



From the Pastor's Cup.....

August 2023

GO AND...Share Your Story (Nebraska Synod theme for the month of July)

Children freely share their story-often full of actions, sound effects, and details (sometimes minute) that bring the story to life. We all have a story to share: stories of families, friendships, histories and faith. **We connect the dots and see our connections.**

Questions to consider:

- > When was the last time you heard a child tell a story? What did you hear?
- > What is a biblical story that connects with your own story?
- > What is your story? Where are you **GOING to share your story?**

Prayer: Creator God, our story starts and ends with you. Give us the wisdom to see where and how we might share our stories and the courage to share them. Amen.

Dear Church Family,

August is certainly a month of **transition** as we wipe the memories of summer from our eyes. August is a month of gathering school supplies from a list, buying new clothes because our children have outgrown last year's school wardrobe, and getting back into the routine of being **back in school**. That is a **transition** we all have experienced!

Will Rogers, the great American humorist, said this about our attitude about **transitions** from new to old. Will wrote:

"America invents everything, but the trouble is we get tired of it the minute the new is worn off."
—Will Rogers *Wise and Witty Sayings of a Great American Humorist*, page 8.

As we **transition** from summer vacation to school days, I want to lift up again that on Sunday, September 24, 2023 our Mission Sunday speaker will be Simone & Matt Weber from **Table Grace Café** located in downtown Omaha, NE. Not only will Matt and Simone be here, but they will also be bringing their **Table Grace Café Food Truck** to serve burgers and brunch after worship at the very reasonable price (\$8-\$10)!

While in college in Lincoln. Simone and Matt worked at Hudson Bay Company as a professional fundraiser and Canvass Director and traveled on several overseas mission trips to serve in various third world countries. Simone then went on to sing professionally, teach ESL and work in many restaurants in New York City, while Matt received his culinary education at the Natural Gourmet Institute for food and healing. In 2005 they returned to Nebraska and Simone worked as First Lutheran Church's Director of Music Ministries until 2013, and then 2013-present as Morning Star Lutheran's Director of Contemporary Worship.

Simone is a Nashville recorded singer/songwriter who also plays guitar, flute, and piano and has created seven CDs, and part of a musical to date. Matt's voice and trumpet, keyboards and percussion add a beautiful dimension to the combination. They have a passion for "nourishing hungry bodies and souls through music" with their food truck Mobile Grace Café, and their community restaurant Table Grace Café and using music as a vehicle to bring people together, raise funds for Table Grace and inspire all people to use their talents to serve one another.

So please mark your calendar with this time and date: 10:00 a.m. Sunday, September 24, 2023 to meet Simone and Matt Weber and the **Mobile Grace Café**. Simone is a PK (pastor's kid) who will also be sharing her musical gift with us, but I'll tell you more about that next month!

Sincerely Pr. Jer

Pastor's August Calendar

August 1 10 am Text Study @ Zion
August 8 10 am Text Study @ Zion
August 15 10 am Text Study @ Zion
August 20 2:30 Preach at Gold Crest
August 22 10 am Text Study @ Zion
August 29 10 am Text Study @ Zion

August 30 6 pm 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Orientation for Confirmands and Parents followed by acolyte training. This is a time when we discuss the year ahead of us. 7th & 8th Grade Classes and parents/guardians will meet at the fellowship hall from 6 to 7 pm. For the 8th grade families, we look at the year ahead and plan for Confirmation Sunday, April 28, 2024. For the 7th grade families, confirmation camp material is handed out and we determine which week we go to camp in the summer of 2024.

Semi-Annual Meeting Zion Lutheran Church

July 16, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Alan Folkerts

A quorum of 59 members were present to vote.

Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting were read by secretary, Carrye Meints. General Treasure's report was given by Brenda Gronewold, filling in for treasurer Kristi Dorn. Motion was made and seconded to accept minutes and financial reports. Motion carried.

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- Fellowship Hall Doors – Working on securing a solid estimate for new fiberglass doors. We will be replacing 5 doors. (Double handicapped doors on the north side, double doors on the south, and single door on the west) Getting a quote from Pickrell Lumber. This will allow us to use the hardware we already have in place.
- Windows – Company came out to give a bid. The repair would require new solder, clear sealant caulking, replace any wood if needed, and then paint with a durabond paint. The 1st bid was \$196,000. 2nd bid If we use the storm windows we already have it would be \$148,584. We would be able to put down 10% to start. When the company does the job they would be done in 30 days. This new glass has a special vent system so there wouldn't be any steam on the big window. This company can also put a value on the windows for insurance purposes. A

motion was made and seconded to go forth with the window project at a cost of \$148,584. The vote was unanimous with 59 members voting.

Discerning God's Will – New Business

- 150th Anniversary - Mert Rademacher presented the first big event will be March 10, 2024. The Bishop will be here and a meal following the service. The next 2 events have not been finalized, but one will take place in the summer and one in the fall. Part of the plan is to put a history room in the old schoolhouse. There have been items that have been donated already to be used. One is a display case to house some of the items. Steve Oltman shared one of the items from Mildred Fossler, a book that was found in their home. Volunteer work would be done by Craig Ideus for the lighting, Nick Meints for drywalling, and Jerod Ideus moving the veteran display over. This is just the beginning. There will be more to come.
- Air conditioning units – The units are 14 years old. They need to be updated. We are keeping these going, but just to keep in mind they will need to be replaced with more efficient and fewer units.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the 2023 Semi-Annual Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church. Motion carried. We closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carrye Meints, Secretary

Treasurers Report from Semi-Annual

Balance on Hand - January 1, 2023	\$ 95,637.65
Total Income as of June 30, 2023	\$178,258.00
Total Expenses as of June 30, 2023	\$162,135.46
Net Profit as of June 30, 2023	<u>\$ 16,122.54</u>
Balance on hand as of June 30, 2023	\$111,760.19

No Committee Meetings in July due to no council meeting

Endowment: Treasurer's balance as of 7/15 is \$215,621.13.

Fifth Sunday Offerings for the remainder of the year.

October 29th – Endowment

December 31st – TBA

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.

Bulletins Sponsored in July were:

July 2 – Sponsored by Mickey Larkin in memory of her husband Larry for his 80th birthday and for what would have been their 60th wedding anniversary.

July 16 – Sponsored by Evelyn Meints and family in memory of Vernon Meints, Vernon passed away 7 years ago on July 11th.

July 23 – Sponsored by Betty Daubendick and family in memory of Roger his birthday 82nd would have been on July 15th. Happy Heavenly birthday to Roger.

July 30th- Sponsored by Marylin Robinson in memory of Kenny's birthday which would have been on the 31st. Happy Heavenly birthday to Kenny.

Sympathies

Our deepest sympathies to Chris & Renae Mason on the death of Chris's mother Ima Gene Mason who passed away on June 28th and the funeral was held Friday July 7th at St Paul's UCC Church in Tecumseh. Please continue to keep the Mason family in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathies to Heath & Abby Hovendick on the death of Heath's grandpa Richard Hovendick who passed away on July 4th. Richard's celebration of Life service was held on Monday, July 10th at Christ Church Episcopal in Beatrice. Please keep Heath & Abby and the Hovendick family in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Brenda Jurgens, she passed away July 6th in Hastings. Brenda's funeral was here at Zion on Wednesday, July 19th. Please keep Nathan and Rachel and their families in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Ron Graham, Ron passed away July 14th in Beatrice. Ron's funeral was here at Zion on. Please keep Sandy & Dan Parks, Julee & Mike Patzel and Greg and Kristi Dorn and their families in your prayers.

Our deepest sympathies to Becky Boyer on the death of her father Harold Bargmann. Harold passed away July 20th in Kansas – his funeral was July 22nd. Please keep Becky & Travis and the whole family in your prayers.

Grace Circle news

Grace Circle met Wednesday, July 12, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall for our monthly meeting, bible study and fellowship. Lorene Wallman led our bible study "Christians as bringers of wellness". Closed with the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" and prayer.

The offering was given in the amount of \$55 of which \$18 will go to our circle treasury and the balance of our General Treasury.

Chairperson Elnora Lenners called on Secretary Lorene Wallman for roll call. We had 12 members present. Minutes of the last meeting were read. The treasury balance was \$72.00.

The chairperson read a thank you from the food pantry for the gift our circle donated last December for \$130. We also had a thank you for the "Thinking of you" card from Janice Jurgens.

Elnora also told us that Goldcrest would have someone there to speak and discuss Alzheimer's. On Thursday from 4:00-5:00 if anyone is interested. This is being sponsored by the family of Betty Buss.

Our circle has decided not to serve at Marilyn Folkerts sale.

We decided to have a meeting in September, have it at Goldcrest and include our members that cannot meet with us here. We decided to have it on our regular circle meeting day with a start time of 2:00. We will bring suggestions and make plans at our next meeting.

Our August meeting will be held at the "Dorn Heritage Barn". Roxanne Dorn will do bible study and Elnora Lenners is our hostess.

Growth Chair, Betty had cards for us to sign, a "Thinking of you for Dorene Wallman and a birthday card for Karen Gilbreath. We also invited Karen to share lunch with us since it was her birthday. We presented her with a flower and a card. It was suggested for Betty to bring some "Thinking of you cards" to sign at our next meeting for our servicemen that are overseas. Betty had some word search sheets for us to take home.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary, Lorene Wallman

Congratulations to our newest members in Christ – with the baptisms of Kathryn Marie Lieweber and Barrett Dean Buss. Kathryn is the daughter of Cari Buss and Barrett is the son of Dillon and Cari Buss. Sponsors for Kathryn were Cody Buss and Rachel Tietjen. And Sponsors for Barrett were Evan Buss and Chelsea Tietjen. Please keep everyone in your prayers.

Thank you received:

The family of Ethel Wallman would like to thank you for the gestures of kindness with her recent death. The family appreciates all the prayers, cards, and acts of caring. Thank you to the Joy Circle for providing delicious desserts, serving, and beautifully decorating the Parish Hall. A special thanks to Pastor Jer and Karen for your visits, prayers, and keeping Ethel connected to her faith and to "Zion's Church Family" while not being able to physically be there.

Thank you!

The Family of Robert, Pat, Crystal, and Russell Wallman

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your participation in The Willow Center's "Baby Bottle Boomerang" fundraiser drive. We were overwhelmed by the support of so many congregations and individuals! Through your generous gifts, more than \$6,000 was raised to support the work we do in serving those facing unplanned pregnancies, as well as those struggling to raise their children. This funding will be used to offer our clients pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, as well as parenting classes and monthly supplies for their families. All of these services are provided cost-free to our clients and wouldn't be possible without the partnership of churches and individuals who support our mission.

God's Blessings!

The Willow Center staff & volunteers



SIMPLE GIVING!

Ronald McDonald Tab collection

Collection at Zion is located at the Welcome Center Desk. Funds received from the tabs help pay for electric & other house expenses.

LWR SCHOOL KIT SEASON IS HERE!

Our goal again this year is 100 bags.

God's work our hands at Zion!

Items in need of

- 200 - 70-page count (wide or college rule notebooks)
- 96 - Rulers (30 centimeter on one side and inches on the other)
- 400 - #2 pencils (**unsharpened**)
- 90 - Pencil sharpeners
- 100 - Scissors (**blunt end**)
- 500 - Blue or Black only ink pens (**no gel pens**)
- 65 - Crayons (16 or 24 count)



NO Erasers needed have left over from last year

Men's Choir will sing in church on the first Sunday, in August. August 6th but will just practice that morning before church.

Photo Directory Update – Photo Directory has been printed and you may pick up your directory - the cost of the printed version is **\$10.00 per copy.** They are available on Sundays, or you may contact Karen during the week. We do have a few extras if you didn't sign up for one and would like one or just want an extra one.

The great thing about the online version is it will never be outdated – you can always update your information and family photos by going to **instantchurchdirectory.com.**



Free Piano – Available to look at in the schoolhouse. **You haul. Would like out ASAP.** Send inquiries to Janet Harms at 402-673-4845 or Connie Thornburg at 402-673-3605.

LWR SEWING MACHINE UPDATE-

The two sewing machines have been purchased along with 2 walking feet attachments, and 2 extension table attachments for the machines. We had collected enough extra money for replacement sewing machine needles, extra bobbins, 2 rotary cutters and replacement blades, thread, 2 pairs of scissors, 4 rolls of batting, and about 67 yards of fabric for backings and piecing. For a **total of \$2146.00** collected from the congregation. We did not qualify for a Thrivent Grant for the machines at this time.

I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to all who gave towards the freewill donation on that first Sunday that I did the Temple Talk we collected \$76.00.

Also, to the following people that gave: Steve & Diane Oltman, Doug & Cindy Parde & Doug's sisters in honor of Bernice, Mark & Christy Buhr, Art & Sharon Schuster, Donny and Gayle Schuster, and Kathy Baete in memory of her mother Elsie Zimmerman.

I spent an afternoon sewing on one of the new machines and I hope the ladies enjoy the new machines as much as I do. Can't wait for the Fall sewing with the Blanket sewing ladies. Thank you again Zion! **Zion is truly a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become! God's Work Our Hands!**

Zion's LYO and the Nebraska Synod Youth Mission Journey Trip to Denver – July 2023!



A handful of youth from our church went with youth from St. John in Beatrice on an unforgettable Nebraska SYNOD trip to Denver, Colorado, with the goal of spreading love and making a positive impact in the lives of those in need. From July 10th- July 15th, youth from all across Nebraska went around Denver doing various service-learning projects to help spread God's light. Our theme for the week was living in the "&" because we are all simultaneously Saints AND Sinners.

Upon arriving at Regis University in Denver on Monday night, we ate supper and worshiped with the entire group in a college lecture hall. Worship included singing, scripture, and communion. We also held devotions in small groups every night where we read scripture and discussed our thoughts on how the verses related to our day and connected with us. On Friday night we held a full worship service in a beautiful

church where we lit candles, set them in a cross shaped sandbox and reflected on our time in Denver. One verse that came up a lot along the trip and really stuck with me was Isaiah 40:4-5 “Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” This really reminds me that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved and that is not our doing it is because of the ultimate sacrifice he made for us and to save us.

We engaged in many different service-learning projects such as planting shrubs at the Wildlife Refuge to prevent flooding, spreading mulch at a park, running stations at Special Olympics, sorting and boxing diapers and clothing at the Salvation Army, picking up trash around Downtown Denver, and painting at the Salvation Army. But one service-learning project that really stood out to me was in partnership with We Don't Waste. We were provided with the opportunity to help set up a free food market for those who cannot afford to buy food from a grocery store. This was by far my favorite part of the trip because we had the unique opportunity to witness firsthand the challenges faced by these vulnerable populations, while also understanding the resilience and strength that shines through each individual's story.

Throughout our stay, we also engaged in a variety of activities that were fun and educational. We went to the Colorado History Museum and learned a lot about events that we didn't even know occurred. Something that really stuck out to me was the Sand Creek Massacre. I've heard of this, but I didn't really know much about it until we walked through this exhibit. In short, the US Army attacked a camp of mostly women, children, and elders on Big Sandy Creek in southeastern Colorado. The soldiers murdered more than 230 Cheyenne and Arapaho people. But I encourage you to do your own research about this event in history. This really made me think about the past and how we can use that to change our future and prevent anything like that happening again.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the individuals who supported this mission trip through their prayers, donations, and encouragement. I would also really like to thank St John Lutheran in Beatrice for inviting us to go on this trip and taking very good care of us. Together, we have made a positive difference in the lives of the people of Denver, and our experiences will stay with us forever.

(Thank you to Catie Reed for writing this summary of their trip to Colorado.)



Pastor Jer and 5 - 8th graders at Confirmation Camp for the week of July 9th -14th.

Confirmation Camp 2023 – A Week is More Than a Taste of Camp!

After 23 years of taking confirmands to camp (minus the year of COVID) I figure I have spent a week with 282 plus or minus confirmands. In some ways each year was predictable like being part of a village, worship, horses, swimming, high ropes, mud hikes, camp store, FOB, canoes/paddleboats, CSP, mail, snow cones, and spaghetti for the first meal Sunday night.

In other ways each year was not so predictable. Village leaders and kids change each year. In the 40 years of the ELCA camp's existence, campers have returned to become specialists and village leaders, one village leader have become community and church leaders. An example of this is our

present Nebraska Synod Bishop Scott Johnson, who once was a camper from Salem Lutheran Church in Wakefield, NE. In fact, 52 village leaders from camp have become ELCA pastors in the last 40 years, no other church agency can rival this.

We have two confirmands from this year's group, who have expressed a desire to return to camp next year. Not only return to camp. but at some future date, work at camp as a specialist or village leader. I hope they can realize their dream to do this! It was even more special when they learned they would get paid for their ten-week commitment to camp. Please keep both the camp and campers in your nightly prayers, who knows, you might just be praying for a future church leader! Pr. Jer



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Zion Church will once again be a stop for a Routes to Roots tour group on August 1.

The group of 25, with tour guide Dr. Wolfgang Grams, will begin their adventures for “Plattdeutsch in America” in Minneapolis, Minnesota and then will travel by charter bus through South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, ending in Champaign, Illinois before flying out of Chicago.

One of their destinations in Nebraska will be Zion Church on August 1.

While at Zion, they will tour the church, be shown a PowerPoint (in German) about the history and connection of the Hanover, Germany immigrants to the founding of our church, and be given time to walk through the Zion Cemetery where connections can be made with their own heritage.

If you are interested in connecting with this German group during their time in Nebraska, please contact Marcella Rademacher at 402-239-5953 so appropriate preparations can be made.

Thank yous go out to Arden Dorn for being our translator, Arnold Baehr for help with the cemetery, Bernice Parde for writing of a Trivent Grant for the meal, Dennis/Doreen Remmers for preparation of that meal, and to Alhora Daubendik for playing of the organ for a couple of German hymns.



The Gage County Historical Society is hosting a Stained Glass Bus Tour on Saturday, September 9th, 2023.

Zion will be one of the stops on this tour. The windows of our church are painted rather than stained but they still wanted our church to be part of the tour. A time of day has not been set; details will be shared when we get notified.

If you are interested in going on the Gage County-Stained Glass tour, call 402-228-1679.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 AlleyDee Bender

Carol Young

3 Kyler Boyer

Ava Meints

4 Brandy Coffin

5 Jeanette Behrens

Jordan Wallman

6 Case Fossler

Andrea Siefkes

7 Mason Hippen

8 Mark Buhr

Nick Podany

9 Heather Hippen

Kolby Mahler

Corey Lieneman

Hannah Schoen

10 Joshua Glynn

11 Karla Carstens

Blaine Harms

Duane Parde

12 Skylar Meints

Wes Meints

13 Kaitlyn Hostetler

14 Jayde Marsh

Alexis Folkers

Linsey Gronewold

15 Cindy Jurgens

Miranda Zeman

Sharla Wendeln

Janie Vrtiska

16 Beckett Bayless

Sadie Gronewold

Billy Harms

17 Jeni Bohlmeier

Mike Busboom

Tony Busboom

Makayla Wiese

18 Sandra Minnick

19 Emmitt Buhr

Gerald Dorn

22 Lavon Behrens

Robert D. Ideus

Orvin Miller

Bennett Wiese

Madison Frost

23 Mike Detert

24 Paxton Parde

Aceson Wendeln

26 Heston Grone

27 Everett Meints

28 Sharon Schuster

29 Katie Meyer

30 Logan Busboom

Mary Zeman

31 Deb Wolken

**If I have missed your birthday,
please call or text me and I will get
you added for next year's
calendar. Karen at 402-661-9362.
And I apologize.**



YOUR VOCATION FOR THE MONTH

What you do for God!

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

August 6 – 9:00 am

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: McCoy Peters
Avery Busboom
Lector: Gerald Ideus
Greeters: Council
Coffee Fellowship: Joy & Volunteers

August 20 – 9:00 am

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: London Meints
Kyson Kolm
Lector: Les Lieneman
Greeters: Les & Cindy Lieneman
Kyle & Michelle Kolm
Coffee Fellowship: Joy & Volunteers

August 13 – 9 :00 am

Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Cale Behrens
Max Behrens
Lector: Paul Jurgens
Greeters: Dennis & Patti Behrens
Brian & Danelle Evers
Coffee Fellowship: Joy & Volunteers

August 27 – 9:00 am

Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Harley Grone
James Scholl
Lector: Kenny Reed
Greeters: Gary & Annette Wiese
Duane & Marsha Zulauf
Coffee Fellowship: Joy &Volunteers

August Altar Guild: Doreen Busboom, Kelly Lenners, Christy Buhr, Karla Holland, Rhonda Dorn, Lynette Dorn

August Table Troop: Stan Lenners (L), Mary Lenners, Al Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr, Duane Zulauf

August 2023

		1	2	3	4	5
6 9 am Worship/men's choir/Communion/coffee fellowship by the Joy Circle & Volunteers	7	8 Text study	9 1:30 pm Grace Circle @ The Dorn Heritage Barn 7 pm Committee mtgs 7:30 Council	10	11	12
13 9 am Worship/coffee fellowship by the Joy Circle & Volunteers	14	15 Text study	16	17 Ladies Aid	18	19
20 9 am Worship/ Communion/coffee fellowship by the Joy Circle & Volunteers/ 2 pm Pastor does service at Gold Crest	21	22 Text study	23	24	25 ***Newsletter Deadline****	26
27 9 am worship/coffee fellowship by the Joy Circle & Volunteers	28	29 Text study	30 6 pm Orientation for 7 th & 8 th Grade Confirmation and Parents	31 Ladies Aid		