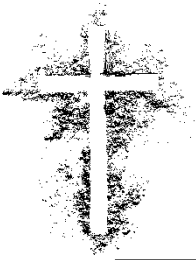


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 26, 2023**

*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**

*Our culture markets and sells stuff by sending messages “**not enough-ness**” to people, especially young people, about themselves. But those messages tell a lie. Tell the truth—each person is beloved of God, and thereby, **is enough.***

### **Gathering**

P- Today’s gospel tells of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage.

**C- Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. Psalm 32:10**

P- In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of

Easter.

**C- Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. *Psalm*  
32:10**

**Gathering Hymn – Lord Jesus Christ Be Present ELW  
527**

1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now;  
our hearts in true devotion bow.  
Your Spirit send with light divine,  
and let your truth within us shine.

2 Unseal our lips to sing your praise  
in endless hymns through all our days;  
increase our faith and light our minds;  
and set us free from doubt that blinds.

3 Then shall we join the hosts that cry,  
"O holy, holy, Lord Most High!"  
And in the light of that blest place  
we then shall see you face to face.

4 All glory to the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
be praise throughout eternity!

**Confession & 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 journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C- Amen**

P- Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our needs for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- Holy God,

**C- we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

P- Hear the Good News:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so all may receive life,

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

+ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power..

**C- Amen**

**Special Music – Amigos**

**Children's Time – Sweet Temptation**

## Readings

### **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

Lector— *Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened, led ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

### **The First Sin and Its Punishment**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband,

who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. Here ends this reading.

**Psalm 32 – The Joy of Forgiveness**    *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.**

### **Romans 5:12-19**

*Lector – Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life. Paul writes to the church in Rome:*

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely

have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Here ends this reading.

### **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Lord God, our strength,

**C- the struggle between good and evil rages with us and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## **Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11**

P- Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you’, and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. The Gospel of the Lord.



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

**Special Music: Men's Choir**

**Message – Sweet Temptation**

**Offering Hymn – When Peace Like a River ELW 785**

1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

3 He lives - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

4 Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

### **Offering Prayer**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- God of good gifts,

**C- receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel,**

**Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 “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**

P- God, giver of life,  
+ Christ the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth,  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C-Amen.**

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

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

### **Sending Hymn – Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed ELW 337**

1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed,  
and did my sov'reign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head  
for sinners such as I?

2 Was it for sins that I have done  
he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity, grace unknown,  
and love beyond degree!

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide  
and shut its glories in  
when God, the mighty maker, died  
for his own creatures' sin.

4 Thus might I hide my blushing face  
while his dear cross appears,  
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,  
and melt mine eyes to tears.

5 But tears of grief cannot repay  
the debt of love I owe;  
here, Lord, I give myself away:  
'tis all that I can do.

**Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494**  
**Karen's number – 402-661-9362**  
**Email [-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com)**

### **Helping With the Service Today**

**Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath**  
**Organist.....Alnora Daubendick**  
**Special Music.....Amigos**  
**Men's Choir**  
**Acolytes.....Kameron Riha, Gage Smith**  
**Lector.....Paul Jurgens**  
**Greeter.....Wes & Sandy Meints**  
**Russ & Amy Wallman**  
**Breakfast Club.....Karla Holland**

### **Vital Statistics for Last Sunday**

**Church Attendance 133      Giving \$ 1676.00**  
**Sunday School 56      Giving \$ 52.25**

**THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION**

**Today – come enjoy soup and laughs**

5-7 pm Soup supper at the Parish Hall

7 pm Entertainment at the Parish Hall

**Monday**

Men’s Choir Practice TBA

**Wednesday**

7 & 8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation 6 pm

Lenten Service 7 pm

**NEXT Sunday**

8:45 am Sunday School/Endless Hallelujah practice

9 am BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Communion/Men’s Choir

**Helping out Next Sunday**

**Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath**

**Organist.....Alnora Daubendick**

**Special Music.....Men’s Choir**

**Acolytes.....Braxton Trauernicht**

**Reagan Rinne**

**Lector.....Sandy Meints**

**Greeter.....Council**

**Breakfast Club.....Beth Buhr**

**February Table Troop:** Gary Wiese (leader), John & Marcia Busboom, Doug & Rhonda Dorn, Duane & Janice Parde, LeAnn Fossler

**March Table Troop:** Eddie & Lynette Dorn(L), Gary & Brenda Gronewold, Dave & Carrye Meints, Kenny & Janet Schuster, Steve & Peggy Johnson, Larry Gronewold

**February Altar Guild:** Doreen Busboom, Kelly Lenners, Christy Buhr, Karla Holland, Rhonda Dorn, Lynette Dorn.

**March Altar Guild:** Lynette Jurgens, Caroline Ideus, Dianna Andrew, Susan Buss, Patti Behrens.

### **Snow Brigade**

**The Week of February 27:** Brenda Gronewold (Council Rep), Mark Buhr\*\*Captain, Gary Gronewold – Tractor, Stan Lenners – Tractor, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus, Justin Hippen

**The Week of March 6:** Kristi Dorn \*Council, Greg Dorn \*\*Captain, Dean Zimmerman – Tractor, Russ Wallman Tractor, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Dave Holland, Alex, Buhr, Mike Busboom, Dan Jurgens.

**The Week of March 13:** Kenny Reed \* Council, Matt Meints \*\* Captain, Les Lieneman – tractor, David Meints – Tractor, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese, Jason Lovitt,

**The week of March 20:** Neal Meints \* Council, Jordan Busboom \*\* Captain, Eric Parde – Tractor, Chris Fossler – Tractor, Duane Jurgen, Greg Robinson, Larry Johnson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Steve Oltman, Donny Schuster.

**The Week of March 27:** Alan Folkers\* Council, Alan Wiese\*\* Captain, James Meints – Tractor, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold, AJ Wiese.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to worship!** A 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 or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!

**HANDICAP PARKING** - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

**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.



**This week's bulletin is sponsored** by Betty & Devonna and families in memory of their father Elmer Trauernicht. His birthday was on February 15<sup>th</sup>. They also sponsored last Sunday's bulletin in memory of their mother Leona. Her birthday was misprinted. Her birthday is today, the 26<sup>th</sup>. Sorry for the misprint.

**Attention!!!!!!**

**It's That Time of Year Again to remind Thrivent Members of the March 31<sup>st</sup> Deadline** to designate your choice dollars for the past year.

Call 800-847-4836 or visit the online site

**Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**

Zion would appreciate your support.

**Zion's Anniversary Celebration 2024!**

**"In preparation of Zion's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration** beginning March 10, 2024, a book is being planned using information from the 1917-2017 publications and other resources. Anyone who would like to submit memories, pictures, etc. is asked to email Mert Rademacher ([mert70@live.com](mailto:mert70@live.com)) or give to any current anniversary member: Pastor Jer, Mert, Sandy Meints, Connie Thornburg or Janet Harms".

## **PHOTO DIRECTORY IS STILL UNDERWAY:**

Thank you to all who have sent pictures.

We will still accept family photos for the picture directory. Please send a digital copy to Rhonda and give pictures to be scanned to Brenda.

Rhonda – 402-520-1320 or [rhondadorn@yahoo.com](mailto:rhondadorn@yahoo.com),

Brenda – 402-520-0397 or [brendag@diodecom.net](mailto:brendag@diodecom.net)

## **GIVING OPPORTUNITY...**

**FOSTER CARE CLOSET in Beatrice** needs your help!

They served around 93 foster kids in 2022 and over 100 kids that were not wards of the state, but were in crisis/preventative services. **Donations will be accepted through March 5th.** Their highest need items at this point include the following items:

Men & Women's deodorants, Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash (3 in 1 works the best), Baby Shampoo/Body Wash, Hairbrushes, Diapers (sizes 3-6), Pullups (any size/gender), Sports Bras (any size), socks and underwear (any sizes are welcome---since this is such a highly requested item!), pajamas for older sizes (5T through adult sizes).

**Thanks to Mert Rademacher** for acquiring a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support this project.

**FARM FRESH EGGS!** Donny and Gayle Schuster have eggs for sale in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will go to future projects. It is a free will offering with a suggested donation of \$3.50 minimum. Thank you!

**NEW THRIVENT GRANT FOR THE FOOD PANTRY BEGINS— PANCAKE FEED DRIVE**

The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School Classes are promoting this time with a 43-item min. goal!

Needing pancake or waffle mixes, syrup, chocolate chips, Pam Spray, or ingredients to make those good ole' homemade pancakes –flour, sugar, salt, baking powder. You can even purchase small muffin mix pouches. Just adding 1 egg & 1/2 cup milk or water to a mix creates a perfect pancake batter!

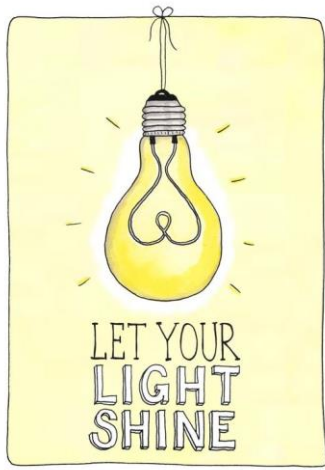
Donations will be accepted through **March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Thanks to Doreen Remmers for writing a \$250 Thrivent Grant to support this project!

**Zion's Free Lenten 2023 Lenten Gift (Just a few left)**

**The first Lenten gift** is a leather-bound breast pocket copy of the Gospel of Matthew which is the gospel we will be reading on Sundays through 2023. This copy of the Gospel of Matthew is a gift from Dan & Breanna (Trauernicht) Penisi. This can be carried in your purse or coat pocket.

**The second Lenten gift** is a six-week daily devotional cards with a wooden card holder of your choice from many choices of wood and finishes made by Pastor Jer

**Thank you** to the Amigos and the Men's Choir for singing today during the service. Wonderful to have all the special music.



SPRING GATHERING 2023

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA OF SOUTHEAST NE

Zion Lutheran Church- Rural Pickrell

Saturday March 25th

Program 10:00 am-2:30 pm

Registration begins at 9:30 am

Registration Fee \$20 due 3/15

Pre-Registration suggested but not required.

**Tangible Offering collected for CASA**

Personal Hygiene items: Shampoo, Conditioner Body Wash, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Hairbrushes, Toilet Paper, Kleenex

Program Speaker Christina Lyons

Bible study with Pastor Kathee Forrest

**We are in need of possible 9-10 breakfast egg casseroles** for the WELCA Ingathering that will be here at Zion on March 25th. There is a **signup sheet on the Welcome Center**. We would need the casseroles baked and at the Parish Hall no later than 10:00 that day. If you have questions call Lynette Dorn at 402-239-7002 or Karen Gilbreath at 402-661-9362.

**There are copies of the Expression Magazine on the Welcome Center.**

**Indoor Spring Clean-up – Outdoor as weather permits**

**Indoor Spring Cleanup will be March 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:00.**

Everyone is welcome to come and help. **This will also be a 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade service project.** Sprucing up the Church and Fellowship Hall for the **WELCA Spring Gathering** that will be here at Zion the following weekend and to prepare for **Easter**.

**ATTENTION Parents and kids:**

We have activity bags for your children during church services hanging on the tree in the Fellowship door entry. Please feel free to take the activities they color or put together during the service. Then after the service place the bag back on the tree. **Thank you to Cindy Jurgens for writing a Thrivent Grant for new supplies.** Look for new activities each week.

**Gold Crest** - Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

**Homestead House** - Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman,  
Evelyn Meints

**Our Homes Assisted Living** - Randy Oltman



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**



# ZION'S ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER & ENTERTAINMENT

**Sunday February 26, 2023**

**5:00 p.m. Soup Supper starts in the  
basement of the Parish Hall, served  
with homemade cinnamon rolls**

**7:00 p.m. the entertainment begins  
upstairs in the Parish Hall!**



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
18219 S. 80TH RD  
PICKRELL, NE



**The freewill offering goes to Jason & Kylie Church to  
help with expenses for their daughter, Cora  
(Granddaughter of John and Marcia Busboom).**