



# Zion Messenger

May 2026

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



## Remember the Sabbath

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.  
(Exodus 20:8)

What does it mean to “Remember the Sabbath”? The key to understanding the Sabbath is the Hebrew word **sabat**, which means “to rest or stop or cease from work.” The origin of the Sabbath goes back to Creation. After creating the heavens and the earth in six days, God “rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.” (Genesis 2:2) This doesn’t mean that God was tired and needed a rest. God is omnipotent, literally “all-powerful.” He has all the power in the universe and never tires. So, what does it mean that God rested on the seventh day? Simply that God stopped and enjoyed the fruits of his labors, which was creation.

The balance of work and rest is how God designed life to work. After all, Sabbath is not merely one of the commandments to Israel (Exodus 20), but a foundational principle of creation (Genesis 1), and a picture of the gospel (Hebrews 4). Below is a list of 7 principles about Sabbath rest from a blog that is worth sharing:

### 1) Rest before you get tired

Working until you crash is an easy default. But it’s healthier to have defined limits that are determined by objective plans more than by moment-to-moment feelings. What this means is that taking Sabbath rest actually requires discipline and intentionality. Rest can be hard work!

### 2) Have a rhythm to your rest

The principle of taking one day per week to rest is wise. When we don’t have structured times of work and rest, our times of work are less productive & less enjoyable. When we know we have a time for rest with family or friends coming up, we can work with greater productivity and a sense of freedom, knowing that God’s pleasure is in our work and in our rest.

### 3) When you are resting, rest

It’s easy to think during our day off, “I’ll just respond to this one email, it will only take 30 seconds.” But there’s something healthy about having space that is truly for rest, space that nothing can invade. An email may take 30 seconds to write, but it can take more psychological and mental energy, especially if it’s something important we’ll keep thinking about. There is also wisdom in setting good boundaries and helping people to not expect immediate email responses all the time. (If you answer once, will they keep emailing?)

### 4) Rest from social media & other electronics

Social media, cell phones and other electronics often clutter life and can inhibit us from the life that is going on right in front of us! It’s healthy to take small steps and see what effect it has: even just turning your phone off for one hour in the middle of a day may show how addicted we have become.

### 5) Find a hobby

One of the reasons people don’t rest well is they don’t have hobbies. Hobbies are helpful because they occupy our minds and energies during Sabbath rest, which is often more balancing and more restorative than simply sitting on the couch and watching TV. Sabbath rest is not just a matter of ceasing all activity, but redirecting our activity into alternative, life-giving efforts.

### 6) Find ways to rest with your family

Sometimes being a parent is exhausting, and sometimes marriage takes a lot of work. However, for the most part, family can and should be a healthy distraction from busyness. I’ve heard it said that we can measure how healthy a family is by how much they play, have fun, and laugh together.

### 7) When you struggle with Sabbath, remember the gospel

If you struggle to take Sabbath rest, it may be a gospel issue — finding your identity in your work, or being a people pleaser, or using busyness to distract you from unhappiness. So much over-work is driven by self-justification efforts: we need to accomplish more because we are failing to apply to our hearts what Christ has already accomplished for us. The most important thing to do during Sabbath rest is to refresh our heart by spending time with God, and enjoying our status as his beloved child because of what Christ has done. Ultimately, our rest is not in a Sabbath day, but in Christ himself, who has promised us, “come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Keeping Sabbath with you,



# Corner

Faith...

President's

When life is going well, faith feels simple, but what does faith look like in the challenging seasons? Do you cling to the cross, trusting the path ahead as you continue to pray? Or do you find yourself questioning everything and asking “why”?

If I’m being honest, I move back and forth between holding on tightly and wrestling with those questions. Faith was never promised to be easy, and some days it feels overwhelming. I find myself questioning, bargaining, and saying things like, “Please God, if You just... I promise I’ll be a better person.” Deep down, I know that that’s not how faith works, but it doesn’t stop those thoughts from slipping in. I’ve also witnessed, firsthand, a kind of faith that humbles me.

Our grandson, Cooper, has shown me what simple, steadfast trust truly looks like. His mom bought him a small wooden cross from the gift shop at Children’s Hospital and placed it in his hand. He has held that cross ever since. If it needs to be removed for care or repositioning, he always reminds them to put it back. I’ve told him many times, “God loves you — you know that, right?” and he always blinks twice to say, “yes.”

I don’t believe that God makes bad things happen to us. Life, human choices, and accidents bring their own hardships. What I do believe is that God is always present — even when we don’t feel Him. In the moments that seem the heaviest, God is not only beside us; He is carrying us through.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for all the prayers and support you’ve given to Peyton, Cooper, Gracyn, Adam, Kelly and our whole family. Your kindness has meant more than you know. We ask that you continue to keep them in your prayers as they journey through recovery.

With love and thanks,  
Tammy Reigle  
Council President



*From the  
Vicar*



## GOD'S GARDEN

As the month of May unfolds, we are surrounded by the most colorful reminders of God's creativity in the full bloom of the flowers. Fields, gardens, and roadsides come alive with color, each blossom unique in shape, size, and fragrance. No two are exactly alike, yet together the flowers create a breathtaking display of harmony and beauty.

This diversity is not accidental, it is intentional. Just as a garden is more beautiful because of its variety, so too is God's creation enriched by difference. Each flower contributes something distinct, yet all are part of one unified masterpiece. In the same way, Scripture reminds us of God's careful and intentional work in each of our lives: "I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." (Psalm 139:14)

Like the flowers of May, we are not meant to look the same, think the same, or serve in identical ways. Instead, God delights in the variety of gifts, cultures, personalities, and callings within God's people. Each person reflects God's image in a unique way, adding depth and beauty to the whole.

In a world that can sometimes struggle with division, the beauty of May flowers remind us of something higher. It reminds us to celebrate differences rather than fear them. It prompts us to see others not as strangers, but as fellow reflections of God's image. Just as a garden needs many kinds of flowers to flourish, the Church is strengthened by the diversity within it. When we honor one another and walk together in love, we begin to reflect the harmony found in God's creation.

This month, take time to notice the flowers around you, their colors, their variety, their quiet testimony to God's imagination. Let them remind you that God's creativity knows no limits and neither does God's love. May we learn to appreciate one another as God does, recognizing that together we form a living, growing testimony to God's grace.

Blessings,  
Vicar Keith Powell



*Zion Congregational Council  
Minutes from March 17, 2026*

**Call to Order:** Tammy Reigle called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

**Equipping Time:** Tammy Reigle led equipping time offering a reflection on Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” Our heart reflects our actions. God promises to give us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Council Minutes:** Amanda Reinhart made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026, seconded by Jim Meyer. **Motion carried.**

**Reports of Officers:**

**President Tammy Reigle:** No report, except to say Kudos to the puzzle committee!

**Vice-President Roberta Seda:** Grant Updates – Nikki Heidemann and Roberta Seda have met 3 or 4 times and have been sending emails and calling about possible grants for the elevator/sprinkler system. The \$500,000 potential matching grant was put on the back burner due to us not having enough information before the March 3, 2026 deadline. We can apply in 2027. Nebraska Synod Kraft Grant – a letter requesting a one-year extension was written and sent. There is another possible grant that we can apply for in August.

**Treasurer Nancy Ahlers:** Page 5 note – the undesignated line is in parentheses because we didn’t have enough money in the checking account to cover this amount. This was due to paying our yearly insurance premium this month. Brett Temme made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, seconded by Jim Meyer. **Motion carried.**

**Staff Reports:**

**Senior Pastor Carolann Hopcke:** Scouts will be using the fellowship hall for their annual Pine Wood Derby event on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>; they’ll begin to set up at noon. Aprill Murphy from Boone County Hospital stopped by to request a letter of support for a grant to get an accessible van. Pastor signed the letter of support. Pastor is working on senior quilts – there are six seniors. Three quilts are finished thanks to Arlene Neidhardt and her sister. Amy Moser is working in the church office on Mondays and Wednesdays.

**Intern Pastor Vicar Keith Powell:** He transported and chaperoned two kids, Skylar Porter and Xander Wright, to the Nebraska Synod Middle School Lock-in at Camp Carol Joy Holling. They all had a fun time. Vicar has a week off from classes during Holy Week. The next intern committee meeting is on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mid-year evaluations are due at this time.

**Luther League Coordinator Dorothy Grosch:** We will thank and celebrate Dorothy’s ministry among us as the Luther League coordinator for the past 10+ years, on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> during worship. Luther League is preparing for their Easter Sunrise worship, Easter breakfast, and the Egg your Yard fundraiser.

**Committee Reports:**

**Evangelism:** Amy Allgood is writing a six-month update to Immanuel Foundation for the \$2,000 grant they gave Zion to purchase for stuffed bears and dogs for the hospital. An Easter Outreach project is underway. Volunteers will deliver goodie bags to every house in Albion. Inside each bag is a recipe for Easter cookies, jellybeans with a jellybean meditation, the parable of the Sower and a packet of seeds, as well as Zion’s Holy Week Schedule. Mike & Roberta Seda and Pastor Carolann counted 787 houses in Albion. For May Day, the committee will be making candy flowers and butterflies for the Assisted Living and Nursing Home residents. Pastor ordered more new member gift bag supplies with a Thrivent card from Mary Staub. There is also a plan to encourage folks to take “Flat Jesus” with them on vacation this summer.

**Faith and Fellowship:** Coffee & Conversation on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month and Wine & Word on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month is continuing. The committee is planning a Meal & Museum outing on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> in Kearney. Folks will carpool (from Zion at 11am) to Cunninghams on the Lake for dinner and then go on to either the Arch Museum or the Museum of Nebraska Arts (MONA).

*Cont’d on page 4*

**Parish Education:** Amy Moser ordered everything for Vacation Bible School. The last day of Sunday School will be April 26<sup>th</sup>: the students will do a craft that highlights the VBS theme for this year. The SS choir will sing on Palm Sunday. Confirmation will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Fundraising:** The Puzzle competition raised \$3,765 for the elevator/sprinkler project. The only expense was \$50 due to Thrivent cards and donations. This event went so well, they are planning another one in February or March 2027! Lottery Calendar Winners - we paid \$210 in January & \$110 in February. Some of the lottery winners have donated their winnings back to the church.

**Property & Maintenance:** Kelly's Heating & Air Conditioning will be installing new air conditioner condensers on Thursday & Friday of this week (March 19-20, 2026). All the filters were replaced during the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Pat Zaruba & Loren Pearson replaced the lightbulbs in the sanctuary. The south faucet in the women's bathroom was dripping; Ethan Naughtin stopped by and fixed it.

**Worship Committee:** Pretzel Sunday went well. Due to the children distributing the pretzels during the children's sermon, there were no pretzels left over. Flat Palms were ordered from St. Ed's Floral. First Holy Communion will be on Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Good Friday Cross Walk will begin at 10am at the fairgrounds. There are 5 weddings scheduled this year.

**ADA Project:** Josh Thayer & Brett Temme met with 4 different Sprinkler Companies: Bullseye Sprinkler on February 23<sup>rd</sup>; Meininger Fire Protection on February 25<sup>th</sup>; Mahoney Sprinklers on March 4<sup>th</sup>; and Midwest Sprinklers on March 6<sup>th</sup>. One of the recommendations is to fill the area above the ceiling with insulation. We will need to get a quote for the insulation. If we run dry sprinklers, they have to be inspected every ten years. The church area may be difficult because of the plaster. They will need to do 7' sections of pipe to run it through the attic. The pipes can be PVC or steel, both of which can be painted. Sprinkler heads are approximately \$7 dollars a head. The dry system is about \$30 a head. Midwest doesn't have a fire system company. The Fire system may cost about \$500,000. We can put the fire system in first and phase in the sprinkler system. Water pressure isn't an issue. All the companies have good experience working with churches. We need to get all the estimates from the companies for the upcoming projects before going back to the congregation. We also need quotes/estimates for the bathrooms and the ramp into the basement.

Amanda Reinhart looked into possible loans, but we don't qualify for some because we are too small, or don't need to borrow a million dollars.

**Old Business:** Brian Tisthammer will be the council liaison to the Fundraising Committee.

**New Business:** none.

Roberta Seda made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm, seconded by Brett Temme. **Motion carried.** The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm. Roberta Seda has equipping time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathryn Flanagan



## 2026 Fellowship Coffee Serving Schedule

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



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





## BIRTHDAYS

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

*\*Denotes 80+ years young*



## ANNIVERSARIES

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

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



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

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

Don't see  
your name?



**Women's Circles** May 2026

Peace Circle will meet at Zion on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am. *Mary Levander* will be the leader.

Grace Circle will meet at Assisted Living on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. For more information, please speak with *Doris Warner*.

**Confirmation**

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> the following young people will affirm the faith proclaimed at their baptisms:

*Kallum Jerome Dorie*  
*Pete Callahan Hudson*  
*Emily Ann Levander*  
*Kelby Nikkol Rasmussen*  
*Ben William Webster*  
*Alexander William Wright*

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

At 6pm on the Friday night before Confirmation, **May 1<sup>st</sup>**, the 7<sup>th</sup> graders, families & mentors will host supper for the confirmands, their families, sponsors, and mentors. At that time we will publicly affirm many of the ways we have seen God active in their lives and name the unique gifts we believe God has given them.

**2026 Flower Committee**

May  
 Mary Kay Tisthammer

June  
 Jacque Dickey




**National Day of Prayer**  
 Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Armed Forces Day**  
 Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>



★ARMED FORCES DAY★



Pentecost Sunday  
 May 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Join us for worship at 9:00am  
 Please wear **RED!**

**Register Now!**




June 8-12, 2025



Register & Pay online by scanning the QR code →





*Aaron Joseph Weltruski*



*Avery Grace Petersen*



*Baylor Boots Neidhardt*



*Kyler Randall Douglas Stuhr*

Maundy  
Thursday  
April 2,  
2026



*Caitlin Jo Winter*





*Cohen Robert Schnoor*



*Cooper James Leetch*



*Blake Anthony Levander*

## *First Holy Communion*

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

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





The Annual BONFIRE will be on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

The annual Luther League Bonfire, to welcome 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and wish Godspeed to our Seniors, will be held on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at Dorothy's home. (2488½ Old Mill Rd) It will begin at 6:30pm. There will be food and games!

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



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

*We appreciate all of you!*


## Bible Emergency Numbers



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

amen  
amen

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



**G r a d u a t e**  
**R e c o g n i t i o n**  
**S u n d a y**  
 M a y 1 7 , 2 0 2 6  
 9 : 0 0 a m

Congratulations to our High School Graduates!

Abigail Marie Addison  
 Gracin Connelly  
 Vanessa Lynn Dorie  
 Maxwell Robert Grosch  
 Riley Allen Nelson  
 Jace Daniel Rasmussen  
 Mishayla Ann Slaymaker

Please join us as we honor and celebrate our graduates!  
 Cookies and coffee will be served after worship.  
 We are so proud of all our Graduates!



**Graduate**  
*PowerPoint*

**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!**

*We would like to put together a slide show for Graduate Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Email pictures to the church office at [office@zionalbion.org](mailto:office@zionalbion.org). You may also bring them to the office and we can scan them.*

*We would like a total of 7 pictures per graduate: 2 senior year, 1 baby, and 4 others of your choice. Please submit your pictures **no later than Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**!*

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

*Thanks for your help!*

# PUZZLE



## A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" 3 1 m r 2 m 3 nd 2 d 4 f

y 4 5 r s 3 nc 2 r 2 f 1 3 th, wh 3 ch

f 3 rst l 3 v 2 d 3 n y 4 5 r gr 1 ndm 4 th 2 r

L 4 3 s 1 nd 3 n y 4 5 r m 4 th 2 r

2 5 n 3 c 2 1 nd, 3 1 m p 2 rs 5 1 d 2 d,

n 4 w l 3 v 2 s 3 n y 4 5 1 ls 4 ."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

# GROWING IN GOD'S word



Try this craft as a reminder that we need to continue to grow in God's Word.

### What you need:

- Small terra cotta pot and plate
- Acrylic paints (various colors)
- Paper plate
- Potting soil (enough to fill the pot)
- Small inside plant or packet of seeds
- Newspaper or paper
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water
- Permanent black marker



### What you do:

1. Spread some newspaper out on a table for your working area.
2. Squeeze the paint colors that you wish to use onto your paper plate.
3. Paint designs on the pot and plate.
4. When the pot is dry, take the black marker and on the top part of the pot write: Growing in God's Word.
5. Pour a small amount of potting soil into the bottom of the pot. With adults help, place your plant into the pot and surround your plant with the rest of the soil. If planting seeds, follow the packet instructions.
6. Water your plant so the soil is moist. Check your plant everyday and keep the soil moist.
7. Enjoy watching your plant grow, and remember that you too, need care as you grow in God's Word.

2 Peter 3:18 NIV

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

## Bible Quiz



Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Puzzle Answers on page 14

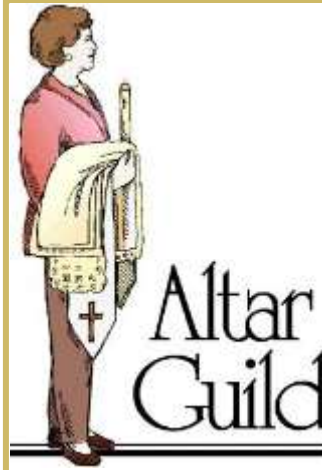


All of Zion's SignUp sheets can be found online!

All of Zion's signups are digital through the SignUpGenius website. Simply Google SignUpGenius – find a signup. Enter office@zionalbion.com in the creator search bar to find us.

There are signups for greeters, ushers, acolytes, reader, communion assistants, audio/video, and PowerPoint volunteers! Dorothy and Pastor also added signups for hosting Luther League and confirmation class meals.

This is a very easy and convenient way to volunteer for the dates and ways you would like to help. If you need any assistance, please contact the church office. Thanks!



2026

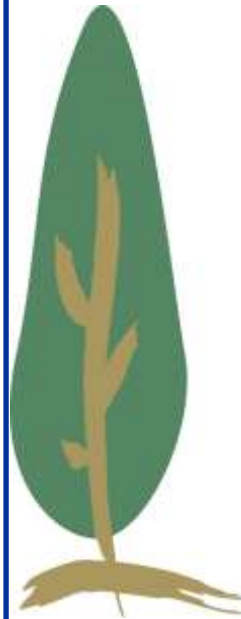
May:

Kent & Sheila Carder\*  
Kent & Mary Kay  
Tisthammer

June

Jacque & Tom Dickey\*

### ✝ Christian Symbol ✝



### CEDAR TREE

A species of evergreen used to decorate for Christmas, the tall cedar tree symbolizes Christ's majesty year-round. Cedars of Lebanon, which have grown to 130 feet, were known to Old Testament people. "The trees of the LORD are well watered, the cedars of Lebanon that he planted." (Psalm 104:16, NIV)

David's palace and both Solomon's palace and temple were built of cedar wood. The word cedar is found 75 times in the Bible. Due to its evergreen nature and longevity, this tree is associated with eternal life and thus sometimes used in cemetery landscaping.



### 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.

### Sunday Bulletins

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



Feel free to stop by and pick one up.





# CONFIRMATION

## ORIENTATION MEETING

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm

All those finishing 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grades are invited (with parents) to the confirmation orientation meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Stop by Pastor's office anytime between 4-6pm to talk about class and meal schedules, student requirements and expectations, as well as acolyte schedules and mentors.

**Please stop by!**

For more information, speak with Pastor Carolann.



Zion Church Council  
Will MEET on  
Tuesday  
May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.



**Next Meeting:**  
**Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**at**  
**10:15am**



## Affirmation Dinner for Confirmands, Families & Mentors

Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>  
6pm at Zion

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

**Mark your calendars!**

## Table Grace

### *The Master Calleth*

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



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



### In person Online

January	121	145
February	127	123
March	144	137

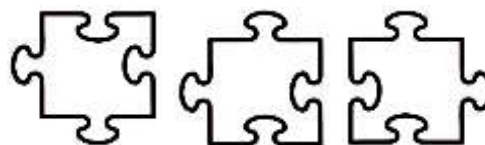
### 2026 Year to Date:

131 In person  
135 Online

# Puzzle Answers

Bible Quiz Answer: A (See Romans 16:22)

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."



# Boone County



## Food Pantry

1108 W. State Street  
Albion, NE 68620

**Open EVERY Thursday**  
**2-4pm**

## Ongoing Needs:

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Canned Soup                             | Crackers       |
| Canned Fruit                            | Toilet Paper   |
| Cereal                                  | Bar Soap       |
| Kleenex                                 | Toothpaste     |
| Hand Sanitizers                         | Paper Products |
| Miscellaneous Personal Hygiene Products |                |

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

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



## Worship Committee

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



## Worship Song Leaders

- MAY 3** Jacque & Tom Dickey  
**10** Kay Flanagan  
**17** *Volunteer Needed!*  
**24** *Volunteer Needed!*  
**31** *Volunteer Needed!*

## Mobile Food Pantry Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>



The next Mobile Food Pantry will be held on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am at the Boone County Fairgrounds. This will be set up as a drive-through only. All patrons will need to enter the fairgrounds from the 11<sup>th</sup> and Fairview entrance. Vehicles will be taken in order of arrival in a designated line. The first vehicle to arrive is asked to follow the road into the fairgrounds and stop and park directly in front of the cones that will be set out. All other vehicles entering that are there for the mobile pantry need to follow in line and wait until you have been asked to do otherwise.

If anyone is coming to volunteer their time, please park in the west parking lot next to the Casey Building. If you are willing and are able to volunteer, please arrive around 8:15 am.

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

The Food Bank of the Heartland will provide pre-packaged boxes, along with some other produce and food products. Each patron will be required to take what is already packed in each box.

Everyone is reminded that there is always the possibility that the mobile pantry could be cancelled or postponed due to the current events. Coordinators will do their best to update the information in the newspaper or through the Boone County Nebraska Sheriff's Facebook page.



## FLAT SHEETS NEEDED!

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

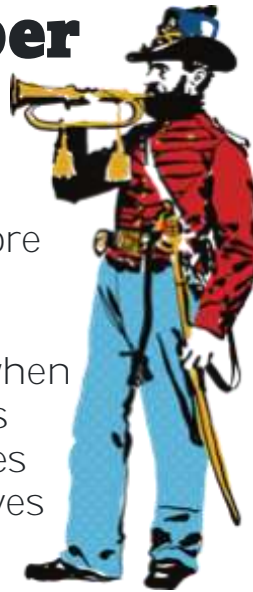
For more information please speak with Marcia Seier 402-395-6163.



**Happy  
Mother's  
Day  
Sunday,  
May 10<sup>th</sup>!**

## We remember

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



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

**Memorial** Monday,  
**DAY** May 25<sup>th</sup>!



**Church  
Musicians**

**MAY**

3 Tami Texley  
10 Tami Texley  
17 Tami Texley  
24 Tami Texley  
31 Tami Texley

**Handicap  
Accessibility  
Project**



**Elevator Update**

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

Elevator T-bill Account	\$250,811.17
March Income	\$5,549.00
March Expenses	\$110.00
(Lottery Calendar Winners)	
March Interest	\$709.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$256,959.17**</b>

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

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

<b>Sprinkler Fund</b>	<b>\$1,705.00</b>
March Income	\$90.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,795.00</b>

<b>Bathroom Fund</b>	<b>\$36,125.00</b>
March Donations	\$1,363.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,488.00</b>

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

## 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*

### ***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***

*Elva Bartels (Texas)*

*Joy Haas (Colorado)*

### ***In Our Sunday Prayers***

*Breanna Beckman, Mary Derby, Joy Haas,  
Ashleigh Henn, Marianne Karmann,  
Marletta Patro, Cooper Seier, Bruce Smith,  
Mark Smith, Marlys Smith, Brad Thayer,  
Jerry Tisthammer, Mary Kay Tisthammer,  
Teresa Tisthammer, Pat Tobiason,  
and the families of  
Sharon Bachman, Marcella Grebe,  
the Rev. Dr. Tom Ridenhour, Dale Sheldon  
Tom Trainer*



### ***Our Congregation***

*Zion's Confirmands  
HS & College Graduates  
Teachers*

### ***Other Concerns***

*Our Military*

*All those affected by war, violence & hatred*

*Those affected by natural disasters*

*All those wrongly detained & deported*

*Other prayer concerns are welcome*

## THANK YOU Sunday School Teachers!

We offer our  
heartfelt thanks

to our

2025-2026

Sunday School

Teachers:

*Krista Choat*

*Tana Dozler*

*Cola Heesacker*

*Danielle Koch*

*Sheena Krohn*

*Tara Leetch*

*Whitney Paulson*

*Brynn Petersen*

*Stacy Petersen*

*Brooke Stuhr*

*Lisa Thayer*

*Teresa Tisthammer*

and Substitute Teachers:

*Dorothy Grosch*

*Nikki Heidemann*

*Amy Moser*

*Amanda Reinhart*

*Lynne Webster*

It was a GREAT year thanks to YOU!

We appreciate each of you!

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

Thank You,  
Teachers!





2pm on May 21<sup>st</sup> at Wolf Home  
Volunteers & Prizes needed!

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

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



Coffee  
and  
CONVERSATION

May 7<sup>th</sup>  
9:30am at  
the Dotted Daisy



The Faith & Fellowship Committee is inviting everyone for Coffee & Conversation at the Dotted Daisy on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30am.

Please join us & invite friends!

Intern  
Committee  
Meetings  
at 6pm on  
Monday,  
April 27<sup>th</sup> &  
June 29<sup>th</sup>



Faith &  
Fellowship

Committee  
will meet  
at 10:15am

on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.  
(after church)

All are welcome to join us!



Confirmation Camp



Carol Joy  
Holling Camp

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

The Elkhorn Valley Cluster is doing Confirmation Camp together at Ranch Camp the week of June 14-19.

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

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



Can You Tie A Knot?



Zion's Sew Happy Mission Quilters are always looking for people to help them quilt! You are welcome to join them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays to help tie & pin quilts. If you like to sew, they always need help to sew quilt blocks together. The blocks and strips are already cut and put together in a bag ready to be sewn together. For more information, contact Barb Michael (402-395-6377) or any of the other quilters.



### Newsletter Folding Party

We will be putting the next newsletter together at **11am on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**.

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



Thanks to Darren, Staci & Xander Wright, Vicar Keith & Pastor Carolann for being Zion's Voting Members at the Nebraska Synod Assembly this year!

They will be in Kearney for Synod Assembly May 29<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>.



### Parish Ed. Committee

Next Meeting:  
Monday,  
May 18<sup>th</sup>  
At  
7:00pm



## Zion Memorial

# Scholarship



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

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

*Lois & Walt Hoefer* in loving memory of *Dick Dozler*

*North Dakota Friends* in loving memory of *Greg Warner*

*A total of \$5,788 has been received.*  
*(as of 4/15/26)*

*Honors Night: Wed., May 13<sup>th</sup>*



Ascension  
Day  
May 14, 2026

# NewsLetter DEADLINE

**The deadline for the June Messenger is Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

# PEOPLE SPOTS

## Adam Briese

Adam Thomas Briese was born on November 22, 1987, in Grand Island, Nebraska, to Tom and Joan Briese. Adam was welcomed home by his older sister Ashley. Adam spent the first couple of months of his life in Grand Island, before the family moved to the family farm near Boone, Nebraska.

Adam attended Albion Public Schools for his elementary years. He then attended Boone Central Schools for Middle School and High School graduating with the Boone Central class of 2006. After graduation he went on to attend the University of Nebraska Lincoln, graduating in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

After earning his degree Adam moved to Omaha, Nebraska, to work as a certified Public Accountant (CPA) at a public accounting firm. It was during his time in Omaha that Adam met the one who captured his heart, Lauren, through a mutual friend. The two were married on July 23, 2016, at First Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Adam and Lauren have been blessed with three wonderful children, Henry, Shay, and Daphne.

In 2023, Adam decided to trade in his calculator for a pair of pliers and return to his first job working alongside his dad on the family farm. He also had the desire to raise his children in a small town, so the family decided to leave Omaha and return to the farm in Boone.

When Adam is not farming, he spends his time with his family and attending his children's events. He also enjoys following Nebraska Cornhusker athletics and spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, or attempting to play golf.

Adam was baptized into the Lutheran faith on March 27, 1988, here at Zion Lutheran Church. He also received his First Communion at Zion, and on April 14, 2002, he affirmed his faith as he was confirmed. After returning to the Albion area, Adam rejoined Zion Lutheran Church in 2024, and he is excited to see his own children begin their faith journey at his home church. Since returning to Zion, Adam currently serves on the Finance, Audit, Mission Endowment Committees and the Church Council. We are certainly grateful for his membership and for all the ways he faithfully serves God at Zion.



Written & submitted by  
Vicar Keith Powell

Blessed  
by God for  
8 years

Pam Wright  
will be 80  
on May 2<sup>nd</sup>!  
Please send  
a card  
as you are able:



happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday!

929 W Park St  
Albion, NE 68620-1530

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



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



Carol Joy  
Holling Camp

# WORK DAY

**Saturday, May 16, 2026**

**8am — 1:30pm**

**Breakfast & Lunch are included!**

**Questions?**

**Contact Lisa Stirtz at**

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



NEBRASKA SYNOD ELCA

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you! Thank you for all that you do as God's people in Albion, and thank you especially for your continued participation in mission share. Through you so much good work is done in the world, and more so, God's love is shown, embodied, and made real daily!

There are so many stories I could share, but, suffice it to say, you matter and make a difference, and I am grateful for you! On behalf of your sibling in Christ, near and far, thank you, thank you, thank you!

God's blessings and peace,  
Timothy Siberg  
Nebraska Synod Staff

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$2,685 given to your synod, which were received by the ELCA world hunger organization last month.



Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Your generosity is responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,  
Daniel Rift

Director, Congregational Generosity.  
*(1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)*

**Wine & Word**  
 6pm on Thursday,  
 May 21<sup>st</sup>  
 at the  
 Gateway Terrace  
 Community Room



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

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

**Please mark your calendars and join us!**



On behalf of Zion, the Evangelism Committee offers its heartfelt thanks to all those who helped distribute the almost 800 Easter Bags to every home in Albion! It was a huge project, and you all made it look easy!

**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!**



**March Winners**

- Linda Seagle** (\$20)
- Nolan Tisthammer** (\$20)
- Kurt Kruse** (\$50)

**Congratulations!!**



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

**Bertha Black**



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

**Dwain Owens**



**Last Day of SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Oh, how time flies!  
 The Last Day of Sunday School will be Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>!



**THANKS!**

We offer our thanks to all those who made Holy Humor Sunday meaningful & delightful. Special thanks to Tom Dickey, John Krohn & Jon Porter, as well as readers: Jace Thayer, Kelby Rasmussen & Avery Petersen!

**THANK YOU ALL!**

**♪ Just a Note ♪**




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


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

Well done, good and faithful servants!  
Jacque Dickey

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

The Sew Happy Mission Quilters are inviting all the Graduating Seniors to come to church early on Graduate Sunday, **May 17<sup>th</sup>** to choose one of their precious quilts as your own! The quilting ladies would be *“sew” happy to see you and gift each of Zion’s graduates with a beautiful quilt.*




**BLESSED**  
to be a  
**Blessing**



Mission Quilters will meet on **Fridays, May 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30pm.**

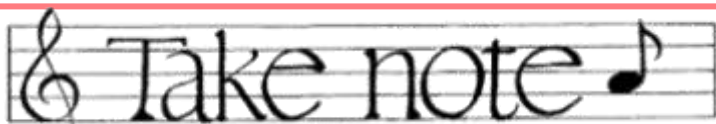
**All are welcome to join us!**




**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)*



## Thank You Sr. Choir!

We can't thank all of you enough for all the time, effort, and talent you shared with the congregation this season, especially on Good Friday and Easter! You all added so much to our praise and worship.

Thank you!

The choir is taking a break during the summer, but if you are able to offer any special music this summer, let me know. I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall!

Tami Texley  
Choir Director



4-14

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By  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

"I need to goeth to the bathroom."



## The Taste of Our Words

I try to watch  
the words I say,  
And keep them  
soft and sweet;  
For I don't know  
from day to day,  
Which ones  
I'll have to eat.



## WORSHIP PLANNING

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>  
7:30pm**

Pastor Carolann & Vicar Keith will be meeting with all graduating seniors on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> to plan Graduate Sunday. Please let either of them know if you are NOT able to join them.

Thank you, God!



THANK YOU  
Dorothy!  
June 14<sup>th</sup>

After 10 years as paid staff, and as a volunteer for years before that, Dorothy Grosch is stepping down as Zion's High School Youth Coordinator. We will be offering our thanks & blessings to Dorothy during worship on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Parish Education Committee will also be hosting coffee fellowship after worship that day in honor of Dorothy.

Please join us on June 14<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate and give thanks to God for Dorothy's ministry among us.

*God Bless You*




May 31, 2026



**SAVE THE DATE:  
Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>**

Faith & Fellowship has planned a dinner date at the Corn Krib for the O.W.L.'s on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 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).

MAY  
DAY  
GIFTS



Thanks to the Evangelism Committee for making Gum Drop Flowers and M&M Butterflies for the Assisted Living & Nursing Home residents & staff.



Happy May Day!



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](http://www.facebook.com/zionalbion)



Zion Messenger is a monthly publication of  
Zion Lutheran Church  
319 S 5<sup>th</sup> St., Albion, NE 68620  
Worship Services - Sunday 9:00am

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 4pm  
Friday Office Closed  
Phone 402-395-2043

Pastoral Care Concerns after hours:  
Pastor Carolann Hopcke, 267-374-7762

Email: [office@zionalbion.org](mailto:office@zionalbion.org)  
Website: [www.zionalbion.org](http://www.zionalbion.org)

**Zion's Staff**

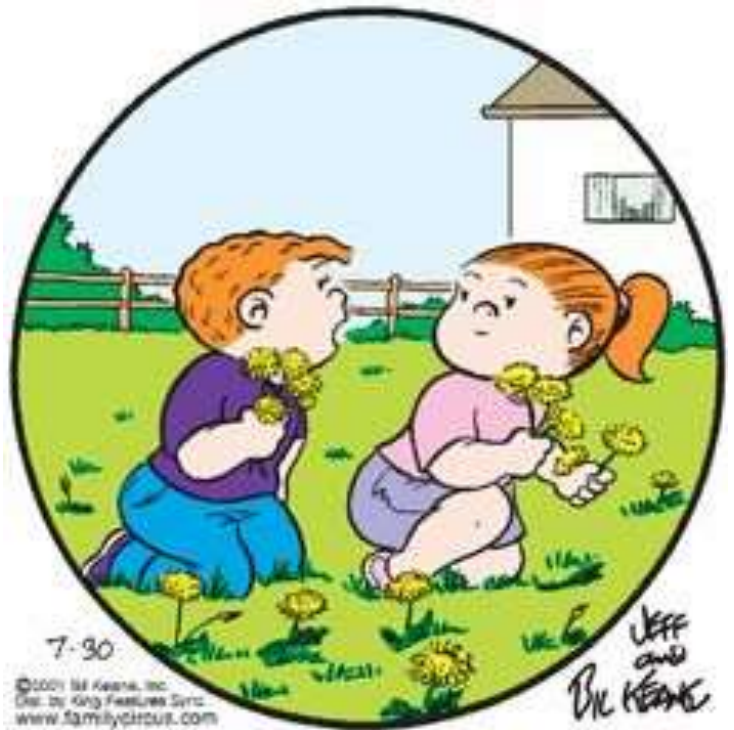
**Pastor Carolann Hopcke, Senior Pastor**  
[PCA@zionalbion.org](mailto:PCA@zionalbion.org)

**Vicar Keith Powell, Seminarian**  
[vicarkeith@zionalbion.org](mailto:vicarkeith@zionalbion.org)

**Office Administrators**  
Amy Moser & Cheryl Sherburne  
[office@zionalbion.org](mailto:office@zionalbion.org)

**High School Youth Coordinator**  
Dorothy Grosch  
[youthcoordinator@zionalbion.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@zionalbion.org)

**Nancy Ahlers, Treasurer:**  
[treasurer@zionalbion.org](mailto:treasurer@zionalbion.org)



7-30  
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[www.familycircus.com](http://www.familycircus.com)  
"Why are we pickin' these for Mommy if they're Daddylions?"  
JEFF and  
BIL KEENE

**A Memorial Day Prayer**



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

Dear Heavenly Father,

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

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

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

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

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

