

Zion News

Dear Members of Zion,

The time has come! It will be on Sunday, February 16th that we will dedicate to the Glory of God our New School! What was once a dream, has now, by the grace of God become a reality.

It is our humble prayer that our New School will serve to be a blessing to our Congregation, our Pierce Community, and the surrounding region for decades to come and beyond.

Since the founding of our Congregation, Christian Education has been a priority here at Zion. It is our legacy and our heritage! When our congregation was founded in 1903, Day School Classes were held from the very beginning in the Church until the first school building was built in 1915.

Pastor Sheips, Zion's first Pastor was also the only School Teacher for the first six years after our Congregation was founded. In just six years, Zion School grew to 51 students! Many years, many decades have passed since those days and the number of students has continued to grow.

Later, an addition was added to the old school building providing more classroom space. Then in the 1970's two more classrooms, a new gym with locker rooms, a new kitchen and lunch room were added. This new addition also connected the School and the Church. We have also been blessed with many dedicated teachers through the years.

It has been the heritage and legacy of this congregation that God's people in this place have always met the need when it comes to providing a quality, Christ-centered Christian Education for the children and young people of our congregation and community.

With the Dedication of our new School Building that commitment continues.

Thank you to everyone who has given of themselves in so many way to make our new school a reality.

To God be the Glory!

-Pastor Bruce



Where God's people gather...to worship, grow, care and share.

**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church
LCMS**

520 E. Main Street
Pierce, NE 68767



www.zionlutheranpierce.com

**[https://www.youtube.com/
@zionlutheranchurchpierce3283](https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranchurchpierce3283)**

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School Office.....402-329-4658

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Principal

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**Find us on:
facebook®**

PAX Worship

8:00am

Traditional Worship

10:00am

Monday Vespers

7:00pm

Rev. Gordon W. Bruce
Senior Pastor

Vicar Jacob Friedrich

Mr. Derek Jareske
Director of Christian Ed

Miss Amanda Jareske
Church Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Snodgrass
Principal

Mrs. April Anson
School Secretary

**Prayer
List . . .**



Family of

Sylvia Uecker

Mari Ortmeier

Addie Voelker

Nate Bolling

Shane Dozy

Dawn Tucker

Lavonne Fleer

Dawn Flinn

Rayleen Wesemann

Pastor Birtell

OFFICERS 2025/2026

Chairman

Mike Krueger

Vice-Chairman

Tom Weinrich

Secretary

Sherri Krueger

Financial Secretary

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Blake Stonacek

Andrew Wolff

Jeff Meier

STATISTICAL REPORT

Baptisms

1/12/25

Scotlynn Marie Martinez

1/26/25

Millie Vale Spieker

Funerals

1/02/25

Billy Schomberg

1/16/25

Betty Sirek

2/17/25

Sylvia Uecker

Transferred In

1/24/25

Kaitlin Young

2/04/25

Jadon Wagner

Transferred Out

1/14/25

Crystal Fischer

1/14/25

Addison Fischer

1/14/25

Patrick Fischer

1/14/25

Parker Fischer

1/14/25

Jay Bruegman

2/04/25

Lawson Zierke

2/04/25

Gene Zierke

2/04/25

Erin Zierke

Have an item for ZION NEWS?

Organizations or individuals with articles or information for future issues of "ZION NEWS" are encouraged to submit them at any time. Information can be emailed to the church, called in, or left in the church office.

Thank you!

Greetings from Vicar Jacob Friedrich

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

This is an exciting time to be here in Pierce, Nebraska. Soon enough the new addition is going to be done and our faculty is ready to move in. At one time Paul gave some great advice about building the church. 1 Corinthians 3 says, "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." Paul is saying that the church always must be built upon the confession that Jesus is our savior. Let us remember that this facility has become possible because of God's grace. For the Gospel of Jesus Christ, has helped us to afford this new building.

Let us continue to build according to the foundation, by teaching our children to trust in God. Everything that we have; tables, desks, school supplies, and our staff has come from the Lord. Even Though the building is done, there is much to do with the children. We need to keep building by teaching our kids to rely upon God throughout life. We need to show Jesus has been our rock. He is like a solid concrete foundation that stands the test of time. Now we approach the future with confidence and assurance that Jesus shall continue to provide for us. In every storm or problem, nothing can take away what Jesus has done for us. So Let us continue to teach our children to rely upon Him in every need. Let us continue to build upon the true foundation of this church and have faith in our Lord. His Word has not returned empty today! Amen.

DCE Report

Over the Last 33 Months:

Over the last thirty three months, I have been working in a variety of areas around the church, but my main areas of focus are related to school, children's, and youth ministries. In regards to children's ministry, the most present features in these recent months for this ministry subset would be the planning, organizing, implementation, and managing for Faith Weavers and Sunday School classes for children in the congregation and community, which resumed after Labor Day. Many of our new volunteers continue to help week to week, and we are looking toward offering a special type of instruction for the junior youth helpers. Our Sunday School teachers continue to lead their classes well, and we have been having very strong attendance this year, especially in the 1st through 3rd grade class. That being said, we would still like to add several substitute Sunday School teachers, and are currently looking for a new Faith Weavers cook, once a month, several individuals who may be willing to help serve meals, and several individuals who might like to help with the Crafts station.

In regards to school ministry, I continue to look forward to the activities, challenges, and opportunities that come in regards to this year. I continue to teach 5th and 6th grade religion classes on a regular basis, teach character education lessons to the various classes on a regular schedule, lead chapel on a monthly basis, teach preschool chapel on a regular basis, occasionally sit in on 7th and 8th grade religion classes, lead morning devotions for the teachers on a weekly basis, and assist in the classrooms, when needed. I also continue to help prepare the students for their opportunities to sing in church by teaching a music class to each grade on various days throughout the week. My goal, in working with the school teachers and students, is to provide Christ-centered, enriching, opportunities to grow in knowledge, service, praise, and worship within the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church. In this way, I hope to continue to serve as a bridge between both the church and school, and I hope to continue to grow the relationship that the students have with the ministries of Zion.

In regards to other ministry areas in which I am associated, I have been continuing to work with the PAX team on many Sunday mornings, largely in the area of audiovisual support. When the new sound system was installed, I was able to receive some training on how to best use these new tools and technology pieces. This, of course, has necessitated a need for a trained and experienced individual to sit behind the board, and with that in mind, if anyone would like to learn how to use the board, a training could absolutely be arranged. The video equipment has also been installed, and with that, we have recently begun live streaming our services, increasingly since Christmas. We would also like to train more individuals to learn how to manage the presentation and how to run the video livestream. Otherwise, I have also been sitting in on meetings, leading devotions for the quilters on a rotating basis, attending the Men's Bible Study on Thursday mornings, and attending group fellowship opportunities, when time allows. I also try to attend games and activities, as time allows. Another new development for this time is the addition of responsibilities in regards to the typical role of Sunday School superintendent.

Upcoming Endeavors:

Over the next several weeks, and months, we are hoping to continue to hold events for youth, we will continue to hold a variety of unique fundraisers, and we will continue to hold our monthly Fusion Youth Group meetings. We also continue to offer Sunday School and Faith Weavers classes on a weekly basis. In the near future, we will once again begin planning for another week of VBS, of which we have already decided will be "Epic Australian Adventure" provided by Concordia Publishing House. In the further future, the LCMS Youth Gathering will continue to be a huge focus for the entirety of this year.

DCE Message

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, . . .”
Hebrews 12:1

I want you to think about a typical race, like a 5K or marathon. Imagine it in your mind. What do you see? What images come to mind? Maybe you imagine the starting line, and you’re picturing all the runners anxiously getting ready to begin the race. Maybe instead, you’re imagining the course, and for those well prepared runners, you can see the whole path that lays before you. For those that like to visualize the goal completed, or those that just want to imagine getting the run over with, maybe you’re instead seeing the finish line, and you can almost feel the ribbon breaking as you finish in first place

Me, on the other hand, I like to imagine the crowds of people gathered to see the race taking place. I, personally, don’t like participating in organized runs, so maybe it is easy for me to imagine the cheering spectators because that’s the group with which I more so identify, at least in comparison to the runners. Something about cheering fans, proud parents, and devoted cheerleaders just seems to make sense for this type of occasion. After all, these individuals, these athletes, are about to complete an incredibly difficult task, with some races being even more difficult than others.

Our verse above draws us to pull these types of imagines into our own life as we continue to run the race put before us. Our race doesn’t involve starting pistols and running shorts, but it does involve endurance and a lot of hard work. We, of course, are talking about the race of life, and anyone who has been running for a while knows the course is anything but easy and straightforward. Sin, the devil, and the world only stand to make the race even more precarious. It’d be a wonder if anyone was able to finish well.

How can we do that, finish well I mean? Simply put, we can’t do it alone. To God be the glory, the race has already been won, and we get credit for a finish we don’t deserve. Jesus’ death on the cross opened the only path to salvation, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, we’re running the race that Jesus Christ laid out before us. We aren’t going to do it perfectly, but we can take a lot of comfort knowing that a lot of people, people just like us, have crossed that finish line before us. In fact, even now those people who have gone before us in the faith are waiting for us in heaven, and as we consider the book of Revelation, the Bible invites us to, even now, consider ourselves as part of that group in paradise who has finished the race, basking in the victory that our dear Savior, Jesus Christ, already won for us.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Through Your Word and the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us to run our race with hope and endurance always looking toward You for guidance, support, and encouragement.

All this we pray, in Your precious name.

Amen.

DCE, Derek Jareske

The New Zion Lutheran School

A fresh start was experienced by everyone at Zion Lutheran School's dedication! It was held on Sunday, February 16, 2025, immediately after the 10:00 a.m. church service for the building dedication, followed by an open house until 1:00 p.m. Brownies and ice cream were enjoyed in the gym at the conclusion of the tour of the new facility.

Since our groundbreaking in June 2023, we've watched our dream evolve into a state-of-the-art building that proudly serves the Pierce community. For 122 years, our congregation has cherished Christian education, and this new facility is a beautiful continuation of that tradition. In a community where parochial education is a rare opportunity, we feel truly blessed. From February 16 to 21, our dedicated staff, with the help of many church and school volunteers, will be moving into the new building. They will be busy setting up classrooms and preparing for an inspiring school year ahead.

Our modern facility has ten spacious classrooms, a welcoming library, a dedicated school office, three dynamic small-group work areas, a teacher work area on the second floor, restrooms on both levels, an elevator, student lockers on the second floor, and dual staircases—everything designed for optimal learning and growth.

This remarkable building, envisioned to nurture students for the next 100 years, was made possible by the generosity of so many wonderful supporters. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to Christian education and for sharing this passion within our community and beyond. The children who learn here will carry the gospel into every corner of the world. It all begins at Zion Lutheran Church and School!



Kindergarten Classroom

The kindergarteners have done a great job of adjusting and getting into our daily routine this year. We have 8 students in kindergarten. We continue to learn and grow each day.

A highlight this year is having “Zero the Hero” visit our classroom every 10 days. Whenever we reach a number that ends in zero, we get a visit from "Zero the Hero". We had great fun celebrating our 100th day of school with “Zero the Hero”. We celebrated by taking home special capes to decorate with 100 things on it. Students all had fun bringing their capes back to school and showing them off. All of the kindergarteners can count to 100 too. If you see a kindergartener ask them to count to 100 for you. They love to show off their counting skills.

Another highlight is Writer’s Workshop. They love to write! We focus a lot on starting our sentence with a capital letter, using the correct punctuation, and making sure our sentence makes sense. They are doing such a great job writing 1-2 simple sentences.

There are several students who are great little prayer warriors. It is truly an “awe” experience seeing such students get up and say a pray.

Blessings from the Kindergarten Classroom





May the sure hope that comes from the knowledge of the forgiveness won by Jesus Christ's glorious death and resurrection comfort and preserve you.

This time of the year, at least for me, always seems to come with a lot of wonder. Wonder that we have started a new year, wonder that we are already in February, and wonder that we are quickly approaching the season of Lent at the beginning of next month. Even with all of the fast approaching dates, including the ones like Confirmation that specifically impact the youth of this congregation, I don't want to get too ahead of ourselves and forget to see the opportunities that are currently taking place. With that in mind, we, here in the Zion Lutheran Church youth group planning department, have a lot of interesting opportunities planned for the next several weeks, and months, and we hope you take some time during this whirlwind time to join us for some events and meetings. That being said, the last several months have had a few opportunities for fun and excitement, as well. Enclosed are a few brief reminders and a quick recap of some things that have happened in regards to the Zion youth department lately.

As we quickly look toward the spring season, a few reminders would be very helpful for the people who love to show our support at games and shows. Speaking of activities, we hope you will continue to add our upcoming events to your calendar over this next season. We would love to see you at everything planned for the next few months, and we hope that you would like to share the fun by bringing a friend as well!

With that in mind, we have several planned activities to take place here in the near future. First will be our regular monthly Fusion Youth Group meeting for 7th through 12th grade students planned to take place every month, usually the second or third Sunday of the month, usually from 5PM to 8PM at Zion Lutheran Church.

Second will be an additional planned youth activity for 7th through 12th grade students to take place each month either here at Zion or at another destination, depending on the activity. As these types of events have differing schedules and time frames depending on what we are doing, and where we will be going, please make sure you are checking the weekly church bulletin, receiving our messages, and checking the website regularly. Third, we have a variety of planned fundraisers throughout the year as we continue to fundraise for our various initiatives. We would love to have your help!

Again, I would not suggest relying on Zion News alone as your source for new information. For information updated on a regular basis, I would highly encourage everyone to regularly review our more consistent means of communication, namely weekly church announcements, our church Facebook page, emails, text messages, and our church website. If, for some reason, you are unable to receive updates presently, please let us know, so we can work to correct this issue.

With that business taken care of, here is a brief recap of a few unique events and fundraisers from the past few months, in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Meetings. In the month of November, namely on November 10th, we held a joint meeting with St. John's, and we went on a hay-rack ride around the city of Pierce. This event went very well, and we had a lot of students in attendance, between Zion and St. John's, who enjoyed hot chocolate and the ride. In December, we held our annual youth Christmas party where the students enjoyed a shared potluck, party games, and a white elephant gift exchange. In January, we took a group of youth students and adult chaperones to Sioux Falls, SD to Great Bear Ski Valley for a day of skiing. This is always a fan favorite, and many of the students were sad to leave at the end of the day, despite the bitterly cold weather.

In terms of fundraisers, we recently held another Pizza Ranch fundraiser where the youth served as the waitstaff for the evening. December is always a big month for youth fundraisers as this is the month where we sell Christmas cards, host an Advent meal, and sell Christmas cookie and candy plates/platters. We are also continuing to sell discount cards for many Pierce, Norfolk, and even Wayne area businesses. These fundraisers went, and continue to go, extremely well, and I would like to thank the youth who have worked hard to manage these events, the parents who give of their time and money to make these events work so smoothly, and this congregation for their generosity. Although we did not hold a formal fundraiser in the month of January, we are currently selling Pastry Puffins and Zion youth and church apparel in the month of February. Please see our weekly church announcements or check our church website for more details. We would love your support!

We, of course, fundraise with a purpose. We are continuing to set aside money for the upcoming LCMS Youth Gathering which will take place in New Orleans in the summer of 2025. Otherwise, Vicar and I are planning to, once again, take a group of students on a camping trip as part of his yearly vicarage project. The students who attended last year had a great time, and we are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity again this year.

Again, all of these types of events are in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Group meetings in which we typically gather, share a meal, discuss a Bible Study, plan future youth initiatives, and have fun through fellowship activities. I am also continuing my Sunday School class for youth students on Sunday mornings. Anyone 7th through 12th grades is welcome!

Finally, if any confirmed youth would be interested in serving as an usher, or assisting in the sound booth, please speak to Mr. Jareske in the near future, so we can get your name on our list of volunteers. There really is a lot going on here at Zion, and we would love for all of the youth of this congregation to be a part of all of these exciting experiences.

Faith Weavers

Barring inclement weather, Faith Weavers will take place every Wednesday evening from 5:15PM-6:45PM as long as school is in session, or otherwise announced. If your child is between kindergarten and 6th grade, and they would like to attend, plan to have them join us this year of faith building, fun, and fellowship! Parents can find more information and register on our church website under "Educational Ministries" and "Faith Weavers." As we head into the spring season, please remember to check our church website for weather related updates. A general reminder, if the public school cancels due to weather, or other factors, on a particular Wednesday, Faith Weavers will be likewise canceled for that evening.

Please be advised that with the start of the Lenten season fast approaching, at least at the time of this writing, there will be church services taking place at 7:00PM for the six weeks of Lent, directly following the conclusion of Faith Weavers each week. Students and parents should use extra caution during pickup.

In addition, if any students in 7th grade and above and/or adults would like to help with FaithWeavers this year by answering the call to serve in some capacity, week to week, please contact Kim Baumann, Suzie Wachter, or Mr. Jareske (402-329-4313) as soon as possible. To ensure the continued success of this ministry, we are still looking for several volunteers to serve in various areas as new volunteers would be beneficial toward long term success, even if you would be willing to substitute to start. At this time, we are specifically looking for, at least, one new volunteer to assist in the kitchen with cooking, several volunteers to help by serving the meal without cooking, and several volunteers to assist with the Crafts Station.

Also, if you would be interested in donating to support the FaithWeavers program again this year, besides monetary donations, included in our weekly church announcements and website will be a list of some requested items. As always, your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated! Please put non-perishable donations in the marked bin in the kitchen with a note (from whom, for whom) and alert church staff about your donation. Cold items should be put in the refrigerator, and frozen items should be placed in the freezer. For more information, contact Mr. Jareske.

Also, if you would be interested in donating to support the FaithWeavers program again this year, besides monetary donations, included in our weekly church announcements, Facebook page, and website will be a list of some requested items beginning in the very near future. As always, your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated!

Please put non-perishable donations in the marked bin in the kitchen with a note (from whom, for whom) and alert church staff about your donation. Cold items should be put in the refrigerator, and frozen items should be placed in the freezer. For more information, contact Mr. Jareske.

A few food items that are consistently needed are:

1. Rolls of 85/15 or 80/20 ground beef
2. Large packages of frozen chicken nuggets
3. Packages of hotdog buns
4. Large packets of frozen french fries
5. Regular cans of mandarin oranges
6. Large bags of plain tortilla chips
7. Bags of shredded cheddar cheese
8. Regular bottles of mild taco sauce
9. Regular jars of mild salsa
10. Boxes of Kraft macaroni and cheese
11. Bags of shredded mozzarella cheese
12. 24 oz jars of spaghetti sauce
13. 16 oz packages of spaghetti noodles
14. Regular cans of fruit cocktail

Sunday School

Sunday School classes for all grades will Sunday School classes for all grades resumed after a brief Christmas break at our usual time of 9:00AM to 9:45PM. Each week, students should start in the Zion Lutheran Church gym and wait for their teacher to take them to their classroom. This year, Kathy Tinker will be teaching the Pre-School through Kindergarten class, Kathy Test will be teaching the 1st through 3rd grade class, Claudia Riggert will be teaching the 4th through 6th grade class, and Mr. Jareske will be teaching the 7th through 12th grade class. We are still looking for several substitute teachers, so if you are interested in helping with Sunday School during this year, please let Mr. Jareske know, as soon as possible. Otherwise, please continue making Sunday School classes part of your weekly routine!

Youth Sunday School

Calling all 7th through 12 graders! Mr. J will be continuing his Sunday School class for youth over the next semester during the regular Sunday School time (9:00AM to 9:45AM) on Sunday mornings, and he would love for you to join the group. As we head into high school, college, and beyond, it can get harder to find our place, navigate our direction, and see how the Bible fits into the equation. During this class, we will look at discussing these very ideas. This class is continuing currently, and we typically meet in either the church gym or Vicar's office. For classes, recently, we have been reviewing a broad summary of the early biblical accounts that we all grew up learning, just a little more deeply.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

Please join us following both church services on Sunday mornings as we engage in a time of fellowship and conversation with coffee and snacks included. No one need rush out the door! Also, if you would like to help with this endeavor, please contact the church office, and we will work to get you plugged in.



CUNE College Trip

If any high school age students, especially juniors and seniors, would be interested in possibly taking a group college visit to Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE) in Seward during this next year, please speak to Mr. Jareske in the near future to receive information about visit costs and waivers. CUNE is one of the universities in the LCMS university system, and they have a variety of programs of study, including several opportunities for those considering church work.

Youth Camping Retreat

The youth program at Zion Lutheran Church is currently planning a fellowship retreat for 5th and 6th graders to Ponca State Park this coming spring. This is being planned by Vicar Jacob Friedrich as part of his vicarage project, and although planning is still very much underway, we are looking to finalize a few details here in the very near future. That being said, we have recently handed out flyers with information, and we are looking for those to be returned with feedback. Otherwise, for anyone who would like to attend and/or help, please speak with Vicar Friedrich about ways to attend, contribute, volunteer, and/or chaperone for this trip. If you would like more information about this process, or if you would like more information about this upcoming trip in general, please feel free to reach out to Vicar or Mr. J in the near future. Please keep in mind, although this is being planned as a free to attend trip, families are expected to assist with our associated fundraising efforts.

Greeting Cards

Come check out our newly restocked assortment of greeting cards in the church office by the secretary's desk. We have a wide variety of options including birthday, sympathy, anniversary, wedding, and thank you cards all including a short Bible verse and biblically grounded message. Looking forward, we also have several boxes of Confirmation and Easter cards as you anticipate the Lenten season. All boxes are labeled with the price on the back of the box, and all funds can be left in the labeled purple container on the shelf with the cards. Checks can be made out to "Zion Lutheran Youth Group."

Vacation Bible School

Hard to believe, but it is once again time to start looking forward to Vacation Bible School for this upcoming summer! Planning is currently underway, and our planning group just recently decided which curriculum we will be using for this year. With that, this year we will be taking a trip down under as we explore the Australian outback through the newest curriculum by Concordia Publishing House, "Epic Australian Adventure." Given that it is only February, though, we are still in the very early planning stages, so if you would like to be involved in the planning process, please speak to Mr. J in the very near future. This event takes a lot of planning and preparation, and so we appreciate any help that anyone is able to offer.

For parents and guardians, look for more information to come in the next few weeks, and months, in our weekly announcements, church Facebook page, and on our church website, especially in regards to VBS registration.

LCMS Youth Gathering Update

We have already begun to hold monthly planning meetings as the 15 individuals who are planning to attend the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans will be well prepared for this mountain-top experience this coming July, specifically July 17th through 24th. We are currently planning to fly, so the next several months will be focused on getting everyone prepared for that endeavor, and as we look forward to a few extra days in Louisiana, we will also be discussing what types of unique experiences we would like to try. Overall, this is a large endeavor, so I would invite everyone to continue to pray for those adult leaders who are planning to walk with these students over this next year, especially as around \$30,000 will need to be fundraised for this event. For those planning to attend, please continue to check our weekly church announcements for details about planning meetings, deadlines, and upcoming opportunities to fundraise for this trip.

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☆☆ ***Just in case...*** ☆☆☆

☆☆ ***THE WEATHER MAN DOESN'T*** ☆☆☆

☆☆ ***COOPERATE CAUSING*** ☆☆☆

☆☆ ***CANCELLATIONS OR*** ☆☆☆

☆☆ ***POSTPONEMENTS*** ☆☆☆

☆ Weather or other problems can result in
☆ needed cancellations or postponements.
☆

★ If that occurs, attempts will be made to
★ call area radio stations at least two hours
★ before the event is to be held. If you have
★ a doubt on an event, please contact one of
★ the following stations:

☆	KEXL FM 106.7	KPNO FM 90.9
☆	KUSO FM 92.7	KGRD FM 105.3
☆	WJAG AM 780	KNEN FM 94.7

★ ***Did you know...*** that you can listen to
★ the church's sermon online?
★ www.zionlutheranplainview.org
★

Worship Assistance

If any youth students, or adults, would be willing to assist during church services on Sunday mornings, please call 402-329-4313 to let the church office know. We are currently looking for both ushers and technology booth assistance, and training will be provided for anyone willing to serve in either capacity. We have recently begun live-streaming our Sunday morning services with our new camera equipment, and in an effort to better manage all of the moving parts within a typical service, a few additional volunteers to assist with either running the soundboard, running the camera, or managing the slideshow would be very much appreciated.

Youth Apparel Fundraiser

The youth students of Zion Lutheran Church will be hosting an apparel sale which will feature a variety of clothing options, including shirts, pullovers, jackets, hats, and polos, emblazoned with our Zion Lutheran Church and Fusion Youth Group logos. Similar to when the school offers their apparel, Stadium Sports out of Wayne, NE has created a store portal for us to process orders, so that anyone interested can simply check out the store, pick their favorite items, and place their order all by following one convenient link (<https://zionlutheran25.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>). You can also check out our church website and Facebook page for a way to access the link, as well.

Please bear in mind, this store will only include a smaller stock of items and designs as this is mainly an opportunity to offer a few specific church and youth group clothing options. Item prices and options will vary, and for a good idea of everything offered, please check out the online store for more details. Enclosed are a few samples.

With that, we are currently planning to officially open the store portal on February 19th and the store will remain open until March 12th. At the conclusion of the order period, orders will be processed, and then items will be delivered to the church for distribution 10-14 business days after the store closes.

On top of this being a great opportunity to show your Zion pride as you go out and about in the world, this will also function as a fundraising opportunity for the youth group as a portion of each sale will come back to us to support the youth students with their various activities, events, and initiatives. As always, thank you, in advance, for your support and generosity! We wouldn't be able to have a youth program of this caliber if it wasn't for people like you



ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL PIERCE

WILD GAME FEED

Pierce County Fairgrounds



SATURDAY
3.22.25

FREE WILL DONATION BUFFET
5-7:30 WILD GAME FEED BUFFET

General and Reserved Seating Available

LIMITED RESERVED TABLES AVAILABLE

TO CHECK AVAILABILITY AND RESERVE YOUR TABLE CALL OR TEXT BETSY @ 402-360-4224

BIRD DOG TABLE \$500 | SEATING FOR 8 + CUT THE LINE PASSES

+20 MEAT RAFFLE TICKETS

+ ENTERED FOR EXCLUSIVE BIRD DOG TABLE SPONSOR GUN & LADIES PRIZE

RAFFLE TICKETS

BECK'S GUN RAFFLE

\$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$25

BROWNING MAXUS II ULTIMATE

SEMI AUTO SHOTGUN



MEAT RAFFLE TICKETS

\$5 EACH OR 5 FOR \$20

4 SIDES OF PORK

DONATED BY

JAY & LARELL MEIER

2 QUARTERS OF BEEF

DONATED BY

TOM & RUTH WEINRICH

LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

SILENT AUCTION

BIDDING WILL OPEN MARCH 17TH ONLINE

ALL BIDDING IS HOSTED ONLINE AT [EVENTS.HANBID.COM](https://events.hanbid.com)

BIDDING WILL CLOSE AT 8PM MARCH 22ND, 2025

7:45 PM LIVE AUCTION

CROSS GRAND PRIZE - \$2000

BUY A "CROSS ITEM" ON EITHER AUCTION FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE CROSS GRAND PRIZE!

*WINNER DRAWN AT THE END OF THE EVENT ON MARCH 22ND.

*MUST BE PRESENT OR HAVE A PROXY

MUSIC & DANCING
TO CLOSE OUT THE NIGHT

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL | 520 E MAIN ST PIERCE, NE | 402.329.4658

15th Annual WILD GAME FEED, March 22nd, Pierce County Fairgrounds!

The 15th Annual Zion Lutheran School Wild Game Feed plans are underway! This year's Wild Game Feed will be held on Saturday, March 22nd at the Pavillion on the Pierce County Fairgrounds! This Free-Will offering wild game feed buffet dinner is one of the largest Wild Game Feed buffets in the area and largest fundraiser for Zion Lutheran School! All are invited to join us for the food, auction, games and fun at this family friendly and Christ centered event. The buffet will open at 5:00pm and the live auction and DJ Music will begin around 7:30.

Donations are now being accepted for the Wild Game Feed Buffet (fish is always needed) and Live and Silent Auction. If you have questions or would like to donate please reach out to Kyle & Ashley Halsey or Lydee Jo Krueger.

The auction will feature baskets from all of the Zion Classrooms, Hunting & Fishing Trips, Home items and so much more!

There are also 3 raffles this year. The Meat Raffle features 2 Quarters of Beef from Tom & Ruth Weinrich, and 4 sides of pork from Jay & Larell Meier, a - *BROWNING MAXUS II ULTIMATE SEMI-AUTO SHOTGUN* from Beck's Hybrids-Jeff Meier, and the chance at a Youth Lifetime Hunting and Fishing Permit.

Please follow the Wild Game Feed on Facebook and if you need any additional information or have questions, please reach out to on the Wild Game Feed Committee Members!

Aluminum Can Collection

As you may have noticed, we recently took the bags of aluminum cans to the collection center, and now we are ready to begin collecting again. If you would like to collect and donate your aluminum cans to Zion Lutheran Church, bags of cans can be placed in the fenced in cage in the gravel parking lot near the garage. We do ask that all cans be completely empty before being donated, cans be bagged together, and because we will not be inspecting the bags, that only aluminum be included, not other garbage. It would also be our preference that cans are crushed, so that way we are getting the most from each bag of cans being taken to Norfolk, but this is not a necessity. Also, if you happen to notice in your donation attempts that the cage has become full, please feel free to alert the church office. We appreciate your help!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2024 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND			
BALANCE FORWARD			\$535.00
4TH QUARTER	\$3,510.00		\$4,045.00
NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS		\$1,890.00	\$2,155.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE			\$9,603.80
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$592.30		\$10,196.10
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 1 BALANCE			\$4,319.80
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 2 BALANCE			\$3,695.53
ENVELOPES	\$1.00		\$3,696.53
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE			\$1,775.40
EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE			\$1,622.78
BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOME-XMAS EVE & DAY	\$2,250.00		\$2,250.00
LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE-XMAS EVE & DAY	\$1,125.00		\$1,125.00
MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST			\$30.10
4TH QUARTER	\$13.15		\$56.82
MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE			\$4,216.71
ARDITH WARNEKE	\$75.00		\$4,291.71
MIDWEST MUSIC CENTER-CHURCH CAMERA		\$495.20	\$3,796.51
BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE			\$3,630.55
CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY	\$1,125.00		\$4,755.55
ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN		\$1,500.00	\$3,255.55
TOM'S SERVICE-NON-MEMBER		\$40.57	\$3,214.98
CHOIR FUND - BALANCE			\$869.30
ORGAN FUND - BALANCE			\$13,991.00
PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE			\$1,447.24
PAX CHRISTMAS SERVICE	\$629.00		\$2,076.24
VICAR FUND - BALANCE			\$17,181.68
4TH QUARTER	\$2,020.00	-	\$19,201.68
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$6,844.98	\$12,356.70
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE			\$16,694.67
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$3,003.00		\$19,697.67
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #2053	\$317.01		\$20,014.68
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071	\$143.34		\$20,158.02
DIRECT DEPOSITS	\$495.00		\$20,653.02
MIDWEST BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$10.88		\$20,663.90
FURNACE LOAN		\$979.62	\$19,684.28
JOHNSON'S INC.-HVAC PLANNED MAINT.		\$1,105.00	\$18,579.28

Zion Lutheran Church							
Budget 2024-25							
	Budget 24-25	1st Qt.	2nd Qt.	3rd Qt.	4th Qt.	Fiscal Year	% of Budget
Income Accounts							
Offering Weekly Envelopes	\$ 560,000.00	\$ 122,124.27	\$ 162,922.52			\$ 285,046.79	50.9%
Non-Member Tuition	\$ 22,550.00	\$ 2,410.00	\$ 3,615.00			\$ 6,025.00	26.7%
Member Tuition	\$ 71,250.00	\$ 4,550.00	\$ 6,825.00			\$ 11,375.00	16.0%
PK Tuition	\$ 20,070.00	\$ 3,715.00	\$ 5,572.50			\$ 9,287.50	46.3%
Game Feed Payroll Reimbursement	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -	0.0%
School Budget Surplus	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -			\$ 30,000.00	157.9%
Other Income	\$ 43,620.00	\$ 9,856.71	\$ 27,615.74			\$ 37,472.45	85.9%
Investment Income	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 28,000.68	\$ 50,958.04			\$ 78,958.72	52.6%
Total Income	\$ 904,490.00	\$ 200,656.66	\$ 257,508.80			\$ 458,165.46	50.7%
Expense Accounts							
Operating / Office	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 3,527.58	\$ 6,079.98			\$ 9,607.56	60.0%
Property Maintenance/Insurance	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 6,593.65	\$ 11,416.30			\$ 18,009.95	43.9%
Loan Interest Expense	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 7,899.13	\$ -			\$ 7,899.13	60.8%
Utilities	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 5,878.86	\$ 6,335.05			\$ 12,213.91	32.1%
Program Expenses	\$ 18,300.00	\$ 2,101.35	\$ 1,611.03			\$ 3,712.38	20.3%
Salary/Worker Benefits	\$ 757,815.00	\$ 189,335.98	\$ 221,022.34			\$ 410,358.32	54.2%
Hired Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 3,376.25			\$ 6,226.25	31.1%
Total Expense	\$ 904,115.00	\$ 218,186.55	\$ 249,840.95			\$ 468,027.50	51.8%
Income less Expenses	\$ 375.00	\$ (17,529.89)	\$ 7,667.85			\$ (9,862.04)	



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

LLL—MC Begins a New Year

COME AND JOIN US—Come and join us for a monthly Bible Study at our LLL-MC meeting time. Our monthly schedule is the second Thursday each month at 2:00 p.m. Our current Bible study is on *Psalms 119*. Our schedule for the monthly meeting is Bible study, brief meeting time, and social time.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions this year are written by multiple authors and follow a weekly schedule based to the Three-Year Lectionary Series C found in the Lutheran Service Book. Try them for your family devotion time.

Daily Devotions have a schedule for individual days of the week:

Sunday - A hymn from the Lutheran Service Book

Monday - The Psalms

Tuesday - The Old Testament text

Wednesday - The New Testament text

Thursday - The Gospel text

Friday - Text from **The Lutheran Hour** Speaker

Saturday - A sermon excerpt by a previous Speaker of **The Lutheran Hour**

Subscribe to LHM's **Daily Devotions** at: <https://www.lhm.org/newsroom/> .

!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MEETING

January 29, 2025

Chairman Mike Krueger called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bruce opened with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Todd Stonacek made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rick Sirek seconded; motion carried.

Greg Warneke gave the General Treasurer's report. He moved to accept his report as written. Tyler Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Baumann gave the Mission Treasurer's report. Mike made a motion to accept his report as presented. Chris Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Endowment committee presented a report from 2013 to present showing the balance of the accounts, money transferred for matching funds and disbursement of interest and the growth of the account through the years. 2 more members are needed due to vacancies. Rick Sirek and Brian Blecher both agree to serve. They will be voted on in new business. Mike Baumann made a motion to accept the Endowment Report. Randy Snodgrass seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter gave the Statistical Report. He moved to accept the report. Randy Snodgrass seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald then gave the Elder's Report. Election results from their meeting was, Jerald Wachter Chairman, Eric Retzlaff Vice Chairman, and Andy White Secretary. They discussed the dedication of the new school. Plans are to have the dedication after the 10AM service. The kids will sing at the service and following the service, there will be tours, coffee, cookies, and possibly a meal. Amanda Jareske has been hired to serve as Church Secretary, with her hours being Monday through Thursday from 8AM to 2 PM. Amy Weber-Podany has been helping with Amanda's training and is willing to stay on parttime to help out. There is a Delegate and an alternate needed June 20-21 for the District Convention, as Pastor has to officiate a wedding that weekend. Lent begins March 5th. Jerald moved we accept his report. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

Eric Vaness gave the Trustee's Report. They are working to repair the dimmer switch in the narthex, as well as putting switches in the back of church so the breaker box will not longer be used to turn lights on and off. Eric moved to accept his report. Blake Stonacek seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler Krueger gave the Board of Education Report. Tyler Krueger is President, Jodi Beacom is Vice-President, and Laura Benes is Secretary. Tuition will be moved from \$750 to \$1000 per member's child for the 2025-2026 school year. The new school will be dedicated before any moving begins. He included a printed school budget with his report. Tyler made a motion to accept his report. Rick Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Bruce submitted his report. Submitted as written. Pastor moved to accept his report. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Friedrich gave his report. Submitted as written. Vicar moved to accept his report. Todd Stonacek seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer Snodgrass reported on the school. Submitted a written report. She moved to accept her report. Tyler Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Jareske, DCE gave his report. Submitted as written. Derek moved to accept his report. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business. The walk through for the new school is scheduled for February 5th and completely done February 7th.

New Business. Mike Baumann made a motion to have Rick Sirek and Brian Blecher fill the vacant spots on the Endowment Committee. Andrew Wolf seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter made a motion to apply for a new vicar for the upcoming year. Andy White seconded. Discussion. Ballot vote. 23 yes, 14 no, motion carried.

Tyler Krueger addressed the voters to consider approving the suggested increase for our church workers keeping current with the synod guidelines. This would be a 4.7% increase. Chris Krueger made a motion to approve the proposed salary increases. Andy White seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Warneke made a motion to approve and have signed the Corporate Resolution of Zion Lutheran Church. Rick Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor continues to work on updating the Constitution and By-laws of our congregation.

Sue Warneke made a motion to adjourn. Mike Baumann seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Krueger, Secretary



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
520 E. Main Street
Pierce, NE 68767

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