

wild beasts and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds;

sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the world;

young men and maidens,

old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,

**the children of Israel, and people who are near the Lord.
Hallelujah!**

Revelation 21:1-6

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”

Prayer of the Day

Please stand if you are able

P- O Lord God,

C - you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing.

**Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that,
made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace,
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who**

**lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

John 13:31-35

When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

C- Praise to you, O Lord.

Please be seated.

Message – Chaplain Sharon Schuster

Offering Hymn – Cornerstone

VERSE 1

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

CHORUS

Christ alone
Cornerstone
Weak made strong

In the Savior's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all

VERSE 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

VERSE 3

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P - Risen One,

**C - you have gathered us around your table of grace
along with these gifts we bring.**

**Come among us again,
breathe your life into us,
and enliven us with this meal,
that we may live as your risen body in the world.
Amen.**

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again 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 “O Lord, hear the prayer we offer up to you; O Lord 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.
Please be seated.

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P - The triune God,
who was, who is, and who is to come,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
light your way with resurrection dawn,
now and always.

C- Amen.

P - Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C - Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P - Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!

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

Sending Hymn – Step By Step

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your way
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

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Helping out with Worship Today

Pastor:.....Chaplin Sharon Schuster

Keyboard:Janelle Ideus

Guitar:Deric Bloom

Acolytes:Presleigh Borgman
Sadie Gronewold

Lector:Elnora Lenners

Greeters:..... Duane & Marsha Zulauf
Karla Carstens

Special Music:..... Endless Hallelujah

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 171 Giving \$2,704.00

Sunday School 51 Giving \$143.57

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

10:00 am Worship/Recognition Sunday/Endless Hallelujah

After service hospitality serving cake to honor graduates

3:00 Adams A's 9U BB vs Braves Doubleheader

Thursday

Ladies Aide

The Next Sunday

10:00 am Worship/Communion

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor:..... Rev. Dennis Rock

Piano:..... Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:..... Kipton Lovitt

Tavin Lieneman

Lector:.....Sandy Meints

Greeters:Steve & Diane Oltman

Duane & Janice Parde

May Altar Guild:

Carrie Reed, Janet Harms, Peggy Johnson, Cindy Jurgens, Rose Gronewold

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

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: Duane & Marsha Zulauf in honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary that was on April 29th.

Today- Join us for cake in the fellowship hall after service to honor our graduates.



Memorial Day Service – Will be held May 25th at 2:30pm at the cemetery.

TO HONOR ALL THE
GRADUATES, WE
WARMLY INVITE YOU
TO JOIN US FOR
REFRESHMENTS AFTER
THE SERVICE.

Cemetery board is looking for help putting out flowers on May 25th at the cemetery after church, all are welcome to join.



FULLER PARK ACTIVITIES

May 18th - Adams A's 9U BB vs Braves Doubleheader

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The council is looking for individuals who would like to visit members of our congregation in Care Facilities and those members who may be homebound. If you have an interest, please reach out to any Council member.



I would like to thank the congregation for the beautiful plant that they gave me on Mother's Day. It must have four different plants in it, so I will be able to enjoy all summer long! Thank you again ~ Mildred Fossler

Vacation Bible School

Join us as we embark on the ultimate Alaskan adventure - Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!

WHEN: May 27th - May 30th

TIME: 8:30 AM - 11:30AM

AGES: Prek - 5th Grade

Willow Center "Baby Bottle" Fundraiser begins on Mother's Day & goes through Father's Day!

Plan now to pick up a bottle to fill with change or cash! Set a personal goal or create a team challenge and give support to someone facing an unplanned pregnancy! Your gift allows them to find hope in the midst of a crisis!





Attention Middle Schoolers

Camping in the Lawn

June 26-27th

Join us for a two-day camping adventure at Fuller Park, Pickrell, NE! We'll kick things off Thursday evening with food, games, and a movie under the stars. Then stick around for the full day of fun on Friday with more activities, fellowship, and great food. Bring your own tents, lawn chairs, and invite your friends – everyone is welcome. This is **FREE** event. Scan the QR code to register now.



Offerings Made Easier

Scan the QR Code to the right to access **Zion's Venmo account & submit your offering. Offering envelopes & online giving via Vanco** are also available. Reach out to a council member with any questions.

Zion Lutheran Church
@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman,
Marilyn Robinson

Homestead House - Anora Schoen, Rosanna Miller

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Wilber Care Center – Ernie Jurgens



2025 High School Graduates

Madison Fikar- Daughter of Chad and Laura Fikar, graduated from **Freeman** on May 17th. She plans to attend Southeast Community College in the fall and study architecture.

Jayden Fossler- Son of Matt Fossler graduated from **Beatrice High School** on May 11th. Jayden plans to attend Southeast Community College and major in Business. His grandparents are Dennis and Rhonda Fossler and great grandmother is Mildred Fossler.

Abbie Hoffman – Daughter of Tony and Kristin Hoffman, graduated from **Beatrice High School** on May 11th. Abbie plans to attend UNL and major in Elementary Education.

Kody Lee Jurgens – Son of Kenny and Michelle Jurgens, graduated from **Beatrice Public Schools CHOICE** program. He will continue to live with his parents, where he will continue growing his life and social skills. With the help of his family, he will pursue a career of volunteerism and community activities. Kody will continue to enjoy his hobbies and interests of music, bowling, road trips, helping others, and uplifting spirits with his sense of humor and generous hugs.

2025 College Graduates

Amber Dorn - Daughter of Doug and Rhonda Dorn, graduated on May 10th with her Bachelor's degree in Radiation Therapy **from University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)** in Omaha. She will complete the program in August.

Zane Hoffman- Son of Tony and Kristin Hoffman, graduated on May 17th from **University of Nebraska- Lincoln**, with a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Health Sciences. He will begin grad school at UNL in August to become a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

Ashley Parde- Daughter of Doug and Cindy Parde, graduated on May 10th from **University Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)** with a Master's degree in Genetic Counseling. Ashley will be a genetic counselor at Nebraska Hematology Oncology in Lincoln.