



Zion Messenger

March 2024

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



What Difference does Easter Make?



So what if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? Who cares if we no longer talk about "Easter Break" from school? What difference does Easter make anyway?

It makes a lot of difference to those who are in enough touch with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to a woman named Mary...

Mary had the heart-wrenching honor of washing the dried blood from Jesus' lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb cut into Jerusalem's cold limestone. Mary wept as she washed -- wept and remembered....

She had not had the easiest of lives. She met Jesus when he confronted the demons that tormented her and commanded them to be gone from her forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place. Until that Friday. On that day she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body weight hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a **common criminal**. I'm sure she wept as she watched the men lift Jesus' corpse onto the tomb's carved ledge, and roll a massive stone across the doorway.

Was all her hope for nothing? What about all the people he had healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When

she arrived the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards' watchfire probably still smoldering.

She wept, not knowing where they had taken her Lord. And then Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice — "Mary." She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. "Rabboni," she said, looking into his face, "Teacher."

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring break, but you and I know what really happened on Easter. In an instant, history changed forever because Christ was alive! Jesus, the Savior of the world, stepped out of the grave and into life. Death is no longer the last word of Jesus' followers, Life is.

"Jesus," Mary would tell us, "he changed my life." And millions around the globe would echo, "Mine, too. He touched my life, too." While religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains: only One stepped forth from the tomb. Only One has risen from the dead. Only One has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus makes a difference in my life. Please join me on Easter morning to celebrate the victory of Jesus — the victory of life over death.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!
Let us celebrate Christ's resurrection!

Your sister in Christ,



Corner

What Does it Mean to be a Christian?

President's

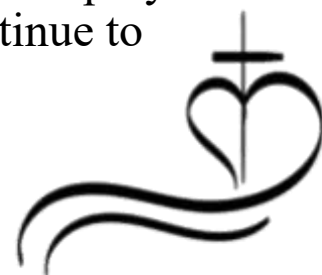
Being a Christian is not easy. It involves constantly self-examining ourselves and the things that we do, WWJD (what would Jesus do). It is so easy for me to say that I am a Christian, but what does being a Christian really look like? Does it mean we show up for church every Sunday? Does it mean we always volunteer when asked? My answer would be no. There is more to being a Christian than just showing up on Sunday for worship and volunteering, although both are extremely important, don't get me wrong.



Being a Christian means that we are willing to always challenge ourselves to be a better person. It means that we go out and look for opportunities to help or make something or someone feel better. We don't want to make a show of this, but to do this when only Jesus knows that you are doing this. It means to not pass judgment on others before you really get to know them. Sounds easy, right? Well maybe for some, but I find myself struggling daily with trying to be a better Christian.

Romans 7:15 does a good job of summing up my daily struggles: "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." Lucky for me and everyone else that God understands the struggle and he does not expect perfection just persistence. Lent is a time of repentance and self-examination; it is a time where we remember God's love for us. God sent his son Jesus to die on the cross, as he knew we would struggle. What an amazing gift He gave us! As we embark on this Lenten season, let us continue to pray for our Church, each other, and ourselves as we continue to strive to be better Christians.

Your sister in Christ,
Tammy Reigle





Do Not Worry About Tomorrow

As we enter March, we are reminded that spring is right around the corner, and we can barely wait for the warmer weather and for longer days of light. It seems that once we enter March, we yearn for spring to arrive as soon as possible so we can be outside. There are some of us who start thinking about what we are going to plant in our gardens or fields this spring and cannot wait to get started as soon as March arrives. Others of us cannot wait for spring sports to begin as we yearn for the first game of the season in baseball, soccer, or that first track meet. Whether it is sports or planting that we are looking forward to when March rolls around we are looking forward to what is yet to come. It is good to look toward the future, but when we focus too much on what is to come, we sometime miss the things that are happening in the present moment right in front of us.

At times it can be difficult to live in the present without looking toward the future and at what tomorrow could possibly bring. Matthew 6:34 reminds us that we are not to worry about tomorrow as today has enough for us to focus on. Mathew 6:34 states, *"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."* This verse from Matthew is a great reminder that we should take each day at a time and focus on what that day has to offer. This passage does not mean to worry about what is in front of us, but we should enjoy the current moment as we may never have that moment again. We should take the time to cherish each moment of our lives and enjoy what is happening instead of focusing only on what the coming days could bring.

This March let us take the time to enjoy each day and try not to rush through March with the hope of warmer days and spring sporting events. May we take Matthew's words to heart and focus on each day as it comes, one day at a time and enjoy the current moment. Let us not focus our worries on what may be to come. Let us trust in God and enjoy what God has placed in front of us for that day. May we also use our time in March to truly focus on the meaning of Lent and spend the time reconnecting with God this Lenten season, instead of rushing toward what may be to come.

Blessings, Vicar Keith Powell

Special Council Meeting February 4, 2024

Tammy Reigle was elected as president of the congregation council.
Mary Kay Tisthammer was elected as vice president of the council.
Kay Flanagan was elected as council secretary.
Nancy Ahlers will remain council treasurer.
Connie Becker will remain financial secretary.



Next Council Meetings: February 19, 2024, March 19, 2024

Committee Liaisons:

Jim Meyer: Worship

Josh Thayer: Property

Chris Nelson: Finance/Mission Endowment

Sara Rasmussen: Faith & Fellowship

Tammy Reigle: Worship

Amber Salwei: Evangelism

Roberta Seda: Quilters

Mary Kay Tisthammer: Parish Education

Respectfully Submitted,
Kay Flanagan

*Zion Congregational Council
Minutes from January 22, 2024*

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

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

Excused: Tammy Reigle, Josh Thayer

Equipping Time – Sara Rasmussen had us write down things for which we are thankful.
She also challenged us to continue to add gratitudes through the end of the week.

Approve Meeting Minutes: Sara Rasmussen made a motion to accept the December 12, 2023, minutes.
Amy Allgood seconded. Motion carried.

Report of Officers

President: Tom Dickey: Several weeks ago, the gas company came to check for gas leaks in the kitchen. They found leaks in the stoves and shut them off and capped the lines. We will probably need to replace the stoves. Tom Dickey called Criss Company in Spalding about new stoves.
The old insurance company's engineer who was supposed to check the balcony ceiling and roof postponed due to the weather.

Vice President: Tammy Reigle – no report.

Treasurer: Nancy Ahlers – Zion received an insurance check in the amount of \$7,045.10 which is from Church Mutual for balcony ceiling repair. Mary Kay Tisthammer moved to accept the treasurer's report. Amber seconded it. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Senior Pastor: Rev. Carolann Hopcke

Pastor Carolann thanked everyone for her Christmas gifts.

There was no confirmation on January 17th due to Jim Atkinson's visitation. Classes will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 24th.

Lenten Love offering envelope will be included in the next newsletter. The congregation is challenged to use the money they would save by giving up chocolate, etc. OR to make a Lenten Love donation and bring it to church on Easter Sunday. All monies received will defray the cost of our ADA Phase I Project.

Intern Pastor – Vicar Keith Powell

Finished J-term class and passed.

He will leave right after worship on January 28th for Prolog week at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

High School Youth Coordinator: Dorothy Grosch

Christmas Candlelight Service went well. Some folks liked it being on Wednesday.

The planned Lock-In at the Petersburg gym was changed due to lack of participation. The group went to Columbus instead for dinner and an Escape room.

Lent/Easter – Luther League will offer a soup supper on Ash Wednesday, Egg Your Yard for the night before Easter, and the annual Easter Sunrise Service and breakfast to follow.

Standing Committee Reports

Fellowship – Next Meeting is Sunday, March 4th after worship.

Beer, Bible & Soup has been moved to the Brewery on Thursday, February 1st. Pastor will provide soup & those attending can buy beverages at the bar.

Potluck Supper & Game Night is planned for Sunday, March 10th at 5pm. Folks are invited to bring a dish to share & a game to play with others.

Parish Education – Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 20th at 6pm

Group Sunday School will take place on February 4th during the annual meeting. Confirmation students will be asked to help with this.

Prayer pillows will be given out during worship on Sunday, February 4th.

Pretzel Sunday will be February 11th.

First Communion – possibility of 15 5th graders and 2 confirmands in the first communion class.

Cont'd on page 5

Lenten Bible Challenge – everyone will be challenged to read through the book of Mark during Lent this year. Hand-outs will be made available on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, February 11th. All readers will receive a prize and be entered into the grand prize drawing for their own gumball machine.

VBS – SCUBA is the theme this year. The dates are June 10-14, 2024.

Property & Maintenance

The west door has been fixed by JC Lock & Key. It was locked open due to the extreme cold. Lights for the hallways were ordered and received from Home Depot. Some of the lights were paid for by a Thrivent card, the rest is being paid for out of Dining Hall monies.

Hallway Ceilings – Hagerbaumer Drywall estimate is \$4,200. He will be contacted to start the work now that the lights have arrived.

Snow removal – Mary Kay Tisthammer reported that Delmar Pelster has come twice to remove snow from our parking lots to find that it had already been removed. No one seems to know who did this.

Women of the ELCA

Treasurer, Mary Staub, submitted a financial report for the last quarter of 2023.

Worship & Music - Next Meeting is Tuesday, February 6th at 5:30pm

The poinsettias we purchased through the school nursery looked great!

The Flower Committee needs volunteers for May & July. Mary Kay Tisthammer volunteered to cover May.



Task Force Reports

Handicap Accessibility Project – Phase 1 is complete unless we want to add automatic door openers to the south doors. Nancy Ahlers will have a financial report on this cost of Phase 1.

We should pay the building fund back for Phase I expenses before we start Phase II.

Josh Thayer called the elevator company again. They said they would talk to the engineer so we can get an estimate for Phase II of the ADA project.

Old Business - none

New Business

Approve agenda for Annual meeting – Amber Salwei made a motion to approve the printed agenda for the Annual meeting. Mary Kay Tisthammer seconded. Motion carried.

Council Installation will be on Sunday, February 11th during worship.

Next Meeting a special council meeting will be held after the annual meeting on Sunday, February 4th.

The monthly meeting schedule for the year will be set at this meeting. New Officers will also be elected at this meeting.

Adjournment- Chris Nelson moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy Allgood seconded. Motion carried and Tom Dickey adjourned the meeting at 6:55pm. Pastor Carolann led the council in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Flanagan



In person Online

January 82 97

2024 Averages: 82 In person
 97 Online



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!



BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mia Curry, Kathy Thorberg
- 2 Bob Reigle, *Beverly Rieck**
- 3 Ella Gompert
- 4 Tammy Reeder, Jacob Trollope
- 5 Richard Cleveland, *Virginia Storm**
- 6 Ardy Choat, John Krohn,
Amanda Reinhart, Brynna Trombley,
Ben Webster
- 7 Bryce Kennedy, Jeremy Young
- 8 Brian Tisthammer
- 9 Kendra Christiansen, Abbi David,
Caleb Krohn & Aaron Weltruski
- 10 Shay Briesse, Jamie Rudolph
- 12 Dayton Choat, Kailyn Choat ,
Luke Edwards
- 14 Terry Ahlers, Connie Becker,
Arletta Francis, LaVonne Olnes*,*
Allen Thorberg
- 15 Halsey Dozler, *Judd Wagner*,*
Tyson Webster
- 16 Mike Trollope
- 17 Katie Rugg
- 19 Heather Hudson, Emily Levander,
Audrey Tisthammer, Becky Trombley
- 20 Rachel Majerus, *Barbara Michael*,*
Jase Salwei
- 24 Hannah Groth, Ty Groth,
Loren Johnson,* Deb Kyncl
- 26 Jace Rasmussen
- 29 Beth Hauger, Lois Hoefer
- 30 Garrett Grosch, Collins Rasmussen
- 31 Keri Brugger, Mark Wagner

*Denotes 80+ years young



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Adam & Kelly Seier
- 10 Cheryl & Ralph Pilkington
- 12 Jenny & Josh Gompert
- 14 Corey & Cori Zoubek
- 16 Tom & Trudy Fick
- 20 Mitch & Nicole Hardwick
- 22 Matt & Tiffany Niewohner
- 24 Michelle & Ryan Neidhardt
- 25 Heather & Mark Hudson
Drew & Kim Schaefer

*Denotes 50+ years of marriage

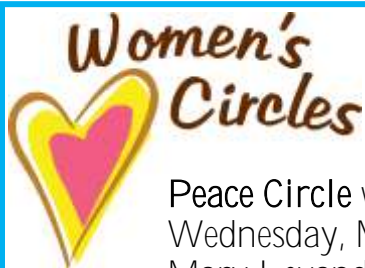


We are not perfect and sadly, neither is our database. If you know of folks whose names are missing from the birthday or anniversary lists, please let us know. We really would like to include everyone. Thanks!

Don't see
your name?



Sunday,
March 17th!



March
2024

Peace Circle will meet at Zion on
Wednesday, March 20th at 9am.
Mary Levander will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at 2pm on Wednesday,
March 20th at Zion. Doris Warner will be the
leader. For more information, please speak
with Doris Warner.

2024 Flower Committee

March

No Flowers
during Lent

April

Easter Flowers
Kathy Thorberg



Don't forget
to turn your clocks
AHEAD one hour
on Saturday,
March 9th!



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)*



(Tune: Addams Family Theme)

Table Grace

Be present at our table Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
May strengthened for thy service be.

Amen. (snap, snap)

Amen. (snap, snap)

Amen, Amen, Amen. (snap, snap)



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

**on Sunday, March 3rd.
(after church)**

All are welcome to join us!



**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!



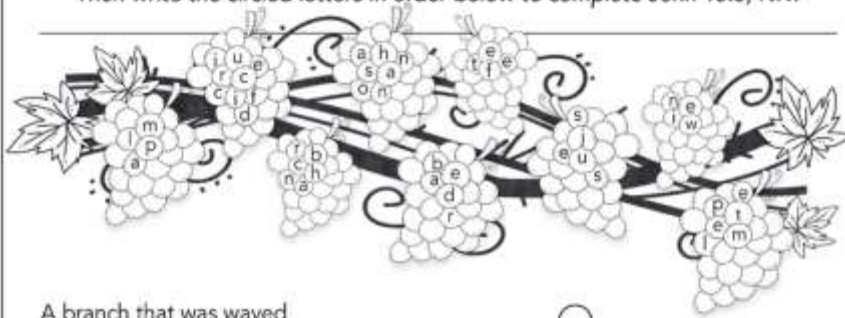
PUZZLE



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



A branch that was waved

How Jesus was put to death

A stick attached to the vine

People shouted this to Jesus

Jesus washed these

This was broken and eaten

The Messiah

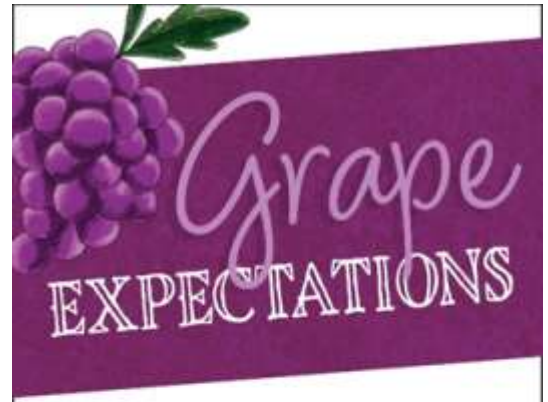
A drink from grapes

Jesus drove the money changers from here

____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____
 ____○____

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____;
 apart from me you can do nothing.* John 15:5, NIV



Try this chilly new
take on a healthy snack.

What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



Bible Quiz



The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answers are on page 13



Friday, March 1, 2024



LUTHER LEAGUE

for all in grades 9-12

Join us on

**Wednesday Nights during Lent
at 6pm.**

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

Blessings, Dorothy Grosch



The Luther League will be stuffing plastic Easter eggs with small candy, treats and toys which they will hide around your property or one of your choosing.

Eggs will be hidden on Saturday night, March 30th*, starting around 5pm.

*If you need a specific time, please call or text Dorothy (402-741-0624), and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Cost:

24 eggs for \$20
48 eggs for \$30
72 eggs for \$40
100 eggs for \$50

Order deadline: Sunday, March 17th.

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!



Luther League Schedule



MARCH

Wed., Mar. 6	6:30pm	Plan Sunrise Worship
Wed., Mar. 13	5-7pm	Soup Supper
Wed., Mar. 20	7pm	LL Room Meeting
Wed., Mar. 27	6pm	LL Room Meeting
Sat., Mar. 30	4pm	Egg Your Yard & Easter Breakfast Prep
Sun., Mar 31	7am	Easter Sunrise
	8am	Easter Breakfast



Easter Sunday, March 31st
after the Sunrise Service

Luther League invites you to an Easter Breakfast of egg bakes & cinnamon rolls. A free-will donation will be taken!



Let Luther League Egg Your Yard Sat., March 30th!

(Deadline to Order is March 17th)

Luther League will hide filled Easter eggs in the yard of your choice. Eggs will be filled with candy, treats & toys.

Candy/Toys or Both	# Eggs	Cost	Total Due
	24 eggs	\$20	
	48 eggs	\$30	
	72 eggs	\$40	
	100 eggs	\$50	

Name of Purchaser: _____

Egg Recipient (if different): _____

Egg Address: _____

Where in yard: _____

Any Allergies? _____



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.



✚ Christian Symbol ✚



BUTTERFLY

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours



Easter Sunrise Service Easter Sunday, March 31st at 7am

All are Welcome!

Boone County

Ongoing Needs:



Food Pantry

1108 W. State Street
Albion, NE 68620

Open EVERY Thursday
2-4pm

Canned Soup
Canned Fruit
Cereal
Kleenex
Hand Sanitizers
Miscellaneous Personal Hygiene Products

Crackers
Toilet Paper
Bar Soap
Toothpaste
Paper 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,
March 8th & 22nd
at 1:30pm.

All are welcome to join us!



NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, March 5th
at 5:30pm

Mobile Food Pantry ~ Saturday, March 2nd

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, March 2nd 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.






2024
March:
Amanda Reinhart*
Lori Warner
Roberta Seda
April:
Nancy & Terry Ahlers*
Danielle & Tom Krohn
Brooke Stuhr

Altar Guild

NewsLetter DEADLine

The deadline for the April Messenger is Sunday, March 17th!



Communion Elements Available

Individually packaged communion elements continue to be available for pick up 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 it is easier, or you are more comfortable taking communion in your seat, you may use these elements to take communion on Sunday mornings.

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

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 the first name of the person receiving the shawl on the sheet in the narthex.

God Bless You!



April 7th

Our youth will help to lead us in this delightful worship service at 9am on April 7th! Let's rejoice in Jesus!



LUTHERAN GIVING



Have you considered leaving an estate gift to our congregation or to an ELCA ministry?

Lutheran Giving, formerly Lutheran Planned Giving Services (LPGS), provides confidential and no fee charitable gift planning services for anyone interested in leaving a legacy gift. To learn more about Lutheran Giving's gift planning services pick up a brochure from the narthex tract rack or visit lutherangiving.org online.



MARCH

3	Tami Texley
10	Sarah Liss
17	Tami Texley
24	Tami Texley
28	Tami Texley
29	Tami Texley
31	Tami Texley



Worship Song Leaders

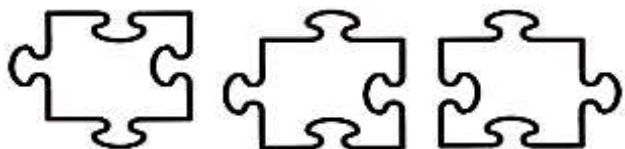
MARCH

3	Jacque & Tom Dickey
10	Kay Flanagan
17	Tiffany Curry
24	Kim Schaefer
28	Kay Flanagan
29	Tiffany Curry
31	Kim Schaefer

Puzzle Answers

Bible Quiz Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11)

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit



**Sunday, March 17th
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 **March 17th!**



First Communion Classes

First Holy Communion classes for all 5th grade students will be held on **Tuesdays** after school (@ 3:30pm) in the church conference room. The first class was on **Tuesday, February 20th.**

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



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!



2024 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

March: Evangelism Committee
April: Sew Happy Mission Quilters



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



**Zion
Church
Council**
Will MEET on
**Tuesday,
March 19th at 6pm.**

Sunday Bulletins



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



**Next
Meeting:
Sunday,
June 9th
at
10:15am**

CONFIRMATION



**Classes:
Wednesdays,
March 6th, 13th & 20th**

Due to Midweek Lenten Worship at 7pm:
Dinner will be at 5pm
Class will be from 5:30pm-6:30pm
For more information,
please speak with Pastor Carolann.

Lenten Love Offering

\$40. for Lent

During the 40 days of Lent, let us remember all that Christ gave for each of us as we give up one small thing for him. And let whatever you give up benefit God's ministry at Zion.

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)

Please return your \$40 for Lent offering envelopes on or before Easter Sunday!

Easter Sunday is March 31st!



"Leprechauns are like Santa's elves, except they don't come out of the woods 'til St. Patrick's Day."



Lenten Schedule: Parables for Lent

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. 28th Nicodemus
Wed., Mar. 6th Mary Magdalene
Wed., Mar. 13th Barabbas
Wed. Mar. 20th John

Coffee and CONVERSATION

March 7th
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!

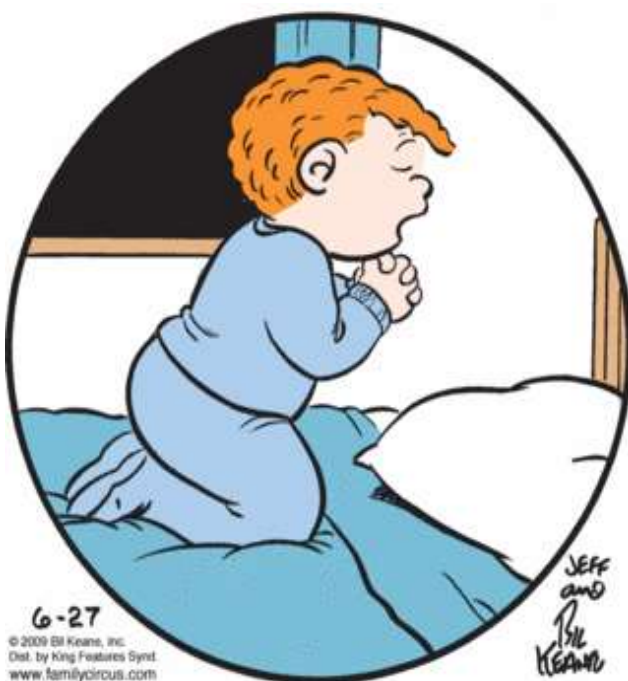


Easter Sunrise Worship

Pastor met with the Luther League and they have planned the Easter Sunrise Service. Volunteers are still needed!

Worship Practice will take place on
Wednesdays in Lent at 6pm

For more information, talk to
Dorothy or Pastor.



6-27
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“...forgive those who trespass
against us. And leave us
ninety-two temptations...”



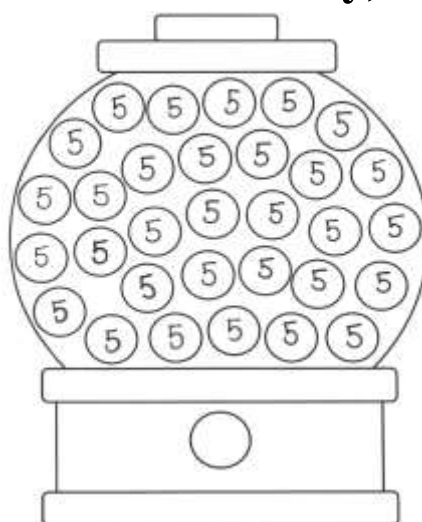
Welcome
Spring
March 19th
2024!



**Zion Lutheran Church is
challenging **EVERYONE**
to read the Bible for 5 minutes
every day during Lent. We are
reading the book of Mark.
(February 14 — March 30)**

**Pick up a tracking sheet with
instructions, and work your way
to deeper faith and a sweet treat!**

**Everyone who turns in a
completed tracking sheet before
or after Sunday School on
Sunday, April 7th**



**will receive a
prize and
be entered
into the
Grand Prize
Drawing
for a filled
gumball
machine!**

PEOPLE SPOTS **Chris Nelson**



Christopher (Chris) Nelson was born in his mother's hometown of Cambridge, NE, on February 27, 1952, to Leon and Mary Nelson. Chris was welcomed home by his older sister Mary Lynne, who now resides in Steamboat Springs, CO. Chris and Mary Lynne welcomed their younger sister Elizabeth (Lissa) into the family a few years later.

Even though Chris was born in Cambridge, he grew up in Albion and attended school at Albion Public School. Chris graduated from Albion High School with the class of 1970. After graduating high school, Chris attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln on a football scholarship. He graduated from the University with a degree in business administration. Chris then went on to auctioneering school in Billings, MT, and later earned his Real Estate Brokers license.

Chris went into business with his father, Leon. He worked alongside his father until his father's retirement. After Leon retired, Chris went full time into the farming and cattle business. Chris worked in the cattle business and farmed for thirty-five years until his retirement in 2018.

Chris has two children he loves and admires dearly. Chris' son, Matt, earned his master's degree in mechanical engineering from Northern Illinois University, which he attended on a basketball scholarship. Matt currently works as the project manager for Northern Natural Gas. Matt and his wife, Stacy, reside in Arlington, NE, with their two children, Piper (11) and Ryker (9). Chris' daughter, Sarah, also resides in Arlington with her husband, Matt, and their four children, Kynlea (16), Evelyn (4), and twins Kallie Gail & Myla Elizabeth (3 months). Sarah works in Fremont as an X-Ray and MRI technician.

Chris used to play ball and bowl for many years in his free time, but now he spends that time golfing. Chris also enjoys following the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the Boone Central Cardinals. However, his favorite thing is spending time with his grandchildren and attending their activities, and cheering on the Arlington Eagles, especially when his grandchildren are playing.

Chris is a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church. He was baptized at Zion on June 8, 1952, and confirmed on April 3, 1966. Chris served many years on the Property Committee and is currently serving on the Church Council. He is the council liaison for all things financial which includes the Finance Committee, Audit Committee, Scholarship Committee, and Mission Endowment. We are truly blessed by his membership, and by all the ways in which he has chosen to serve God at Zion.

Written & submitted by
Vicar Keith Powell



Zion Lutheran Memorial Scholarship

Zion has a scholarship to support a graduating senior from Boone Central High School. This scholarship is funded by contributions made in memory of loved ones. If you would like to make a donation to this scholarship, now is the time! The minimum scholarship will be \$1,000 per student. If we receive more than \$1,000, we may award more scholarships. Checks can be made payable to Zion Lutheran church marked Scholarship in the memo. Folks may also designate some of their loved ones memorial funds for this scholarship as well.

A copy of the application is on the next page and can also be downloaded from our website (www.zionlutheran.org). A copy of the reference form is also accessible from the website.

The Scholarship committee will be responsible for reviewing all applications.
Deadline for submitting an application to Boone Central is March 15th!



♪ **Just a Note** ♪

Choir will hopefully be singing during Holy Week and/or on Easter.

They will practice on Sundays, March 3rd & 17th after worship. New members are always welcome!

Call, text, or speak with Tiffany Curry about any questions you might have.

God bless,
 Tiffany Curry
 402-438-2867 (cell)



God Bless You!

Handbells

The Bell Choir will hopefully be playing for Holy Week or Easter! The practice schedule is yet to be determined due to Jacque's recent shoulder surgery. Stay tuned for updates!

For more information, please speak with Jacque Dickey (402-741-1709)





Zion Lutheran Memorial Scholarship

Zion Lutheran Church in Albion has created a memorial scholarship fund to support a graduating senior from Boone Central High School. The money in this fund is in honor of numerous individuals that have died and the generous contributions their loved ones have made in their memory.

Each year, a \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a well-rounded individual that completes the application. The following criteria will be used to assist in selecting the recipient:

- Active member of Zion Lutheran Church, a Lutheran, or person of faith.
- Strength of the individual's character.
- Strong work ethic and in good academic standing.
- Enrolled in a 2 or 4 year technical school, college, or university.

The applicant is also required to submit **two recommendations**. Each recommender is asked to complete the Local Scholarship Recommendation Form AND write a letter of support to be submitted with this application.

Student's Name:

Address:

City, State & Zip:

Student's Personal Email:

Students Phone Number:

Home Church:

Parent's Name:

Essay Questions:

Tell us about yourself keeping in mind the evaluation criteria listed above in your answer.

What are your plans for the future and why have you chosen this school and career path?

What does your faith mean to you? Please give specific examples of how your faith plays a role in your daily life.

How do you envision strengthening your faith in college?



The following people
made donations to
Zion's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of
Jim Atkinson:



Rev. Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)
Cynthia Kraus (Elevator Fund)
LaVonne & Robert Kruse (Scholarship Fund)
Connie & Rick Nelson
Kim & Dave Woebbecke (Elevator Fund)

The only
people who
think there's a
time limit for
grief, have
never lost a
piece of their
heart.



Take all the
time you need.



The following people
made donations to
Zion's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of
Ron Krohn:



Rev. Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)
Cynthia Kraus (Elevator Fund)
Scott & Kimberly Kruse
Jane Mundschenk (Elevator Fund)
Connie & Rick Nelson
Vicar Keith Powell (Scholarship Fund)
Jerry & Barb Tisthammer



Memorial Gifts

The following people made a
donation to Zion's Memorial
Fund in loving memory of
Barrett Cole Berger



Rev. Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)



The following
people
made donations to
**Zion's Memorial
Fund** in loving memory of
Barry Waid



Carroll & Jane Rolf
Doris Warner

NEW BOXED CARDS AVAILABLE!

Camp Ambassadors have
restocked the boxed cards.
There are new varieties of
Birthday, Sympathy, Get
Well, Thinking of You, All Occasion, and
Anniversary cards available. The cost of
each box is \$6. Napkins are also available
for \$2.50 per package. All proceeds benefit
the Camp Ambassador Scholarship Fund.

Any questions, talk to Jerene Kruse.



The following people
made donations to **Zion's Memorial Fund**
in loving memory of
Shirley Choat



Rev. Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)
Loren & Judy Johnson (Zion's Quilters)
Jane Mundschenk (ADA Fund)

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

Jacque Dickey, Ashleigh Henn, Charlie Krohn,
Patty Morgan, Tim Peterson, Bev Rieck,
Debbie Schwartz, Mark Smith, Virginia Storm,
Pat Tobiason, Ron Weltruski,
and the families of
Marion Anderson, Barrett Berger, Shirley Choat,
Bernice Ruevers, Keith Stewart, Barry Waid



Our Congregation

SS Children
SS Teachers
Confirmation Students
Confirmation Teachers & Mentors
Lenten Bible Readers
Midweek Worship Participants

Other Concerns

Our Military
The people of Gaza, Israel, Palestine & Ukraine
All those affected by war, violence & hatred
Those affected by natural disasters

Other prayer concerns are welcome



2pm on March 21st 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).



FLAT SHEETS NEEDED!

Our quilters are in need of FLAT cotton sheets — they need to be full size or larger and they can be any color you like. We CANNOT use microfiber sheets because they are not durable and they don't breathe as well as the cotton. These flat sheets are used for the backs of the quilters' beautiful quilts.

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



MISSION ENDOWMENT

The Mission Endowment Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 27th at 5:30pm.



Parish Ed. Committee

Next Meeting:
Thursday,
April 4th
At
6:00pm



4-5

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**"We finished dying all the eggs,
so now we're decoratin'
Daddy's golf balls."**

*Easter
Flowers
are
Coming!*

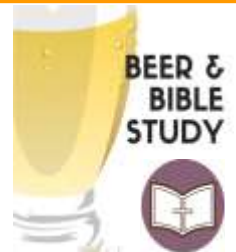
*Easter is
March 31stth!*



Flowers have been ordered. Thanks to all who sponsored Easter flowers! The complete list of sponsors will be in the April Messenger. Flowers may be taken after worship on Easter morning.

Beer, Bible & Soup

**Date not available at
time of printing**



Beer, Bible & Soup will be held at the Brewery on a Thursday in March. Marcia Seier will be our host and will provide the soup. Drinks of all kinds may be purchased from the bar.

All are welcome! Please join us!



Thrivent +
Zion Lutheran
Church =
A perfect
partnership!

In 2023, Zion received \$703 Thrivent Choice Dollars® grants. If you are a Thrivent member, do not forget to claim and use your Thrivent Choice Dollars® !

MEET ZION'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL!



Tammy Reigle
Council President / Worship



Mary Kay Tisthammer
Council Vice President / Parish Ed



Kay Flanagan
Council Secretary / Synod Liaison



Jim Meyer
Council Member / Worship



Chris Nelson
Council Member / Finance



Sara Rasmussen
Council Member / Fellowship



Amber Salwei
Council Member / Evangelism



Roberta Seda
Council Member / Quilters



Josh Thayer
Council Member / Property

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



March 11th 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).*



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
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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