



# Zion Messenger

May 2025

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



## The Last Pew in the Back

Sarah was seven when she met Evelyn for the first time, who easily had a 75 year head start on life. Sarah, the oldest of three, was given the “big job” of watching her younger brother and sister as together they occupied the last pew of the church during the 5pm Saturday Worship Service. They always sat in that last pew because it was the closest one to the doors where her parents were stationed in their weekly role as “greeters”.

Sarah thought Evelyn looked lonely sitting all by herself in the pew, so at the end of worship she leaned over and offered her one of the pictures she had drawn, along with a smile and a short seven-year old introduction, causing Evelyn to smile too, a first for her that day. The following week Evelyn showed up in the pew next to Sarah again and the picture exchange was repeated, this time before worship started, along with a few more back and forth exchanges. The next several weeks turned into months and the months into five years as Sarah, then twelve, and Evelyn exchanged many more stories than pictures on Saturdays at 5pm. Evelyn wanted to know how Sarah was doing in school? Did she make the play? Where did she go on vacation? Did she work out the problem with her neighbor friend? Their weekly reunions in the last pew in the back had become a highlight for both.

Later that year, Evelyn began missing worship, and after the third week in a row, Sarah grew worried. During the reading of the prayers, Sarah heard Evelyn’s name read aloud under the list of those who had passed away that week. She turned to her parents, tears already on her cheeks and cried, “I have to go to her funeral!” Sarah’s mom held onto Sarah and tried to comfort her. She said that the funeral would most likely be during school, but Sarah didn’t care,

she had to say goodbye to her 5pm Saturday friend.

The wake was held later that week at the church. As Sarah walked toward the casket that held Evelyn, she was encircled by a group of strangers who were all staring at her. “I bet you’re Sarah,” one of the women said with tears forming in her eyes. “Yes I am,” Sarah replied with surprise, “how did you know?” “Oh, we know all about you!” a man said who was standing next to the woman. “Evelyn was our Mother, and you were her favorite reason to come to church.”

As he said this, his sister held up a stack of slightly wrinkled color drawings. “Up until yesterday these decorated our Mother’s refrigerator for the past five years. Some weeks she wasn’t really up to going to church, but she would insist saying, ‘I have to see my friend Sarah!’ You were a Godsend to her and we had hoped you would come today so we could finally meet you in person and thank you for making her feel so welcomed at church.”

Sarah shared her story on a youth retreat as a senior in high school, explaining why she chose to become a greeter at the age of thirteen, and how she now finds herself standing alongside her parents behind the last pew in church as they welcome those coming to the Saturday 5pm Worship.

Worship matters. Church relationships matter. May we always reach out to one another with God’s love as the circle of our church family continues to grow.

Your sister in Christ,



# Corner

## A Promise



President's

The word promise is a very powerful word. I feel that sometimes we use the word “promise” too freely. I don’t think that we really understand the true meaning.

According to Google the definition of promise is “a declaration or assurance that one will do a particular thing or that a particular thing will happen”.

I know I have broken promises before and I have had people break their promises to me as well. Some promises are “littler promises” than others. Either way, when a promise is broken it can really take a toll on us. It can easily cause us to begin to lose our trust and have feelings of regret and hopelessness.

God promises He will never leave us or forsake us. God promises that He will never give up on us, even when we break promises to HIM and others.

*“Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God;  
I will strengthen you, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”*  
(Isaiah 41:10)

*“I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace.  
In the world you face persecution.  
But take courage; I have conquered the world!”*  
(John 16:33)

Thankfully God understands the true meaning of the word “promise” and NEVER breaks His promises to us.



In peace,  
Tammy Reigle  
Council President

*From the  
Vicar*



## This month: Thessaloniki

The city I will be sharing about from my trip following the Apostle Paul is the city of Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki is the second-largest city in Greece. It is located in northern Greece at the northwest corner of the Aegean Sea. The city is named after the daughter of Phillip II and sister of Alexander the Great, Thessalonike.

At the time of the Roman Empire, about 50 A.D., Thessaloniki was one of the early centers of Christianity; while the Apostle Paul was on his second missionary journey, he visited this city's chief synagogue on three Sabbaths and planted the seeds for Thessaloniki's first Christian church. Later, Paul wrote letters to the new church in Thessaloniki; these letters appear in the bible as First and Second Thessalonians.

Apostle Paul's visit to Thessaloniki is read about in Acts 17:1-19. In Acts 17, Paul and his companions traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia before arriving in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki), where they preached in a Jewish synagogue for three Sabbaths. It is not clear if Paul preached for three consecutive Sabbaths or if the preaching was spread over a longer period than three weeks. Paul explained from the Scriptures that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead, declaring that Jesus was the Messiah. Some members of the synagogue, were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas.

However, other members became jealous, inciting a mob by recruiting troublemakers. They searched for Paul and Silas at Jason's house but could not find them, so they dragged Jason and some other believers to the city officials, accusing them of defying Caesar and proclaiming Jesus as another king. The city was thrown into chaos, and Jason and the others were forced to post bail before being released. As soon as night fell, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea.

While in Thessaloniki we visited the Church of Saint Demetrius, also known as Hagios Demetrios. The Church of Saint Demetrius is the main sanctuary dedicated to Saint Demetrius, the patron saint of Thessaloniki. Saint Demetrius was a Greek Christian martyr of the early fourth century AD. Underneath the Church of Saint Demetrius is an old bathhouse where Saint Demetirus was imprisoned and eventually martyred, along with other Christians of the early Roman period. We were unable to go down to the old bathhouse due to arriving too late in the evening.

The city of Thessaloniki was a wonderful city to experience. The city is full of history and many wonderful sites to see. I wish we would have had more time to tour the city of Thessaloniki.

Blessings,  
Vicar Keith Powell



*(Pictures can be found on page 9)*

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by Tammy Reigle.

**Present:** Kay Flanagan, Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Jim Meyer, Vicar Keith Powell, Sara Rasmussen, Tammy Reigle, Amanda Reinhart, Roberta Seda, Josh Thayer, Mary Kay Tisthammer

**Excused:** Chris Nelson

**Equipping Time:** Tammy Reigle – Are you yearning for spring? (*Genesis 8:22*)

**Approve Minutes:** Mary Kay Tisthammer made a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025. Amanda Reinhart seconded it. Motion passed.

### **Report of Officers**

President: Tammy Reigle – No report

Vice President: Mary Kay Tisthammer – No report

Treasurer: Nancy Ahlers – Roberta Seda motioned to accept the March Treasurer's Report. Jim Meyer seconded it. Motion carried.

### **Staff Reports**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Carolann Hopcke – The Mental Health First-Aid Training at IZ was rescheduled for Sat., April 5<sup>th</sup>. Pastor will attend.

**Intern Pastor:** Vicar Keith Powell – He took 7 confirmation students to the middle school Lock-In at Carol Joy Holling in Ashland. The kids seemed to enjoy it. Vicar helped to chaperone the Luther League ski trip to Terry Peak in South Dakota. There were 16 youth & 7 adults who went. There is a Nebraska Synod Middle School gathering coming up and Vicar hopes to take several students.

**High School Youth Coordinator:** Dorothy Grosch - We have been doing our usual Wednesday night meeting this month while also preparing for the upcoming ski trip. Luther League met with Pastor on February 26<sup>th</sup> to plan our annual Easter Sunrise Service. The Ash Wednesday Soup Supper was a success! They served over 40 people and received \$605 in free will donations. The Egg Your Yard fundraiser will be on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Parish Education:**

**Sunday School:** Pretzel Sunday was a success! Folks really enjoyed the Lenten Lutheran Rosary project.

**Confirmation:** scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. The Affirmation Dinner will be on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nicole Levander agreed to coordinate this supper.

**Lenten Bible Challenge:** The students seem excited about this challenge. They are looking for a Lego Bible & Kit to be the end of the challenge prize.

**First Communion:** There are four students this year. They will receive the First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> during worship. There was an informational meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, with the first class on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Jerene Kruse's to make their pottery chalices & patens.

#### **Property & Maintenance:**

**Bell Tower:** Josh Thayer talked with Tommy Heesacker about the Bell Tower. Tommy came and looked at the bell tower with a work associate. They came up with a plan to fix the leaks in the Bell Tower and will submit an estimate soon.

**Conference Room Cabinets:** The new cabinets were installed by Josh Thayer & Chris Levander on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. They are awesome!



**Parsonage Fence:** An entire section of the fence fell down on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Josh Thayer was able to put it back together but stated that the posts are rotting at the bottom. He will contact No Swett Fencing in Columbus about further needed repairs. Pastor prefers to have another privacy fence.

**Worship:** The Lenten services have been going well. The congregation has enjoyed parents/adults & children reading together. Flat palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday. The ministerial will host the Good Friday Cross Walk 10am on April 18<sup>th</sup> starting at the fairgrounds.

**Task Force Reports:**

**Handicap Accessibility Project:** Pastor spoke with someone from the Kraft Grant for the elevator. They are able to grant \$50,000 per grant cycle (twice a year). If more than one deserving recipient applies, money will be shared. If no one applies the money can roll over to the next cycle. The application deadline for this cycle is April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nicki Heidemann is working on writing the application for this grant but is waiting for information from the elevator architect. Josh Thayer told the architect that we needed the information by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Roberta Seda also found some grants for which we may be eligible.

**Old Business:**

There are still openings for leading the equipping time. Someone is needed for the April meeting!

**New Business:**

Doris Warner would like all undesignated memorial money for her son, Greg, to be given to the Zion Memorial Scholarship Fund. The deadline for scholarships was March 14, 2025.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00pm.**

**Adjournment:** Roberta Seda made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34pm. Josh Thayer seconded it. Motion carried. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kay Flanagan



## 2025 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

May: Luther League &  
Parish Ed. Committee  
June: ***Volunteers Needed!***  
July: ***Volunteers Needed!***  
August: Men of Zion

## May Day Cookie Tray Thanks!



The Evangelism Committee offers their thanks to all those who donated cookies for our May Day Cookie Trays! The trays were given to local small businesses. They were all so thankful to be thought of and remembered with such sweet treats!

**Thanks everyone!**



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Colby Addison, Cheryl Sherburne
- 2 Jaclynn Roberg, Vicki Rother,  
Pam Wright
- 3 Kalynn Koch, Alida Kurtenbach,  
Josh Thayer, Kolin Zoubek
- 4 Don Thorberg, Karen Wieneke
- 5 Jolene Roberg, Mary Staub
- 6 Morgan Paulson, Baker Rasmussen
- 8 Pat Cleveland
- 9 Dallas Choat
- 10 Lauren Briese, Kennedy Dozler,  
Chance Trollope
- 12 Grant Rasmussen, Susan Staub,  
*Doris Warner\**
- 13 Matt Niewohner
- 17 Paeton Kaumans, Lanny Rasmussen,  
Eliza Trombley
- 18 Tye Nolan
- 20 Rick Spiegel
- 21 Patricia Cleveland, Parker Roberg
- 22 Kasey Krohn, Amy Nelson, Ross Nelson,  
Philip Rasmussen
- 24 Jon Lindgren
- 25 Ann Ahlstedt, Kalli Niemann,  
Gay Sandman, Preston Trollope
- 26 Jerry Tisthammer
- 27 Patricia Neidhardt
- 28 Wylder Heesacker
- 29 Jenna Naughtin, Mishayla Slaymaker
- 30 *Annie Hellbusch\**
- 31 Jeff Lindgren, Brynn Petersen,  
John Wagner

*\*Denotes 80+ years young*



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Michelle & Terry Merten
- 7 Nikki & Rich Heidemann
- 9 *Colin & Mildred Koeppen\**
- 10 *Patricia & Randy Neidhardt\**
- Dave & Kim Woebbecke
- 12 Daniel & Debra Bittner
- 13 Alex & Ellie Wolf
- 24 Laisha & Matthew Winter
- 26 *Ellen & Mike Frey\**
- 29 *Deloris & Jim McMillan\**
- 31 Kim & Tracy Coakes

**\*Denotes 50+ years of marriage**



# MISSION

## ENDOWMENT




The Mission Endowment  
Committee will meet on  
Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

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?




**Women's Circles** May 2025



Peace Circle will meet at Zion on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am. *Mary Levander* will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at Zion on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. For more information, please speak with *Doris Warner*.

**TRUE NORTH** Trusting Jesus in a Wild world



**Save the Dates!**

**Vacation Bible School 2025**

VBS will be held  
June 9-13, 2025  
9am — 12noon



**2025 Flower Committee**

May  
Mary Kay Tisthammer

June  
Jacque Dickey




**National Day of Prayer**  
Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Armed Forces Day**  
Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>



★ARMED FORCES DAY★

**Confirmation**

On Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> the following young people will affirm the faith proclaimed at their baptisms:

*Malaya Jewel Hanaway*  
*Brooklynn Ann Kelley*  
*Tinsley Ray Neidhardt*  
*Hailey James Salwei*  
*Evelyne Dawn Schaefer*  
*Peyton Kathryn Seier*  
*Brayden Landry Slaymaker*  
*Bentley Stonewall Stuhr*

On that day, they will recommit themselves to their relationship with God and the church. The congregation will recommit ourselves to supporting them in faith and life, and pray for God's continued blessings upon them.

On the Friday night before Confirmation, **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, families & mentors will host supper for the confirmands, their families, sponsors, and mentors. At that time we will publicly affirm many of the ways we have seen God active in their lives and name the unique gifts we believe God has given them.



Pentecost Sunday  
June 8<sup>th</sup>  
Join us for worship at 9:00am  
Please wear **RED!**





*Eli Thomas Krohn*



*Colin Patrick Petersen*

Maundy Thursday  
April 17, 2025



*Bennett Scott Reinhart*



*May God bless these  
First Communicants  
and strengthen them  
through this  
Holy Sacrament.  
May it continue to be  
a source of  
God's grace and forgiveness  
throughout their lives.*

***Welcome to God's Table!***



*Aiden John Tisthammer*



## Pictures from Vicar's Trip...



**Church of Saint Demetrius**



**Church of Saint Demetrius Altar**



**The Roman Forum (Ancient Agora)**



**Luther League  
BONFIRE**

The Annual BONFIRE  
will be on  
Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm

The annual Luther League Bonfire, to welcome 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and wish Godspeed to our Seniors, will be held on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at Dorothy's home. (2488½ Old Mill Rd) It will begin at 6:30pm. There will be food and games!

All 8<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome!



Youth-Sponsored  
**Easter Breakfast**

Luther League would like to  
**THANK EVERYONE**  
for so lovingly and faithfully  
supporting us and coming to our  
**EASTER BREAKFAST**

*We appreciate all of you!*

## Bible Emergency Numbers



**"No, it hasn't stopped raining.  
The puddles are still wiggling."**

**amen  
amen**

- When in sorrow..... John 14
- When men fail you..... Psalm 27
- When you have sinned..... Psalm 51
- When you have worry..... Matthew 6:19-34
- When you are in danger..... Psalm 91
- When God seems far away..... Psalm 139
- When your faith needs stirring..... Hebrews 11
- When you are lonely and fearful..... Psalm 23
- When you grow bitter and critical..... 1 Cor. 13
- When you feel down and out..... Romans 8:31-39
- When you want peace and rest..... Matthew 11:25-30
- When the world seems bigger than God..... Psalm 90
- When you want Christian assurance..... Romans 8:1-30
- When you leave home for labor or travel..... Psalm 121
- When your prayers grow narrow or selfish..... Psalm 67
- When you want courage for a task..... Joshua 1
- When you think of investments/returns..... Mark 10
- How to get along with others..... Romans 12
- For great invention/opportunity..... Isaiah 55
- For Paul's secret to happiness..... Col. 3:12-17
- If you want to be fruitful..... John 15
- If your pocketbook is empty..... Psalm 37
- If your losing confidence in people..... 1 Cor. 13
- If people seem unkind..... John 15
- If discouraged about your work..... Psalm 126
- If you find the world growing small, and you great..... Psalm 19





Graduate  
Recognition  
Sunday  
May 18, 2025  
9:00am

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

Abbi Violet David  
Gage William Evans  
Elizabeth (Lizzie) Louise Esch  
Madison Jaymes Gompert  
Nolan John Kruse  
Clay Gerald Sandman  
Dylan Daniel Staub  
Preston Dean Trollope  
Addyson Marae Winter

Please join us as we honor and celebrate our graduates!

Cookies and coffee will be served after worship.

We are so proud of all our Graduates!

**Graduate**  
*PowerPoint*

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!**

*We would like to put together a slide show for Graduate Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Email pictures to the church office at [office@zionalbion.org](mailto:office@zionalbion.org). You may also bring them to the office and we can scan them.*

*We would like a total of 7 pictures per graduate: 2 senior year, 1 baby, and 4 others of your choice. Please submit your pictures **no later than Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>!***

*If you would like to help put the PowerPoint together, please let Amy Allgood or Pastor Carolann know.*

*Thanks for your help!*



# PUZZLE

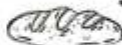
## A NOBLE EXAMPLE

Proverbs 31 describes a God-honoring woman. How are the women in your life like her? How can you follow their example?

Directions: Use the word bank to complete all the Bible verses. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete Proverbs 31:30, NIV.

### WORD BANK

bread, household, women, laugh,  
children, clothed, speaks, husband, tongue



She is \_\_\_\_\_ with strength and dignity;  
she can \_\_\_\_\_ at the days to come.

She \_\_\_\_\_ with wisdom,  
and faithful instruction is on her \_\_\_\_\_.

She watches over the affairs of her \_\_\_\_\_  
and does not eat the \_\_\_\_\_ of idleness.

Her \_\_\_\_\_ arise and call her blessed;  
her \_\_\_\_\_ also, and he praises her:

"Many \_\_\_\_\_ do noble things,  
but you surpass them all." Proverbs 31:25-29, NIV

Charm is \_\_\_\_\_eptive, and be\_\_\_\_\_ty is fl\_\_\_\_\_eting; but a  
woma\_\_\_\_\_ w\_\_\_\_\_o f\_\_\_\_\_rs the Lo\_\_\_\_\_d is to be prais\_\_\_\_\_d.

Proverbs 31:30, NIV



Make these sweet sandwiches  
for a Mother's Day tea party.

### What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!



## Bible Quiz

What was the name of the wealthy merchant of purple cloth who met Paul and his companions, was baptized and became a leader in the Philippian church?

- A. Priscilla
- B. Lydia
- C. Dorcas
- D. Joanna



Puzzle Answers on page 14



**All of Zion's SignUp sheets**  
can be found online!

All of Zion's signups are 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 PowerPoint 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!



Altar  
Guild

2025

May:

Kent & Sheila Carder\*  
Kent & Mary Kay  
Tisthammer

June

Jacque & Tom Dickey\*  
Dave & Jolene Roberg

✝ Christian Symbol ✝



**ALPHA MU OMEGA**

The Greek letters that begin the words yesterday, today and forever remind us of Jesus' constant presence with us personally and his eternal nature that transcends time as we know it. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8, NIV) Dozens of psalms and other Bible passages also proclaim that the Lord's "steadfast love endures forever." (for example, Psalm 100:5, NRSV) What reassurance when life seems tough and fleeting!



**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.



**Sunday Bulletins**

Sunday bulletins are available in the narthex. They are in the tract rack by the Thursday before the upcoming Sunday.



Bulletins

Feel free to stop by and pick one up.







## CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION MEETING Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

All those finishing 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades are invited (with parents) to the confirmation orientation meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We'll talk about class and meal schedules, student requirements and expectations, as well as acolyte schedules and mentors.

**Please join us!**

For more information,  
speak with Pastor Carolann.



Zion  
Church  
Council  
Will MEET on  
Tuesday  
May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.



**Next  
Meeting:  
Sunday,  
June 8<sup>th</sup>  
at  
10:15am**



**Affirmation  
Dinner  
for Confirmands  
& Mentors  
Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6pm at Zion**

7<sup>th</sup> Graders, families & Mentors will  
serve the meal to all 8<sup>th</sup> graders,  
families & Mentors.

**Mark your calendars!**

## Table Grace

### *The Master Calleth*

(Tune: She'll Be Comin'  
Round the Mountain)



“Come and dine,”  
the Master calleth, “Come and dine.”  
There is plenty at God’s table all the time.  
He who fed the multitudes,  
turned the water into wine,  
to the hungry calleth now,  
“Come and dine.”



	In person	Online
January	94	91
February	97	114
March	126	143

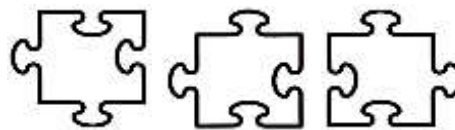
**2025 Year to Date:**  
106 In person  
116 Online

# Puzzle Answers

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See Acts 16:11-15, 40)

*Proverbs 31:30, NIV*

Answer: clothed, laugh, speaks, tongue, household,  
bread, children, husband, women;  
Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.





# 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



## Worship Committee

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 5:30pm**



## Worship Song Leaders

- MAY** 4 Jacque & Tom Dickey  
11 Kay Flanagan  
18 *Volunteer Needed!*  
25 Madison Gompert



## Mobile Food Pantry Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>



The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am at the Boone County Fairgrounds. This will be set up as a drive-through only. All patrons will need to enter the fairgrounds from the 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.



## 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.



**Happy  
Mother's  
Day  
Sunday,  
May 11<sup>th</sup>!**



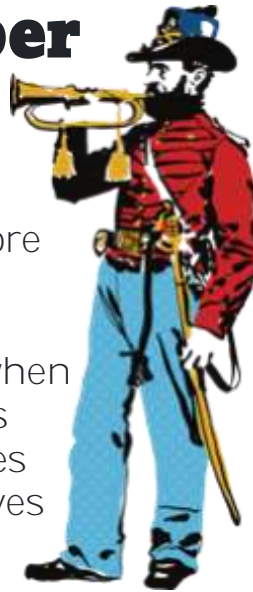
**Church  
Musicians**

**MAY**

- 4 Tami Texley
- 11 Tami Texley
- 18 Tami Texley
- 25 Tami Texley

## **We remember**

More than 150 years ago, Memorial Day took shape amid the backdrop of the U.S. Civil War. Before it ended, women began decorating the graves of fallen soldiers. In 1868, when May 30 was designated as Decoration Day, loved ones placed flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers alike.



By 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were honored, too. Over time, it became a day to remember all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed on the last Monday in May. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember people who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and for our freedom. We also pray for those who continue serving, especially those in harm's way.

**Memorial  
DAY** Monday,  
May 26<sup>th</sup>!



**Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm**

**City Park** (Weather Permitting)

This will be our last Zion Alive. We will meet at the park for some outdoor fun

All children in grades 2 through 5 are invited with their families to join us for some food, fun and fellowship!

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 **April 27<sup>th</sup>!**



## Prayer Concerns this Month

### **Wolf Memorial Home Residents**

*LaVonne Mills      Muriel Young*

### **Good Samaritan Estates (Assisted Living)**

*Barb Buckendahl      Bob & LaVonne Kruse  
Donna Kruse      Dorothy Young*

### **Genoa Assisted Living (Genoa)**

*Arletta Francis*

### **Heritage of Bel-Air (Norfolk)**

*LaVonne Olnes*

### **Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home**

*Harold & Lois Thewke*

### **Our Homebound**

*Judy Harder      Dale Sheldon*

### **Out of State**

*Elva Bartels (Texas)*

*Joy Haas (Colorado)*

### **In Our Sunday Prayers**

*Anastasia, Padma Catell,*

*Mary Pat Freeman, Wrenley Frey, Joy Haas,*

*Ruth Hagemann, Janna, Marianne Karmann,*

*Jim Meyer, Connie Nelson, Shirley Nissen,*

*Mark Smith, Allie Stuhr, Pat Tobiason,*

*Faith Tyson, Diane Young,*

*Ethan, Kelsey & Kennedy Young,*

*Matt Zoucha,*

*and the families of*

*Carter Ahlstedt, Dorothy Tisthammer*



### **Our Congregation**

*Zion's Confirmands*

*Graduates*

*Teachers*

### **Other Concerns**

*Our Military*

*All those affected by war, violence & hatred*

*Those affected by natural disasters*

*All those wrongly detained & deported*

*Federal Workers*

*Other prayer concerns are welcome*

## THANK YOU Sunday School Teachers!

We offer our heartfelt  
thanks to our  
2024-25  
Sunday School  
Teachers:



*Krista Choat*

*Tana Dozler*

*Madison Gompert*

*Cola Heesacker*

*Judy Johnson*

*Sheena Krohn*

*Tara Leetch*

*Stacy Petersen*

*Brooke Stuhr*

*Josh Thayer*

*Lisa Thayer*

*Teresa Tisthammer*

and Substitute Teachers:

*Dorothy Grosch*

*Nikki Heidemann*

*Amy Moser*

*Amanda Reinhart*

*Lynne Webster*

*Addyson Winter*

It was a GREAT year thanks to YOU!

We appreciate each of you!

*(Hint: If you'd like to teach next year,  
please let Stacy Petersen know!)*

Thank You,  
Teachers!





2pm on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Wolf Home  
Volunteers & Prizes needed!

We host Bingo at Wolf Home on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. We need at least 2 volunteers each month. We are also in need of prize Donations. Prizes can be Large Print puzzle books, coloring books for adults, beanie babies, candy, snacks, etc. Donation are being collected in the marked box in the narthex.

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



Coffee  
and  
CONVERSATION

May 1<sup>st</sup>  
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, Supper  
& Bible Study  
Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>  
6pm at the Gateway  
Terrace Community Room



Everyone is invited to the Gateway Terrace Community Room (11<sup>th</sup> St) for a casual evening of faith, food, and fellowship.

Please Join us!

Faith &  
Fellowship

Committee  
will meet  
at 10:15am

on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
(after church)

All are welcome to join us!



Confirmation Camp



Carol Joy  
Holling Camp

Attention:  
6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

The Elkhorn Valley Cluster is doing Confirmation Camp together at Ranch Camp the week of June 15-20.

Campers sign up online. Families are responsible for the initial deposit and because Zion believes in the power of Camp, our church will pay for the balance of the registration fee.

Camp is a requirement of Zion's Confirmation Program, so please sign up soon! For more information, please speak with Pastor Carolann.



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 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



### Newsletter Folding Party

We will be putting the next newsletter together at **11am on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

All are welcome to join in on the folding fun!  
For more information, please speak with Cheryl Sherburne.



Thanks to Mary Staub, Vicar Keith & Pastor Carolann for being **Zion's Voting Members** at the Nebraska Synod Assembly this year!

They will be in Kearney for Synod Assembly May 30<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>.



**Parish Ed. Committee**

Next Meeting:  
Tuesday,  
May 13<sup>th</sup>  
At  
6:30pm



The following people Made donations to **Zion's Memorial Fund** in loving memory of **Greg Warner**



**Donna Kruse** (Elevator Fund)  
**Carroll & Jane Rolf** (Scholarship Fund)



The following people made donations to **Zion's Memorial Fund** in loving memory of **Carter Ahlstedt:**

**Rev. Carolann Hopcke** (Scholarship Fund)  
**Jane Mundschenk** (Elevator Fund)



Ascension Day  
May 29, 2025

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

**The deadline for the June Messenger is Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**



# PEOPLE SPOTS

## Nancy Ahlers



Nancy Ann Krohn was born August 14, 1960, to William and Virginia Krohn in Albion, NE. Nancy was welcomed home to the family farm by her two older brothers, Charlie and Ron.

Nancy grew up on the family farm west of Albion, attending District 44 school just a mile away from her home until the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She attended Albion Public Schools for Junior and Senior High, graduating with the class of 1978. After graduation she attended business school at Lincoln School of Commerce in Lincoln, NE. Upon graduating from Business School, Nancy returned to Albion to begin working for Boone County at the Boone County Courthouse.

Nancy's first job for Boone County was working in the Boone County Assessor's Office where she worked until 1993. In 1995, she started working part time at the Boone County Treasurer's Office and transitioned to full-time in 2009. This continues to be where Nancy works to this day. Nancy enjoys her job at the Treasurer's Office where she gets to interact with many members of the community.

In the spring of 1981, Nancy met the love of her life, Terry Ahlers, in Belgrade, NE, at a Saint Patrick's Day Celebration. The couple married a year and a half later on September 11, 1982, at Zion Lutheran Church. This union has been blessed with two wonderful daughters, Sarah and Amy. In her free time Nancy enjoys spending time playing a few rounds of golf at the Albion Country Club. She also enjoys reading a good book or doing puzzles. Spending time in the kitchen cooking and baking, just like she did with her mother growing up, is another way Nancy likes to spend her time.

Nancy has been a lifelong Lutheran. She was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church on September 3, 1960, and was confirmed on April 7, 1974. Nancy has served Zion in many ways over the years. She has volunteered as a wedding coordinator, Luther League sponsor, serving group chairperson, assisted with Vacation Bible School, and taught Sunday School. Nancy has also played in the bell choir. Currently, Nancy serves on the Altar Guild and as the Church Treasurer. We are honored by her membership, her willingness and dedication to her work at Zion, and for all the ways in which she has chosen to serve God in our church. Nancy is certainly a blessing to us and all those with whom she interacts.



Written & submitted by  
Vicar Keith Powell







Doris Warner  
will be 90  
on May 12<sup>th</sup>!  
Please send  
a card  
as you are able:



**90 YEARS LOVED**

1340 W Church St  
Albion, NE 68620-1154

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



*"I was sure motherhood would be hard work when it began with something called labor."*



Carol Joy  
Holling Camp

**WORK DAY**

**Saturday, May 17, 2025**

**8am — 1:30pm**

**Breakfast & Lunch are included!**

**Questions?**

**Contact Lisa Stirtz at**

**LStirtz@NLOM.org or 402-944-2544**



Dear Partners in Ministry,

At the end of the Transfiguration story we read, "And all were astounded at the greatness of God. *(Luke 9:43, NRSV)* We rejoice and are astounded with you because of all that God has done, and especially for the many ways we have seen God at work through and with you this past year. Thank you for your participation in mission share during 2024. Mission share is the undesignated offering that your congregation shares with the Nebraska Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, through which together we do ministry that spans the globe and changes lives. Together so much is done as we join with God and respond to God's gifts and promises as part of some of God's on-going work in the world.

The past year in the Nebraska Synod was a year of deep commitment, faith, and trust as together we committed to "Cultivate Love" as God's people. We continue to do this knowing there is much to be done as the script is flipped, new questions are pondered, experiments embarked upon, and most importantly the Good News of the Gospel to be proclaimed. You do this daily as disciples and as God's people in Nebraska.

There is so much that we do as we are the church together. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

God's peace and blessings,  
Your Nebraska Synod Staff

Thank you, God!





# Class of 2025

The Sew Happy Mission Quilters are inviting all the Graduating Seniors to come to church on **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** after school (**between 3:30pm-5pm**) to choose one of their precious quilts as their own.

*(If you can't make it on Friday, you are welcome to choose a quilt after church on **Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**)*

The quilting ladies would be *"sew" happy* to see you and gift each *of Zion's graduates* with a beautiful quilt.



Mission Quilters will meet on **Fridays, May 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** at 1:30pm.

All are welcome to join us!



4-14

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By  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

**"I need to goeth to the bathroom."**

## HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**

The youth of our church are invited to help lead this delightful worship service at 9am on April 27<sup>th</sup>! If you'd like to help, please talk to Pastor Carolann.

# Heavenly Humor

**Please join us!**



## Last Day of SUNDAY SCHOOL

Oh, how time flies!

The Last Day of Sunday School will be **Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**!



# Zion Memorial Scholarship

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the following people who have made donations to the *Scholarship Fund*

*Joe & Kay Flanagan* in loving memory of his mother, *Carol Flanagan*

*Pastor Carolann Hopcke* in loving memory of *Carter Ahlstedt Carroll & Jane Rolf* in loving memory of *Greg Warner*

*A total of \$4,505 has been received. (as of 4/3/25)*

Thank you 

## ♪ Just a Note ♪

A huge thanks to all of these ladies who shared their time and talent in playing the handbells for services this winter and spring.



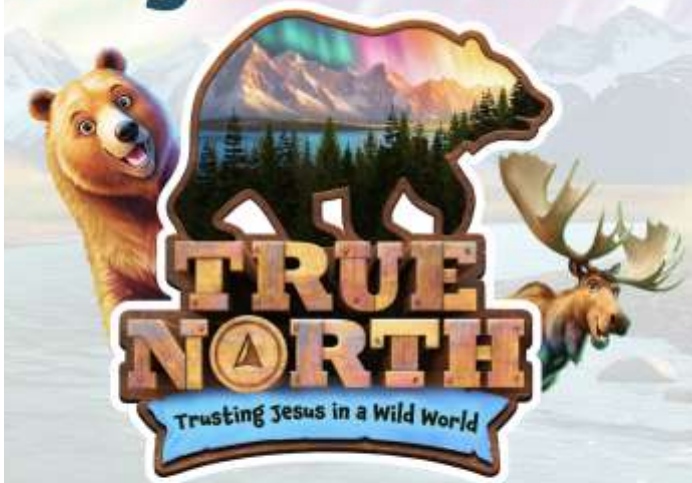
They are **Jenny Gompert, Sheena Krohn, Jerene Kruse, Whitney Paulson, Marcia Seier, Cheryl Sherburne, Linda Spiegel, Tami Texley, Lisa Thayer, and Bonnie Wagner.**



Well done,  
good and faithful servants!  
Jacque Dickey

(We also offer our thanks to Jacque Dickey for her leadership with the bells! You all are awesome and make Jesus proud!)

## Register Now!



June 9-13,  
2025

Register &  
Pay online  
by scanning  
the QR code →



## Prayer Chain & Prayer Concerns



If you'd 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)*



# Worship with us from HOME

Zion Sunday Services are broadcast LIVE on Vyce 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](http://www.facebook.com/zionalbion)

Zion Messenger is a monthly publication of Zion Lutheran Church  
319 S 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@zionalbion.org)  
Website: [www.zionalbion.org](http://www.zionalbion.org)

## Zion's Staff

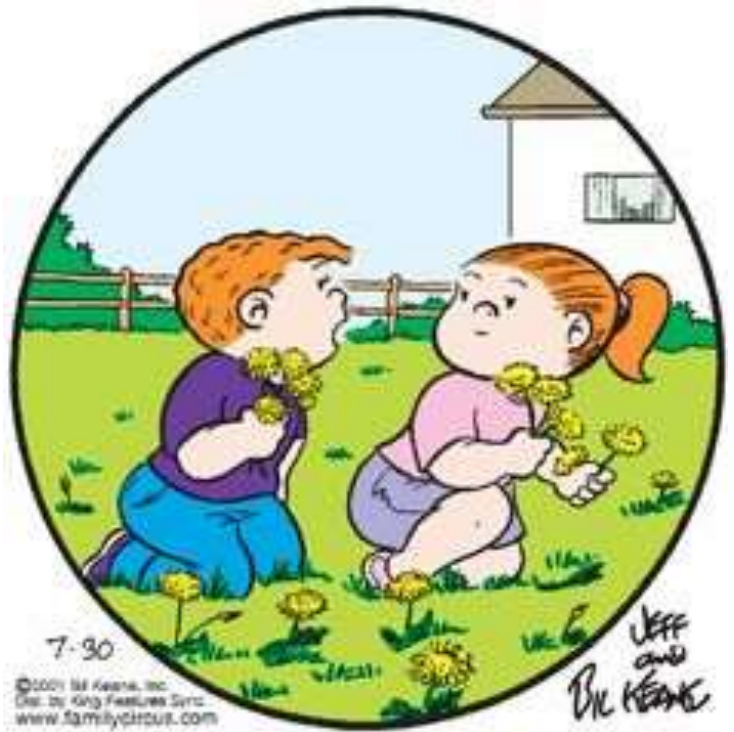
**Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Senior Pastor**  
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**Vicar Keith Powell, Seminarian**  
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**Office Administrators**  
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[office@zionalbion.org](mailto:office@zionalbion.org)

**High School Youth Coordinator**  
Dorothy Grosch  
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**Nancy Ahlers, Treasurer:**  
[treasurer@zionalbion.org](mailto:treasurer@zionalbion.org)



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"Why are we pickin' these for Mommy if they're Daddylions?"

## **A Memorial Day Prayer**



Let us remember the many brave men and women who have given their lives throughout the history of our country to protect us from danger and harm.

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please hold our servicemen and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and your presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops. We ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes, and we pray your peace, provision, and strength will fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be supplied with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.