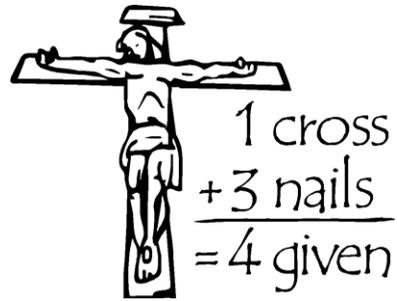


Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



Third Sunday in Lent - March 20, 2022
Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or cut it down.

C- Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” –Matthew 4:17

P- The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so you may live.”

C- Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” –Matthew 4:17

P- The landlord’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

C- Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” –Matthew 4:17

+ 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.*

+ We Sing +

Hymn – ELW 324, In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Children's Time

+ The Word of God +

Isaiah 55:1-9

Lector – To those who have experienced long years of exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life, God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 63:1-8 – *Read responsively.*

O God, you are my God, I seek you,
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.
Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.
So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
when I think of you on my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
for you have been my help,

and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

My soul clings to you;

your right hand upholds me.

But those who seek to destroy my life

shall go down into the depths of the earth.

1st Corinthians 10:1-13

Lector – Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God’s faithfulness. Paul writes: I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. Here ends this reading.

+ Prayer of the Day +

P- Eternal God,

C- your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit , one God, now and forever, Amen

Luke 13:1-9

P- Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a call to obedience. Jesus then tells a parable that holds out hope that ultimate for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

Repent or Perish

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

Then he told this parable: “**A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’**” He replied, “**Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’**” The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord!

Special Music - Quartet

Reflection by Arden W. Mead

Who are the enemies Christ has “disarmed” for you? One the fiercest enemies of any Christian is a **guilty conscience**, one which constantly tells us that we have done wrong, that **our nail** was responsible for the sufferings of Jesus Christ. Our heart condemns us.

But “God is greater than our heart!” Since Jesus died to forgive everything that might plague our conscience, its accusations are “disarmed,” powerless to condemn us.

One of the reformers advised: “When in genuine anguish, a conscience should think of Christ and know absolutely nothing but Christ alone, and should then exert its powers to the utmost Law out of sight as far as it possibly can, and to embrace nothing but the promise of Christ.”

Today, whenever you confront your nail, tell your conscience **to be quiet**. When you think of conscience, think of Christ.

Message

+ We Sing +

**Offering Hymn – ELW 461, All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
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**

+ Nicene Creed +

P- By **HIS nail** we seek to profess our faith found in the 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!”*

+ 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- Christ has set this table with more than enough for all. Come!

Distribution of Holy Communion *(For those viewing the live stream at home, please use a morsel of bread, a cracker or cookie for your bread, and juice, coffee, tea, water, or wine for the wine.) We will be doing communion by flow through for those able to come forward to partake. Please follow the usher’s directions and maintain social distancing. A team will bring communion to those unable to come forward. For those who prefer the individual communion package, we have it available in the entryways.*

Communion Hymn – ELW 542, O, Living Bread from Heaven

Prayer after Holy Communion

P- Blessed Jesus,

**C- in this rich meal of grace,
you have fed us with your body, the bread of life.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope
to a world in need. 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.

C- 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 – ELW 517, Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

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

Britan's number – 308-730-0599

Pastor..... Rev. Jerry Gilbreath
Organist..... Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes..... Dalton Sullivan, Gage Smith
Reader..... Sandy Meints
Special Music..... Quartet

Vital Statistics

Church 211 7489.00

2nd Wednesday 60 491.00

This Week

Sunday School, 8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

God's Grace DVD series, 9 am

Worship/Holy Comm10 am

Monday

Men's Choir Practice 7 pm

Newsletter Announcement Deadline

Wednesday

Third 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*

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.

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!

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

Direct Thrivent Dollars Now Go to [Thrivent.com/thrivent choice](https://www.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.

Spring Cleanup Day will be March 26 at 9am. We will clean indoors and outdoors with confirmation students help. All members welcome!

We want to express our explicit gratitude for the beautiful arrangement, the contributions to his memorial and the words of support in the cards we received. We are blown away by the immense support these past few weeks. Thank you for your part in this hard time for our family! ~Jannelle, Matt, Annastazia & Will

Helping out next Sunday

Acolytes – Morgan Behrens, Braxton Trauernicht

Reader – Kelly Lenner

Breakfast Club Food – Kara Holland

Special Music – Kids of the Kingdom

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

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

March 21 Snow Brigade 4 – Alan Folkerts *Council, Kenny Newman*Captain, Alan Wiese, James Meints-Tractor, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold, AJ Wiese

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