



Zion Messenger

March 2026

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



This is the Lord for whom we have waited...



⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the

shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. ⁸Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV)

It's easy to fall into God's comfortable arms of grace, and carry on with our busy lives.

It's easy to lay our heads on our pillows, and make a quick and mediocre prayer to fulfill our "Christian duty."

It's easy to ignore God's omnipresence that is constantly trying to catch our attention, so we may seek Him.

It's easy to focus and submerge into our work, relationships and ourselves, and only think of God on Sundays.

It's extremely easy to think that our relationships with God are fine, and what we do is enough to maintain a status as a "follower of Christ."

But when hardships in life force us to see a new reality, all of a sudden our world is shaken and held upside down.

It's hard to find comfort and peace amidst our busy lives.

It's hard when we lay our heads on our pillows, only to spend sleepless nights of agony and confusion.

It's hard to ignore thoughts that constantly tell us that we are hopeless.

It's extremely hard to find the strength to extinguish the burning sorrow in our souls.

Frankly, it's easier to view life as purposeless, senseless and worthless.

Yet, when we are facing anguish and affliction, God has promised to wipe away our tears from our faces, remove our disgrace and provide a refuge and salvation. So stand up, hope and believe that God is near.

~ Angeliky Santos ~

The Lord for whom we wait is already here. No matter what happens in our world, country, community, or lives — Jesus is already here with us. We need to trust in his presence and rely upon his **grace and mercy in all circumstances. It's easy to take God's love for granted when things are going well.** In light of the tragedies we continue to experience in our world, it is ever more important to cling to Jesus and his cross of salvation. There are no easy answers, but there is one universal truth — Jesus is Lord. When things are going well — Jesus is Lord. When things are in turmoil — Jesus is Lord. When we are busy, frustrated, content, angry, or happy — Jesus is Lord! May we know that, believe that, and live that...

In God's Holy & Precious Name,



Corner

“The Need to Know”

⁶So we are always confident;
even though we know that while we are at home in the body
we are away from the Lord —
⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight.
(2 Corinthians 5: 6-7)

I prefer to have a plan and to not “wing it.” Now, I am ok if the plan changes, but I need to start with a plan. I need to know what is expected. Quite honestly, I am sure Bob will tell you it drives him absolutely crazy most days. Nothing truly stresses me out more than “not knowing what I need to know.”

The Bible says, “We walk by faith, not sight.” If I am truly honest, sometimes I know what God wants me to do, but I don’t like it. So, I pray, hoping He’ll change His mind and agree with what I want. But it’s not going to happen.

When we follow God, most times we’ll start out not knowing as much as we’d like. There comes a time when we have to leave our comfort zone and move in the direction God is pointing. Will we have the answers to all our questions and clarity about all your concerns? No, probably not. Just like our car’s headlights don’t shine around the next corner, God will give us instruction on a “need-to-know basis.” This keeps us dependent upon Him and helps us to remember who is in charge and who deserves credit for our success.

I am trying to not always “have a plan” and to “wing it.” but I have a long way to go to find the “happy medium” of the two. Lucky for me, God’s leading takes a lifetime to learn, and I can trust that He will guide me through it!

With God’s guidance,
Tammy Reigle
Council President

for we
walk by
faith,
not by
sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7



Each year the season of Lent invites us into a quieter, deeper rhythm of faith. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we mark forty days, excluding Sundays, for reflection, repentance, and renewal as we prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter.

Lent is not about earning God's love. That love has already been given freely and fully through Christ. Instead, Lent is a time to turn again toward the promises spoken over us in baptism and to remember who we are and whose we are.

The ashes placed on our foreheads remind us of our humanity: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words may sound sobering, but they are also freeing. We do not have to pretend to be strong or self-sufficient. We come before God as we truly are: imperfect, beloved, and in need of grace; and again and again, God meets us with mercy.

In a world that moves quickly and loudly, Lent encourages us to slow down. It asks us to listen to the quiet prompts from the Holy Spirit, and to the cries of those who are hurting. It calls us to honest self-examination while anchoring us in the unshakable promise of forgiveness.

As Lent turns our eyes toward the cross, it also points us toward hope. We know how the story ends. The path of repentance leads to resurrection. The cross leads to an empty tomb. The God who calls us to return is the same God who brings new life out of what seems lifeless.

May this season of Lent be a time of renewal for you. May it deepen your faith, strengthen your hope, and expand your love. And may the peace of Christ sustain you as we journey together toward Easter morning.

Blessings,
Vicar Keith



*Zion Congregational Council
Minutes from January 20, 2026*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Mary Kay Tisthammer

Present: Kay Flanagan, Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Jim Meyer, Chris Nelson, Vicar Keith Powell, Sara Rasmussen, Amanda Reinhart, Josh Thayer, Mary Kay Tisthammer

Excused: Tammy Reigle, Roberta Seda

Equipping Time: Vicar led us in a discussion of Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” Being overly tired is dangerous, yet weariness can be used as an opportunity to talk to God.

Council Minutes: Sara Rasmussen made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025. Josh Thayer seconded. **Motion carried.**

Report of Officers

President: Tammy Reigle – No Report

Vice President: Mary Kay Tisthammer – She received some questions about folks using/renting the basement. We ask for a donation and expect people to clean up after themselves.

Treasurer: Nancy Ahlers – A correction to ADA report on page 15: Elevator T-bill Account total is \$242,574.88. The Dankert Fund has been repaid \$10,000 from what was borrowed in 2025. Chris Nelson made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. Jim Meyer seconded. **Motion carried.**

Staff Reports

Senior Pastor: Rev. Carolann Hopcke –We celebrated two baptisms in January, with more to be scheduled! The Temme Family joined the church on January 11th.

Intern Pastor: Vicar Keith Powell – He is finishing up J term classes. He will leave the forum early and head to Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque for Prolog week. He shared his class schedule for the spring semester. He continues to attend as many of the school events as possible. FYI: Vicar graduates in May of 2027.

Luther League: The January Lock-in was cancelled due to bad weather. The pumpkin pie sales didn’t go as well as before, but the Christmas cookie sales were great. They are working on getting ready for Easter.

Committee Reports

Faith and Fellowship: Postponed. They will provide the food for the puzzle competition.

Fundraising Committee: Mary Kay Tisthammer is creating a new “thermometer” for the Sprinkler System. She is envisioning a fountain that shoots water. The Puzzle Competition will be held on Sunday, March 8th at the Cardinal Inn. There will be three raffle baskets: Lottery Tickets, Gift Cards & a Puzzle-themed one. Gay Sandman and Pastor Carolann received Thrivent cards for this event. We have 4 Lottery Calendar winners as of today.

Parish Education: They are meeting next week.

Property & Maintenance: Per instructions from the Fire Marshall, the griddle needs to be removed from the basement. We will take bids for the griddle from anyone wishing to purchase it. We also need a “No Frying” sign for the kitchen. Pastor will make the sign. The new pulpit light is one of the new bell choir lights and it’s working well. The sanctuary lights need scaffolding to change the bulbs. Josh Thayer is in contact with Tracy Coakes (who has scaffolding) and others about this project. Josh Thayer talked with Les from Bullseye Sprinklers out of Norfolk about getting a quote for the required sprinkler system. Josh sent him the floor plans of the church. All the plans for the church have been digitized and stored on the hard drive as well as several USB flash drives. Doug Young volunteered to help with snow removal and to coordinate efforts with others such as Josh Thayer, Jon Peterson, and Tony Levander.

Finance and Mission Endowment: The Randall & Donna Kruse Scholarship Fund was moved from Cornerstone Bank to the ELCA Mission Growth account in order to get better interest.

Worship Committee: All the Christmas services went well and were well attended. Lent is coming – Ash Wednesday is February 18th.

Nominating committee: Council nominees: Adam Briese, Brett Temme, Brian Tisthammer. Mission Endowment nominees: Rich Heidemann and Kent Tisthammer. Nominating committee nominees: Nicole Levander, Laura Nelson, Stacy Slaymaker, plus outgoing council members: Kay Flanagan, Jim Meyer, and Roberta Seda. 2026 Synod Assembly Voting Member nominees: Staci, Darren and Xander Wright.

Task Force Reports

Handicap Accessibility Project: Elevator Fund = \$242, 574.88(+ \$30,000 Grant) as of January 20, 2026. We will talk about the elevator at the annual meeting. We have enough money for the elevator, but we aren't sure of the amount we need for the sprinklers. We get half the grant money for the project when we start and the rest when it's finished, but we need to start the project before the end of May 2026. We will try to get a grant to help with the sprinklers.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Church Constitution: Section C11.03 states: No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. We have not adhered to this section in years. Previous Presidents, Council Secretaries and Treasurers have at one time or another, all served for more than 2 consecutive terms. The recommended change is to delete the second sentence of the section.

Forum/Annual Congregational Meeting: The agenda for the congregational meeting was discussed. We will address the elevator and sprinkler issues. We will also bring up the griddle and ask if anyone would like to buy it. Amanda Reinhart made a motion to approve the agenda. Jim Meyer seconded it. **Motion carried.** The congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 8, 2026, with the forum the week before on February 1st.

Thanks were given to the outgoing council members: Chris Nelson, Josh Thayer & Mary Kay Tisthammer.

Josh Thayer made a motion to adjourn. Jim Meyer seconded it. **Motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathryn Flanagan
Church Council Secretary



	In person	Online
January	121	145
2026 Averages:	121 In person	145 Online



Snow Shoveling Volunteers Needed!

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

FYI Confirmation Students:
Each sidewalk is worth 5 points!

Thanks for your help!



BIRTHDAYS

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

*Denotes 80+ years young



ANNIVERSARIES

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

*Denotes 50+ years of marriage



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

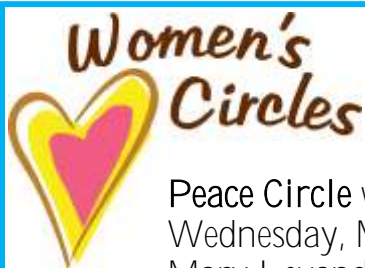
Don't see
your name?



BLESSED
to be a
Blessing



Tuesday,
March 17th!



March
2026

Peace Circle will meet at Zion on
Wednesday, March 18th at 9am.
Mary Levander will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at 2pm on Wednesday,
March 18th at Assisted Living. Doris Warner
will be the leader. For more information,
please speak with Doris Warner.

2026 Flower Committee

March

No Flowers
during Lent

April Nicole Levander
Easter Flowers



Welcome
Spring
March 20th
2026!



Prayer Chain & Prayer Concerns

If you would like to add
someone to the prayer chain,
please call Sharon Waters
(402-741-2358) or the
church office (402-35-2043) and they will
start the chain. If you'd like to add someone
to our Sunday prayers, please call the church
office (402-395-2043).

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



(Tune: Addams Family Theme)

Table Grace

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

Amen. (snap, snap)

Amen. (snap, snap)

Amen, Amen, Amen. (snap, snap)



Thrivent +
Zion Lutheran
Church =
A perfect
partnership!

In 2025, Zion received \$2,078
Thrivent Choice Dollars® grants.
If you are a Thrivent member, do
not forget to claim and use your
Thrivent Choice Dollars® !

Coffee
and
CONVERSATION

March 5th

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!



Don't forget
to turn your clocks
AHEAD one hour
on Saturday,
March 7th!



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship



the



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



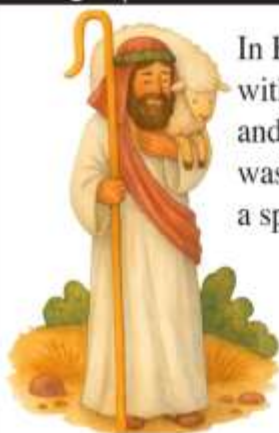
What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)

Bible Quiz



In Bible times, shepherds spent most of their days with their sheep—guiding them to food and water and guarding them from danger. When a sheep was injured, the shepherd treated the wound with a special liquid. What was it?

- A. Water
- B. Honey
- C. A Salt Solution
- D. Olive oil

Answers are on page 13



Friday, March 6, 2026



LUTHER LEAGUE

for all in grades 9-12

Join us on

Wednesday Nights during Lent
at 6:30pm.

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

Blessings, Dorothy Grosch



Many THANKS
to all who
supported our
Soup Supper on
Ash Wednesday!



Luther League Meals

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



Luther League Schedule



MARCH

Wed., Feb. 25	6:30pm	Plan Sunrise Worship
Wed., Mar. 4	6:30pm	LL Room Meeting
Wed., Mar. 18	6:30pm	LL Room Meeting
Fri-Sun. Mar. 20-22	6:30pm	Host Concessions
Wed., Mar. 25	6:30pm	LL Room Meeting
Wed., Apr. 1	6:30pm	LL Room Meeting
Sat., Apr. 4	4:00pm	Egg Your Yard
Sun., Apr. 5	7:00am	Easter Sunrise Service
Sun., Apr. 5	8:00am	Easter Breakfast



Please join us for
Easter Sunrise
Worship
Easter Sunday,
April 5th
at 7am
All are Welcome!



Easter Sunday, April 5th
after the Sunrise Service
Luther League invites you to an Easter
Breakfast of egg bakes & cinnamon rolls.
A free-will donation will be taken!



Let Luther League Egg Your Yard Sat., April 4th!

(Deadline to Order is March 11th)

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

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

Name of Purchaser: _____

Egg Recipient (if different): _____

Egg Address: _____

Where in yard: _____

Any Allergies? _____



Can You Tie A Knot?

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

For more information, contact Barb Michael (402-395-6377) or Marcia Seier (402-741-1837).

✚ Christian Symbol ✚



ROOSTER

The rooster reminds us of Peter's threefold denial of Jesus on the night of his trial. (Matt. 26:34, NIV) Because of this, it often symbolizes human weakness and faithlessness — especially when faith is tested. Yet, the rooster also calls to mind watchfulness. Its early-morning crowing echoes Jesus' words about being alert for his return: "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn." (Mark 13:35, NIV)



Easter Sunrise Service Easter Sunday, April 5th at 7am All are Welcome!

Boone County

Ongoing Needs:



Food Pantry

1108 W. State Street
Albion, NE 68620

Open EVERY Thursday
2-4pm

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

Crackers
Toilet Paper
Bar Soap
Toothpaste
Paper Products

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

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



Mission Quilters
will meet on
Fridays,
March 13th & 27th
at 1:30pm.

All are welcome to join us!



NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, March 3rd
at 5:30pm

Mobile Food Pantry ~ Saturday, March 7th

The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, March 7th 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.

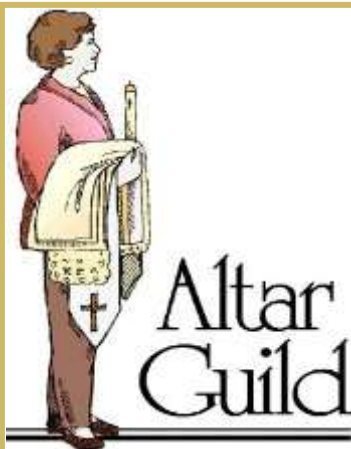
If any volunteers or patrons have any symptoms of illness, please refrain from coming to the mobile pantry this month but feel free to ask someone else to pick up for you.

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.





2026

March:

Amanda Reinhart*
Roberta Seda

April:

Nancy & Terry Ahlers*
Aaron & Amy Allgood
Danielle & Tom Krohn

NewsLetter DEADLine

**The deadline for the
April Messenger
is Sunday,
March 15th!**



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 use these elements to take communion on Sunday mornings.

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

Prayer Shawls

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



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

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

God Bless You!



Our youth will help to lead us in this delightful worship service at 9am on April 12th! Let's rejoice in Jesus!



LUTHERAN GIVING



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

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



MARCH

- 1 Tami Texley
- 8 Tami Texley
- 15 Tami Texley
- 22 Sarah Liss
- 29 Tami Texley



Worship Song Leaders

MARCH

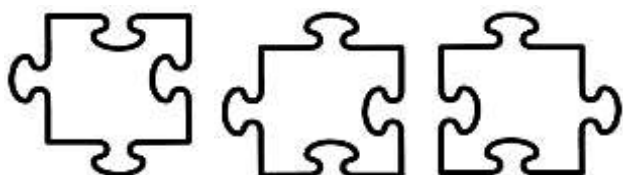
- 1 Jacque & Tom Dickey
- 8 Kay Flanagan
- 15 **Volunteer Needed!**
- 22 **Volunteer Needed!**
- 29 **Volunteer Needed!**



Puzzle Answers

Bible Quiz Answer: D (See Psalm 23:5, ESV)

Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.



*First Holy Communion
will be received
on Maundy Thursday,
April 2nd!*

The Following young people will
receive their First Holy Communion
this year:

*Cooper Leetch
Blake Levander
Nora Levander
Baylor Neidhardt
Avery Petersen
Cohen Schnoor
Kyler Stuhr
Aaron Weltruski
Caitlin Winter
Chase Young*

May God bless them and strengthen
them through this Holy Sacrament.
May it continue to be a source of God's
grace and forgiveness throughout their
lives. A reception in their honor will
follow worship in the fellowship hall.



3-17
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**"Leprechauns are like Santa's elves,
except they don't come out of the
woods 'til St. Patrick's Day."**



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://www.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.



2026 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

March: Evangelism Committee

April: Sew Happy Mission Quilters



**The Evangelism Committee will
meet on Tuesday,
March 3rd at 7pm**



**Zion
Church
Council
Will MEET on
Tuesday,
March 17th at 6pm.**

Sunday Bulletins



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



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

CONFIRMATION



**Classes:
Wednesdays,
March 4th, 18th & 25th**

Due to Midweek Lenten Worship at 7pm:

Dinner will be at 5pm

Class will be from 5:30pm-6:30pm

For more information,
please speak with Pastor Carolann.



Choir Schedule

Epiphany/Lent

Rehearsal	Sunday, February 22 nd	10am
Rehearsal	Sunday, March 1 st	10am
Rehearsal	Sunday, March 15 th	10am
Rehearsal	Sunday, March 29 th	10am

To SING:

Good Friday, April 3rd at 7pm
Easter Sunday, April 5th at 9am

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

Lenten Love Offering

\$40. for Lent

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

Whatever you give as your Lenten Love Offering will benefit God's ministry at Zion Lutheran Church! It will be put in the Building Fund (It will benefit ADA projects.)

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

Easter Sunday is April 5th!



♪ J u s t a N o t e ♪

Zion's Handbell Choir will practice on Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

New members are always welcome!

If interested, please contact
 Jacque Dickey
 (402) 741-1709



**Zion's
 Puzzle
 Competition
 Planning
 Team**
 will meet on
**Sunday,
 March 1st
 at 10am**

All are welcome to help us plan!



Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School 2026

VBS will be held
 June 8-12, 2026
 9am — 12noon





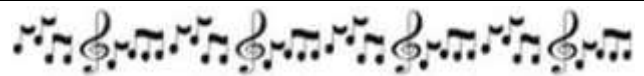
The following people made donations to **Zion's Memorial Fund** in loving memory of **Muriel Young**

Dave & Melissa Anderson
Janet Atkinson (Elevator Fund)
Bill & Connie Becker (Scholarship Fund)
Kent & Sheila Carder
Ron & Zondee Coakes
Louann & Scott Coatsworth
Jill Conrad
Rev. Carolann Hopcke (Scholarship Fund)
Bruce & Kathleen Karges
Bob & Lavonne Kruse (Elevator Fund)
Jane Mundschenk (Scholarship Fund)
Marilee Niewohner (Elevator Fund)
Jasper & Tyson Owens
Douglas & Karin Rieger
Dave & Jolene Roberg
Gerald & Jenny Schmitz (Elevator Fund)
Jim & Mary Staub (Elevator Fund)
Gary & Vickie Truitt
Miscellaneous Donations to the Family



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

Bill & Connie Becker (Scholarship Fund)
Jacque & Tom Dickey (Music Fund)
Cynthia Kraus (Elevator Fund)
Bob & LaVonne Kruse (Elevator Fund)
Amy & Brian Moser (Scholarship Fund)
Jane Mundschenk (Scholarship Fund)
Dave & Kim Woebbecke (Elevator Fund)



Faith & Fellowship **Committee**
will meet
On
Sunday, February 22nd
at 10:15am
All are welcome to join us!

Special Council Meeting: February 8, 2026

Tammy Reigle was elected President of the congregation council.
Roberta Seda was elected Vice-President of the council.
Kay Flanagan was elected Council Secretary.
Nancy Ahlers will remain Council Treasurer.
Connie Becker will remain Financial Secretary.



Council Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays of each month unless otherwise noted.
February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 23, July 21 (if needed), August 18,
September 15, October 13, November 17, December 15 & January 19, 2027

Committee Liaisons*:

Worship: Jim Meyer & Tammy Reigle	Property: Sara Rasmussen
Finance/Mission Endowment: Adam Briese	Parish Education: Amanda Reinhart
Evangelism: Roberta Seda	*Brett Temme & Brian Tisthammer need committees

Respectfully Submitted,
Kay Flanagan

Intern
Committee
Meeting
6pm on Monday,
February 23rd



Handicap Accessibility Project



Elevator Update

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

Elevator T-bill Account	\$242,574.88
January Income	\$6,250.00
January Expenses	\$0.00
January Interest	\$675.46
Total	\$249,500.34**

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

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



*Thanks for your support
of this very important project!*



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

Wine & Word
6pm on Thursday,
March 19th
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!**



**Parish Ed.
Committee**

Next
Meeting:
Monday,
Feb. 24th
At
6:30pm



**Newsletter
Folding Party**

We will be putting the next newsletter together at 11am on Thursday, March 19th.

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

Luther League

will be hosting Movie Theater Concessions!



January Winners

Margaret Johnson (\$20) Katie Laska (\$20)
Lori Lee (\$20) Julie Long (\$20)
Jane Mundschenk (\$50) Jill & Josh Nore (\$20)
Alexis Pedro (\$20) Gracyn Seier (\$20)
Zion Lutheran Church (\$20)

Congratulations!!



Prayer Chain & Prayer Concerns

If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain, please call Sharon Waters (402-741-2358) or the church office (402-395-2043) 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)*

A poster for a Jigsaw Puzzle Competition. The background is yellow with a border of colorful puzzle pieces. In the center, a white circle contains the text "JIGSAW PUZZLE COMPETITION" in large, bold letters. Below this, it says "Sunday, March 8, 2026" and "Cardinal Inn, Albion 2588 State Hwy 14". To the left of the circle, it says "Split the Pot (50/50) & Raffle Baskets too!". To the right, it says "Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar or you may bring your own soft drinks." Below the circle, it says "First team to complete a 500 piece puzzle wins! \$100 per team of 4 players includes Food & Prizes". Further down, it says "Separate competition for kids 12 and under: \$40 per team of 4 (300 piece puzzle)". At the bottom, it says "SPONSORED BY ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH" and "All proceeds benefit Zion's Elevator Fund". At the very bottom, it says "For more information or to Register, call 402-395-2043" and "Registration Deadline: March 1, 2026".

PLACES of the PASSION

Schedule for Lent

- Wed., Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday
Soup Supper: 5-7pm (Luther League)
7pm Worship: *Jerusalem*
- Sun., Feb. 22nd 1st Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Bethany*
- Sun., March 1st 2nd Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Mount of Olives*
- Sun., March 8th 3rd Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Gethsemane*
- Sun., March 15th 4th Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Courtyard*
- Sun., March 22nd 5th Sunday in Lent
9am Worship: *Pilate's Judgement Hall*
- Sun., March 29th Palm Sunday
9am Worship: *Bethphage*
- Thur., April 2nd Maundy Thursday
7pm Worship: *Upper Room*
- Fri., April 3rd Good Friday
9am Worship: *Golgotha*
- Sun., April 5th Easter Sunday
7am Worship: Luther League
8am Easter Breakfast
9am Worship: *Garden Tomb*

In Lent, we will journey with Jesus to explore the spiritual relevance of places along the path of Christ's passion. These locations remind us that Jesus walked this earth and stood in places we can still find today. There were serious reasons he found himself in certain places and at particular times on his way to the cross.



The Hills of Lent Midweek Lenten Worship Wednesdays at 7pm

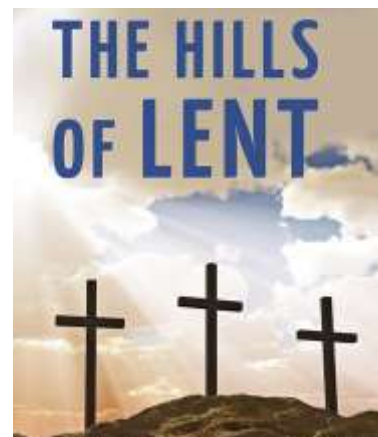
Our midweek Lenten worship, will lead us on a biblically journey to "mountaintop experiences" which all focus on the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Midweek Schedule:

Wed., Feb. 25 th	Mt. Sinai
Wed., Mar. 4 th	Mt. Carmel
Wed., Mar. 11 th	Mt. Zion
Wed., Mar. 18 th	Mt. Olive
Wed., Mar. 25 th	Mt. Calvary

At Mount Sinai, Moses & the Israelites receive the word of God. At Mount Carmel, Elijah calls for faith and faithfulness. Jesus joins the faithful in worship at Mount Zion. On Mount Olive, Jesus assures us that we too are the children of God. Finally, at **Mount Calvary, we view "God's own sacrifice complete."**

Services include dramatic homilies for a narrator and as many as four other readers. Please let Pastor Carolann or Vicar Keith know if you would like to participate in the Homilies.





Zion Lutheran Memorial Scholarship

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

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

The Scholarship committee will be responsible for reviewing all applications.

Deadline for submitting an application to Boone Central is March 13th!



Zion's Lenten Bible Challenge

Zion Lutheran Church is challenging **EVERYONE** to participate in our **2026 Daily Lenten Challenges**

As we journey together through the season of Lent, many of us will adopt simple practices and meaningful sacrifices that open our hearts and lives to God's transforming grace as we move toward Easter morning. This year, through our Lenten daily devotion, we invite you to join us in embracing small, daily acts of faith; intentional choices that create space for reflection, renewal, and deeper preparation for the joy of Easter. These will be sent via text or email & posted on Facebook every morning at 8am.

Blessed Lent to you!



Zion Lutheran Memorial Scholarship

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

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

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

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

Student's Name:

Address:

City, State & Zip:

Student's Personal Email:

Student's Phone Number:

Home Church:

Parent's Name:

Essay Questions:

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

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

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

How do you envision strengthening your faith in college?



Ron Coakes PEOPLE SPOTS

Ronald Dean Coakes was born April 5, 1957, at the Lutheran hospital in Norfolk, NE, to Bob and Ramona Coakes. A few years later he welcomed home his brother Tracy and then his sister Jolene rounded out the family.

Ron grew up in Albion, NE, attending school at Albion Public School graduating with the class of 1975. It was in high school that Ron built his strong work ethic and his passion for giving back to the community that he so greatly loves.

Following high school, Ron attended a year of college at the University of Nebraska Omaha. After a year of college Ron returned to the area working for Gustafson Trucking hauling corn and cattle. In 1979, after convincing his mother that farming was where he was meant to be, Ron purchased his first farmland where he raised hogs, corn, and soybeans. At times he would also raise cattle. In addition to farming, Ron has also worked for Sullivan Car Restoration, Albion Sale Barn, and Temme Auction & Realty. In 2017, Ron went back to school and earned a license in realty. On top of work, Ron has served on many committees and boards in the community, including the Boone County Fair Board, Boone County Hospital Board, Albion Education Foundation, Boone County Historical Society Museum as President, and he currently serves on the Albion Rural Fire Board, just to name a few.

It was during one of his Sunday evening trips to listen to live music with friends at the Hungry Horse Saloon in Ericson, NE, that Ron met the love of his life, Zondée Freeman. On February 25, 1984, the two were united in marriage at Zion Lutheran Church Albion. They have been blessed with two wonderful children, Bob and Roxanne, and three wonderful grandchildren: Levi, Charlie, and Axel, with one more on the way.

In his free time, Ron enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, traveling, and fishing. He also enjoys working on antique tractors and farm machinery. Ron also finds joy in attending stock car races, although he does miss the days before modern technology when he used to be the one counting laps.

Ron was baptized into the Lutheran faith on May 26, 1952, at Zion Lutheran Church. He later received his First Communion and affirmed his faith on May 2, 1971. As a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Ron has served on church council for more than one term and served as council president. He has also sung in the church choir and assists with the altar guild. He has served on the call committee, property committee, audit committee, mission endowment, and currently serves as the chair of the intern committee. We are honored by his membership and for all the ways in which he has chosen to serve God and Zion Lutheran Church.

Written & submitted by
Vicar Keith Powell

Prayer Concerns this Month

Wolf Memorial Home Residents

*Bob & LaVonne Kruse
LaVonne Mills*

Good Samaritan Estates (Assisted Living)

*Cynthia Kraus Donna Kruse
Marilyn Ramm Dorothy Young*

Genoa Assisted Living (Genoa)

Arletta Francis

Heritage of Bel-Air (Norfolk)

LaVonne Olnes

Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home

Harold & Lois Thewke

Community Memorial Health Center (Burwell)

Dale Sheldon

Out of State

*Elva Bartels (Texas)
Joy Haas (Colorado)*

In Our Sunday Prayers

*Colby Addison, Max Grosch, Natalie Luettel,
Maria Lynch, Marletta Patro,
Clareen Prothman, Dave Roberg,
Bruce Smith, Mark Smith, Marlys Smith,
Pat Tobiason, Becky Wright, Amy Young,
and the families of
Bill Brethouwer, Nancy Chamberlin,
Martha Fisher, Dennis Lynch,
Norman Mangelsen*



Our Congregation

*Confirmation Class
First Communicants
Sunday School
Luther League
All Teachers & Mentors*

Other Concerns

*Our Military
All those affected by war, violence & hatred
Those affected by natural disasters
Rescue Workers
Emergency Personnel
Other prayer concerns are welcome*



2pm on March 19th at Wolf Home
Volunteers & Prizes needed!

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

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



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.



MEET ZION'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL!



Tammy Reigle
Council President / Worship



Roberta Seda
Council Vice President / Evangelism



Kay Flanagan
Council Secretary / Synod Liaison



Adam Briese
Council Member / Finance



Jim Meyer
Council Member / Worship



Sara Rasmussen
Council Member / Property



Amanda Reinhart
Council Member / Parish Education



Brett Temme
Council Member / Property



Brian Tisthammer
Council Member



**Friday,
March 6,
2026**

World Day
of Prayer



Goat
Feb 27—Mar 1
100 min.
A small goat named Will gets a once-in-a-lifetime shot to join the pros and play roarball — a high-intensity, full-contact sport that's dominated by the fastest fiercest animals in the world. Ridiculed by his teammates, Will becomes determined to revolutionize the sport and prove that “small can ball!”

I Can Only Imagine 2
Mar 6-8
110 min.

After the breakout success of the song “I Can Only Imagine,” MercyMe’s Bart Millard is living the dream with sold-out arenas, a devoted fan base, and a thriving career. However, Millard’s past soon threatens the family he’s built, especially the fragile bond with his son.



Graveside Service

Curt Morgan
Saturday, March 7th
2pm at Rose Hill Cemetery



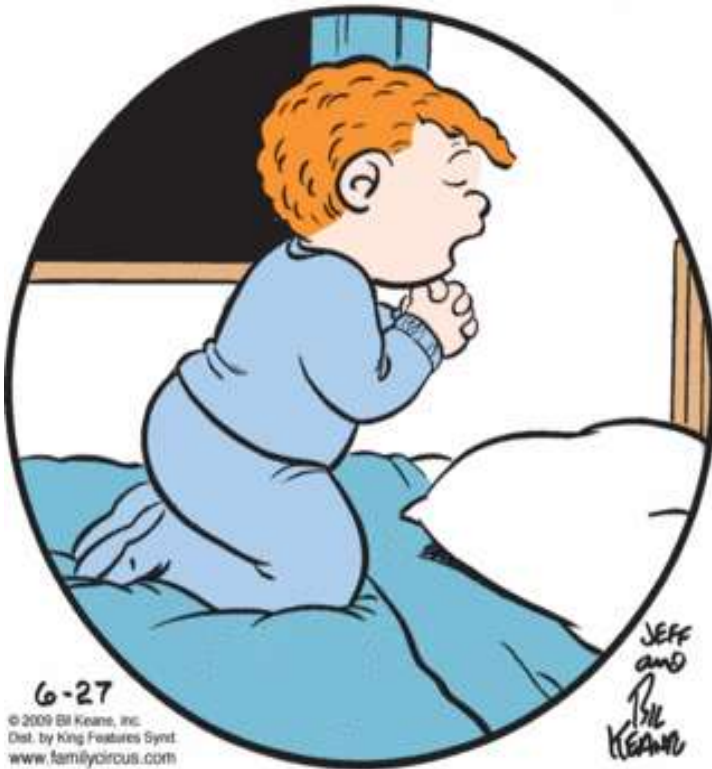
Zion continues to worship in person, but please do what makes you feel safe and comfortable. Feel free to social distance or wear a mask as desired.



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

God Bless You!

March



6-27

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"...forgive those who trespass against us. And leave us ninety-two temptations..."

Worship with us from HOME

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

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PCA@zionalbion.org

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

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

High School Youth Coordinator
Dorothy Grosch
youthcoordinator@zionalbion.org

Nancy Ahlers, Treasurer:
treasurer@zionalbion.org

