Zion Messenger

December 2026

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





One Solitary Life

8 In that region
there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,
and the glory of the Lord shone around them,
and they were terrified.
10 But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid; for see —
I am bringing you good news of great joy
for all the people:
11 to you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.
12 This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger."
13 And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying,
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those
whom he favors!"
(Luke 2:8-14)

The following was written by an unknown author many years before I was born. It still speaks truth about the One who was born to be among us, our Savior, Christ Jesus…

He was born in an obscure village,
the child of a peasant woman.
He grew up in still another village,
where he worked in a carpenter shop
until he was thirty.
Then for three years
he was an itinerant preacher.
He never wrote a book.
He never held an office.
He never had a family or owned a house.
He didn't go to college.
He never traveled more than 200 miles
from the place where he was born.
He did none of these things
one usually associates with greatness.
He had no credentials but himself.
He was only 33 when public opinion
turned against him.
His friends ran away.
He was turned over to his enemies and
went through the mockery of a trial.
He was nailed to a cross
between two thieves.
When he was dying, his executioners
gambled for his clothing,
the only property he had on earth.
When he was dead,
he was laid in a borrowed grave
through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, the leader of humankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of humanity on earth as much as that One Solitary Life.

~ Unknown ~

With praise and thanksgiving
for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May God continue to be with you all
in this holy season and always...

Pastor Carolyn

President's Corner

The Real Meaning of Christmas

by Joan Clifton Costner

C is for the Christ Child and the child in all of us.

H is for the Heart of God, in whom we place our trust.

R is for our Redeemer, who is finished with his chore.

I is for Isaiah who had told it all before.

S is for the Shepherds, lowly shepherds who came to see.

T is for the Wise Men, who were wise beyond degree.

M is for the Manger, a simple manger where he lay.

A is for bright Angels who were standing by that day.

S is for the Star that shone and still shines out today!

As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, our calendars quickly fill with rehearsals, gatherings, and year-end preparations. Amid the busyness, December invites us to slow down and focus on the quiet miracle of Christ's birth — a message of hope, peace, and goodwill for our homes and our wider community.

This past year, I have been continually grateful for the ways our congregation shows up for one another, serves our neighbors, and supports our congregation's ministries.

I pray that you and your families get to enjoy time together and embrace the true meaning of the season.

Wishing you and your family
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

Tammy Reigle
Council President



From the Vicar



Jesus is the Light of the World

As December arrives, our world begins to fill with lights. Homes are decorated with Christmas lights, candles glow in windows, and trees shine brightly in our communities. During the darkest days of the year, these lights bring warmth, beauty, and a sense of hope. Yet, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we are reminded that the greatest light of all is not found in our decorations or the lights on houses or trees, but in Jesus Christ. The Gospel of John reminds us of this promise:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

(John 1:5, NRSVUE)

Christmas is the celebration of God bringing light into our world through the birth of Jesus. Jesus came into a world that knew darkness caused by fear, loneliness, suffering, injustice, and uncertainty. Rather than leaving us to face these things alone, God entered our world as a child in a manger. In Jesus, we see God's love made visible and God's promise that darkness will never have the final word.

The light of Christ is not simply something we admire from a distance. It is a light that guides us, comforts us, and calls us to share God's love with others. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to reflect that light in our everyday lives. We do this through simple acts of kindness, offering a listening ear, welcoming our neighbors, caring for those who are struggling, and sharing hope with those who may be experiencing tough times.

During this Christmas season, there may be people around us who are experiencing more darkness than light. For some, holidays bring joy and celebration; for others, they can bring grief, loneliness, or uncertainty. May we remember that the light of Christ shines for everyone, wherever they may find themselves.

As we gather for worship, celebrate with family and friends, and exchange gifts, may we never lose sight of the greatest gift we have received, Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in our hearts and throughout our community. not only during December, but throughout the year.

Wishing you and your loved ones
a blessed Christmas filled with
the peace, hope, joy, and light of Christ!
Vicar Keith Powell



Zion Congregational Council Minutes from October 13, 2026



Call to Order: Tammy Reigle called the meeting to order at 5:57pm.
Present: Adam Briese, Kay Flanagan, Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Jim Meyer, Vicar Keith Powell, Tammy Reigle, Amanda Reinhart, Brian Tisthammer
Excused: Sara Rasmussen, Roberta Seda, Brett Temme

Equipping Time: Amanda Reinhart shared the daily devotions from Lutheran Ministries entitled "*We have an all-in God*." The cross and resurrection is God's way of saying He is all in. No excuses. Jesus was all in for us. He gave his life as a gift to us. Love everyone as God loves us.

Council Minutes: Amanda Reinhart made a motion to approve the minutes of September 8, 2026, seconded by Jim Meyer. Motion carried.

Reports of Officers:

President Tammy Reigle: No report.

Vice-President Roberta Seda: No report.

Treasurer Nancy Ahlers: $15,000 was transferred from the Dankert Account to the general checking account. Adam Briese made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Brian Tisthammer. Motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor Carolann Hopcke: Arlen & Teresa Wilke have removed their membership from Zion. VBS financial letters were sent. We've received reimbursement from St. Michael's and are waiting for money from the Methodists. The 5 weddings for 2026 are completed. There are 3 more baptisms planned for this year (so far).

Intern Pastor Vicar Keith Powell: He continues to attend the youth sporting events as his schedule permits. Vicar presided at Lavonne Olnes's funeral while Pastor was on vacation. The next intern meeting is on October 26th at 6:30pm; they will start the final evaluations for Vicar Keith.

High School Youth Coordinator: Vicar Keith Powell. Nikki Heidemann has been helping lead the Wednesday night Luther League discussions as her schedule permits. So far, one youth turned in her registration for the Youth Gathering; we are hoping for a few others. There are scholarships offered by the ELCA and the NE Synod. 19 goodie boxes were sent to our college students. Luther League and the Confirmation Class will be Trick or Treating for the food pantry on Wednesday, October 28th.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism: Two Thrivent cards have been received for the Halloween parade giveaways. Two Thrivent cards have also been secured for the community Light Parade. The theme is *Freshen up your life with Jesus!* The committee will once again sponsor a free holiday movie at Gateway Theater. It is planned for November 15th or 22nd. A postcard invitation for this movie will be included in the Halloween parade treat bags.

Faith and Fellowship: 14 people went to dinner at the Hungry Horse in Ericson on October 4th. Coffee and conversation continues on the first Thursday of the month at The Dotted Daisy; the next gathering is November 5th at 9:30am. The next Wine and Word gathering will be on Thursday October 15th at 6pm. Judy Johnson will provide the meal. This committee will help the worship committee with the Veteran's Potluck brunch on November 8th after worship. The Holiday Dinner details are still being finalized.

Finance: In 2024 we began the year with a surplus of $91,000; in 2025 the year began with a surplus of $48,000; and in 2026 we began with a surplus of only $23,000. This is why we've had to borrow from the Dankert Account over the last two years. We believe this is most likely due to the money collected for the ADA improvement projects we're planning.

- The Dankert Account: In 2022 we invested $50,000 from the Dankert Account with the ELCA Foundation for a higher interest rate. The interest from this account is $28,790.65 as of September 30, 2026. The finance committee would like to move some of the interest money into the local Dankert Account to give our treasurer easier access to this money when and if necessary. The local Dankert Account balance is $12,309.79. Adam Briese made a motion to transfer $27,000 from the Dankert ELCA Foundation to the local Dankert T-bill account, seconded by Brian Tisthammer. Motion carried.
- The Elevator Fund T-bill balance is $261,448.79. The finance committee is recommending moving some of this money to a 15-month CD at Cornerstone Bank to gain more interest. Kay Flanagan made a motion to move $250,000 from the Elevator T-bill account to a 15-month CD at Cornerstone Bank, Jim Meyer seconded. Motion carried.
- The Building Fund Savings account balance is $188,663.45; $141,729.25 of that total is undesignated. The finance committee is recommending moving some of this money into a T-bill account which yields higher interest. Adam Briese made a motion for Nancy Ahlers to move $100,000 into a T-bill account, seconded by Brian Tisthammer. Motion carried.

Lottery Checks: Three lottery winners have yet to cash their checks. They've been contacted.

Parish Education: Confirmation is going well. The 7th graders are doing well with points & sermon notes. Sunday School attendance has been up and down due to youth sports on Sunday mornings. The SS Christmas program will be during worship on December 20th. The Parish Ed committee recommended giving $300 per month from the HS Coordinator salary to Vicar Keith for his extra work with Luther League. Kay Flanagan made a motion to pay $300 per month (September – May 2026) to Vicar Keith Powell for his work with Luther League, seconded by Jim Meyer. Motion carried.

Property & Maintenance: Thanks to Amy & Pat Zaruba for doing edging at the parsonage; it looks great! Green Turf will be shutting off sprinklers and blowing out the lines next week.

Worship Committee: A universal phone holder was ordered & received for use at our outdoor services. The Ukulele Choir has started practicing. Choir will sing on Reformation Sunday & at the Veteran's Day service. The Veteran's Day service will be November 8th with a potluck breakfast to follow. *Flames for the Faithful* is the theme for Advent. We are ordering poinsettias from the school again this year.

ADA Project: We still don't have a quote from Jon Porter for the bathroom renovations. We need this estimate to apply for grants and to bring before the congregation.

Old Business: None

New Business: Vicar Keith graduates in May 2027. We will keep him until he gets a call. The council is recommending that Zion request another seminary student.

Budget: The council reviewed the proposed budget for 2027. The insurance amounts won't be available until November, so we will wait until the November meeting to approve the proposed budget that will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Amanda Reinhart made a motion to set the annual congregational meeting for Sunday, February 7, 2027, seconded by Jim Meyer. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Adam Briese made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Meyer. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 17th at 6pm. Vicar Keith Powell will have equipping time.

Respectful submitted,
Kathryn Flanagan



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

1	Gracin Connelly, Alyssa Henn, Nora Levander, Elaine Reinhart, Lillian Reinhart, Roberta Seda
2	Kyra Kruse, Dylan Staub, Tinley Schnoor
3	Ashley Lindgren, Masan Skillstad
4	Krista Choat, Nicole Woebbecke
6	Bob Coakes, Jonny Lindgren
7	Mae Temme
8	Brian Dozler, Colton Juzenas
10	Christal Skillstad, Brooke Stuhr
12	Ben Stuhr
13	Aislynne Kurtenbach, Kim Woebbecke
15	Amy Culler, Ty Merten
16	Karen Rinehart
18	Tommi Kaumans, Chris Lindgren, Scott Reinhart, Jessie Sullivan
20	Kelly Seier, Maximus Temme, Ryan Tisthammer, Zach Zoucha
21	*Bob Kruse**
22	Trudy Fick, Bryce Paulson, Jenice Stevenson
23	Norm Reynoldson, Nathan Schmitz
24	Charlie Henn
26	Dana Andersen, Jane Mundschenk
27	Hylee Esch, Howie Levander, Riley Nelson
30	Lauren Kohtz, Alexis Pedro
31	Ron Levander

*Denotes 80+ years young



ANNIVERSARIES

12/1	Mike & Roberta Seda
12/4	Connie & Rick Nelson
12/28	Barb & Rich Howser
12/31	Joann & Jon Porter
	Josh & Lisa Thayer

*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!





Table Grace

(Tune: Rock Around the Clock)

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

We're gonna thank him
in the morning, noon and night.
We're gonna thank our God
'cause he's out of sight!

Amen (ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch)
Amen (ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-ch)





Women's Circles December 2026

Peace Circle will meet at Zion on Wednesday, Dec. 16th at 9am. Mary Levander will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at 2pm on Wednesday, December 16th; at the Assisted Living. **Doris Warner** will be the leader.

2026-27 Flower Committee

December
Tammy Reigle

January
Julie Long





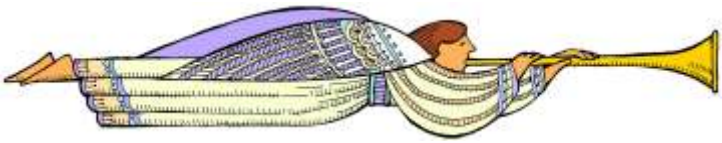
2026-27 Altar Guild Schedule

December:
Jim & Patti Meyer*
Nikki & Rich Heidemann

January:
Bob & Gay Sandman*
Marcia Seier
Lisa Skillstad

Worship Committee

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, December 1st
at 5:30pm



Longest Night
(Blue Christmas)
Worship Service 7pm
Mon., December 21st
at Albion Methodist



Although many of us are filled with joy and anticipation during this time of year, the holidays can be particularly hard for people who have recently lost a loved one. Holidays bring back many cherished memories and can rekindle the experience of loss.

This is a service of peace & healing offered to those who may not be as "joyous" as the season expects. It is designed for those who have experienced a loss in the past year, such as the loss of a loved one, a job, or some other life-changing event.

Holy God of Advent:
you became weak so we could find strength
in moments of heartbreak;
you left the safety of heaven
to wander the wilderness of the world,
holding our hands when we feel so hopeless;
you set aside your glory
to hold our pain so we might be healed,
even when there seems to be no hope;
you became one of us,
so we could never be alone
in any moment, in any circumstance.
So come now, Child of Bethlehem,
to strengthen us in these days.
May we feel your presence
in a way we have never known,
not just as One born in a stable
long ago and far away,
but as One born in our hearts, in our hopes,
in our spirits, in our weakness.
You have promised to go before us:
into our brokenness, into hospital rooms,
into empty houses, into graveyards,
into our future held by our God,
and you are here, even now,
waiting for each of us:
to serve us, to hold us, to comfort us,
to live in us, now and forever.
Amen.

PUZZLE

Christmas Riddles

Read the riddles below. Do you know the answers?

1) In a stable I was filled with hay
And became a bed where a baby lay.
What am I?
Luke 2:7

2) Our voices loud were heard on high!
The shepherds were frightened when we filled the sky!
Who are we?
Luke 2:9-13

3) I was shining in the Bethlehem sky that night.
The Magi followed my light so bright!
What am I?
Matthew 2:2

4) We watched our sheep in the night so still;
Then angels praised God and woke up our hill!
Who are we?
Luke 2:8

5) I was at Mary's side for the special birth
And raised the child as his "father on Earth."
Who am I?
Luke 2:16

6) "My heart in song to God I lift"
Said the young mother of God's special gift.
Who am I?
Luke 1:46-55

7) A baby boy, the Promised One!
A gift from God, His beloved Son!
Who am I?
Matthew 1:18

8) The city of David, the little town,
Where the Baby was born and the star shone down.
What am I?
Luke 2:4

9) From the East we traveled far.
We found the child by the light of the star.
Who are we?
Matthew 2:1

Bible Quiz



The New Testament describes Jesus Christ as **"Lord of lords and King of kings."** In which book of the Bible is this title found?

A. Revelation
B. Acts
C. Colossians
D. Matthew

Answers are on page 13



Paper Bag Luminarias

Light the way for family and friends while celebrating the birth of Jesus.





What you need:

- Pencil
- Brown or white paper lunch bags
- Hole punch or pushpin
- Cardboard
- Sand
- Battery-operated LED tea lights
- Optional: markers, crayons, stickers, or stencils



What you do:

1. Draw a Christmas design or word on each bag, such as a star, manger, heart, or "JOY."
2. Place cardboard inside the bag. With adult supervision, punch holes along your design.
3. Add about two inches of sand and place an LED tea light inside.
4. Set the bags along your walkway, porch, or patio. Turn on the lights at dusk and enjoy!





luther league

LUTHER LEAGUE

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

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

Blessings, Vicar Keith

Luther League Meals

Want to help provide meals for Luther League meetings on Wednesday nights? Go to signup genius and do a search using office@zionalbion.org to volunteer! Thanks!

SignUp Genius

Luther League Schedule

NOVEMBER

Sun., Nov. 29	4pm	Decorate Marilee's

DECEMBER

Wed., Dec. 2	6pm	Practice Candlelight & Decorate Church
Thurs., Dec. 3	6pm	Albion Light Parade
Wed., Dec. 9	6pm	Practice Candlelight
Wed., Dec. 16	6pm	Practice Candlelight & Cookie Sale Prep
Sun., Dec. 20	10am	Christmas Cookie Sale
	7pm	Candlelight Worship
	8pm	Christmas Cookie Sale

Candlelight Service

Sun., Dec. 20th
7:00pm

Everyone is invited to attend this worship service led and prepared by our Luther League!

Candlelight Service

Please mark your calendars, and join us for this special worship.



"Joy to the world, the Lord has gum ..."

Boone County Food Pantry



1108 W. State St.
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

In order to be prepared for our annual meeting, there will be an

Informational Congregational Forum



Sunday, January 31st (after worship)

Any questions, please speak to a council member.



SCANDINAVIAN Baking

Sat., December 5th (9am-1pm)
at Immanuel-Zion

This is an interactive baking experience in rolling, dipping, and tasting:
Norwegian Lefse, krumkake, kringle, rosettes, Danish aebleskivers, and Finnish Christmas tarts.

Everyone is welcome — no experience necessary all materials provided!

Mobile Food Pantry ~ Sat., December 5th!

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, December 5th 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.

FOODBANK FOR THE HEARTLAND



Zion Church Council

Will MEET on Tuesday, December 15h at 6pm.

Mark your Calendar!

Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 7th at 10:15am

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Next Meeting: Sunday, February 14th at 10:15pm



☩ Christian Symbol ☩



HOLLY

With its glossy green leaves and bright red berries, holly is a familiar Christmas decoration rich in Christian symbolism. Its prickly leaves recall Jesus' crown of thorns, while its berries represent the blood He shed. Its evergreen foliage reminds us of eternal life through Him.

Though old legends connect holly with Christ's footsteps and cross, these stories are folklore rather than Scripture. At Christmas, holly reminds us that the child born in Bethlehem came to bring salvation, hope and everlasting life.

Annual Ministry Reports Due January 4th



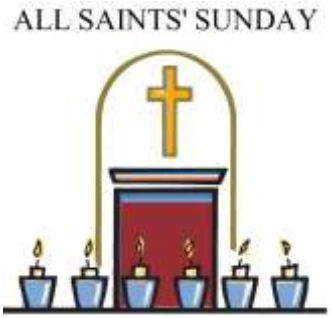
All committee chairpersons, ministry leaders, and treasurers are asked to submit annual ministry reports to the church office no later than January 4th, so that we may have it available by January 24th. Reports may be emailed to: office@zionalbion.org

These reports should include your committee's ministry activity during 2026. Any organizations and ministries of the church with bank accounts using Zion's Federal Tax Identification number, also need to submit a financial report for the year.

This is the time to talk about all the ministry that your committee has done over the year. It's certainly been a great year thanks to God and thanks to all of you!

All Saints' Day is a time to remember all the saints who have faithfully lived and died with the Lord.

On Sunday, Nov. 1ST, we remembered the following Saints…



Alissa Ashburn
Sharon Bachman
Pat Bashford
Kristin Belgum
Bill Brethouwer
Nancy Chamberlin
Adam Cockerill
Ruby Dobias
Janice Figgner
Dee Fugate
Marcella Grebe
Joy Haas
Janice Hoffart
Beth Johnson
Ralph Konschak
Larry Lambert
Dennis Lynch
Dennis Marcy
Joan Morgan
Larry Noble
Eugene Olnes
Lavonne Olnes
Livy Ostransky
Gerald "Whitey" Reinhart
Bill Reynoldson
Jim Ridgeway
Vallie Roberts
Helen Rosso
Evelyn Smoll
Barb Taylor
Tom Trainer
Sylvia Wesley

Rev. Clarence Baalson
Elva Bartels
Steve Beard
Jean Bittner
Liz Carder
Judy Choat
Rev. Pat Davenport
Susan Fey-Uilk
Martha Fisher
Daniel Gaunt
Ronald Gress
Judy Harder
Donna Iburg
John Kolar
Jim Kohtz
Marty Laska
Norman Mangelsen
Nancy Mohn
Jeff Noble
Joel Nore
Ken Olnes
Roger Olsen
Cliff Palmer
Eric Reiss
Rev. Dr. Tom Ridenhour
Chuck Roberts
Rev. Rex Rogers
Steven J. Scarlett
Pat Sullivan
Miriam Taylor
Jan Wauben
Muriel Young

Rest eternal grant them, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon them.



Sunday, December 20th 9:00am

Please join us for Zion's Sunday School Christmas Program on December 20th. These programs are always one of the miracles of the Christmas season!
Mark your calendars!

Advent Families



Would your family like to be an Advent Family and help light the candles of the Advent wreath? Sign-up on the bulletin board outside the offices or call the church office at 402-395-2043.

Nov. 29 Advent 1 J & S Krohn Family

Dec. 6 Advent 2 J & L Thayer Family

Dec. 13 Advent 3 D & S Wright Family

Dec. 20 Advent 4 B & L Nelson Family

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
3:30pm N & T Levander Family

5:30pm _____ = Family





Just a REMINDER: the Sew Happy Mission Quilters will NOT meet in November or December.

All are welcome to join them in January 2027!





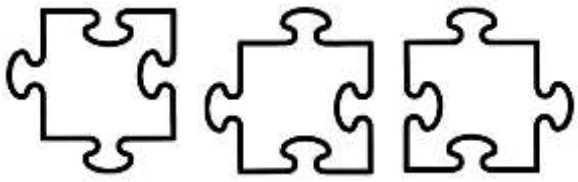
Sun., Nov. 29	**First Sunday of Advent**
9:00am	Ringing in New Church Year Holy Communion
Sun., Dec. 6	**Second Sunday of Advent**
9:00am	Holy Communion, Baptism & Bell Choir
Sun., Dec. 13	**Third Sunday of Advent**
9:00am	Holy Communion & Choir
3:00pm	Christmas Caroling
Sun., Dec. 20	**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
9:00am	Holy Communion SS Christmas Program
10:00am	LL Christmas Cookie Sale
7:00pm	Candlelight Service led by the Luther League.
8:00pm	LL Christmas Cookie Sale
Mon., Dec. 21	**Longest Night Service** *(Albion Methodist Church)*
7:00pm	Blue Christmas Worship
Wed., Dec. 24	**Christmas Eve**
3:30pm	Holy Communion
5:50pm	Holy Communion



Puzzle Answers

Bible Quiz Answer: A (See Revelation 17:14)

Puzzle Answer: manger, angels, star, shepherds, Joseph, Mary, Jesus, Bethlehem, wise men





Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing?

We are in need of special music before each of our Christmas Eve services. There is time to share your musical talents before the 3:30pm or 5:30pm services.

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board by Pastor's office. Sign up for the time that works best for you and let us know what musical talent you will be sharing.

For more information, please speak with Tami Texley 402-741-2330.





Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

December 24th

Special Music Begins	Worship Begins
3:15pm	3:30pm
5:15pm	5:30pm

Coffee and CONVERSATION

December 3rd 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. We hope to see you on **Dec. 3rd**!

Join us & invite friends!



Holiday Dinner at Albion Country Club December 10th at 6pm



The Fellowship Committee has planned a Holiday Dinner at the Albion Country Club for Thursday, December 10th at 6:00pm. The cost is $25 per adult & $15 per child (12 & under). The cost includes Fried Chicken, Sliced Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Salad Bar, Roll & Butter, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, Soda, and tip. The children's menu includes chicken strips, fries & drink (not the buffet).

Deadline to sign up is December 6th.

Alcohol will be available for purchase on an individual basis. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

Please join us & bring family & friends! For more information, please speak with Deb Borchers (308-991-3912)



2027 Offering Envelopes

Don't forget to pick up your new 2027 offering envelopes! They are available in the church narthex. Thanks!

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to help decorate the church for Christmas, please order some poinsettias. They are available in the following colors:

Red, Pink, White,

*Marble (pink & white) or Glitter (Red & White)**

*(*Colors are subject to change based on availability)*

You may order flowers in honor/ memory of loved ones. The list of those honored/remembered will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin and the January Messenger.

*Complete the form below to order poinsettias and place it in the offering plate or mail it **with your payment** to:*

Zion Lutheran Church
319 S. 5th St.
Albion, NE 68620

The cost is $15.00 per plant (6" pots).

The order deadline is Sunday, November 29th.
(Speak with Patti Meyer if you have any questions.)

Name of sponsor: _____

Phone # ( ) _____

In memory of: _____

_____

In honor of: _____

_____

# of plants & colors: _____

*Amount enclosed: $*_____

(Feel free to use more than one order form)





Sunday, December 27th 9:00am



Worship Song Leaders

DECEMBER

6	Jacque & Tom Dickey
13	Kay Flanagan
20	***Volunteer Needed!***
24	***Volunteer Needed!*** ***Volunteer Needed!***
27	***Volunteer Needed!***



There will be NO Sunday School
December 20th — January 3rd
Classes will resume on
January 10th!





The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6pm. All are welcome!

CONFIRMATION



***Classes on* Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th & 16th**

Dinner is served at 5:30pm
Class begins at 6pm until 7:30pm

For more information,
please speak with Pastor Carolann.

Sunday Bulletins



Sunday bulletins are 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.





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 us on Facebook live.

If it is easier, or you are more comfortable taking communion in your seat, you may also use these elements to take communion on Sunday mornings.

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



2026-27 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

December: Women of Zion

January: Church Council



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!

Intern Committee Meeting

6pm on Monday, November 30th

INTERN COMMITTEE



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 (4029-395-2043) 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)*



Christmas Caroling 3pm on Sunday, December 13th

At 3pm on Sunday, December 13th, we will gather at the church in order to carpool to the nursing home, assisted living & possibly some of our shut-ins for Christmas Caroling. Please mark your calendar and join us!

EVERYONE is invited!



Don't forget to bring your box of **Reverse Advent Calendar** supplies to church on Christmas Eve or the Sunday after. All items benefit our local food pantry.

Thanks for your help!



Prayer Concerns this Month

Wolf Memorial Home Residents
Bob & LaVonne Kruse
LaVonne Mills
Dorothy Young

Good Samaritan Estates *(Assisted Living)*
Cynthia Kraus *Donna Kruse*
Barb Michael *Marilyn Ramm*

Cloverlodge Care Center *(St. Edward)*
Marianne Karmann

Genoa Assisted Living *(Genoa)*
Arletta Francis

Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home
Harold & Lois Thewke
Faith Tyson



In Our Sunday Prayers
Kelly Benson, Payton & Todd Berger, Marilyn Boyette, Sandy Frey, Marlene Kotrc, Ollie Marcy, Sue Matta, Owen Neesen, Bridgette Pudwill, Carola Reigle, Mary Roberts, Cooper Seier, Mark Smith, Marlys Smith, Linda Thewke, Pat Tobiason, Staci Wright, Xander Wright, and the family of Linda Spomer

Our Congregation
Adult Choir
Bell Choir
Sunday School Choirs
Pastor Carolann & Vicar Keith
All Worship Assistants

Other Concerns
Our Military
All those affected by war, violence & hatred
Those affected by natural disasters

Other prayer concerns are welcome



Angel Ornaments

Zion is offering Angel Ornaments in memory or honor of loved ones. Angels are available in Green, Red & Blue. The cost of an angel is $10 with your loved ones name displayed on the heart. These ornaments will be hung on Zion's Christmas Tree in the sanctuary; you may take them home for your tree after the Christmas Eve services.

All proceeds benefit the Bathroom & Ramp ADA funds. For more information, please speak with Nikki Heidemann, Mary Kay Tisthammer or Pastor.

In ***HONOR*** *of:*

_____ *Color: Blue / Green / Red (Circle One)*

_____ *Color: Blue / Green / Red (Circle One)*

In ***MEMORY*** *of:*

_____ *Color: Blue / Green / Red (Circle One)*

_____ *Color: Blue / Green / Red (Circle One)*

Angels @ $10. each x _____ = _____

TOTAL Due: $_____

Checks may be made payable to Zion Lutheran Church

Your Name: _____

Deadline to Order: ***Sunday, December 6th***

Special thanks to Lois Hoefer for hand making each angel



Bell Choir Practice Wednesdays at 4:30pm

If you have any questions, please call or text Jacque Dickey at 402-741-1709.

Handbells



On ***November 15th*** *we celebrated the gift of God's grace as*
Charlie Joseph Henn &
Carter Nicholas Henn
were baptized in the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Charlie *was born on*
Saturday, December 24, 2022 at 3:56pm.
He weighed 8lbs., 5oz. and was 21" long.

Carter *was born on*
Friday, November 21, 2025 at 6:59pm.
He weighed 8lbs., 1oz. and was 20½" long.

Loving Parents: ***Alyssa & Eric Henn***

Siblings: ***Hazel & Emmett***

Charlie's Godparents:
Samantha Temme & Chad Henn

Carter's Godparents:
Zach Claussen & Carly Claussen

Grandparents:
Harold & Wendy Claussen
Nick & Wendy Henn

Great Grandparents:
Harold & Zoe Claussen
Harold & Helen Henn
Richard & Beth Prussa
Fred & Rosie Spieker

May God continue to bless them all with His abundant love and grace.

SignUpGenius®

All of Zion's Sign Ups
can be found online!

To volunteer, use one of the links below:

Worship Assistants: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44ACAC28A1F58-worship

Food Pantry Volunteer Signup: https://ww.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44ACAC28A1F58-54444846-food

Confirmation Meals: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44ACAC28A1F58-meal

Luther League Meals: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44ACAC28A1F58-luther1

This is an easy and convenient way to volunteer for the dates and ways you would like to help. If you need assistance, contact the church office.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Church Musicians

DECEMBER

6	Tami Texley
13	Tami Texley
20	Tami Texley
24	Tami Texley
27	Sarah Liss



Choir Schedule

Advent

Rehearsal	Sunday, December 6th	10am
Rehearsal	Sunday, December 13th	8:30am
SING	Sunday, December 13th	9am

*If anyone would like to prepare a vocal or instrumental special music, please contact Tami Texley (402-741-2330).



2pm on December 17th at Wolf Home
Volunteers Needed!

We will be hosting Bingo at Wolf Home on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We need at least two volunteers each month. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board.

For more information, please speak with Pastor Carolann (402-395-2043).





	In person	Online
May	149	118
June	113	167
July	104	203
August	109	109
September	109	108
October	134	107

Year to Date: 131 In person
139 Online





Pastor Carolann will be on vacation from Thurs., December 25th through Sat., January 2nd.



The Mission Endowment Committee will meet on Monday, February 8th at 5:30pm.

NewsLetter DEADLine

The January Messenger deadline is Sunday, December 13th!

Faith & Fellowship

Committee will meet on Sunday, December 13th after church at 10:15am

All are welcome to join us!



Welcome New Members
The Henn Family

Alyssa, Eric, Hazel, Emmett, Charlie & Carter joined our church family on Sunday, November 15th! We are so happy to welcome them into our church family at Zion!

Albion's Light Parade

Thursday, December 3rd

6pm

Zion will be participating in the light parade again this year! Our theme is: Freshen up your life with Jesus! We'll be giving away air fresheners.

We need:

Lights (old or new as long as they work!)

VOLUNTEERS to

- walk with the float
- hand out our giveaways!
- ride on the float!

Donations are being collected in the narthex. We need these soon.

If you'd like to volunteer to help, walk or ride, please speak with Kim Schaefer 402-741-2716.

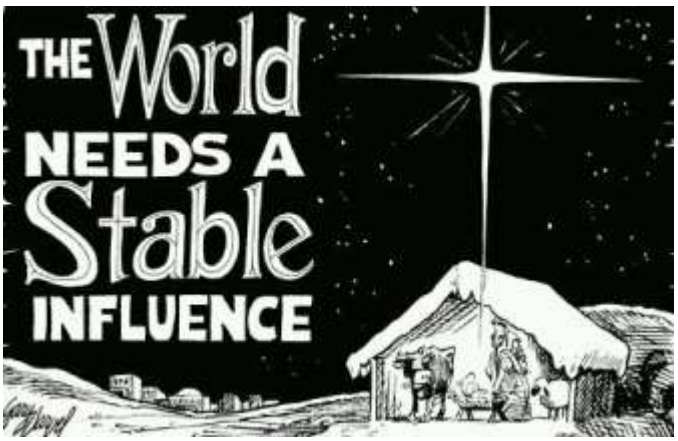
Zion Lutheran Church 2027 Serving Groups

serve

Being God's hands and feet

Serving Groups are those folks called upon to serve, make a salad or dessert for a funeral. There are three Serving Groups at Zion with six Serving Group Leaders. A copy of the 2027 Serving Group Schedule is included in this Messenger. Please let us know if your name or phone # needs to be corrected, or if we inadvertently omitted you! (If we did that, we are very sorry!) If you no longer feel as though you can help in this way, let us know that too, and we will remove your name. You may also direct any questions to one of the Serving Group Leaders listed.

We are ALWAYS looking for folks who are willing and able to serve at the luncheon, regardless of your assigned group. If you are able to do that, please let the church office know so we can keep a separate list of servers. This is an important and vital ministry at Zion. We are thankful for your willingness to embody this ministry.



Teresa Tisthammer

PEOPLE SPOTS

Teresa Michelle Victor was born April 23, 1990, to Mike and Marta Victor in Wayne, Nebraska. She was welcomed home to the family farm by her two older sisters, Audrey and Kim. A few years later they welcomed home their youngest sister Kate.

Teresa enjoyed growing up on the family farm outside of Laurel, Nebraska, with her sisters. She attended Laurel-Concord Public School from kindergarten through twelfth grade graduating with the class of 2008. Following high school she continued her education at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska, studying Surgical Technology. She later switched to online classes through Southeast Community College graduating in 2012, with an Associate's of Science Degree in Surgical Technology.

It was during biology class at Northeast Community College that Teresa met the love of her life, Brian Tisthammer. On April 6, 2013, they were united in marriage at Grace Lutheran Church in Wayne, NE. Together, they have been blessed with three wonderful children, Ben, Nolan, and Colton.

Teresa's first job was babysitting, followed by spending her summers detasseling corn. She later worked as a telephone surveyor for Western Watts, although it turned out to be her least favorite job. After four months, she decided to move on to a new opportunity at Hillcrest Nursing Home in Laurel, where she worked as a dietary aide and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). While attending college, Teresa worked for NorthStar Services in Norfolk, providing care and support to adults with intellectual disabilities. Today, Teresa works at Boone County Health Center in Albion as a Surgical Technologist.

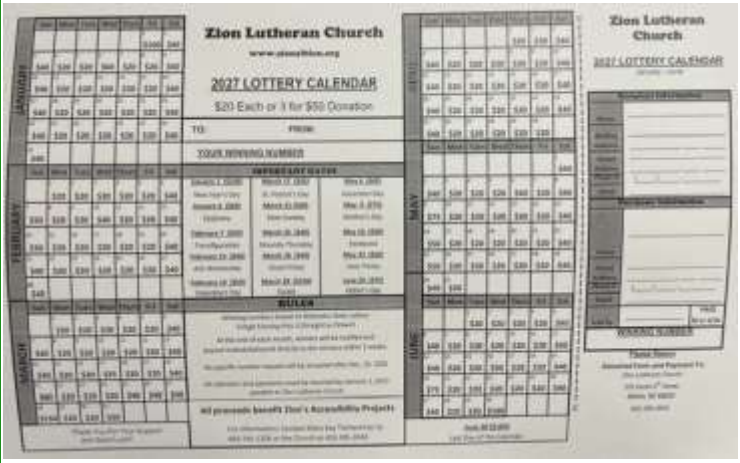
In her free time Teresa enjoys spending time with her family and friends and attending her children's events. She also enjoys reading, crafting, and traveling. Her favorite trips have included Antigua, and a trip to Maine, for her 10-year anniversary. She also enjoys cheering on the Nebraska Cornhuskers and whichever team Brian is rooting for that day.

Teresa is a lifelong Lutheran, she was baptized into the Lutheran faith on June 17, 1990, at Grace Lutheran Church in Wayne. She affirmed her faith on April 4, 2004, at Grace Lutheran Church. Teresa became a member of Zion Lutheran Church in May 2014. Since joining Zion Lutheran Church Teresa has served as Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School crew leader, and occasionally a lector. Teresa also creates and runs Power Point for Sunday services. She also serves as a mentor for Boone Central TeamMates. We are honored by her membership, and for all the ways in which she has chosen to serve God at Zion.



Written & submitted by
Vicar Keith Powell

2027
Six-Month Lottery Calendars
(January to June)
$20 each or 3 for $50



Zion is selling Lottery Calendars again! Winning numbers will be based on the Nebraska State Lottery 3-digit Evening Pick 3 (Straight as drawn).

Numbers from 000 to 999 may be purchased for $20 each or 3 calendars for $50. Prizes range from $20 to $150 depending on the day of the month.

They'll make great Christmas gifts!

For more information, please contact Mary Kay Tisthammer (402-741-1256) or the Church Office (402-395-2043)

All proceeds benefit ADA Bathroom Fund!



Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 4pm

They will play in church on Sunday, December 20th!



Next Meeting: Monday, Nov. 30th At 7pm



Help us decorate for Christmas!
Wednesday, December 2nd
at **6:00pm**

We are decorating our church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 2nd at 6pm! We will be putting up and decorating the Christmas tree! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

Please mark your calendars!
We need you!

Wine & Word



6pm on Thursday, December 17th at the Gateway Terrace Community Room

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Pastor Carolann (267-374-7762).

Please mark your calendars and join us!



Handicap Accessibility Project

Elevator Update

Total Cost:$232,945*
(Custom Elevator for caskets)

Elevator T-bill Account	$261,448.79
October Income	$40.00
October Expenses	$0.00
October Interest	$674.44
Total	$262,163.23**

*This does NOT include the Sprinkler system estimated @ $252,000.

** Does NOT include the $30,000 grant!

Sprinkler Account	$1,820.00
October Income	$0.00
Total	$1,820.00
Bathroom Account	$41,887.20
October Income	$25.00
October Expenses	$0.00
Total	$41,912.20



Thanks for your support of this very important project!



Memorial Gifts

The following people made donations to
Zion's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of ***Elva Bartels***
The Bartels Family

Memorial Gifts

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



Connie & Rick Nelson



MEMORIAL GIFTS

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

Judy & Loren Johnson



Memorial Gifts

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

Richard & Michelle West

A sincere thank you

The family of Joy Haas would like to thank everyone for their support, including those who sent cards, flowers, texts, and phone calls, as well as those who planted trees in her memory.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Zion Lutheran's dedicated funds and gave monetary gifts in memory of our mother. God bless you all.

Best regards,
Daniel Haas, Bradley Haas, & Janet Sparling



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!

1st Place:	***Aiden Heidemann***	Pigs
2nd Place:	***Tami Texley***	Music
3rd Place:	***Jacque Dickey***	Witch
4th Place:	***Lilly Reinhart***	Fishing

Honorable Mentions:

Ryatt Peters
Stratyn Peters
Wyleigh Peters
Bailey Reigle
Robert Reigle
Gracyn Seier
Peyton Seier
Elaine Reinhart
Ben Tisthammer
Nolan Tisthammer



Thanks to all who participated & voted!
We raised $176 for the Bathroom Fund



Thanks to Niewohner's & Levander Funeral Home For letting us chuck pumpkins!



Thanks to all who donated pumpkins for this event!





Food Collection for the Boone County Food Pantry!



On Wednesday, October 28th, the Confirmation Class and Luther League had a great time Trick-or-Treating for our local Food Pantry. The Confirmation Class collected 742 items and Luther League collected 684 items for a total of 1,426 items!

Since they collected over 500 items, Thrivent will be donating $500 to the Food Pantry! Thanks to all who helped our neighbors in need!







On Sunday, November 22nd
we will celebrate
the gift of God's grace as
James Bentley Church Meyer
is baptized in the name of the
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

James was born on
Friday, July 17, 2026 at 3:00am.
He weighed 5lbs., 6oz.
and was 18" long.



Loving Parents:
Jacob & Susan Meyer

Godparents:
Elizabeth Blanton
Jackson Meyer

Grandparents:
Virginia Frazer
Franklin Mackie
Jim & Patti Meyer

Zion Lutheran Church,



Thanks for your Sponsoring and helping through the Albion blood drive! Thanks for your part in helping collect 85 life-saving units during a difficult time for donations.

I am grateful for all the loyal volunteers and donors in the Albion Community!

Kyle Jensen









Sunday Brunch Thanks!

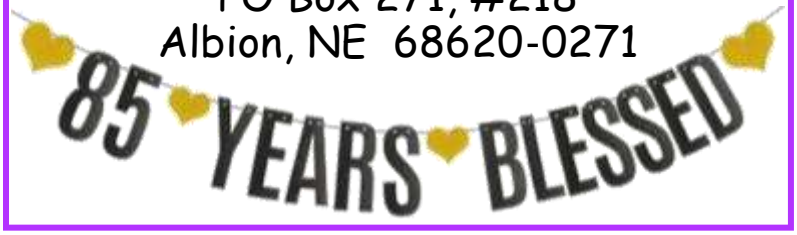
Thanks to Lisa Skillstad who led the Thrivent Action Team to make this brunch possible. Thanks also to all who donated food & time (especially the Worship Committee & the Faith & Fellowship Committee) to make this event such a success! It was a delicious meal made more enjoyable by the great fellowship!

We're already looking forward *to next year!*

Bob Kruse will turn 85 on December 21st!



Cards may be sent to:
PO Box 271, #218
Albion, NE 68620-0271





Worship at Zion Lutheran Church is Intergenerational; on most Sundays we see several generations of one family sitting in the same pew. And of course, among those generations, there are children. On any given Sunday, there is a chorus of laughter, crying and fidgeting from children in worship at Zion Lutheran. For these children and their parents, we give thanks!

To Parents of Young Children

We are so glad that you are here, and that you brought your children with you! Thank you!

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house.
- Sit toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear.
- Sing hymns loudly, pray, and voice the responses with enthusiasm. Children learn behavior by copying you. If you are fired up about God, they will be too!
- Remember that the way we welcome children in Church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, to Christ, to one another. Let them know that they are at home in the Church.
- Teach children some of the basic prayers. Being able to join in with the prayers helps them feel they are contributing too.
- Attend worship often, children like and need routines where they can participate.

To other members of our Church Family

A smile of encouragement is always welcome to parents with small children. If you forgot what it was like when your children were young and feel the need to step in and offer advice, please follow the example of Jesus and don't do that here. The presence of children is a gift to the church. They give us a future AND a present filled with much hope! Amen!





Zion's Sunday Worship Services are broadcast each week on Facebook Live! You may worship with us in person, 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
vicarkeith@zionalbion.org

Office Administrators
Amy Moser & Cheryl Sherburne
office@zionalbion.org

High School Youth Coordinator
Vicar Keith Powell
youthcoordinator@zionalbion.org

Nancy Ahlers, Treasurer
treasurer@zionalbion.org

