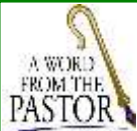




Zion Messenger

February 2024

REJOICING, REACHING OUT, and RENEWING,
we share the joy of the gospel, through a life of faith.



Love is the
greatest commandment!

³⁷Jesus said to him,

*"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, and with all your soul,
and with all your mind."*

³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment.

³⁹And a second is like it:

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

(Matthew 22:37-39)

What is Love?

A group of over thirty preschoolers and kindergarteners were asked what they thought of the word "love"...

"A heart" - Eeshan, age 3

"Candy and fruit, because they are sweet" -
Barghav, age 4

"When Mia (my puppy) hugs and kisses me" -
Anna, age 5

"My dad" - Asha, age 5

"Babies" - Kennedy, age 4

"Helping one another" - Maggie, age 6

"Giving people a hug" - Alex, age 3

"Balloons" - Dorian, age 3

"Everything that is nise" - Henry, age 5

"My brother going nuts" - Sarena, age 4

"Happy felings...sharing" - Rashil, age 5

"A plit(polite) word" - Preston, age 5

"Beign cind (kind)" - Uday, age 5

"Puppies" - Neal, age 3

"Together" - Intisar, age 5

"When you love everyone" - Anika, age 4

"When you love someone, it means you don't
want her to go away.... like something you
do kind and sweet to them... you don't
ignore them." - Nicholas, age 5

(The misspellings belong to the children...)



As you read the answers, take note of the children's ages. While only a few years apart, a shift from an external and object-based focus or line of thinking to a more emotional or attitude-based understanding of the concept of love takes place. Love, and the understanding of our experience of love, is something we grow into. In our early years love is about things, but as we grow and our brains develop, love is about experiences, memories, and attitudes.

Look at the answers of the five-year-olds. Within just a few years, children start to show an understanding of what a demonstration of love is. Not only should we be creating moments with our kids that will reinforce their understanding of love, but we also need to encourage and model what love is for them.

Nicholas' answer is the most telling, isn't it? Love is about being present with one another. God is love. God is with us in a way that is beyond our understanding, but not beyond our experience. As we look into the faces of our loved ones, let us remember that we are looking at the face of God. God came to us embodied as a baby in a manger. God continues to come to each of us embodied in our loved ones, strangers, and as anyone who offers us love and grace and forgiveness.

May we continue to experience God's love in new and profound ways and may we let God's love be embodied in us!

In God's love & by His grace,

Pastor Carolyn





Corner

President's

I'm searching for a squatty-six, a big foot lower right with a slanty top, and a little dinker with a black line crossing it. I wish you could help me find them, but this is my own burden, and let me tell you - IT IS A BURDEN! There has to be a lost piece! This one HAS to fit here! Who ever invented jigsaw puzzles must have either had a warped sense of humor or came up with the idea to torture prisoners during the Spanish Inquisition!

This all started with a quick train ride into downtown Chicago from my daughter's house. I wanted to breathe in the wonder of the Chicago Institute of Art - one of my favorite places in the world. Standing in front of Georges Seurat's "Sunday on La Grande Jatte" is worth the whole trip - the whole wall covered in one huge painting all done with little points of color that you can't see until your nose almost touches the canvas. Hopper's lonely diner in "Nighthawks" changes your mood to darkness and loneliness - and then you step into the Impressionist's rooms - and your mind can barely take in all of the color and splendor! Monet's lily pads and Renoir and his vivid bright hats in the "Two Sisters (On the Terrace)" make you stand and soak up the beauty. Thomas Hart Benton and his cool Art Deco style. Winslow Homer and his daring ocean scenes ensure that I'll never go fishing in a rowboat on the ocean, and the John Singer Sargent portraits - so wonderful they make me emotional! I really can't see how anyone cannot be swept away with all of this wonder and beauty!

But it's not a complete trip to any museum without a trip to the gift shop! I had to find some way of bringing that special place home with me. Maybe a refrigerator magnet or a print of a favorite painting. But, oh, why not a jigsaw puzzle - a perfect snowy day project. Something Jacque and I can do together! So many to choose from! A Monet or the famous Hopper diner, or how about Van Gogh self-portrait. Nah - they all look way too hard and too big. In a moment of weakness, I finally pulled out Van Gogh's "Bedroom at Arles" (you've all seen it!) - that can't be too hard - just a couple chairs, a table, some pictures on the wall, and a bed. I put it under my arm and headed for the checkout line.

The puzzle sat lonely and forgotten for several weeks. And then came the first good snowstorm and the suggestion we do a puzzle. So, I broke it out - 1000 dazzling, colorful pieces of torturous agony! Jacque helped for maybe ten minutes before abandoning the mission for several of her favorites in another room. So far, she's completed four 500-piece puzzles - I'm still laboring away.

At first I was still very excited because it was interesting how simple Van Gogh's painting style is - crooked lines, strokes all going the same direction, textures changing from one spot to another, the varied hues of the same colors, his enjoyment of using lots of green, and everything kind of outlined nicely in black. So, the first three days, or maybe four, were not . . . agonizing - just challenging.

But, after all of the chairs and pictures, tables and varied blues of the walls were complete I realized that I had just completed the **easy** part and most of the puzzle pieces were still laying scattered around the table. Which leaves me inventing ways to keep my motivation up. Like naming each type of individual piece I'm looking for. Big foot right with a topper. A narrow-top with two siders. Long tall chopper with a hole in his head and dangling right arm. A squiggly to the right. The famous "four poster". The requisite phrases of "That has to go there!", "It obviously has to go in this neighborhood!", and "This is impossible!" start creeping into my normal conversations with myself.

I read this morning in an old Dear Abby column about what maturity is. There were four benchmarks - the first two were: 1) The ability to stick with a job until it's finished, and 2) The ability to do a job unsupervised. I'm determined to finish that danged puzzle - but I'm also thinking, what the heck - I never said I was mature! But, what else can I do? I can't give up - it's too cold and windy (-35° windchill) to scoop snow. Running at school? Too boring. The trap has been set: Two hundred pieces of the floor left . . . oh, oh! "That's a double with a hook-up! Take that Mr. Puzzle maker!" 198!

Tom Dickey

*From the
Vicar*



Called to Follow Christ

The Gospel lesson Mark 1:14-20 for the third Sunday after Epiphany made me think about how much trust that Simon, Andrew, James, and John must have had in Jesus. In the Gospel lesson it did not appear that the disciples hesitated at all about following Jesus. The passage states that they immediately left their nets and followed Him. The Gospel of Mark does not say if Simon, Andrew, James, and John knew Jesus prior to the invitation to follow or if they just felt in their hearts that they could truly trust Jesus. It is hard to imagine having enough trust in someone to leave everything you know behind to follow and hope all will be ok. However, this is exactly what Simon, Andrew, James, and John did, they dropped everything they were doing and left the place they knew and put all their trust in Jesus and followed Him.

Just as Simon, Andrew, James, and John were called to follow Jesus, we too have been called to trust and follow. Trusting and following Jesus seems to be easier said than done. In today's world we seem to have our attention being sought by so many other things, which makes it difficult to keep our focus on the one we should be following. Our attention always seems to be drawn towards our phones or the latest social media trend. At times it is difficult for us to take even a few moments away from technology as we are so reliant on it anymore. We have become so reliant on technology that our focus has been taken away from the One who we are called to follow. Instead of listening to Jesus's call to follow Him, we are following the earthly possessions and letting them be our guide and in whom we place our trust. However, we should know that we cannot put all our trust in technology as technology is not always correct or available. How many of us have put our full trust into GPS trusting it to get us where we need to go but then it takes us down the wrong path or at least heard of stories of this happening to others? How about when the internet goes out at home or work, and you are unable to stream your favorite show or complete your job functions? There are many other examples where we have put our trust in technology, and it has failed us. Even when technology fails, we still put our trust in it hoping that it will not happen again, although there is someone else who we can put our trust in that will never fail us.

God is someone we can fully rely upon and put all our trust in. God will never fail us or lead us down the wrong path. Even knowing all this, we still let worldly things take our attention off the One we should be following. During this Lenten season I encourage you to take time to allow your focus to be drawn back to God and to let your heart fully trust God. If possible, fast from technology a few hours each day this Lent and use that time to reconnect with God, taking time to notice all the wonderful things God provides. It may be difficult to do at first, but with God all things are possible. Therefore, siblings in Christ, let us be like Simon, Andrew, James, and John and take our focus and trust off worldly technologies this Lent to follow Jesus Christ more closely.

Blessings,
Vicar Keith Powell

God-Shaped Hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17th-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each person which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings. "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). God alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!



*Zion Congregational Council
Minutes from December 13, 2023*

Call to Order: Tom Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Members Present: Amy Allgood, Kay Flanagan, Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Chris Nelson,
Vicar Keith Powell, Sara Rasmussen, Tammy Reigle, Amber Salwei, Mary Kay Tisthammer

Members Excused: Josh Thayer

Equipping Time: Mary Kay led us in equipping time Psalm 34:1 – it's all about attitude.
Let's be grateful for what God has given us.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Sara Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Nov. 6, 2023, minutes.
Mary Kay Tisthammer seconded. Motion carried.

Report of Officers

President: Tom Dickey – no report. Enjoyed the light parade.

Vice President: Tammy Reigle – no report.

Treasurer: Amber Salwei made a motion to accept the October and November Treasurer's Reports.
Chris Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Senior Pastor: Rev. Carolann Hopcke

Confirmation: Had some issues with confirmation. General disrespect. Parents were invited to the next confirmation class. Classes will be separated starting in January: 8th graders will stay in the basement and 7th graders will be in the conference room.

Vacation – December 25 through January 2nd. Pastor is flying to California to be with her brother.
Vicar Keith will be here during this time.

Eli Porter Playground Grant – Joann Porter asked to use the church's 501c3 when applying for a grant from the United Way. The Council unanimously agreed to let this happen.

Coffee schedule: Council will be responsible for January 2024.

Jan. 7 – Amy Allgood & Tammy Reigle

Jan. 14 – Kay Flanagan & Amber Salwei

Jan 21 – Sara Rasmussen & Mary Kay Tisthammer

Jan 28 – Tom Dickey & Josh Thayer (FYI: The forum will be this day)

Intern Pastor: Vicar Keith Powell

Final day of classes is Thursday, December 14th. He has only one more paper to submit.

J-term class will begin on Jan. 2nd and will meet two hours a day for two weeks.

Prolog Week on the seminary campus in Iowa will be January 29th to February 2nd.

High School Youth Coordinator: Dorothy Grosch

Planning a lock-in for January 3 -4. Will use the Petersburg gym. Will cost \$100.

Decorated the church with the confirmation class on Wed., Nov. 29th.

Decorated Marilee Niewohner's home on Sunday, November 26th.

Candlelight Service was moved from December 17th to Wed. Dec. 20th at 7pm.

Standing Committee Reports

Evangelism: Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

The light parade was a success.

May Day Cookies will be the next event to discuss.

Fellowship: 27 Adults & 2 children attended the Holiday Dinner at the Albion Country Club.

It was a very nice event & we will do it again next year!

Nominations:

Council Nominees (2024-2026 term): Kay Flanagan, Jim Meyer & Roberta Seda

Mission Endowment Nominee (2024-2026 term): Eric Johnson

Nominating Committee (2024-term): Deb Borchers, Jacque Dickey & Doug Young

Synod Assembly Voting Members: Bill Curry, Tiffany Curry & Luke Curry (or Katelyn Curry)

Cont'd on page 5

Parish Education:

Advent calendars were handed out in church.

The Sunday School children did a great job playing the colored bells!

Bill Curry's youth/adult Sunday School class is going well.

They are working on the Christmas pageant for December 17th at 9am.

Christmas ornaments are ready to be handed out after the Christmas Program.

The outdoor Nativity has been set up.

We will ask the electrician to add an outlet to the sign for easier lighting of the Nativity.

Property:

Mitch Koch contacted our previous insurance company (Church Mutual) about the sanctuary ceiling by the bell tower. The church should be receiving a check soon in the amount of \$7,545.10 to cover this damage. An engineer may also be coming out to further inspect this problem.

A gutter outside the east door has come away from the wall.

Hagerbaumer Drywall and the O'Brien Electric have been out to look at the hallway ceilings & lights. Light fixtures need to be selected and ordered.

New Custodian: things seem to be better.

Delmar Pelster will do snow removal.

Worship Committee: Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 4th at 5:00pm.

Community Thanksgiving Service had low attendance. May need to be reevaluated before next year.

Christmas Eve Schedule: 10am, 3:30pm & 5:30pm with special music before each service.

The longest night service is December 21st at Albion Methodist Church.

Task Force Reports:

ADA Updates: Tammy Reigle will text Jon Porter to talk about the bathroom plans.

The Elevator Fund has recently received two donation checks: one for \$50,000 and one for \$5,000.

OLD Business:

AED – Sara Rasmussen offered an awareness training on Sunday, December 10, 2023, after church.

CPR Training - we will find a time to offer CPR training in 2024.

Budget: Green highlights indicate a decrease in the budget item. Yellow highlights indicate an increase in the budget item. Intern housing and utilities have been added to the budget. Tammy Reigle moved to recommend proposing this updated 2024 budget to the congregation at the annual meeting in February. Chris Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

NEW Business:

Church insurance update: We received an insurance manual from Brotherhood Mutual explaining all of our coverage.

Nebraska Synod: There will be changes made to the Synod Constitution.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 22, 2024, at 6pm (Equipping Time = Sara Rasmussen)

Adjournment: Amber Salwei made a motion to adjourn the meeting 7:11pm. Tammy Reigle seconded. Motion carried. Pastor Carolann led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kay Flanagan



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Norman Brugger, Penny Niemann
Alan Ranslem
- 4 Doug Young
- 5 Amber Coakes, Dustin Martin
*Leroy Schroeder**
- 6 Dana Cox, Rachel Lee, Laisha Winter
- 7 Cale Moser, *Jane Rolf**,
Troy Sandman, Nolan Tisthammer,
Mike Webster
- 8 Mark Niewohner
- 9 Andrew Texley
- 10 Keith Jacobson, Skylar Porter
- 11 Dalton Olnes
- 13 Charlie Krohn, Tami Texley
- 14 Kent Carder, Taylor Sullivan
- 15 Bill Becker
- 18 Mark Hudson
- 19 Danielle Olson, Andy Tisthammer,
- 20 Michelle Merten, Ember Rasmussen
- 21 Ashtin Kaumans, Kim Schaefer
- 22 Kayla Bruland, Luke Curry
- 23 *Larry Ransen**, Colton Tisthammer
- 24 Jacque Dickey
- 26 Josie Cox, Darci Lindgren,
Zane Niemann, Wade Reigle
- 27 Chris Nelson, Gracyn Seier
- 28 Brynlee Choat, Emma David,
Cheri Pollock

*Denotes 80+ years young



ANNIVERSARIES


- 2 **Carroll & Jane Rolf***
- 11 Kevin & Martie Anderson
- 19 Chris & Heather Kohtz
- 24 Alan & Karen Ranslem
- 25 Ron & Zondée Coakes

***Denotes 50+ years of marriage**

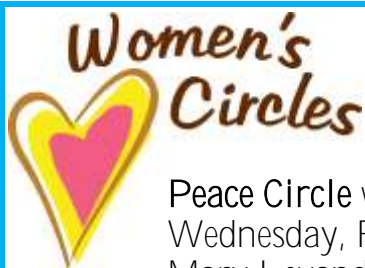


We are not perfect and sadly, neither is our database. If you know of folks whose names are missing from the birthday or anniversary lists, please let us know. We really would like to include everyone. Thanks!

Don't see your name?




"Be my valentine Be my valentine
Be my valentine"



February
2024

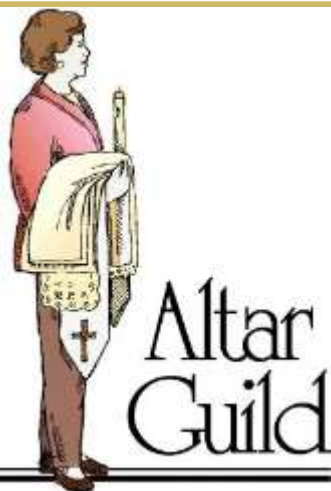
Peace Circle will meet at Zion on
Wednesday, Feb. 21st at 9am.
Mary Levander will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at 2pm on Wednesday,
February 21st. For more information, please
speak with Doris Warner.

2024 Flower Committee

February
Connie Bentjen

March
No Flowers
during Lent



2024

February:
Mary Staub*
Pam & Doug Young
Zondee & Ron Coakes

March:
Amanda Reinhart*
Lori Warner
Roberta Seda

NewsLetter DEADLine

**The March
Messenger deadline is
Sunday,
February 18th!**

Groundhog DAY

Feb. 2nd



**Communion
elements
available!**

Individually packaged communion
elements continue to be available for pickup
in the church narthex. Take as many as you
need for your household. This will let you
take communion with us on Sundays as you
watch Facebook live or Vyve Channel 21.

If you have any questions, please talk to
Pastor Carolann or Amy Zaruba.



Snow Shoveling Volunteers Needed!

We need help to scoop or
shovel all of the church and
parsonage sidewalks! If you
are able to help, just come by after a snow
and start!

FYI Confirmation Students:
Each sidewalk is worth 5 points!

Thanks for your help!

ASH Wednesday

February 14th!



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- We
- Above all,
- My command is this:
- And over all these virtues put on
- Greater
- See what great
- There is no fear in



- each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
- has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
- But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
- each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
- the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
- because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
- which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14

HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

- Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
- Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
- Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
- Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
- Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
- Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us ____ one another, for ____ comes from God. Everyone who ____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ____ does not know God, because God is ____."

- believe
- help
- love
- forgive



Answers are on page 13



LUTHER LEAGUE

for all in grades 9-12
Join us on **Wednesday Nights!**
Dinner begins at **6pm.**

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! Everyone is welcome at any and all of our Luther League events!

Blessings, Dorothy Grosch

Luther League Meals

Want to help provide meals for Luther League meetings on Wednesday nights? Go to signup genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c44acac28a1f58-luther> to volunteer! Thanks!



FUND RAISERS



Eat-in or Take-out Soup
Ash Wednesday, February 14th
5pm — 7pm

On Ash Wednesday, February 14th we will be having a Soup Supper that you may eat-in at the church or take-out. The menu includes: *Potato Soup*, *Chicken Noodle*, *Chili* and *Cinnamon Rolls*! Soups will be available in bowl, pint & quart containers.

To place a take-out order, call the church at 402-395-2043, call or text Dorothy at 402-741-0624, or use the sign-up sheet on the church bulletin board outside the offices. Please include your name, phone number, order and your preferred pick-up time. Pick up will be in the narthex, OR Zion's south parking lot and the youth will bring it out to your car. We are also willing to deliver to those unable to come to church.

Pre-orders are due by **Sunday, Feb. 4th!**

Luther League Schedule



JANUARY

Fri., Jan. 26	6pm	Concessions at Gateway
Sat., Jan. 27	6pm	Concessions at Gateway
Sun., Jan. 28	6pm	Concessions at Gateway

FEBRUARY

Wed., Feb. 7	6:30pm	Plan Sunrise Worship
Wed., Feb. 14	5-7pm	Soup Supper
Wed., Feb. 21	6pm	LL Room Meeting
Wed., Feb. 28	6pm	LL Room Meeting



All of Zion's signup sheets can be found online!

All of Zion's signups are now digital through the SignUpGenius website. Simply Google SignUpGenius – find a signup. Enter office@zionalbion.com in the creator search bar to find us.

There are signups for greeters, ushers, acolytes, reader, communion assistants, audio/video, and power point volunteers! Dorothy and Pastor also added signups for hosting Luther League and confirmation class meals.

This is a very easy and convenient way to volunteer for the dates and ways you would like to help. If you need any assistance, please contact the church office. Thanks!!



Zion Church Council Will MEET on Sunday, February 4th after the Annual meeting



Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 20th At 6:00pm



Next Meeting: Sunday, Feb. 11th at 10:15am

Sunday Bulletins



Sunday bulletins are now available in the narthex. They are in the tract rack by the Thursday before the upcoming Sunday. Feel free to stop by and pick one up.

Bulletins



CONFIRMATION



Classes: Wednesdays, February 21st & 28th!

Due to Midweek Lenten Worship
Dinner will be at 5pm
Class will be from 5:30pm-6:30pm



The Evangelism Committee will meet on Thursday, March 14th at 7pm. All are welcome!



Sponsored by Zion's Luther League
Ash Wednesday, February 14th
5-7pm

Menu: Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Chili, and Cinnamon Rolls!

Suggested Donations:

Cup of Soup \$4.00 (8 oz.)
Quart of Soup \$12.00 (32 oz.)

Pint of Soup \$7.00 (16 oz.)
Cinnamon Roll \$3.00 each

The Take-Out Order Deadline is Sunday, February 4th.

Menu	# Cup	# Pint	# Quart	# Rolls	Amount Enclosed	Check # or Cash
Chicken Noodle						
Chili						
Potato Soup						

(Call or text Dorothy at 402-741-0624 with any questions.)

Name: _____

Phone number: _____



"We're textin' with our Alphabet soup."



PRAYER PILLOWS
Sunday,
February 4, 2024

On Sunday, February 4th we will be giving Prayer Pillows to all three and four-year-olds during worship. Please bring your preschooler to worship on February 4th to receive a prayer pillow.

After all the three and four-year-olds have chosen a pillow, the older children will be invited to choose a pillow too!

Special thanks to Lisa Skillstad for making all the pillows! They are wonderful and we're certain that the children will LOVE them!

Hope to see you on February 4th!

Boone County

Food Pantry



1108 W. State Street
Albion, NE 68620

**Open EVERY Thursday
2-4pm**

Ongoing Needs:

Canned Soup	Crackers
Canned Fruit	Toilet Paper
Cereal	Bar Soap
Kleenex	Toothpaste
Hand Sanitizers	Paper Products
Miscellaneous Personal Hygiene Products	

Donations may be brought to the Pantry on Thursdays between 2-4pm.

For more information, call Nancee Krohn (402) 741-1184 or Lynn Bygland (402) 920-3552



Mission Quilters
will meet on
Fridays,
February 9th & 23rd
at 1:30pm.

All are welcome to join us!



Mobile Food Pantry ~ Sat., February 3rd

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 9:00 am at the Boone County Fairgrounds. Due to the Covid-19 virus, this will again be set up as a drive-through only. All patrons will need to enter the fairgrounds from the 11th and Fairview entrance. Vehicles will be taken in order of arrival in a designated line. The first vehicle to arrive is asked to follow the road into the fairgrounds and stop and park directly in front of the cones that will be set out. All other vehicles entering that are there for the mobile pantry need to follow in line and wait until you have been asked to do otherwise.

If anyone is coming to volunteer their time, please park in the west parking lot next to the Casey Building. If you are willing and are able to volunteer, please arrive around 8:15 am.

If any volunteers or patrons have any symptoms of illness, please refrain from coming to the mobile pantry this month but feel free to ask someone else to pick up for you.

The Food Bank of the Heartland will provide pre-packaged boxes, along with some other produce and food products. Each patron will be required to take what is already packed in each box.

A specific number of vehicles at a time will be sent down to the distribution area. All people attending must remain in their vehicles unless asked to get out. All cars in the distribution area must remain parked until all of those vehicles are told to move. This is a big change as to how things are generally done so we ask for your patience and cooperation as the volunteers are doing their best.

Everyone is reminded that there is always the possibility that the mobile pantry could be cancelled or postponed due to the current events. Coordinators will do their best to update the information in the newspaper or through the Boone County Nebraska Sheriff's Facebook page.



✚ Christian Symbol ✚



CROSS OF ASHES

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."



Table Grace

(Spoken)

God is great,
God is good,
and we thank him
for our food.

By His hand
we all are fed.
Thank you Lord
for our daily bread.
Amen.



Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team has been busy making prayer shawls. Please remember that all **Prayer Shawls are FREE!**

If you know of someone in need of prayer, simply take a prayer shawl and give it to that person.

It would be nice to know how many we give away, so we ask that you sign your name and at least the first name of the person receiving the shawl on the sheet in the narthex.

God Bless You!



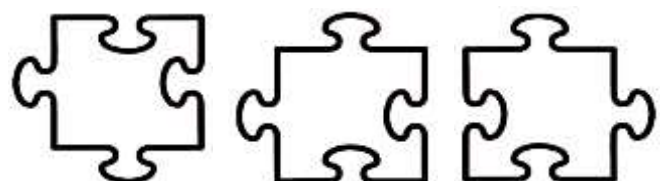
I would like to sincerely thank the congregation at Zion for all the prayers, calls, cards, visits, and food during the recovery from my fall in October shortly after a knee replacement. I had so much support and God-given strength during my rehab time. I couldn't have done it without all the support.

*In Christian love,
Deb Borchers*

Puzzle Answers

Bible Quiz Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)

Answer: a 6, b 4, c 1, d 7, e 2, f 5, g 3



In order to be prepared
for our annual meeting,
there will be an
**Informational
Congregational
Forum**

(after worship)

on Sunday, January 28th



Please join us!

**Annual
Congregational
Meeting
Sun., February 4th**



**Sunday
School**



**Group Sunday
School on
February 4th!**

So that teachers and parents may attend the annual meeting, all Sunday School youth from preschool through eighth grade will gather in the Fellowship hall for a large group Sunday school. Please speak with Stacy Petersen if you have any questions.



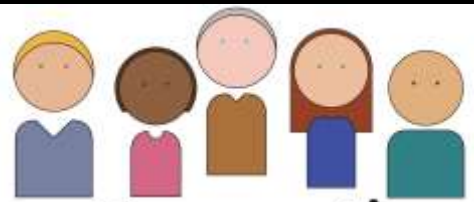
**2024 Offering
Envelopes**

Please don't forget to pick up
your 2024 offering envelopes!

They are available in the church



**Transfiguration
Sunday,
February 11th**



Council Installation

The Installation of Church
Council Members & Officers
will take place during worship on
Sunday, February 11th at 9am



Worship Committee

**NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, February 6th
at 5:30pm**



**"No, Dolly, I looked online and
THIS is what a heart's s'posed
to look like."**



First Communion Classes Planning Meeting

First Holy Communion instruction for 5th graders will take place during Lent, the traditional time of instruction for the Church. An informational meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 18th** after worship in the conference room.

Classes will be held in the conference room at Zion on Tuesdays after school. Classes will begin on February 20th.

First Holy Communion for these students will be received on **Maundy Thursday, March 28th** during 7pm worship.

If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Carolann.



Average Church Attendance

	In person	Online
June	89	93
July	96	101
August	105	37
September	127	46
October	126	65
November	147	97
December	177	175

2023 Averages: 129 In person
110 Online



PRETZELS & LENT

Did you know that the easiest and perhaps most significant Lenten food custom for our time might be to serve a small pretzel to every member of the family with their main meal? It sounds surprising, but the pretzel has a deep spiritual meaning for Lent. In fact, it was the ancient Christian Lenten bread as far back as the fifth century. To remind themselves that Lent was a time of prayer, they shaped their breads in the form of arms crossed in prayer (in those days they crossed their arms over their hearts while praying). Therefore they called the breads “little arms” (bracellae). From the Latin word the Germans later coined the term, “pretzel.”

Thus the pretzel is the most appropriate food symbol in Lent. It still shows the form of arms crossed in prayer, reminding us that Lent is a time of prayer. It consists only of water and flour (hard pretzels), thus proclaiming Lent as a time of fasting. Besides, its custom came down to us from the early Christians who had invented it as the bearer of such a great spiritual message.

On the last Sunday before Lent, we will be sharing pretzels as a reminder of this ancient tradition and as a way to begin our preparation for the journey of Lent. Please join us on **Transfiguration Sunday, February 11th!**



Dear Friends,

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for bringing Faith: Alive! for our campers! Your gift of \$700 helps bridge the gap and subsidize the cost of each and every camper. We are incredibly thankful YOU stand by our long-time promise that we will not turn away a camper for their family's inability to pay the camp fee.

Campers spend their time at camp studying the Bible, participating in team-building activities, and exploring God's creation. Our campers develop lasting faith, with many campers growing to become Summer Ministry Team members, and some deepening their faith further by going into seminary.

For building a bridge and making camp possible - thank you! May God bless you and your church family.

Merry Christmas,

Dennis Remington, Development Associate

Thanks for helping us make camp [possible for children to grow in their faith.

Jason Gerdes



Dear friends of Mosaic,

At the time the famous hymn ***What Child is This***, was written, its author, William Dix, was an insurance company manager and struck down by critical illness. As he recovered, he experienced a spiritual revival which inspired him to write this hymn. Contemplating Christ's coming, he was inspired to pour out his heart in song and gratitude.

In these days, when we celebrate Christ's coming, we thank you for opening your hearts in gratitude and for helping Mosaic live out its calling with a donation of \$300 (WELCA).

As we join in this calling together, we enrich the lives of one another both in your congregation and in the lives of all in Mosaic's care. My office is here to assist. Never hesitate to contact me if your congregation would like to explore new ways to take part in Mosaic's ministries.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Twila Schock

VP of Church Relations & International Programming



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$800 to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund!

The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. Quilts and kits are both practical and comforting. Wherever they are in the world and whatever challenges they face, the families who receive them can truly feel the love and care that quilters and kit makers put them into them.

In colder regions of Tanzania, quilts are actually helping children grow! Researchers recently discovered that many children in these regions did not have adequate bedding and were using too many calories to keep their bodies warm — taking away valuable energy they need to grow. For children who are already hungry or malnourished, this can create long-term problems with their physical growth and mental development. But, wrapped in a warm and cozy quilt, they can sleep soundly and grow up healthy

And that is just one example of how your generosity helps. Whether a quilt or kit reaches a family in a refugee camp, a new mother in an urban slum, or a child in a remote village, your kindness brings comfort and hope to people when they need it most.

I am so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.

*God bless you & your generous spirit,
Daniel Speckhard, President and CEO*



Zion Lutheran Church & "Friends of..."

Youth & Families for Christ has been so blessed by your thoughtful partnership. Our ministry depends on people such as yourself to come alongside us... Thank you for doing so with your baby blankets & fleece throws. They were a wonderful gift for our Teen Parents!

God Bless from all YFFC Staff





**Sunday, February 18th
5:30pm
Fellowship Hall**

All children in grades 2 through 5 are invited to join us for some food, fun and fellowship at Zion Alive!

Please check out the Facebook page for Zion Alive updates.

Please speak with Kim Young (402-843-8562) for more information.

Hope to see you on **February 18th!**



2024 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

February: Finance &
Mission Endowment

March: Evangelism



The Mission Endowment Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 30th at 5:30pm.

**Easter
Flowers
are
Coming!**

**Easter is
March 31st!**



Flower choices and prices are still being finalized. We will let everyone know as soon as we get the information! Watch for details about ordering Easter flowers in the church bulletin announcements.

**Coffee
and
CONVERSATION**

**February 1st
9:30am at
the Dotted Daisy**



The Faith & Fellowship Committee is inviting everyone for Coffee & Conversation at the Dotted Daisy on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30am.

Please join us & invite friends!

Beer, Bible & Soup

**Thursday, February 1st
6pm at the Brewery**



Beer, Bible & Soup will be held at the Brewery on Thursday, February 1st. Pastor Carolann is our host and will provide the soup. **All are welcome! Please join us!**

**Feb.
14!**



Happy Valentine's Day

Rejoice in the Lord Jar!

There is a new jar in the narthex! During her sermon on January 14th, Pastor Carolann challenged us to not only think of things we love about our faith community and ministry at Zion Lutheran Church, but to write them down and put them in this jar. Maybe you appreciate worship, or Vacation Bible School, or our Quilters, or Sunday School, or our coffee Fellowship time, or whatever...

How is God at work through us and among us that we want to invite people to Come and See?

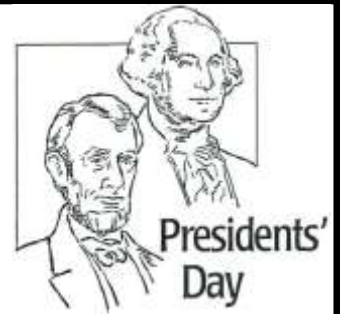
Please take some time to think about at least one thing that we're doing at Zion that you like and then write it down and put it in the jar. There are pens & paper by the jar specifically for this purpose!

The plan is to read these notes at our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 4th!

*Rejoice in the Lord always
and again I will say rejoice!
(Philippians 4:4)*



The church office will be closed for
Presidents' Day,
Monday,
Feb. 19th.



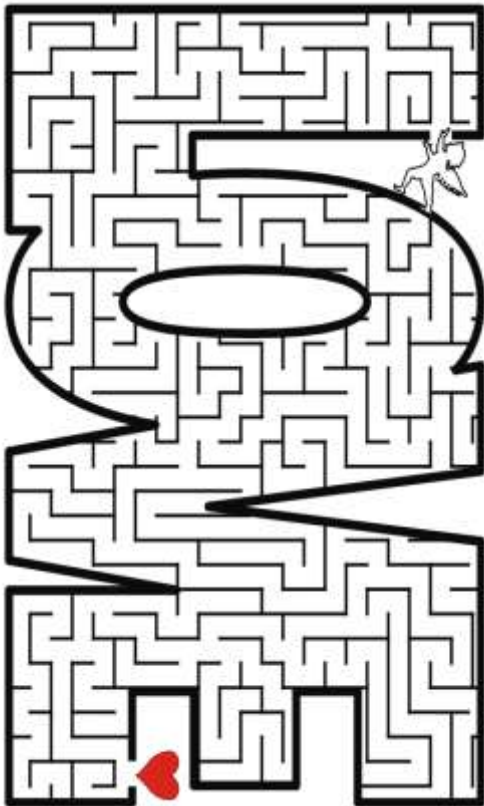
Boy Scout Sunday
Sunday, February 4th!

Faith & Fellowship

**Committee will meet
at 10:15am**

**on Sunday, January 7th.
(after church)**

All are welcome to join us!



Do you want to fast this lent?

(In the words of Pope Francis)

- ◊ Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- ◊ Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- ◊ Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- ◊ Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- ◊ Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- ◊ Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- ◊ Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- ◊ Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- ◊ Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- ◊ Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- ◊ Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

LENT



PEOPLE SPOTS

Mary Kay Tisthammer



Mary Kay (Milburn) Tisthammer was born August 18th at Albion Hospital to Wayne and Mary Ann (Brugman) Milburn. Mary Kay was welcomed home to the family farm five miles northeast of Albion by her older brother Larry and two older sisters Karen and Ann.

Mary Kay started her education by attending kindergarten at District 49 school since St. Michael's school was only first to eighth grade at that time. Mary Kay then went on to attend St. Michael's school for her elementary years. Mary Kay graduated from Albion High School with the class of 1982.

On August 17, 1984, Mary Kay married the love of her life Kent Tisthammer. To this union four children were born: Jason, Andy, Brian, and Mark. The family lived on the farm six miles northeast of Albion. The family has since expanded with the boys starting families of their own. Jason married Rachel (Mazour) and were blessed with three children: Everly, Cecily, and Barrett. Andy married Lyndsay (Sherburne) and has been blessed with three children: Ava, Aiden, and Audrey. Brian married Teresa (Victor) and they have been blessed with three children: Ben, Nolan, and Colton. Mark married Kelli (Larson) and has been blessed with their son John and a new baby due at the end of February.

Mary Kay got her first job at the age of 16 at Dew Drop Inn. Mary Kay worked for Dew Drop Inn until she graduated from high school. After graduation, Mary Kay went to work at Staska Drilling Company as a secretary until her marriage to Kent. After Jason and Andy were born, Mary Kay went to work at Albion Farmers Coop to help send out statements the last week of the month. When Brian joined the family Mary Kay stayed home and helped on the farm and kept busy running the kids to school. When Mark started high school Mary Kay started working two days a week at Spiegel Automotive. In November 2007, Mary Kay became a receptionist 2-3 days a week at Boone County Health Center. After a few years, Mary Kay switched to the Medical Clinic side from where she retired after 15 years of service.

Mary Kay now spends her time watching her grandkids at least one day a week but sometimes more often. Which means she also gets to see her sons at least one day a week because they come and eat lunch with their children at noon. Mary Kay and Kent enjoy camping and boating when they have time. Mary Kay likes to spend her time traveling. Mary Kay and Kent try to take at least one big trip a year. They have been to Hawaii, Alaska, and a lot of the southern and western states. They would rather go where it is less busy or if they are going on a really big trip they like to go on tours. Mary Kay says tours are great because then neither person has to drive, they both get to enjoy the scenery and they do not have to worry about hotels. Mary Kay would some day like to go to the Northeast Coast to see the fall foliage but knows that will be hard to get organized due to being married to a farmer and fall being a busy time of year for farmers.

Mary Kay also enjoys spending time watching her grandkids' school and sporting events. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family, playing cards and other games. She also enjoys going out to eat and trying new places to eat. Even though farm life keeps her busy she enjoys spending time admiring what God gives her to work with every year.

Mary Kay's advice is to take time to spend with family and friends because tomorrow is never a given.

Mary Kay and Kent joined Immanuel Zion Lutheran Church on May 3, 1992. In 2000 Mary Kay and Kent joined Zion Lutheran Church. Mary Kay is currently serving as a member of the church council. We are all so glad you joined our church family. You are a blessing to us! God bless you & your family.

Written & submitted by Vicar Keith Powell



Potluck Supper & Games Sunday, March 10th

The Faith & Fellowship Committee
invites you to join them for a
Potluck Supper that will begin at 5pm
with games to follow.

Bring a dish to share &
a favorite game to play!

All are welcome!



FLAT SHEETS NEEDED!

Our quilters are in need of FLAT
sheets—they need to be full size or
larger and they can be any color you
like. These flat sheets are used for the
backs of the quilters' beautiful quilts.

For more information please speak
with Marcia Seier 402-395-6163.



FEBRUARY

4	Sarah Liss
11	Tami Texley
18	Tami Texley
25	Tami Texley



Worship Song Leaders FEBRUARY

4	Jacque & Tom Dickey
11	Kay Flanagan
18	Tiffany Curry
25	Kim Schaefer



2pm on February 15th at Wolf Home
Volunteers & Prizes needed!

We will be hosting Bingo at Wolf Home on the
3rd Thursday of each month. We need at least 2
volunteers each month. There is a sign-up sheet
on the narthex bulletin board. We are looking for
donations of Large Print puzzle books, coloring
books for adults, beanie babies, nice costume
jewelry (clip on earrings), etc. Donation are being
collected in the marked box in the narthex.

For more information, please speak with
Pat Neidhardt (402-395-2802).



Prayer Concerns this Month

Wolf Memorial Home Residents

Liz Hunt Sandra Lindgren
LaVonne Mills Fran Obermire
Ruth Pribnow Muriel Young

Good Samaritan Estates (Assisted Living)

Arletta Francis Donna Kruse
Dorothy Tisthammer

Arbor Care Center (Fullerton)

Ron Weltruski

Primrose Retirement Community (Grand Island)

Joy Haas

Elkridge Assisted Living (Omaha)

Mary Lou Nore

Heritage of Bel-Air (Norfolk)

LaVonne Olnes

Our Homebound

Barb Buckendahl Judy Harder
LaDonna Morris Dale Sheldon
Virginia Storm

In Our Sunday Prayers

Barb Buckendahl, Krista Choat, Cynthia David,
Becky Lindgren, Tim Peterson, Debbie Schwartz,
Mark Smith, Keith Stewart, Virginia Storm,
Pat Tobiason, Ron Weltruski,
and the families of
Jim Atkinson, Marianne Bull,
Mel Dawson, Ron Krohn



Our Congregation

Our Forum & Annual Meeting
Outgoing Church Council Members
Newly elected Church Council Members
Newly elected volunteers

Other Concerns

Our Military

The people of Gaza, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine
All those affected by war, violence & hatred

Those affected by natural disasters

Levander's Funeral Home Staff

Boone County Hospital & Clinic Staff

Rescue Workers

Snow Removal Crews

Other prayer concerns are welcome



Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School 2024

VBS will be held from

June 10-14, 2023

9am — 12noon



Can You Tie A Knot?



Zion's Sew Happy Mission

Quilters are always looking for people to help them quilt! You are welcome to join them on the 2nd & 4th Fridays to help tie & pin quilts. If you like to sew, they always need help to sew quilt blocks together. The blocks and strips are already cut and put together in a bag ready to be sewn together.

For more information, contact Barb Michael (402-395-6377) or any of the other quilters.



Prayer Chain & Prayer Concerns

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain, please call Sharon Waters (402-741-2358) or the

church office (402-35-2043) and they will start the chain. If you'd like to add someone to our Sunday prayers, please call the church office (402-395-2043).

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



\$40. for Lent

Every year, Lent gives us the opportunity to sacrifice something for 40 days. In the past, some people give up chocolate, coffee, going to the movies, etc. This year, we are asking that you take the money you would have spent on whatever it is you are giving up and give it to the church instead. Save the money you would have spent on chocolate, coffee, eating out, etc. and give it to the church on Easter Sunday.

If that doesn't work for you, you can simply make a Lenten Love Offering by giving a set amount for the 40 days of Lent. You might give 40 pennies, 40 quarters, 40 dollar bills, or even 40 ten-dollar bills, etc.

During the 40 days of Lent, let us remember all that Christ gave up for each of us as we give up something for Him.

Whatever you give as your Lenten Love Offering will benefit God's ministry at Zion Lutheran Church! It will be put in the ADA Accessibility Fund. (We are in need of funds to help cover the cost of phase I) Don't forget, Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14th**.



The following people made donations to the Zion Memorial Fund in loving memory of
Mort Grosch



Mary Grosch (Elevator Fund)



Lenten Schedule: Parables for Lent

Wed., Feb. 14th Ash Wednesday
Soup Supper: 5-7pm (Luther League)
7pm Worship: *Pharisee & Tax Collector*

Sun., Feb. 18th 1st Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Sower & Seed*

Sun., Feb. 25th 2nd Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Hidden Treasure*

Sun., March 3rd 3rd Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Good Samaritan*

Sun., March 10th 4th Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Workers in the Vineyard*

Sun., March 17th 5th Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Prodigal Son*

Questioned for Christ Midweek Lenten Worship Wednesdays at 7pm



We will listen each week as figures from the passion story are questioned concerning their relationship to Jesus. Is there enough evidence to convict them of being followers of Christ? Is there enough evidence to convict each one of us?

Each week includes a drama set in a police interrogation room. Volunteers are needed — please speak with Pastor if you are interested in helping.

Schedule:

Wed., Feb. 21st Mary (*Martha's sister*)
Wed. Feb. 28th Nicodemus
Wed., Mar. 6th Mary Magdalene
Wed., Mar. 13th Barabbas
Wed. Mar. 20th John



Biscuits & Gravy Casserole

(Submitted by Connie Becker)

Preheat to 350°F.

Ingredients:

- 8 count package refrigerated biscuit dough
(use large biscuits, such as Grands)
- 1lb. bulk sausage
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 6 large eggs
- ½ cup milk
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package peppered gravy mix
(2¾ oz — makes 2 cups)

Instructions

1. Grease a 13×9 baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
2. In a large skillet, cook the sausage over medium heat until completely browned. Drain off the fat, set the sausage aside.
3. Cut each biscuit into 4 pieces and spread over the bottom of the prepared pan in an even layer.
4. Add the cooked sausage over the biscuit dough, then sprinkle the cheese over the sausage.
5. In a large bowl, whisk together the eggs and milk; add salt and pepper to taste, then pour the mixture all over the casserole.
6. Make the gravy according to the package instructions. Pour the prepared gravy over the whole casserole.
7. Bake the casserole for 40-45 minutes.
(until puffed up & golden brown on top)



FYI: We received a lovely Christmas Card from the Frerichs! It's posted on the bulletin board for all to enjoy!

Rev. David & Dawn Frerichs

1803 Limestone Ave; Columbia, MO 65203



Zion Lutheran Mission Endowment,
Thank you for choosing our project for
your support of \$2,860. Your generosity
means everything to us!

Thank you for your kind and generous
support of the Eli Porter Memorial
Playground Project.

Joann Porter & Andrew Devine

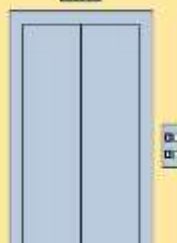


The following people
made donations to
Zion's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of
Twila Koetter

Connie & Rick Nelson



ELEVATOR



We offer our
heartfelt thanks to
Donna Kruse
for her
generous donation
to the Elevator Fund.

Zion continues to worship in person, but please do what makes you feel safe and comfortable. Feel free to social distance or wear a mask as desired.

Please DO NOT COME if your are not feeling well, or have flu like symptoms. We certainly want to see everyone, but we also need everyone to be safe.



Forever Ours

Child Loss Grief Support Group



February 12th at 7pm
Luther League Room

*Forever Ours is a support group
for parents who have lost children of any age.*

*For additional information,
contact Pastor Carolann Hopcke at
Zion Lutheran Church (402-395-2043) or
Arielle Lindt at AseraCare Hospice
(402-745-1602).*

*Worship
with us
from
HOME*

Zion Sunday Services
are broadcast LIVE on
Vyve Cable Channel 21
and repeated on
Wednesdays at
8am, 10:30am, 12pm,
4pm, 7pm, 8pm & 9pm
and Saturdays at
8am and 12pm.

You may also join us each Sunday morning at 9am
on Facebook Live!



You may worship with us live,
or watch the service by clicking the link
on our Facebook page
at www.facebook.com/zionalbion

Zion Messenger is a monthly publication of
Zion Lutheran Church
319 S 5th St., Albion, NE 68620
Worship Services - Sunday 9:00am

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4pm
Friday Office Closed

Phone 402-395-2043

Pastoral Care Concerns after hours:
Pastor Carolann Hopcke, 267-374-7762

Email: office@zionalbion.org

Website: www.zionalbion.org

Zion's Staff

Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Senior Pastor
PCA@zionalbion.org

Vicar Keith Powell, Seminarian
vicar.keith@zionalbion.org

Office Administrators
Cynthia Kraus & Cheryl Sherburne
office@zionalbion.org

High School Youth Coordinator
Dorothy Grosch
youthcoordinator@zionalbion.org

Nancy Ahlers, Treasurer:
treasurer@zionalbion.org