

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 in Lent with Holy Communion

April 6, 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 – Bell

*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- Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus’ feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial.

C- Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within me.

P- In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God’s new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sin.

C- Create in me a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within me.

Gathering Hymn – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ELW 597

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 – Blakely Jo Harms

Children’s Time – Giving Our Best

Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21

Lector – The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.

Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 126 - Read responsively.

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears

reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping,

bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,

carrying their sheaves.

Philippians 3:4b-14

Lector – *Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

Even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings

by becoming like him in his death, if somehow, I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Creator God,

C- you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love though 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 12:1-8

P- Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed

Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord!

Please be seated.

Message – Giving Our Best

Offering Hymn – Borning Cry

ELW 732

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Jesus you are the bread of life

C- and the host of this meal.

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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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 card
to the usher when you come forward.*

Communion Hymn – What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ELW 742

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 –Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

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

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Michele’s number – 402-239-0417

Email [-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com)

Helping out Today

- Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
- Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
- Acolytes:.....Nora Glynn
Tavin Lieneman
- Lector:Mickey Larkins
- Greeters:Hunter & Linda Blackwell
Irene Busboom
- Breakfast Club:Sammie Garton

Vital Statistics for last Sunday

Worship 191	Giving \$7,274.16
Sunday School 55	Giving \$137.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

- 8:45 am Sunday School
- 9:00 am BKF Club / Adult SS
- 10 am Worship/Comm/Harms Baptism

Tuesday

- 7pm Committee Mtg
- 7:30 Council

Wednesday

1:30 Grace Circle
6 pm 7 & 8 grade Confirmation
7pm Lenten Service

Saturday

2 pm Farewell Tea Party for Karen
5 pm Baptism
6 pm Baptism

Next Sunday

8:45 am Sunday School
9:00 BKF Club/ Adult SS
10:00 Worship/ Brandert Baptism/Kids of the Kingdom & Amigos
Farewell Luncheon after worship for Pastor and Karen

Helping out next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Shirley Gronewold
 Patty Thomas
Acolytes:.....Brogan Ideus
 Alexis Folkerts
Lector:Kelly Lenner
Greeters:Paul & Jenny Busboom
 Donny & Gayle Schuster
Special Music:Kids of the Kingdom
 Amigos
Breakfast Club:Jordan Freeman

April Altar Guild:

Christy Buhr (Leader), Karla Holland, Rhonda Dorn, Lynette Dorn, Doreen Busboom, Kelly Lenner

April Table Troop: Alex Buhr (Leader), Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenner, Alan Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr

Snow Brigade

For the week of April 7th: AJ Wiese (Captain), James Meints-Tractor, Alan Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold

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!

SPRING CLEAN-UP – THANK YOU!

A HUGE thanks to everyone who took time out of their day to help with the Spring cleaning at church (inside & out) & those who worked at the ballpark on Saturday, March 29th. We appreciate everyone's help to keep our church beautiful and keep the grounds clean. We could not have done this without your help! If we missed someone, we apologize.

Pastor Jer	Paul Remmers	Kyle Kolm
Karen Gilbreath	Craig Ideus	Konnor Kolm
Carrye Meints	Brogan Ideus	LeAnn Fossler
Laurie Wallman	Caroline Ideus	Sammie Garton
DeAnn Oltman	Connor Mason	Millie Garton
Terry Oltman	Bob Freeman	Gus Garton
Paul Jurgens	Jordan Freeman	Art Schuster
Doug Parde	Ellis Freeman	Liz Buhr
Dennis Remmers	Claire Freeman	Presleigh Borgman
Greg Robinson	Dorothy Freeman	Mary Freeman
Jason Wallman	Josh Jensen	Cerice Cornelius
Les Lieneman	Brooke Jensen	Max Cornelius
Todd Bohlmeier	Connor Jensen	Lynette Jurgens
Jeni Bohlmeier	Micah Jensen	Burdette Schoen
Kenny Reed	Jerod Ideus	Annette Wiese
Ryan Busboom	Gene Busboom	Kristen Meyer
Bo Busboom	Greg Dorn	Mert Rademacher
Benny Busboom		

GOD'S WORK - THEIR HANDS

Please take a moment and check out the collection of items Pastor Jer and Karen have made over the years while here at Zion. Items will be on display in the fellowship hall for two weeks. We want to thank Pastor Jer and Karen for sharing their many gifts & talents with us at Zion. They have been a true blessing to us and will be deeply missed.

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.

Welcome to our newest member in Christ Blakely Jo Harms

Daughter of Taitan Harms and Hannah Lueders born on February 20, 2025. The sponsors are Caylee & Connor Mason. Grandparents are Jon and Candy Lueders, Doug Harms, and Sami Harms.

Flowers under the hymn board are in honor of Blakely Jo's baptism by great grandparents, Robert and Joyce Harms.

Please keep the family of Gary Carstens in your prayers. Gary's funeral was held here at Zion on Friday, April 4th.

This week's bulletin is sponsored by: James & Kelly Lenners and Eddie & Lynette Dorn in memory of Ernst and Emma Meints for their April birthdays.

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.

Easter Lily sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Center

Please place your name and in memory or in honor of on the sheet. It will be posted in the May Newsletter and the bulletins on Easter Sunday. Please don't plan to deliver until the week of Easter if at all possible.



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!

On Sunday, April 13th, the 7:05 am Day1 program on KWBE will be sponsored by Zion to send blessings to Pastor Jer and Karen Gilbreath and to celebrate an appreciation of their ministry while at Zion. We wish them well on their retirement journey, and thank them for their faithful service to God, the church and the community.

Day1, a weekly radio program, is the voice of the historic Protestant churches, including the American Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

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)

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.



Recognition Sunday is May 18th. Please get your graduates information to the church office (402-239-0417 or jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com) if you would like your family member who is graduating either high school or college recognized.



A reminder for Grace Circle members – Bible study will be from the Jan-Feb issue of the Gather magazine, we will try to hit the important points from both sessions. Please be prepared to pay \$18.00 for next year's subscription.

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.



Thank you to all who donated in “the boot” for the 2025

Cattlemen’s Ball to fund Cancer Research! We collected \$260 and this has already been donated directly towards the cause. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Kelly Lenners at klenners05@hotmail.com or (402) 806-5129.

Palm Sunday/April 13th the Sunday School classes will only meet for music practice. Please arrive upstairs in the Parish Hall at 9:20 am. The children will line up and walk together into church so please do not send them with any personal belongings, jackets, bibles, etc.

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

Homestead House - Anora Schoen

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Wilber Care Center – Ernie Jurgens

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.

