

Zion News

Fall and New Beginnings at Zion

In many ways, the season of Fall begins the New Year. The school year has a way of giving the element “new” to August and September. The rituals of returning to school are a part of community-wide events—bands, football games, volleyball—and hopes of a championship season are in the air. Harvest is coming soon. Combines and trucks and days and nights of harvest. Days and nights are cooler and the days shorten. The smell of leaves and harvesting waft everywhere. Pretty soon the first freeze. Some say there are really only two seasons: maintenance and Winter!

In Biblical times, the new year was Rosh Hashanah which this year begins at *sundown* on Monday September 22 and concludes at *nightfall* September 24. The Biblical Day and Calendar remind us of an important understanding of time. The six days of creation in Genesis begin this way: “and it was evening and morning, the first day...” The day begins in darkness, we might say “death.” So also, in North America, the new year begins as darkness increases. Already in the beginning, Christ Jesus is present in every season of our lives

Here at Zion this Fall, the retirement of Pastor Bruce, your faithful pastor and servant of God’s Word for 38 years, it is a time of evening and ending, but it is also morning and new beginnings. What else can be said then? ...Only this: “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

God’s word in Jesus Christ, the beginning and the end, is always the truth of Holy Baptism. Both death and resurrection, in that order! Romans 6 reminds us now that Zion Lutheran Church has a “new year”—“*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*”

Happy Fall and New Beginnings, walking together in newness of life.

***Pastor Leon Rosenthal
Guest Pastor***

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)**

Church Office.....402-329-4313
School Office.....402-329-4658

Church

churchoffice@zionlutheranpierce.com

DCE

dcejareske@zionlutheranpierce.com

School

zlsoffice@zionlutheranpierce.com

Principal

principal@zionlutheranpierce.com



Find us on:
facebook®

Worship

9:00am (rotating PAX & Traditional
Services)

PAX: 1st, 3rd, 5th

Traditional: 2nd & 4th (Communion)

Mr. Derek Jareske
Director of Christian Ed

Mr. David Beikmann
Principal

Mrs. April Anson
School Secretary

**Guest Pastor for August and
September**
Pastor Leon Rosenthal

**Prayer
List . . .**



Mari Ortmeier
Addie Voelker
Nate Bolling
Shane Dozy
Dawn Tucker
Lavonne Fleer
Dawn Flinn
Rayleen Wesemann
Pastor Birtell
Les Richmond

STATISTICAL REPORT

Baptisms

06/01/25	Walker Charles Wragge
06/15/25	Greyson Joe Flesner
06/15/25	Ashlynn Leslee Ziemer
06/22/25	Nora Nadine Starkel
07/20/25	Sylvy Lyndy Asmus

Confirmations

06/27/25	Michelle Kroeger
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Funerals

06/26/25	Leroy Fischer
06/28/25	Betty Henzler
07/10/25	Janice "Jan" Koehler

Transferred In

06/16/25	Dawson Weber
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Transferred Out

06/02/25	Marie Sue Stone
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Affirmation of Faith

06/17/25	Jody Brabec
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Marriages

06/14/25	Ashlin Warneke & Kyle West
06/21/25	Brynnlee Marks & Dean Orwig

Released

05/05/25	Amy Lambrecht
05/05/25	Autumn Lambrecht
05/05/25	Isaac Lambrecht

If you need to schedule an event, please call the church office to schedule first. All calendars need to be checked to make sure dates and times are open and available with no overlap.

To care for the needs of this congregation and provide new opportunities to serve, we are looking for individuals who might be able to help with our lawn care needs. If you would like to serve in this way, please scan the provided QR code to be directed to a website where you can learn more about this process and sign up to mow and trim on a particular week. Feel free to also reach out to a member of our Board of Trustees for more information.

Please keep in mind that when you sign up, the parsonage will also be apart of the weekly mowing.

Thank you for all the help!



Dates to keep in mind:

*The church office will be closed
September 1 for Labor Day*

*Sunday School begins **September 7 at 10am.***

*Education Sunday is on **September 7 with the Zion Lutheran School kids singing at 9am***

*Confirmation begins **September 10 at 4:00pm***

*Faith Weavers begins **September 10 at 5:15 pm***

DCE Message

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

It's no secret that we have been going through tough times, and depending on your perspective and experience, it might be difficult to know what, or when, I'm exactly talking about. The news has stories of people hungry, sick, and dying all over the world, and even in our own country top experts can't agree on what to do about a variety of issues.

Here at home, within the walls of Zion Lutheran Church, maybe your worries are a little more focused around a pastoral vacancy and the suspension of the vicarage program. Maybe you worry about your favorite service disappearing on a weekly basis, maybe you worry about the study that a pastor or vicar used to teach, or maybe you worry about a special event planned for the future, and you don't know who will be available to officiate. At times like these we might be tempted to shout to the sky and ask, “When are things ever going to get better!?!”

When we struggle, as individuals, communities, nations, and even congregations, we might sometimes feel like we struggle alone. “We're living through the worst times,” you might say, and we might even believe that no one has gone through what you or I are currently going through. Hate to break it to you, as long as sin has existed in the world, there have been people who have been struggling, and although we live in unique times, we do not hold the patent on living through hard times. Every generation has struggled, and yet every generation has endured.

None of us probably readily remembers the last pastoral vacancy, the benefit of having the same pastor for over 35 years, and although I wasn't here at the time, I can guarantee that the congregation of those days survived the experience. How can I be so sure? Simple, Zion Lutheran Church is still here to this day. Did those people struggle? Absolutely! Did difficult changes have to be made to adapt to the situation? Without a doubt! Was God still good, and did God still hold that situation in His hands? Most certainly!

In the midst of a struggle, I think our sinful nature tries to overshadow our faith with doubt, so we can't see the light at the end of the tunnel. We are so lost in our grief, shame, and fear that we don't know which way is up, and yet God is still working. Maybe you have heard the saying, “Sometimes the only way out is through.” For Christians, those called to faith through the work of the Holy Spirit, I would maybe take that a step further and say, “The only way out is always through God.”

God is still in control, and although we don't always see that, it doesn't make it any less true. We continue to struggle, but guess what, Jesus warned us ahead of time that would be the case. He also said, “I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) Jesus has already conquered our greatest enemies, and in that truth, believers can find joy and peace. That doesn't mean life will suddenly get easy for us, but it does mean, with the help of God, we can continue to work through it.

We are going through tough times. There is no doubt about that, but the good news is that God already knows how He is going to work these things out. God is already working for our ultimate good, and guess what, He is bringing all of us along for the ride. I don't know how everything is going to come together in the end.

I don't know how long it will take for our current struggles to get better, and yet because God does, I can, with the help of the Holy Spirit, take up my load and serve with peace and joy. For all of us, I do think God has called us together to serve within this congregation for a purpose, and in this time of unique change, I hope you see this as an opportunity for God to do a new and amazing thing at Zion Lutheran Church and for you to serve, not begrudgingly or in servitude, with joy and peace.

DCE, Derek Jareske

Vicar Jacob Friedrich Final Report

The end of my vicarage has come. I have appreciated my time here at Zion Lutheran Church. I thank every single person for the support and prayers. I have truly grown here in Pierce, Nebraska. I have been blessed to be part of your school. The students of our school will truly be a blessing to Pierce. They are kind, thoughtful, and full of vigor. I think the new school is a reminder that Zion Lutheran church can change Pierce for the better.

I have truly appreciated all the support for the Ponca State Park Camping trip. The trip was successful. The kids appreciated all the activities we did. They wished that the trip were longer. We had so much fun playing games, learning about Jesus, throwing water balloons, and telling ghost stories around the fire. It was a privilege to lead the trip. I was thankful that we had wonderful supervisors to watch over the kids. They deserve a round of applause.

As a head of out of Nebraska, I will remember Zion Lutheran church forever. I am grateful to be the last vicar you will have for a while. The time I spent with Pastor Bruce was very helpful. On top of this, Derek is a wonderful role model for the church. He is a person to look up to. I pray that God will give me the strength to become more like him. I now know how to handle the challenges of being a pastor. I will keep Zion Lutheran church in my prayers. Thank you for being a wonderful congregation.



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.

As we look forward to September, it is once again time to prepare for another year of school in Pierce, NE. Where did the summer go!?! Just yesterday we were gathered for VBS, and now we are preparing to gathering for our first baptismal chapel of the new school year. Although the close of another summer season comes with many mixed emotions, we here in the Zion youth group planning department are also filled with a lot of excitement about the many types of opportunities that will take place over this next school year. With that in mind, there are a lot of interesting opportunities currently being planned for the next several weeks, and months, and we hope that our youth students take some time amidst all of the activities, studies, and practices to join us for some upcoming events and meetings. If, on the other hand, you haven't joined us lately and need a bit of catching up before jumping back into things, let me give you a quick recap. To that end, enclosed are a few brief reminders and a small summary of a few things that have happened in regards to the Zion youth department lately.

First, as we prepare to look toward to the fall activities season, a few reminders about games and activities would be especially helpful for the people who love to show our support and encouragement. Speaking of events, we hope you will continue to add our upcoming events to your calendar, especially as we work to plan an abundance of opportunities month to month. As always, we would love to see as many youth students as possible at everything planned this semester, and we hope our youth would like to share the fun by bringing a friend as well!

Speaking of which, we have several planned for the near future. First will be our regular Fusion Youth Group meeting for 7th through 12th graders planned to take place every month, usually the second or third Sunday of the month, usually from 5PM to 7PM at Zion Lutheran Church. We have also recently started offering a specific youth meeting for just 9th through 12th grade students, monthly, and we would love to have you. These meetings will likely take place the third or fourth Sunday of the month, usually from 5PM to 7PM.

Third will be an additional planned youth activity for youth students, grades able to attend may vary depending on the event, 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.

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.

Fourth, we have a variety of planned fundraisers throughout the year as we continue to fund-raise for our various initiatives. We would love to have your help!

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With all that said, here is a brief recap of a few unique events and fundraisers from the summer months. For starters, Vicar lead a group of 5th and 6th grade students on a camping trip to Ponca in the month of May. This event went very well, and I believe the students that attended had a very fun, educational, and enriching experience. Looking at the month of June, we had several students from this congregation, along with many students from the community, help with the yearly opportunity to enrich this community through the event, Hands for Christ. I, once again this year, helped by taking footage and putting together the summary video. That same weekend, several students, Vicar, and I attended the Christian Cross Fest in Norfolk, and toward the end of June, we once again took a group of youth students to the waterpark in Sioux Falls, SD to enjoy a day in the water and sun.

In terms of fund raising, our two major fundraisers for the summer months were serving as the waitstaff at Pizza Ranch toward the end of May and hosting a wanted fundraiser were in which people were nominated for arrest and then had to secure their bail to be released. Both these fundraisers went very well, and we also took up a collection for anyone who wished to support the LCMS Youth Gathering students, directly, through an envelope campaign.

We, of course, fundraised with a purpose. Our longterm goal, which was finally met this summer, was to set aside enough money for the LCMS Youth Gathering, which took place in New Orleans in July. For more information about how this event went for our group, please continue reading and look for the article specially dedicated to this topic featured further in this Zion News publication.

Again, all of these types of events are in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Group meetings in which we typically gather as a group, share a meal, discuss a Bible Study lesson, plan future youth initiatives, and have fun through fellowship activities. To round out our program offerings for youth, Sunday School classes for children resume in the first part of September, and we would love to see any youth students who would like to continue our study and discussion of the Bible on Sunday mornings. Anyone in 7th through 12th grade is welcome!

Finally, if any confirmed youth would be interested in serving as an usher, or assisting in the sound booth, during this next year, please speak to Mr. Jareske in the near future, so we can get your name on our list of volunteers.

Faith Weavers

With school just beginning at the time of this writing, it is once again time to start thinking about joining us for another year of Faith Weaver Friends at Zion Lutheran Church. Faith Weavers will begin on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025, and it will take place every Wednesday evening from 5:15PM-6:45PM as long as school is in session, or otherwise announced. A quick reminder, if the public school does decide to cancel school for any reason, it is our policy to be likewise closed on that Wednesday. Otherwise, if your child is between Kindergarten and 6th grade, please consider having them join us for another year of faith building, fun, and fellowship! Parents and guardians can either register using a paper registration, which can be found in the church office and narthex, or on our church website, under “Educational Ministries” and “Faith Weavers.” If children are planning to attend, please make sure to complete this registration, so we have all needed student and contact information in case of an emergency.

As this weekly event is dependent on the teamwork of volunteers and supporters, we are once again putting out the call for assistance. If you are a 7th grade student and older and/or an adult, and you feel called to help this year by serving in some capacity, week to week, please contact Kim Baumann, Suzie Wachter, or Mr. Jareske (402-329-4313) as soon as possible. We have several volunteers who have put in many years of faithful service, and although no station leaders and group leaders have yet expressed interest in moving out of their current role, adding a group of new volunteers would be beneficial to the continued success of this ministry. Even if you would be willing to substitute for one of our group leaders from time to time to get started, this would be greatly appreciated. We are also looking for several new volunteers who would be able to assist in the kitchen with cooking this year, several volunteers who could help serve the meal, without cooking, and several volunteers who could help assist with our various stations. For more information, please contact Mr. Jareske to inquire.

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 is a list of some requested items. As always, your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated!

Zion Lutheran Church
invites all children in Kindergarten – 6th grade
to come to . . .



Weaving Faith into Everyday Life!

**An exciting place for children to come and
grow in their faith through . . .**



Food



Bible Lessons



Music



Crafts



Games



and Fun!

**From 5:15PM – 6:45PM every Wednesday, unless otherwise
announced, beginning on September 10th, 2025.
Children should enter through the church narthex doors.**

*A freewill donation will be collected each
week to help pay for meal costs and supplies.*

**REGISTER ONLINE AT ZIONLUTHERANPIERCE.COM UNDER
THE “EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES” AND “FAITH WEAVERS”
TABS OR BY SCANNING THE INCLUDED QR CODE,
CURRENTLY.**

**PAPER REGISTRATIONS CAN BE FOUND IN THE CHURCH
OFFICE.**

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO
STAY INFORMED!**



***REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED, EITHER PAPER OR ONLINE, IF ATTENDING.**

Sunday School

Sunday School classes for all grades will resume beginning on Sunday, September 7th, 2025, at our new time of 10:00AM to 10:45AM, and they will continue every Sunday throughout the school year, unless otherwise announced. If families are considering Sunday School classes for their students for this year, please take some time to fill out a registration sheet, found in the church office and narthex, and then return them to Mr. J, or the church office, at your earliest opportunity. 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, Adrienne Riggert will be teaching the 4th through 6th grade class, and Mr. Jareske will be teaching the 7th through 12th grade class. With that in mind, though, we are still currently looking for several substitute teachers to assist in the event of teacher absences. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School during this year, or you would just like to inquire at this point, please let Mr. Jareske know, as soon as possible. He can be contacted at the church by phone (402-329-4313) or email (dcejareske@zionlutheranpierce.com).

In addition, Adult Bible Study classes will also be resuming beginning on September 7th in the Zion fellowship hall during the same Sunday School time.

Going into this new school year, please consider making Sunday School and Adult Bible Study classes part of your weekly routine.

Zion Lutheran Church of Pierce, NE invites you to . . .

ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL

Student Registration Form (2025-2026)

For all children, Kindergarten through 8th grade, attending Sunday School

First Name	Last Name	Birthday	Age	Current Grade	Allergies (Food and/or Medical)

Major Medical Concerns/Special Needs: _____

Other Information: _____

Has your child been baptized? _____

We are always looking for extra help. Please let us know how we can contact someone from your family to be able to serve in some way during this year. _____

*To complete registration, please read, fill out, and sign the back of this form.
Thank you for registering your children! Please return this form to Zion Lutheran Church as soon as possible.

Parent Information, Guidelines, and Disclosure Agreements

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Primary Address (Street, City, State, and Zip): _____

Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Secondary Contact's Name: _____

Relationship to Student: _____ Phone: _____

Is this person authorized to pick up this child(ren)?: _____

By signing below, you agree that you have read these Primary Guidelines:

- Children should enter, and exit, through the kitchen or church office doors. All students will assemble in the Zion gym to pray and to wait for their teacher before going to their respective classrooms.
- Children are asked not to bring food, drinks, candy, or gum. If your child(ren) has specific health considerations, please indicate this as part of the other information section above. We will work to accommodate.
- Children will be expected to stay with their class and participate in instruction and activities
- Most lessons include lots of involvement, but children will be expected to listen during "teacher time" within classroom instructional periods.
- If a child's behavior is unkind or disruptive, they may be removed from their class for a short, supervised, period of time. If the behavior continues, we may call you on the phone for additional support or suggestions.
- Please come into the building, if at all possible, to pick up children in the Zion gym. We ask this for the safety of your children. It helps us know they are going home and not just in the parking lot. Thank you!

Every activity sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church is adequately supervised, however, unforeseen events can occur. By signing below, I agree to assume all risks associated with attending this program as to not hold Zion Lutheran Church, employees, and volunteers liable for damages, losses, and injuries to the person(s), and any personal property, registered.

By signing below, I agree that this program may photograph and/or film the designated minor(s) for any purposes that are lawful, appropriate, and related to Zion Lutheran Church and this ministry program. I understand that this media may be used for the purposes of promotion relating to Zion Lutheran Church and this program.

By signing below, I authorize Zion Lutheran Church and program staff to treat the above designated minor(s) using basic first aid, if needed. In the event of a major illness and/or injury, I authorize the use of professional medical personnel in the interest of providing emergency medical aid to the designated minor(s). I recognize that I will be responsible for all associated costs relating to any medical care.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Greeting Cards

The youth group has recently restocked our large variety of available cards in the church office, so if you have been waiting to buy your cards from us, the wait can be officially over! We have also started to supply a greater selection of birthday cards for all ages, so hopefully everyone will be able to find the right box of cards for their needs. If anyone needs cards in the next several weeks, or months, payment can be placed in the lockbox on the card assortment shelf. Checks can be made payable to “Zion Youth.”

Acolyting and Ushering

All 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students are needed for another year of service during Sunday morning church services as we work to feature acolytes each week. During our pastoral vacancy, we have recently gone down to just one church service a week, taking place on Sunday mornings at 9:00AM, so only two individuals will be needed on these mornings. We are also opening up the possibility to assist with the slides for one individual each week if you would prefer to work behind the scenes. With that, we have recently begun a self-scheduling initiative wherein which families are able to look through all possible dates within a three month period and then sign up for the date, and the service opportunity, that works best for them. At this time of reduced services, families only need sign up for one week within a three month period, and if any dates are not filled, we fill then randomly assign any unassigned students to cover those dates. As always, the church will not facilitate trades and switches, so if families find that a week does not work for them after signing up, they should work with other families to get that week covered. The next sign up period will open on September 11th, families will have until the end of the month to sign up, and then the next schedule, with all assignments included, will be sent out in early October. If we do not have your current information, please take some time to update your email address, phone number, and mailing address with our church secretary as these are the primary ways in which we contact families.

In addition, if any newly confirmed, or previously confirmed, youth students 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. For youth students currently assisting, the usher schedule will also be self-scheduled, and the new sign up will also open on September 11th

Confirmation

Confirmation classes for public school 7th and 8th grade students will be once again taking place on Wednesday afternoons, from 4:00PM to 5:30PM, beginning on Wednesday, September 10th, 2025. These classes will continue at that time on most Wednesday evenings into the spring, unless otherwise announced. A quick reminder, if the public school does decide to cancel school for any reason, it is our policy to be likewise closed for Confirmation classes on that Wednesday. As of now, the 7th and 8th grade students will be learning from our DCE, Derek Jareske, in the old 7th/8th grade school classroom. Both 7th and 8th grade students will need a copy of Luther's Small Catechism for class each week, so if students have not yet received a copy of this resource, it can be purchased from the church for \$20 a copy. Families should also work to complete a registration sheet and pick up a few information sheets at their earliest possible opportunity. For more information, please contact the church office.

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.

Vacation Bible School

During the week of June 2nd through June 6th, Zion Lutheran Church and the students of this community went on an awesome Australian tour through God's Word as we traveled the scenic sites of the Down Under through our Vacation Bible School for this year, Epic Australian Adventure by Concordia Publishing House. Throughout this week, our over 45 volunteers and roster of approximately 124 registered students learned from several accounts from the Bible that taught us that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Looking through the posted pictures on the Zion Lutheran Church Facebook page and website, parents and guardians can see some of our amazing stations from VBS this year, including crafts, story, games, snacks, and music. The students seemed to have an amazing time, and the volunteers really enjoyed being able to provide this opportunity for this congregation. Going forward, we hope to be able to continue to offer great opportunities for the children and youth of this community. Jesus is the way!

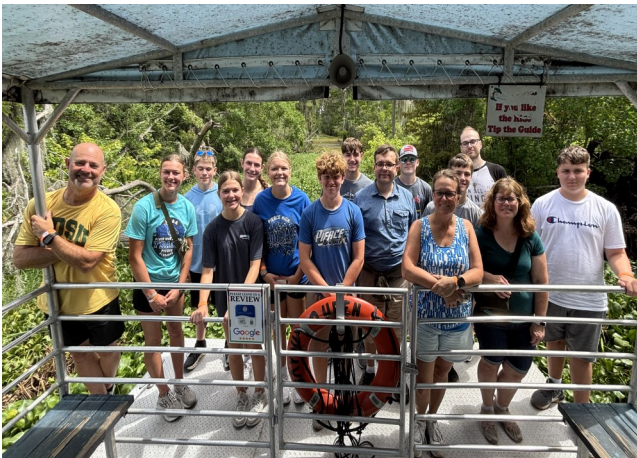


VBS Thank You

Just wanted to take a brief moment to say some words of thanks to everyone involved with our Vacation Bible School program for this year. First, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the parents that supported Vacation Bible School this year by sharing their children with this church this week, so that we could work to learn and grow by journeying into the Bible each day. We would also like to thank our amazing group of volunteers who truly and absolutely make this program possible. As always, the students had a great time, and although it is a big undertaking, it is always well worth the effort by everyone involved. That being said, we sincerely would not be able to provide this type of experience if it not for the amazing commitment of our gifted station leaders and guides. We would as like to thank all of the students who attended VBS and helped us to made it a week to truly remember. Finally, we would like to thank the families of this community and this congregation for their support, encouragement, prayers, donations, and general generosity. Your collaboration with this VBS program this year has been truly and greatly appreciated!

LCMS Youth Gathering

Just over a month ago, at this point, we finally attended the culmination of several years worth of planning, organizing, and fundraising for our youth students, Adult Leaders, parents, and this congregation, the LCMS Youth Gathering. This awesome and enriching opportunity for youth students was open to youth between the ages of 14 and 19 years old and their accompanying Adult Leaders from all over the United States, and for our part, we took 10 youth students and 5 adults from this congregation. For those who have not had experience with the LCMS Youth Gathering, previously the National Youth Gathering, in the past, this is an event held every three years by the youth department of the LCMS for the purposes of bringing youth from all over the country together to learn, cooperate, communicate, develop leadership skills, engage in fellowship, give back, and grow in their Christian walk with other high school age youth students.



When this event took place, something like 20,000 youth students and their Adult Leaders traveled to the selected host city, New Orleans, LA, and spent a week journeying through what can only be described as a true mountaintop experience focused on the theme of ENDURE.

To say we had a great time would be too much of an understatement because I really do see this trip as a life changing opportunity. To give just a brief summary of the trip, although we began with a few travel complications on the way down, of which you have likely heard already, we all did make it to New Orleans in one piece, and we were determined to get the most out of this trip beginning on the second day. The first few days after arriving were spent mainly sightseeing and taking in various tourist attractions, including a swamp tour and a trip to the Audubon Zoo, Aquarium, and Insectarium.

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On Saturday night the official Gathering festivities began with a bang as we attended our Nebraska District event, participated in a second line parade to the Caesars Superdome, and worshipped during our first Mass Event. This, of course, was just the beginning, and Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday were all about studies and sessions at the convention center.

Here we got to hear from a variety of amazing speakers and teachers from all over the world as they described and walked through a variety of topics including saying no, learning to forgive yourself, growing your church young, and talking to parents. I am always a little surprised, in the best way, when the students say that some of their best memories of any Gathering are the awesome speakers and not the tourist attractions.

On Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, each night of these days ended with a Mass Event where students were able to join together in song, worship, study, devotion, and fellowship together with all of the Gathering participants in the Superdome. These were truly an awe inspiring sight as 20,000 individuals joined together to praise our living and reigning Savior, Jesus Christ. I truly love how the attending participants will often take out their phone on slow songs, turn on the flashlight, a wave their phone in rhythm with all of the other people who have joined together to attend this event. In these quiet moments simply illuminated by just phone lights, you can really see how large the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod really is. We were also treated to two Mass Event Plus concerts where in which the two big acts, FLAME and Rend Collective, put on a great show. We ended each night of our trip, barring the first night, with a devotion where we discussed a variety of big topics like working through struggles, forgiving, and serving during the valley times of our life.

The Gathering week concluded with a traditional Divine Service on Wednesday morning where all 20,000 participants, as they were able, were offered the opportunity to take communion with their fellow LCMS Lutherans. The current president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Pastor Matthew Harrison, gave the sermon for the service, and many other pastors from across the nation and world assisted with the service and communion. Although not everyone prefers traditional worship, I do think everyone must admit how wonderful it is to worship with their fellow Christian brothers and sisters in this way. Following the service, we ate lunch, took in some shopping, and concluded the night with a final devotion.



We finished the trip on Thursday with one more amazing meal in New Orleans before gathering our things, heading for the airport, and traveling back to Pierce. Everyone arrived back home safe, tired, and hopefully changed from the experience as we all prepared to return back to the day to day. This, for those who don't know, wasn't the end of the Gathering story, though. Upon coming back we planned a youth lead service and a thank you breakfast to share our experiences with the congregation and thank everyone for supporting us over the past few years. Both took place on Sunday, August 17th, and from everything we heard, the youth did a fantastic job on this morning. During the breakfast everyone was able to share a little bit about the trip and what they especially loved, and although we definitely heard responses raving about the awesome food we enjoyed, a true highlight of the trip, we also heard many responses from students appreciating the great messages that are still sticking with them even now. For those unable to attend on August 17th, we hope you know how much we truly and deeply appreciate all of your support, encouragement, guidance, and prayers over this past year. We really would not have been able to do it without all of you. Also, if you have not had a chance to speak to someone about their experience as of yet, I highly encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed! The next LCMS Youth Gathering will take place in San Antonio, Texas in the summer of 2028, and we would love to be able to take a bus full of youth students, God willing.



From the Zion Lutheran School Principal:

Happy New Year! We started the 2025-2026 school year on Monday, August 11th under the theme from Psalm 98:4 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyful song and sing praises!" And we have plenty of reasons to make a joyful noise this year. Zion started the year with 109 students in elementary and 17 students in preschool. We got to start the year in the new school year; make a joyful noise!

A beautiful library desk along with library shelves arrived over the summer and we were able to organize the library books to start the year; make a joyful noise! We are still making progress on the old school building. The asbestos has been removed after a long process. We are praying that the old school building will come down in September. We'd like to thank the trustees for their hard work in the area and for getting our new building ready to go. We are still working on getting the preschool play area ready between the church and school; make a joyful noise!

We have all of our teachers back in the same classrooms. I am new to the building though. This is my 27th year in education and I have also served as principal for 19 of those years. I am a graduate of Concordia University (Nebraska) and I have taught previously at Lutheran school in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. This year I will be teaching Confirmation class to the 7th and 8th graders, Religion class to the 5th and 6th graders, and also Math to the 4th graders. I plan to also direct handbells for students in grades 5-8.

We also have a new para this year helping out mainly in the preschool room. Mr. Garrett Bretschneider comes to us as a recent graduate of Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota; make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Our first Caddy for Christ Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, August 23rd. We had 13 teams signed up and it was a beautiful day and a great time. We would like to thank you for your continued support of Christian education. The sounds of learning and excitement echo in our halls as we begin the school year. We are blessed and give glory to our risen Lord and Savior. Make a joyful noise!

Sincerely,

Mr. Beikmann

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MEETING

JULY 31, 2025

Chairman Mike Krueger called the meeting to order.

Andy White opened with prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Brady Bretschneider moved to accept the minutes as written. Andrew Wolf seconded. Motion carried.

Leann Beltz was accepted as a new voting member.

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

Mike Baumann gave his Mission and Endowment report as written. Mike moved to accept his report and Andrew Wolf seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter gave the Statistical report as written. Jerald moved to accept his report. Tyler Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter then gave his Elders report as written. Jerald thanked all the volunteers that have been helping with all the projects and mowing. Jerald moved to accept his report. Gerald Hixson seconded. Motion carried.

Brady Bretschneider gave the Trustee report as written. Brady moved to accept his report. Andrew Wolf seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler Krueger gave the Board of Education report and the School report as written. Principal David Beikmann introduced himself to the voters. Tyler moved to accept his report. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Friedrich provided a written report as he has left for his new congregation. Jerald Wachter read Vicar's report.

Derek Jareske gave the DCE report. He briefly covered the youth trip to New Orleans, the youth that attend are planning the August 17th church service to share more about their trip. Mr. J's message was to encourage our congregation to take leadership in our church, to "be the someone". His message was inspiring, encouraging, heartfelt and an urgent request for our congregation to step up and be the church. Mr. J moved to accept his report. Casey Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

No old business.

New business. Brady Bretschneider made a motion to increase the scholarship for students attending Concordia from \$500 to \$750 per semester. Tom Weinrich seconded. Motion carried.

Sue Warneke made a motion to approve the Concordia scholarship funds for both semesters this coming school year for Hadleigh Collison. Ken Peekenschneider seconded. Motion carried.

The Elders suggest to have a full-time secretary for the church with the absence of a full-time pastor. They are asking voters for approval, it would come with health insurance and HSA. Jerald made a motion to offer the church secretary a full-time position with health insurance and HSA. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter made a motion to put the money that was approved for the Vicar into the general account for expenses. Eric Retzlaff seconded. Motion carried.

At the next Voter's meeting we will be looking to fill council positions. 3 Elders, 1 Trustee, and 1 Board of Education will be needed.

Andy White gave an update on Pastor Bruce. He will have surgery on August 7 for a blockage in his heart. We need to keep him and his family in our prayers.

There was a question brought up whether there is a charge for use of the gym when club teams practice.

Brady Bretschneider made a motion to adjourn. Chris Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Krueger, secretary

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

APRIL 1, 2025 THRU JUNE 30, 2025

-			
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
BALANCE FORWARD			\$3,878.00
2ND QUARTER	\$11,407.00		\$15,285.00
NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS		\$14,785.00	\$500.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE			\$10,796.12
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$603.56		\$11,399.68
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 1 BALANCE			\$4,319.80
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 2 BALANCE			\$3,696.53
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE			\$1,775.40
EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE			\$1,622.78
FREE WILL DONATIONS	\$616.00		\$2,238.78
HYVEE WEST		\$488.94	\$1,749.84
MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST			\$72.10
2ND QUARTER	\$14.28		\$86.38
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$72.10	\$14.28
MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE			\$3,796.51
BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE			\$3,214.98
TOM'S SERVICE GAS-NON MEMBER		\$49.45	\$3,165.53
CHOIR FUND - BALANCE			\$869.30
ORGAN FUND - BALANCE			\$13,211.00
PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE			\$2,076.24
VICAR FUND - BALANCE			\$7,006.72
2ND QUARTER	\$1,635.00		\$8,641.72
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$6,399.98	\$2,241.74
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE			\$21,216.36
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$2,910.00		\$24,126.36
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #2053	\$260.85		\$24,387.21
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071	\$142.15		\$24,529.36
DIRECT DEPOSITS	\$415.00		\$24,944.36
MIDWEST BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$12.90		\$24,957.26
FURNACE LOAN		\$979.62	\$23,977.64
JOHNSONS INC-HVAC MAINT. PLAN		\$1,105.00	\$22,872.64
THE GLASS EDGE-TEMPERED GLASS		\$339.00	\$22,533.64
MR SPRINKLER-IRRIGATION REPAIRS		\$450.00	\$22,083.64
BISWINGER GLASS-NEW KITHCHEN DOOR-LOCKS		\$3,576.36	\$18,507.28
NORTHWEST ELECTRIC-REFURB DIMMER		\$636.00	\$17,871.28
JOHNSON ELECTRIC-RECONNECT DIMMER		\$270.00	\$17,601.28



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

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.

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

SERMON SCHEDULE:

August 31

"Life Narrows Down"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

"Life narrows down and crisis comes. There, in the narrow place stands Jesus."
(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

September 7

"Dying, We Live"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

God's love finds His people in the wilderness, the place where God gives bread from heaven, water from a rock, and streams in the desert. (Numbers 14:19-20)

September 14

"It's All on God; It's All on Us"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A paradox doesn't make sense, mathematically. But it can be an accurate description of real-life experience. (Deuteronomy 1:31)

September 21

"Someone Worth Having"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We lost God's name along the way, but God found us and gave us the Name by which we can know Him: Jesus--"God saves." (Numbers 6:27)

LWML Agape Circle

August 13, 2025

Zion's LWML Agape and Katherine Circles met on Wednesday August 13 for their joint meeting. There were 11 Agape Circle, 3 Katherine Circle and 7 guest present to share the delicious salads and desserts meal,

The evening started out with a skit " God's Sheep " performed by Jolene Smith, Syliva Furstenau, Lynette Koehler and Holly Koehler. Hadleigh Collison, Natalie Endorf, and Camassia White gave a talk to the group about their time at the National Youth Gathering that was held in July. The evening closed with a devotion " Sharing God's Love " read by Jacque Collison.

Registration papers were passed out for the LWML NE North District All Members Retreat that will be on Saturday, September 20 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Osmond. The theme is " God's Quilt of Comfort". Registration will start at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:30 and going until 3:00 p.m.. Fee is \$ 15.00 and the deadline is September 3.

The September meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th at 7 p.m. Hostess will be Lorie Sullivan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Koehler, Secretary





Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Pierce, NE 68767

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