



Zion Messenger

July 2026

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



Let Freedom Ring!

***And you shall hallow the fiftieth year,
and you shall proclaim liberty
throughout the land
to all its inhabitants.***

***It shall be a Jubilee for you:
you shall return, every one of you,
to your property and every one of you
to your family. .***

(Leviticus 25:10)

The Liberty Bell is one of the icons of American liberty. Originally commissioned in 1751 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly, it is cast with the famous inscription: "Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof", which is from the scripture above. It was a proclamation of a Jubilee year: when, by God's decree, all enslaved would be freed, debts forgiven, and land restored.

So, what does Liberty for all look like? According to our founding fathers, it looks like this...

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

On July 4, 2026, the United States will celebrate its Semiquincentennial, marking 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The first sentence of the Preamble assures all the world that the United States government derives its authority from "the People," and that we will continue to strive for "a more perfect Union," where all are equal and free. And while we've come a long way in

250 years, we still have a way to go.

Like it or not, America is not, has never been, and was never intended to be a Christian nation. That may sound like heresy, but the truth is that America is something far more ambitious, and fragile: it is a secular republic where every belief is protected, because none is imposed. A system under which the government can dictate how one can or cannot pray, or whether one should pray at all has proven throughout history to be dangerous.

The founders believed in faith without force. They knew from experience that mixing the two rarely, if ever, ends well. Europe spent centuries in bloody religious disputes. State-sponsored churches hadn't produced unity, only persecution. Catholics oppressed Protestants; Protestants oppressed Catholics; and it seems as if everybody took turns burning somebody. The 13 US colonies were a patchwork of religious refugees: Puritans fleeing the Church of England, Quakers who'd been persecuted across Europe, Catholics who'd faced discrimination in Protestant countries. These were people who didn't need convincing that state religion was dangerous; they knew it firsthand and had the scars to prove it.

So, the founding fathers built a new kind of system based on freedom of Conscience with the separation of Church and State. One could worship however they wanted, or not at all, and the government would stay out of it. They did this not because religion didn't matter, but because it mattered too much to hand it over to politicians.

Continued on page 7



Corner

Finding Rest in the Noise

“Return to your rest, my soul, for the Lord has been good to you.”
(Psalm 116:7)

Do you ever think, “When is life going to slow down?” I remember when our kids were younger and life felt so busy — and I truly believed that once they got older, things would calm down. Well, I was wrong. Life is still busy, just in a different way.

In a world full of noise and constant pressure to hustle, real strength often comes from stillness. I think many of us are so programmed to stay busy and keep going that we lose sight of what matters most: our faith, time with family, and even the simple gift of doing nothing. Give yourself grace this month. Allow yourself time to recharge and refocus.

Bailey and Joe’s wedding was an absolutely perfect day. The weather couldn’t have been better, and it was such a blessing to all be together as a family to celebrate. Wedding photos aren’t ready yet, but I promise to share them with you next month.

And a Cooper update — he gets to come home on June 25th! He and his family are thrilled. He’ll continue outpatient therapy, but he’ll also be able to go for a drive, check on his cow and calf in the pasture, and get back to the “farming life” he loves so much. He has come so far. He truly is a miracle and continues to amaze us.

Blessed Rest,
Tammy Reigle
Council
President

*Return to your rest, my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.*

Psalm 116:7



President's

*From the
Vicar*



God's Handiwork is all around us!

July is a month that often brings us outdoors. Families gather, people attend camp, and families and friends spend evenings around a campfire beneath a canopy of stars. There is something about sitting by a fire that encourages us to slow down, share stories, and appreciate the beauty of God's creation.



As the sun sets and the stars begin to appear, it is easy to understand why the psalmist wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims his handiwork." (Psalm 19:1) Looking up into the night sky, we are reminded that the God who created the vast universe also knows each of us by name and holds us in His care.

A campfire offers many reminders of God's presence. The warmth of the flames reminds us of God's love that comforts and sustains us. The light shining into the darkness reminds us that Christ is our light in every season of life. The conversations shared around the fire remind us that God created us for community and calls us to encourage one another in faith.

Throughout Scripture, God often met people in ordinary places. Moses encountered God in a burning bush. Jesus taught beside lakeshores and on hillsides. After His resurrection, Jesus shared breakfast with His disciples around a charcoal fire. These moments remind us that God is not confined to church buildings. God meets us wherever we are in our homes, on vacation, at camp, and even around a simple campfire.

This summer, as you gather with family and friends, take a moment to notice God's presence. Look up at the stars and remember the Creator who knows each one by name. Listen to the stories being shared and give thanks for the people God has placed in your life. Enjoy the warmth of the fire and remember the warmth of Christ's love.

May this July be filled with opportunities to encounter God in both extraordinary and ordinary moments. And may every campfire remind us that wherever we gather in Christ's name, He is there with us.



Blessings,
Vicar Keith Powell



Call to Order: Tammy Reigle called the meeting to order at 5:58pm.

Present: Kay Flanagan, Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Jim Meyer, Vicar Keith Powell, Sara Rasmussen, Amanda Reinhart, Roberta Seda, Brett Temme, Brian Tisthammer

Excused: Adam Briese

Equipping Time: Jim Meyer led equipping time: Don't worry – Be Faithful. He used scripture from Matthew 6, Philippians 4, Hebrews 13 and Isaiah 60.

Council Minutes: Sara Rasmussen made a motion to approve the minutes of April 21, 2026, seconded by Roberta Seda. **Motion carried.**

Reports of Officers:

President Tammy Reigle: No report. Graduate Sunday went well.

Vice-President Roberta Seda: No report.

Treasurer Nancy Ahlers: Amanda Reinhart made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Brett Temme. **Motion carried.**

Staff Reports:

Senior Pastor Carolann Hopcke: We are keeping a list of all visitors to whom we've sent thank you notes. New members, Austin & Hailey Bode, are having their son, Cooper Jay, baptized on May 31st. The Henn family are planning to join the church when their two youngest children, Charlie & Carter, are baptized; the date is yet to be set. The Albion Memorial Day worship & celebration will be held at Zion on Monday, May 25th at 10am. Pastor donated American Flag/Nebraska State Flag pins to be given to all who attend worship.

Intern Pastor Vicar Keith Powell: The semester ended with Vicar Keith passing all his classes. He is covering all the worship services at the nursing home in May. He is getting ready for Confirmation Camp and VBS.

High School Youth Coordinator Dorothy Grosch: Egg your yard donations were \$270 and the Easter Breakfast donations were \$437. The annual end of year bonfire is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th at 6:30pm. It may be moved to church depending on the weather.

Committee Reports:

Scholarships: Six people applied for both the Zion Memorial & Donna & Randall Kruse Scholarships. Pastor Carolann, Vicar Keith & Kay Flanagan awarded the scholarships at BCHS Honors Night on May 13th. Zion Memorial Scholarship recipients were: Cody Andreasen, Brogan Benes, Grant Kuta & Kaci Wies. The Randall & Donna Kruse Scholarship recipient was Riley Nelson. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$1,000.

Parish Education: Confirmation went well. 11 of the 12 confirmation students have signed up for camp (June 14-19); one went last year. We forgot to send the Rice Bowl donations (\$125), but it will be sent soon. We need to be better at getting all the Sunday School registration forms returned. Augsburg Fortress has printed a new version of the Bible and will no longer offer NRSV versions. We give bibles to 3rd graders and 1st year confirmands. Rally Day will be September 13th. We will celebrate and recognize Dorothy Grosch's ministry as Zion's Youth Coordinator on June 14th with cake, flowers, etc. The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in the summer of 2027. A

Cont'd on page 5

meeting has been scheduled for all Luther League youth, parents & the Parish Ed Committee on Wednesday, June 3rd at 7pm. The focus will be discussing the hopes, dreams & expectations for Luther League moving forward. There are about 160 kids registered for VBS so far.

Property & Maintenance: Brett Temme received quotes from the lumberyard for lights. The flat LED lights are \$100 each. Magnetic strip LED lights are about \$40 each. There is \$1,343.95 in the SS Offering LED Bulbs account & \$50 in the LED Light Bulb Memorial Account. We can buy & install the LED lights in phases. We could do a mix of both types of lights in the offices, classrooms & fellowship hall depending on overall use. The parsonage kitchen has the same fluorescent light fixtures as pastor's office that will also need to be replaced. If we get the sprinkler system, it shouldn't affect where the new lights will be. The elevator inspector found mold in the elevator shaft. The options discussed were to cut it out and replace dry wall or use a bleach solution to kill the mold and then paint with mold sealer. The council chose the bleach and paint method. Pastor's name has been placed on the east side of the outdoor sign.

Worship Committee: We are still in need of another wedding coordinator. Choirs are on break until fall. Pastor suggested doing a worship service from 250 years ago (1776) in conjunction with celebrating America's 250 years. Pastor will announce at worship.

ADA Project: Sprinkler quotes were obtained from Meininger and Bullseye. We need to compare offerings for sprinklers and fire systems. We still need estimates on the basement ramp and the bathrooms renovations. Tammy Reigle will contact Jon Porter about having these before our next meeting. We can't apply for grants without actual cost figures. We also talked about the insulation quote, but no decisions were made.

Old Business: Family Fun Night will be August 9th; the council will donate their usual lottery ticket basket.

New Business: Thrivent cards are needed for VBS.

Brett Temme made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Meyer. **Motion carried.** The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 23rd at 6pm.
Adam Briese has equipping time.

Respectful submitted,
Kathryn Flanagan & Sara Rasmussen



Puzzle Answers

Page 26 Puzzle Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son
Bible Quiz Answer: C (see Matthew 5:16, NIV)
Page 8 Puzzle Answers Praise the Lord!



Serving Schedule

July Volunteers Needed!
August Men of Zion

Volunteers are needed to provide cookies & serve coffee in July & August. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board.



JULY



BIRTHDAYS

- 7/1 Terry Merten, Lisa Skillstad,
*Sharon Waters**
- 7/3 Joseph Brugger, Matthew Brugger,
Sheena Krohn, Kurt Kruse
- 7/4 Shayla Nelson
- 7/5 Lyndsay Tisthammer
- 7/6 Mike Jeratowski
- 7/7 Will Frey, Jerene Kruse, Patti Meyer,
Mary Thorberg
- 7/8 Dorothy Grosch, Kelby Rasmussen,
Hadley Temme
- 7/9 Cody Mangus, Rellah Neidhardt,
Bryan Skillstad
- 7/10 Olivia Lindgren
- 7/11 Dalton Harrison
- 7/12 Nancee Krohn
- 7/13 Travis Merten, Tyler Reestman
- 7/14 Deloris McMillan
- 7/15 Cori Zoubek
- 7/16 Diane Brugger, Barb Howser,
Spencer Leetch
- 7/18 Hank Hudson, Cooper Leetch
- 7/19 Nancy Jeratowski
- 7/20 Tara Leetch, Ryan Neidhardt
- 7/21 Tucker Stuhr
- 7/22 Halsey Rugg
- 7/23 Ben Tisthammer
- 7/24 Karen Andersen, Ellen Frey,
Tony Levander
- 7/25 Kim Coakes, Karlie Tisthammer,
Keiley Tisthammer
- 7/26 Mason Majerus
- 7/27 Sara Rasmussen, Mike Seda, Dan Staub
- 7/29 Jace Thayer
- 7/30 Henry Briese, Bailey Choat
- 7/31 Jim McMillan



**Denotes 80+ years young*



ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/3 *Connie & Duane Rieck**
- 7/5 Nancy & Steve Paulson
- 7/12 Gerry & Jenny Schmitz
- 7/14 *Carmen & Vivian Eucker**
- 7/16 Jeff & LeAnn Lindgren
- 7/17 *John & Kathy Williams**
- 7/18 Becky & Blake Trombley
- 7/20 Austin & Hailey Bode
- 7/22 Jon & Stacy Petersen
- 7/23 Adam & Lauren Briese
- 7/26 Cheryl & Rod Sherburne
- 7/28 *Connie & Rolan Bentjen**
- 7/29 Mikki & Tom Mangus
Amy & Jason Olnes
- 7/30 Dana & Sarah Cox

**Denotes 50+ years of marriage*



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

Don't see your name?



Now, I believe that faith is woven into the founding of our nation. Faith and hope for freedom is what caused people to cross an ocean. And this pursuit of freedom and liberty is what continues to cause people to risk life and limb to come to this country.

Like the crack in the Liberty Bell — we have our flaws. The founders had flaws as well — plenty of them. They were slave owners who talked & wrote about freedom. They practiced ethnic cleansing against the Indigenous peoples of this land. And they neglected to include women in the initial formation of the democracy. Despite their flaws, they tried. They pursued a more perfect nation, just as we continue to do the same 250 years later.

Unlike the Liberty Bell that was cast in metal, as Christians, we have been cast in the image of Christ. And no matter how many times we “crack,” God recasts us by His grace to ring again and proclaim the freedom that only God can give. We are blessed to live in this country, where life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is the right of all people, and where we are also free to worship as we want.

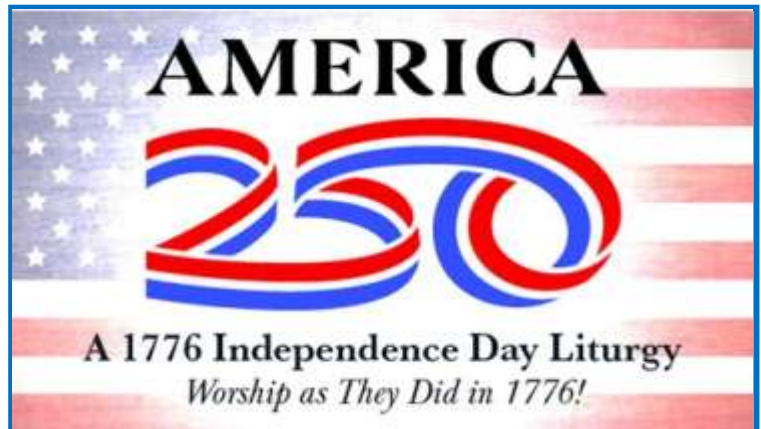
However, we are more blessed to be free in Christ to live out that blessing as children of God and as witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In our freedom, may we do that by following the teachings of Jesus, who commanded us to feed the poor, care for the sick, put away our weapons, and welcome the stranger. May God bless America as He blesses and empowers us to shed His light and love in this country and the world.

Your sister in Christ,



FREEDOM
in *Christ*

Galatians 5:1



Celebrating the Fourth!

Sunday, July 5th at 9am

Join us for a unique worship experience as we worship using liturgy from 1776. All music (except the last song) is also from that time period. It will be a great way to celebrate the 250th birthday of America while keeping focused on Jesus.

Mark your calendars & invite friends to worship & celebrate with us at Zion!



The Liberty Bell Today

On every Fourth of July, at 2pm Eastern time, children who are descendants of Declaration signers symbolically tap the



Liberty Bell 13 times while bells across the nation also ring 13 times in honor of the patriots from the original 13 states.

Each year, the bell is gently tapped in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The ceremony began in 1986 at the request of Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King.



SignUpGenius®

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! Signups for hosting Luther League and confirmation class meals are also available.

This is an 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!



We are looking for Sunday School Teachers! If you are willing and able to teach, please contact Stacy Petersen (402-920-3425). If you can't commit to the whole year, but would be willing to help, we also need substitute teachers! Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this important role.



Mobile Food Pantry

There will be NO Mobile Food Pantry on the first Saturday of this month, July 4th, due to the holiday. It will resume on Saturday, August 1st.



Mission Quilters will meet on Fridays, July 10th & 24th at 1:30pm.

All are welcome to join us!



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JEFF AND THE KID

"If God is way up there in Heaven, shouldn't I pray a lot louder?"

Table Grace:

Thank, Thank, Thank You, God
(Tune: Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Thank, thank, thank you God,
thank you now we pray.

You have given
all we need
to live through
every day.



Faith + SHARING =
EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Committee will
meet on Monday,
June 29th at 7:15pm.
All are welcome!

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)*

Wine & Word Thursday, August 20th 6pm 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.
(Due downtown Concerts, we're skipping July)

Please Join us!



JULY

- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 5 | Tami Texley |
| 12 | County Fair Worship |
| 19 | Sarah Liss |
| 26 | Sarah Liss |



9-3
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By
and
JEFF
KEANE
“Dinner in the yard is just eating
outside. For a REAL PICNIC you hafta
get in the car and go someplace.”

PEOPLE SPOTS

Jerene Kruse



Jerene Dee (Johnston) Kruse was born July 7, 1954, in Alliance, Nebraska, to JB and Arlene Johnston. Two years later she welcomed her younger brother, Jim, to the family ranch near Lakeside, Nebraska.

Jerene grew up on her family's ranch attending kindergarten through eighth grade at Lakeside Public School. She then went on to complete her high school education at Alliance Public School, graduating with the class of 1972. After high school, Jerene attended Chadron State College in Chadron, Nebraska. In 1976, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in kindergarten through twelfth grade art education.

After graduating from college, Jerene started teaching first through twelfth grade art and seventh and eighth grade English at Potter Public Schools in Potter, Nebraska. After teaching three years at Potter Public Schools, she moved to Albion, Nebraska, and started teaching art at Albion Public Schools/Boone Central Public School. While teaching at Boone Central Public School, she started the elementary art program for the younger students at Boone Central, and furthered her education by taking workshop courses to expand her art knowledge. Through the workshops Jerene had the opportunity to gain experience from famous pottery families. In 2014, Jerene retired from teaching full time, however she spends her summer sharing her love of art with area youth through her art camp that she hosts at her studio.

When she is not teaching others about art, she is still sharing her love of art through her creations. She creates beautiful pieces such as pottery bowls, platters, large pots, fused glass utilitarian, and decorative pieces. Jerene currently exhibits and sells her creations at Red Path Gallery in Seward, Nebraska. She also hosts and sells her pieces at the Unique Boutique that takes place at her home on the first Thursday of December each year.

Jerene met the love of her life, Kurt Kruse, on a blind date that was set up by a mutual friend. The two married on September 10, 1983, at United Methodist Church in Alliance. Together, they have been blessed with two wonderful children, Kyle and Andrea, and recently, welcomed a delightful granddaughter named Birdie.

When Jerene is not in her studio creating, she enjoys spending time with her family or spending time outside enjoying nature. She also enjoys caring for her flower garden, going for walks, and **reading. Additionally, she has a passion for traveling. Some of the favorite places she's visited** include Santa Fe, New Mexico, Montana, Canada, Ireland, and Scotland.

Jerene is a lifelong Christian; she was baptized into the Christian faith in 1955, at the United Methodist Church in Alliance. In 1968, she confirmed her faith at the United Methodist Church in Lakeside. Jerene became a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Albion in 1984. As a member of Zion, she has taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She has also served on the Parish Education Committee, Church Council, chairperson of a Serving Group, and a member of WELCA. Other contributions to our church include creating banners for the sanctuary, providing flowers for **worship, and playing in the Bell Choir. Jerene is currently in charge of Zion's Camp Ambassadors** and is the one who buys and stocks the boxes of greeting cards. She also instructs the First Communion students in creating their own chalice and paten each year. We are certainly honored and blessed by her membership and for all the ways in which she has chosen to serve God and Zion Lutheran Church.

~ Written and Submitted by Vicar Keith Powell ~



Carol Joy Holling Camp,
Conference & Retreat Center

Quilt Auction

38th Annual Quilt Auction

Saturday, July 25, 2026

9am - 5pm

Join in the 38th Annual Quilt Auction at Carol Joy Holling Camp on July 25th! The day promises good food, great fun, and lots of beautiful quilts donated by friends of the camp. The auction and lunch will be held rain or shine. Bring your friends and families!

Tentative Schedule

9:00am	Quilts on Display
9:30am	Live Auction Starts
11:30am — 1:30pm	Lunch Served
12:00pm — 2:00pm	Pool Open
1:30pm	Silent Auction Closes
2:30pm	Specialty Items Auction Starts
3:00pm	Silent Auction items available for pick up

Auction Information

Quilts in the past have auctioned for anywhere between \$25 and \$20,000. Lance Larsen, a professional auctioneer from Cordova, NE, is volunteering his time to auction the quilts. Select quilts will be available through the Silent Auction. Bidding will open for the Silent Auction on Friday, July 24th. Quilts will be available for pick up after 3:00pm on Saturday, July 25th.

Live Auction bidding will start at 9:30am. The Live Auction quilts will be displayed with numbered cards indicating the order in which they will be auctioned. Bidders can approximate when their favorite quilts will be up for auction. The cards also include information about the quilt donor and the size, type, and design of the quilt.

Quilt Donations

Quilts can be delivered to Carol Joy Holling Camp between June 1st and July 20th. They should be placed in a plastic bag with a completed copy of the donation form inside.

Although this is an outdoor event, pets are not allowed.

The August
Newsletter
Deadline
is Sunday,
July 19th



2026 Flower
Committee
July: Volunteers
Needed
August: Jerene Kruse





Altar
Guild

2026

July

Judy & Loren Johnson*
Amy & Pat Zaruba

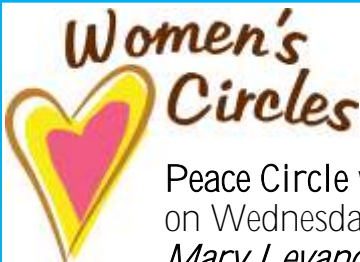
August

Connie Nelson*
Laura Nelson
Gina Temme

MISSION

ENDOWMENT

The Mission Endowment
Committee will meet on
Monday, July 20th
at 5:30pm.



Women's
Circles July 22nd
2026

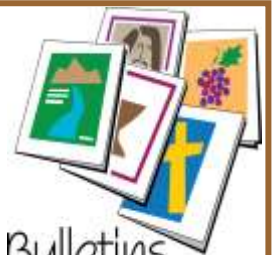
Peace Circle will meet at Zion
on Wednesday, July 22nd at 9am.
Mary Levander will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at 2pm on July 22nd at
Assisted Living. Doris Warner will be the
leader.

All women are invited to join either circle.

SHARE JESUS WITH A FRIEND

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 & pick one up.

Bulletins



Zion Church Council WILL MEET on Tuesday August 11th at 6pm.



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.

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.



Worship Song Leaders

JULY

- 5 Jacque & Tom Dickey
- 12 Boone County Fair
- 19 Kay Flanagan
- 26 **Volunteer Needed!**



May Winners:

- Teresa Tisthammer (\$20)
- Wade Reigle (\$50)
- Skylar Porter (\$20)
- Jane Mundschenk (\$20)
- Tate Porter (\$20)

Congratulations!!



**Zion's
Family Fun Night
Sunday,
August 9th
at 7pm**

We are looking for movie suggestions for our Family Fun Night in August. There is a sign-up sheet for suggestions or you can text your ideas to Pastor (267-374-7762) or email her at church (pca@zionalbion.org) Thanks!

We will be doing Raffle Baskets again this year. Please let us know if you, or your committee, will be able to sponsor a basket.

Mark your calendars & join us!



**SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, June 28th**

Faith & Fellowship has planned brunch at the Corn Krib for the O.W.L.'s on Sunday, June 28th at noon. We plan to gather at Zion around 11:15am to carpool.

Please sign-up on the narthex bulletin board if you are able to join us.

For more information, please speak with Deb Borchers (308-991-3912).



	In person	Online
January	121	145
February	127	123
March	144	137
April	198	175
May	149	118

Year to Date:

148 In person
140 Online

Prayer Concerns this Month

Wolf Memorial Home Residents

*Bob & LaVonne Kruse
LaVonne Mills
Dorothy Young*

Good Samaritan Estates (Assisted Living)

*Cynthia Kraus Donna Kruse
Marilyn Ramm*

Cloverlodge Care Center (St. Edward)

Marianne Karmann

Genoa Assisted Living (Genoa)

Arletta Francis

Heritage of Bel-Air (Norfolk)

LaVonne Olnes

Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home

*Harold & Lois Thewke
Faith Tyson*

Out of State

Joy Haas (Colorado)

In Our Sunday Prayers

*Rolan Bentjen, Marilyn Boyette,
Justin Getzfred, Ashleigh Henn, Julie Long,
Owen Neesen, LaVonne Olnes,
Cooper Seier, Bruce Smith,
Mark Smith, Marlys Smith, Brad Thayer,
Mary Kay Tisthammer, Teresa Tisthammer,
Pat Tobiason, Tim Tobiason, Staci Wright,
and the families of
Alissa Ashburn, Pastor Clarence Baalson,
Elva Bartels, Kristin Belgum, Judy Choat,
Joan Morgan, Joel Nore, Jim Ridgeway*



Our Congregation & Community

*Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction
County Fair Participants
Evangelism Committee*

Other Concerns

Our Military

All those affected by war, violence & hatred

All those affected by natural disasters

Other prayer concerns are welcome

Let's Keep in Touch!

If you are headed off to college or back to college, we'd like to keep in touch with you. Please complete the form below, or simply email your school address to the church office.

We promise to send you a care package if we have your updated or current school address!

You may put this completed form in the offering plate, pastor's door, or email it to office@zionalbion.org
You may also snail mail it to
Zion Lutheran Church
319 S. 5th St.
Albion, NE 68620-1374



Student's Name

Address

email

Please let us keep in contact with you!



**Next Meeting:
Sunday,
June 28th
at
10:15am**



Next Meeting:
Monday,
August 3rd
At
1:30pm



2pm on July 16th at Wolf Home
Volunteers & Prizes appreciated!

We will be hosting Bingo at Wolf Home on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We need at least 2 volunteers each month. We are always happy to have donations of prizes. The residents LOVE Beanie Babies, as well as snacks and candy! Donations are collected in the marked box in the narthex.

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



✝ Christian Symbol ✝



SHELL

A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes. Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.

When Should I Call the Pastor? (267-374-7762)

You are welcome to call the pastor whenever you need to. If it's an *emergency*, please do not hesitate to call, whether it's late at night, early in the morning, or even on her day off. However, if it's NOT an emergency, please respect her day off (Friday), by refraining from calling about things that can wait.

These are times when she really wants to hear from you:

(She'd rather hear two or three times, than not at all!)

- ◆ When you or someone in your family has been hospitalized.
- ◆ At the birth of a child.
- ◆ At the death of a family member, whether a member of the church or not.
- ◆ As you begin to plan a wedding.
- ◆ To arrange a baptism.
- ◆ Whenever you have a question or concern about your journey of faith.



Please Call the Church Office (402-395-2043)

- ◆ When your address, phone number, or email address changes.
- ◆ When you want to add someone to the Sunday morning prayers.
- ◆ When your committee or group has scheduled a meeting or is changing a meeting date, time, or place.
- ◆ When you have a need that the church might be able to help with.
- ◆ When you are moving.



Mark Your Calendars!

Boone County Fair Nondenominational Worship Service Sunday, July 12th 10:00am at the Boone County Dining Hall

Following the service the Good Neighbor, Pioneer and Heritage Awards + 4-H Ambassadors will be announced!

Boone County 4-H

**Tuesday, July 7th
6pm**

The Boone County Extension 4-H Music Contest will take place at Zion on Tuesday, July 7th at 6pm.

All are welcome to attend!

In Loving Memory

The following people made donations to *Zion's Memorial Fund* in loving memory of *Rev. Clarence H. Baalson*



Nancy & Terry Ahlers



Can You Tie A Knot?



Zion's Sew Happy Mission

Quilters are always looking for people to help them quilt! You are welcome to join them on the 2nd & 4th Fridays to help tie & pin quilts. If you like to sew, they will welcome the 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.



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. or Barb Michael (402) 395-6377

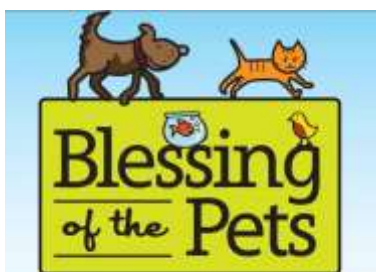


Worship on the Green & Pet Blessing

Sunday, August 9th at 9am

Bring a cup of coffee and a comfy lawn chair to praise God in the beauty of his creation! We will gather on Zion's south lawn and parking lot. Since we are outside, we are also encouraging folks to bring their pets and beloved animals to church this day for a blessing. Stuffed animals are also welcome!

FYI: If the weather is poor, we will move the service and the animals inside.



Open to People and Pets of All Faiths



2026 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

July: **Volunteers Needed!**
August: Men of Zion
September: Grace & Peace Circles



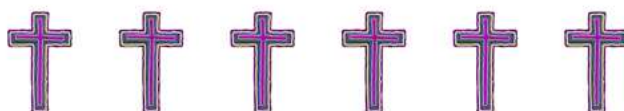
Coffee and CONVERSATION

July 2nd
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!



Reusable Bags

\$5. each



\$8. each



All money raised will benefit the Boone County Food Pantry. Bags are available at church.

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



Memorial Gifts

The following people made donations to

Zion's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of **Elva Bartels**

Nancy & Terry Ahlers
Pastor Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)
Connie & Rick Nelson
Doug & Pam Young (Scholarship Fund)

Summer Giving



As summer continues and we think about vacations and time away from our normal routine, please know that while you may be away this summer, Zion Lutheran Church will be here awaiting your return. We kindly ask that during this time, you please remember to make your regular financial contributions to our church. Our bills do not take a vacation and we need your financial support, especially during the summer months.

We need to remember that God gives us the gift of summer to enjoy and that what we do with it is a way of giving gifts back to God. If you can't be at our church, please make an effort to attend church wherever you are; it's a great way to experience the love of God in a new way!

Have a wonderful and safe summer and remember to Thank God for His many Blessings to us.



The following people made donations to

Zion's Memorial Fund in loving memory of **Joel Nore**



Pastor Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)



Memorial Gifts
The following people made donations to **Zion's Memorial Fund** in loving memory of **Larry Lambert**

Marcia Seier (Scholarship Fund)



The following people made a donation to **Zion's Memorial Fund** in loving memory of **Pat Sullivan**

Lois & Walt Hoefler (Scholarship Fund)



VBS 2026 was a Great Success!

Rainforest Falls had us Exploring the Nature of God! We were blessed with 201 students and 107 volunteers who created memories, sang songs, and made friendships that will last long after this week of VBS is done. Sincere THANKS to all the volunteers who planned, prepared, and showed up everyday to make our VBS the best it could be.



Coordinators:

Sherri Kelley
Amy Moser
Lisa Thayer
Lisa Wagner



Marc Hamling
Lincoln Hanaway
Cory Hellbusch
Pastor Carolann Hopcke
Judy Johnson

Volunteers:

Aimee Jo Bailey
Marty Bailey
Kristin Baker
Amelia Baldwin
Julia Baldwin
Robert Baldwin
Connie Becker
Payton Becker
Taylor Beierman
Katelyn Curry
Alice Detzel
Addy Devine
Makenna Devine
Nathan Devine
Nessa Dorie
Emersyn Dozler
Erin Eickhoff
Evan Eickhoff
Kinley Fox
Michelle Freese
Brenda Frey
Drew Frey
Lucas Frey
Mya Frey
Norah Frey
Ella Gompert
Lauren Gompert
Samantha Gragert
Gabe Grape
Clarisa Grass
Brynna Hagemann

Brody Kelley
Kade Knott
Kalynn Koch
Hillary Krings
Annie Krohn
Avery Krohn
Brooklyn Krohn
Eli Krohn
Jacob Krohn
Kasey Krohn
Noah Krohn
Samantha Krohn
Sheena Krohn
William Kuester
Adelade Kunzman
Evlyn Kunzman
Spencer Leetch
Pastor Lynde Linde
Myah Lipker
Alexa Lueken
Aubree Mauch
Mariah McGill
Zita Meyer
Lucas Moeller
Cade Moser
Cale Moser
Camden Moser
Ashley Naber
Shannon Nelson
Paxtyn O'Connor
Harper Olnes
Whitney Paulson
Alexis Pedro



Kolby Pedro
Hudson Pelster
Jessica Pelster
Colin Petersen
Stacy Petersen
Skylar Porter
Vicar Keith Powell
Courtany Preister
Blakely Rankin
Dalton Rolf
Lincoln Rolf
Katie Rugg
Hailey Salwei
Jase Salwei
Arabella Samuelson
Cullen Sandman
Zeke Sandman
Peyton Seier
Cheryl Sherburne
Brayden Slaymaker
Abby Smith
Ayden Smith
Jacob Smith
Tucker Stuhr
Angie Sup
Brittany Sup
Joel Sup
Samantha Temme
Braelyn Thieman
Aiden Tisthammer
Ava Tisthammer
Lyndsay Tisthammer
Teresa Tisthammer
Addyson Winter
Trisha Winter
Xander Wright



We appreciate each of you!

This is a long list. Please forgive us if we inadvertently missed someone. We tried our best to keep track of each volunteer, but we're not perfect.





VBS
2026



On Sunday, June 14th we celebrated & recognized the ministry of *Dorothy Grosch*, Zion's High School Youth Coordinator.



Weddings
Weddings
Congratulations & God's Blessings to those tying the knot soon!
July 25th Avery Olnes & Bryce Kennedy (at Zion)

Congratulations!

Mr & Mrs



We offer our heartfelt congratulations to *Mr. & Mrs. Todd & Payton Berger* who were married at Zion on June 20th. *May God bless them in their marriage!*

Don't Forget about **FLAT JESUS!**

He's always in our hearts, and now he's in our hands!



Please take photos of all the places you & Jesus explore and send them with a little note about where you've been and what you've done together.

Send photos & notes to: office @zionalbion.org



Confirmation Camp ~ June 14-19 ~ Carol Joy Holling Camp (Ranch Camp)
Tucker Stuhr,

*Jase Salwei, Spencer Leetch, Lincoln Hanaway, Masan Skillstad, Kolby Pedro,
 Lauren Gompert, Trisha Winter, Annie Krohn, Kalynn Koch, Skylar Porter*



Worship Committee

**NEXT MEETING:
 Tuesday, August 4th
 meet at 5:30pm**

Faith & Fellowship

**Committee will meet on
 Sunday, August 2nd
 after church at 10:15am
 All are welcome to join us!**

Intern Committee Meeting at 6pm on Monday, August 24th




Christ in Our Home

The July, August & September 2026 Christ in Our Home devotional, including large print, are available in the tract rack by the west door.

Handicap Accessibility Project



Elevator Update

Total Cost: \$232,945*

(Custom Elevator for caskets)

Elevator T-bill Account	\$257,677.48
May Income	\$45.00
May Expenses	\$260.00
May Interest	\$721.25
Total	\$258,184.13**

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

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

Sprinkler Fund	\$1,795.00
May Income	\$0.00
Total	\$1,795.00

Bathroom Fund	\$37,488.20
May Donations	\$579.20
Total	\$38,067.20

*Thanks for your support
of these very important projects!*

Boone County Food Pantry Zion Volunteers Needed!



Zion is responsible for hosting the Food Pantry on the following Thursdays, from 2pm to 4pm:

July 9th, September 17th & December 3rd

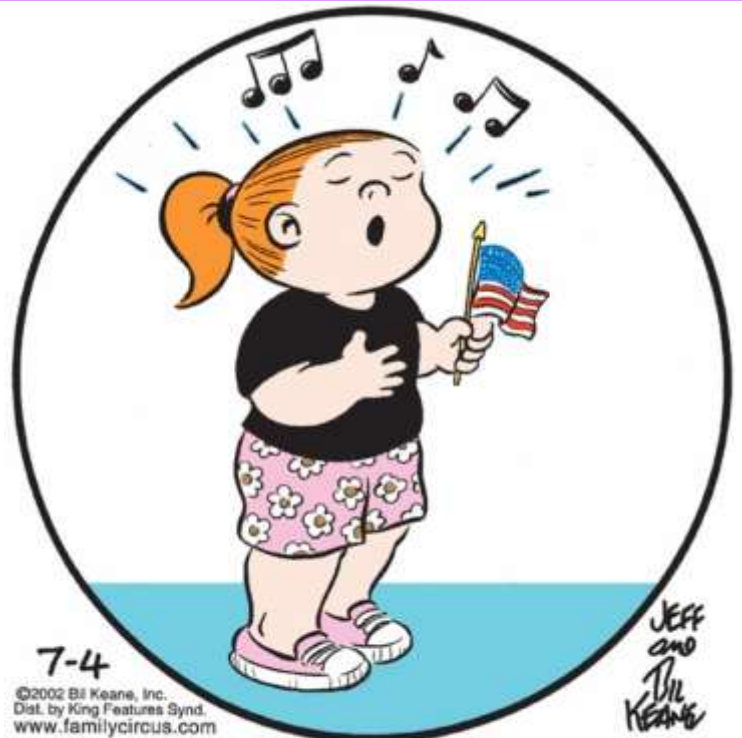
If you are able to help, you may sign up on the narthex bulletin board or Signup Genius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0C44ACAC28A1F58-54444846-food>).

Two to four volunteers are needed each week. Thanks!



I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the unwavering support you have shown me throughout my time as High School Youth Coordinator. As we celebrate my time with Zion Lutheran Church, I want to sincerely thank everyone for their guidance, trust, and support over the years. This journey has been filled with opportunities to grow, learn, and contribute to meaningful work. I truly appreciated the encouragement that allowed me to try new things with the youth, and all the support that everyone gave us to participate in all our activities. Thank you to everyone who helped with the service, wrote in my Bible and the gifts I was given. I greatly appreciate them. I enjoyed looking through the Bible and seeing your favorite verses and the notes that were written. The plants were a great addition to my front porch. I will enjoy sitting on my front porch covered with the quilt on cool days, while doodling and reading my Bible.

*Thank you,
Dorothy Grosch*



7-4

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www.familycircus.com

*"... The bombs bursting in air ...
gave fruit through the night ..."*

Thank You

Dear Pastor Carolann Hopcke and Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

I would like to sincerely thank you for awarding me the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial scholarship. I am honored to receive this support as I begin the next chapter of my education. Your generosity will help me pursue a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and I am truly grateful for your investment in my future.

The encouragement and financial assistance provided by your congregation will make a meaningful difference as I work toward my academic and career goals. It is a blessing to know I have the support of such a caring community behind me.

I would also like to thank the church for allowing our Boy Scout Troop to use its facilities over the years, providing a place where the Scouts can learn, grow, and serve the community. With this opportunity, I was able to obtain my Eagle Scout. One of my most proudest accomplishments.

Thank you again for the generosity, support, and confidence in me. I deeply appreciate this scholarship and the opportunities it will help provide.

Sincerely,
Grant Kuta



Puzzle Answers are on page 5

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

- 1) ciVn _ _ _ (o) _ _
- 2) ilLy fo teh elaVly

- 3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 4) estMar _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 5) eJuss _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 6) okRc _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 9) voaSir _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 10) doLr _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 12) ehSprhed (o) _ _ _ _

- 13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ (o) _ _

- 14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ (o) _ _



What do all these words have in common?

Zion Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for choosing me for the \$1,000 Scholarship. It will help me pay for college next year!

Love,
Kaci Jo Wies





We offer our heartfelt thanks to Zion's voting members: Darren, Staci & Xander Wright, Vicar Keith Powell & Pastor Carolann Hopcke

Results of 2026 Synod Elections:

SYNOD COUNCIL VICE-PRESIDENT

Tanny Akerson

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Kelle Scott

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Adam Akerson	Troy Brockmeier
Drew Reckmeyer	Kelle Scott
Mike Unverferth	

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

Rev. Janet Anderson	Rev. Paula Lawhead
Rev. Steve Meysing	Viginia Unverferth

CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Carla Brauer	Susan Tishendorf
Rev. Kris Bohac	

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE

Karen Benson	Joyce Kelbo
Rev. Jacob Krueger	Rev. Linda Walz

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sharon Bohling	Rev. Deb Hammer
Nancy Hinrichs	Carol Rieken
Caroline Schenk	Deacon Rick Strong

SYNOD COUNCIL

Nellie Beyan-Olabige	Komach Deng Day
Terry Eriksen	Walter Eskildsen
Judson Gregory	Scott Henneman
Mickey Larkins	David Magnuson



God's Bonus Days

An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory "God's bonus days." LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

Marion R. Vuilleumier,
Meditations by the Sea





Committee

Sunday, July 26th
at 10:15am

All are welcome to join the fundraising committee! We will be discussing plans for fundraising opportunities for the fall. If you have any ideas or want to help, please join us for this meeting.

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

Nancy Ahlers, Treasurer:
treasurer@zionalbion.org



Vicar Keith will
be on Vacation
July 22-29



at the Summer Concert Series
Downtown
5-9pm

We are looking for volunteers to make Snow Cones downtown for the summer concert series on Thursday nights in July. The plan is to have a jar available for freewill donations. All proceeds will benefit the Handicap Accessible Bathroom Project.

You may signup online or on the bulletin board. For more information, please speak with Pastor Carolann.



Thanks to all those from Zion who volunteer at the Mission Possible Store, we received a donation of \$1,250 to be used for our ongoing accessibility projects!

We are so grateful to have this ministry in our community supported by so many!



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