

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.

Fifth Sunday Offering – Zion Cemetery Association



Fourth Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

March 30, 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.

*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- The psalm sets the tone of the 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.

P- Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away the disgrace of former times.” Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are for Jesus’ sake, Rejoice!

C- Be glad, your righteous, and rejoice in the Lord.

Gathering Hymn – When Jesus Came to Jordan ELW 305

Verse 1

When Jesus came to Jordan
To be baptized by John
He did not come for pardon
But as His Father's Son
He came to share repentance
With all who mourn their sins
To speak the vital sentence
With which good news begins

Verse 2

He came to share temptation
Our utmost woe and loss
For us and our salvation
To die upon the cross
So when the Dove descended
On Him the Son of Man
The hidden years had ended
The age of grace began

Verse 3

Come Holy Spirit aid us
To keep the vows we make
This very day invade us
And every bondage break
Come give our lives direction
The gift we covet most
To share the resurrection
That leads to Pentecost

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

Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Ellie & Everett Barr

Children’s Time – Lost Dog

Readings

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 Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth. Paul writes to the Church in Rome:

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

As you are able, please stand.

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 grace, and feed us at your table of love, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, amen.

Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

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

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 [Jesus] told them this parable: "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 Lord!

Please be seated.

Message – The Story of the Prodigal Son is a Tough One!

Offering Hymn – Borning Cry

ELW 732

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;

in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."

3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."

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 with “**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 care to the usher when you come forward.

**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.**

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 Hymn – Jesus, Still Lead On

ELW 624

1 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless,
we will follow, calm and fearless;
guide us by your hand to the promised land.

2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
let no faithless fears o'ertake us,
let not faith and hope forsake us;
safely past the foe to our home we go.

3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
when temptations come alluring
make us patient and enduring;
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.

4 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
heav'nly leader, still direct us,
still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand in the promised land.

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

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Michele's number – 402-239-0417

Email -jpszionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes:..... Kipton Lovitt
 Sadie Gronewold
Lector:Amy Wallman
Greeters:Alan & Kim Folkerts
 Gary & Linda Hooper
Special Music:Men's Choir
Breakfast Club:Laurie Wallman

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 169 Giving \$2,534.00
Sunday School 59 Giving \$57.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 am BKF Club / Adult SS

10 am Worship/Comm/Barr Baptism/Men's Choir

2pm Hospitality- Sourdough Class

Wednesday

6 pm 7 & 8 grade Confirmation

6 pm First Communion

7pm Lenten Service

Thursday

Ladies Aid

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School

9:00 BKF Club/ Adult SS

10:00 Worship/Comm/Baptism

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes:.....Nora Glynn

Tavin Lieneman

Lector:Mickey Larkins

Greeters:Hunter & Linda Blackwell

Irene Busboom

Breakfast Club:Sammie Garton

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 31st: Steve Oltman (Captain), Eric Parde – Tractor, Chris Fossler – Tractor, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Kyle Schlake

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!

FAREWELL CELEBRATION - Mark your calendar

We are planning a Farewell Celebration for Pastor Jer & Karen on Sunday, April 13th. Following church, a meal catered by BigFoot BBQ will be served in the Parish Hall. 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 and placing your message in the "Memory Box" located on the Welcome Center. We will present the memories on Sunday April 27th, which is Pastor Jers last service at Zion.



FAREWELL TEA PARTY for Karen..... Join us to Celebrate our Friendship and the Ministry of a special lady.

Saturday, April 12th @ 2:00 pm. Fellowship Hall
(note change of location) RSVP to Linda Hooper @ 402-239-8656 or sign up at Welcome Center by April 7th.

A special thank you to Alnora and the Men's Choir for their special music today.

FIFTH SUNDAY OFFERING IN MARCH

Today's offering will be designated to Zion Cemetery Association.



Gather to Worship the Risen Savior...

Easter Sunrise Worship 7:00 am, led by our High School youth and Endless Hallelujah. The offerings received will go to support Cassie Thornburg and her ministry with the Navigators. **High School youth be watching for more details on practice and your participation in the service. HS parent volunteers needed to help coordinate youth participation and practice, if you would be willing to help let Marcia know ~Thank you

Easter Breakfast Fellowship~ will be served immediately following Sunrise Service (approximately @ 8:00 am) We are again asking for baked breakfast casseroles, rolls, muffins or coffee cakes and fruit plates or bowls, juice and milk. Food donations and kitchen help/serving/clean up signup clip boards can be found at the Welcome Center. We ask that your food be brought to the kitchen by 7:30 am that morning. Your help and donations are appreciated! The free will offering will benefit the LYO and JYO youth.

Welcome to our newest members in Christ Ellie & Everett Barr

Son & daughter of Daniel & Brooke Barr born on November 28, 2024. The sponsors are Ross & Lauren Barr and Brittain and Cassidy Timms. Grandparents are Ginger Mason, Tim Mason, and Jim & Marsha Barr.

SERVING OPPORTUNITY...The Warren's Community Dinner Table ministry has operated for more than 20 years; it is being hosted by Christ Church Episcopal but has quickly become a Gage County area ministry. The demand and need for these meals are steadily increasing with the challenges of individuals and families in our area. Warrens Community Dinner table is very thankful for the organizations who currently are serving but are in need for a more to join the schedule. If you know of a group or organization that would consider serving at any capacity, please contact Barb Smethers at 402-806-1667 or email by bjsmethers@yahoo.com. (At this time Zion commits to one date in September to serve, organized by our women's ministry with the help of volunteer donations and a Thrivent grant, if another group is interested in organizing a meal your efforts are welcomed)

Upcoming Blanket Sewing Days

Come join in assembling the Lutheran World Relief Blankets for part or all day on Monday, March 31st and Tuesday, April 1st Sewing hours are 9-3pm each day. Please bring a sack lunch for if you plan on staying the whole day. No experience needed-we need pinners- someone to iron- sewers-tyers or just for fellowship.

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.

Parish Ed is actively looking for Sunday School

Volunteers/Teachers for the upcoming year! If you are interested in either one of the roles below, please reach out to Heather Hippen or any other Parish Ed Member.

A HUGE thank you to all the current and past teachers who have volunteered their time! The Zion Sunday School program would not happen without all of you!

Pickrell Historical Betterment Association Inc.
presents on April 12, 2025, an Easter Egg Hunt at
the Pickrell park. Check-in is at the Pickrell
Community Center. FREE entry for all.

Registration starts at 10:30 and the hunt starting at
11:00. Refreshments, prizes, and pictures with the Easter bunny.
Ages: 1-3, 4-6, 7-11.



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.

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

Homestead House - Anora Schoen

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Wilber Care Center – Ernie Jurgen