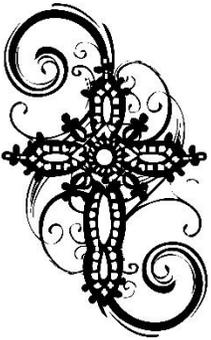


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



## **Fifth Sunday of Easter with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Sacrament of Holy Baptism May 15, 2022**

*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**

*In Luke’s gospel, the women who came on Easter morning were intent on performing the rituals of grief but were thwarted by the emptiness of the tomb. Their first response was not joy, but terror and confusion. The celebration of Easter breaks into the spiral of grief, but the stages of grief, denial, and bargaining continue to unfold. “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” the angel asks (Luke 24:5). Like the women at the tomb, many of us still find ourselves among the dead.*

### **Easter Welcome**

P- Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C- Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **Gathering**

P- Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new!

**C- The splendor of the Lord is over heaven and earth. Psalm 148:13**

P- In the mystery of holy baptism God has made a new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

**C- The splendor of the Lord is over heaven and earth.** Psalm 148:13

### **Gathering Hymn – This is My Father’s World ELW 824**

1 This is my Father’s world,  
and to my list’ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father’s world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father’s world;  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their maker’s praise.  
This is my Father’s world;  
he shines in all that’s fair.  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;  
he speaks to me ev’rywhere.

3 This is my Father’s world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father’s world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let the heaven ring;  
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*As you are able, please stand. We will be “passing the peace” by using the peace sign (V for Victory sign). This may be different to*

*how we once did this, but it is a safer way today and we receive and give Christ's victory!*

P- In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ, and we are a new creation.

For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

*Water is poured into the font.*

P- We thank you God for the river of life, flowing free from your throne: through the earth, through the city.

through the rural farmland, and through everything living.

**C- You rescued Noah and his family from the flood;  
you opened wide the sea for the Israelites.**

**Now in these waters you flood us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of righteousness and pass safely through.**

P- In Jesus Christ, you calm the troubled waters. You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out.

In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation. Now breathe upon this water and awaken your church once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people.

Quench our thirst: cleanse our hearts: wipe away every tear.

**C- To you, our Beginning and our End, and our Shepherd and our Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever, amen!**

**Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Watson Ridge Gronewold**

**Children's Time** – Just as Peter saw that everything God had made was good, so the many different in God's household are gathered into one and made good by Jesus.

## Readings

### **Acts 11:1-18**

*Lector – In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God's intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus' testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.*

Now the apostles and the believers 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.’ Here ends this reading.

## **Psalm 148, Praise for God’s Universal Glory**

*Read responsively.*

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

**praise him in the heights!**

Praise him, all his angels;

**praise him, all his host!**

Praise him, sun and moon;

**praise him, all you shining stars!**

Praise him, you highest heavens,

**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

**for he commanded and they were created.**

He established them for ever and ever;

**he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**

Praise the LORD from the earth,

**you sea monsters and all deeps,**

fire and hail, snow and frost,

**stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

Mountains and all hills,

**fruit trees and all cedars!**

Wild animals and all cattle,

**creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!  
Young men and women alike,  
**old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
**for his name alone is exalted;**  
**his glory is above earth and heaven.**  
He has raised up a horn for his people,  
**praise for all his faithful,**  
**for the people of Israel who are close to him.**  
**Praise the LORD!**

**Revelation 21:1-6** Lector – *John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.*

Then 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; 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. Here ends this reading.

### **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

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 in 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**

### **Gospel – John 13:31-35**

P- After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

When he {Judas Iscariot} 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.”** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C- Praise to you, O Lord!** *Please be seated.*

### **Message – New Commandment**

Though Jesus gives a **new commandment**, it is not the greatest commandment that he gives. **The greatest commandment is loving God first** (Matthew 22:37). Love your neighbor is **second**. This is important because Lutherans have often viewed the love of God as **faith** (*fide*) and the **care of neighbor** as a work in response to the faith (*caritas*). The former **saves**; the later does not—just as these two great commandments (but first is greater) are placed together but are **NOT** interchangeable.

### **Offering Hymn – Borning Cry ELW 732**

"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."

"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."

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."

"I was there to hear your bawling 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- Living God,

**C- you gather the wolf and the lamb to feed together.**

**In your peace-filled reign you welcome us all to your table.**

**Reach out to us in this meal, and show us your wounded and risen body, that we may be nourished and believe in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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- The risen Christ dwells with us here.  
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, 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 – Around You, O Lord Jesus ELW 468**

Around you O lord Jesus your own you gather still  
To share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill  
You say to us so lovingly take eat this my  
Body take, drink this is my blood  
We hear you invitation and heed  
O lord you call your word of consolation is spoken here to all  
It draws us to your loving heart it brings to us your  
blessing which never will depart We are your own for ever  
until our final breath we will be true and never in hoy in  
grief in death depart from you for you are still a mong  
your people dwelling as you have said you will.

### **Prayer after Holy Communion**

P- We give you thanks, generous God, for in this bread and cup we have tasted the new heaven and earth where hunger and thirst are no more. Send us from this table as witnesses to the resurrection, that through our lives, all may know Jesus' name.

**C- Amen.**

### **Announcements in the Life of Our Church**

#### **Blessing & Dismissal**

P- God, the Author of life,  
Christ, the living Cornerstone,  
and the life-giving Spirit of adoption,  
+ bless you now and forever.

**C- Amen.**

P- Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C- Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P- Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

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

**Sending Hymn – Lord, Your Hands Have Raised ELW 554**

**1 Lord, your hands have formed this world,  
every part is shaped by you--  
water tumbling over rocks, air, and sunlight:  
each day's signs that you make all things new.**

**2 Yours the soil that holds the seed,  
you give warmth and moisture, too.  
Sprouting blossoms, crops and buds, trees and plants:  
the season's signs that you make all things new.**

**3 Like a mat you roll out land,  
space to build for us and you  
earthly homes and, better still, homes for Christ:  
the truest sign that you make all things new.**

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

**Britan's number – 308-730-0599**

Pastor..... Rev. Jerry Gilbreath  
Organist..... Alnora Daubendiek  
Acolytes..... Navaeh Niles, Kameron  
Riha  
Reader..... Todd Bohlmeier

**Vital Statistics**

189 \$2583.00

**This Week**

Sunday School, 8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

God's Grace DVD series, 9 am

Worship/Holy Comm 9:30 am

**NEXT Sunday, May 22**

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

**Men's Choir; Thank you for your wonderful music at Dad's service.** I know it meant so much to him and us. He so LOVED being in choir. From Patty, Larry, and kids. Thanks.

**Ladies Aid will meet May 19<sup>th</sup>, and Quilting on May 26th**

**We celebrate the Holy Baptism of Watson Ridge Gronewold**  
Parents: Joel and Jocelyn (Junker) Gronewold. Sponsors Jordan & Courtney Junker, Jenna Junker, and Jon & Emily Gronewold. May God bless him and his family.

**Prayers:** Janice Oden (Sharon Schuster's sister) has passed away from cancer. Please keep her family in your prayers.

**Council is looking for volunteers** to serve on a committee to update Zion's picture directory. If you are interested in researching current options or providing photography services, please contact Brenda Gronewold at 402-520-0397.

**The fifth Sunday in May offering** has been designated to go to the Evan and Kaitlyn Buss Family to help with Tholen's medical expenses.

**Graduate recognition** – If you have a high school or college graduate, please forward their names and future plans to Britan at [britanmeints@gmail.com](mailto:britanmeints@gmail.com) or 308-730-0599. Graduation recognition is scheduled for Next Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

You are invited to enjoy an informational evening Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall with guest speaker, Amber Lovitt, Executive Director CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Gage County for abused and neglected children hosted by Zion's WELCA (Women of the ELCA). Amber recruits, trains and mentors' volunteers who are appointed by the County Judge to gather information. These children are in the court system of no fault of their own but due to abuse and neglect. They offer training services and supplies to the community to help children and families thrive together. Area churches have been invited as well, so please bring a friend. Refreshments will also be served.

### **Helping out Sunday, May 15**

Acolytes – Dawson Smith, Gage Smith  
Reader- Gerald Ideus

**May Altar Guild:** Susan Newman, Lorene Wallman, Sandy Meints, Marcella Rademacher

**May Table Troop Volunteers:** Linda Ideus, Les Rademacher, Mert Rademacher, Don Schuster, John Gronewold, Robert Ideus, Paul & Shellie Remmers

**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

**The parish hall has been reserved May 21<sup>st</sup>, and June 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**For weekly bulletin Announcements Please email, text or call Britan Meints by Wednesday evening!**