

Zion News

Dear Members of Zion,

What happened to the summer of 24? Looking back it seems that time passes much too quickly, especially when it comes to summer. We still have some warm days ahead, but the summer of 24 is nearly over. It's August and our children and young people are back in school! One really has to wonder where the time goes. There are those times in our lives when time passes much too quickly, such as summer vacation.

Yet we must remember that every day is a gift of God! We are told in Psalm 113:2,

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

God wants us to use our time wisely. God has also blessed us in countless ways. Giving us everything we need to support this body and life. Most of all he has also provided us with forgiveness, life, and salvation through faith in His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In gratitude to God for the life he has given you in the Savior, Jesus Christ what opportunities has God provided you to serve him and serve others in His name? It is the Lord Jesus that sets the example for us all.

Jesus said:

The Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many.

May God bless us with true wisdom and a servant's heart so that we can make the most of every opportunity and serve the Lord and others in His name.

Blessings,

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)

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

Church

churchoffice@zionlutheranpierce.com

Pastor

ziongw@ptcnet.net

DCE

dcejareske@zionlutheranpierce.com

School

zlsoffice@zionlutheranpierce.com

Principal

principal@zionlutheranpierce.com



Find us on:
facebook®

PAX Worship

8:00am

Traditional Worship

10:00am

Monday Vespers

7:00pm

Rev. Gordon W. Bruce
Senior Pastor

Vicar Wesley Johnson

Mr. Derek Jareske
Director of Christian Ed

Mrs. Amy Weber-Podany
Church Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Snodgrass
Principal

Mrs. April Anson
School Secretary

**Prayer
List . . .**



Family of

Danny Anderson

Ken Carstens

Lavonne Fleer

Ken Peekenschneider

Les Richmond

Mari Ortmeier

Sandy Buckendahl

Pastor Birtell

Dawn Tucker

Nate Bolling

Dawn Flinn

Shane Dozy

Rayleen Wesemann

OFFICERS 2024/2025

Chairman

Tom Weinrich

Vice-Chairman

Todd Stonacek

Secretary

Sherri Krueger

Financial Secretary

Rod Voelker/Mark Luebe

General Treasurer

Greg Warneke

Mission Treasurer

Mike Baumann

Board of Elders

Rick Sirek (Chairman)

Brian Blecher

Doug Cromwell

Andy White

Blaine Bockelman

John Meier

Board of Trustees

Brady Bretschnieder (Chairman)

Dennis Watts

Eric Vanness

Ruth Weinrich

Tami White

Travis Podany

Board of Education

Tyler Krueger (Chairman)

Jodi Beacom (Vice Chairman)

Laura Benes (Secretary)

Ryan Babl

Andrew Wolff

Jeff Meier

STATISTICAL REPORT

Baptisms

6/23/24 Naivey Margene Larson

8/11/24 Leslie Renee Baumann

Funerals

7/10/24 Jolene Faye Buss

Affirmation of Faith

6/20/24 Matt & Megan Retzlaff
(Bryndl & Wacey)

Transferred In

7/15/24 Kylie Freeman

Transferred Out

7/21/24 Elaine Frederick

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

My name is Jacob Friedrich and I became involved in church at a young age. From the start of confirmation, I was active in the youth group at Peace Lutheran Church in Lombard, IL. When I entered high school, I started leading bible studies and hosted events for the youth group. From then on, I was inspired by the Gospel to live out the Christian life. The passage Isaiah 61:1 spoke to me that there is a God that died and still loves me. This Gospel message empowers me to follow the Ten commandments and seek rest in His Word every day. I always make sure to serve God and my neighbor any chance that the Spirit puts in front of me. So I asked my home church, my pastor, and even my parents about whether I should pursue the pastoral office. Everyone I asked said, "yes".

Yet I still needed to prove myself to the seminary, which led me to study at Concordia University Wisconsin. I went through the pre-seminary program and endured rigorous courses. But with a lot of prayer, a strong emphasis on devotional life, and some great friends; I was able to tackle any subject. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in arts and made the honor roll.

I chose to be a student at Concordia Seminary St. Louis because God has given me the heart of a servant. The seminary not only focuses on training students in theology but to put them into situations that require one to read the room and then preach about Christ. This demonstrates that Concordia St. Louis seminary is responsive towards the culture that we live in today. The seminary guides students to understand whom they are serving to present the Gospel effectively.

By attending Concordia Seminary St. Louis, I can continue to train to be a servant for the church by seeking rest in the Word and Sacraments. By understanding that righteousness can only come from the Lord, I must rely upon the Gospel every day. A pastor that truly has faith in Christ overcomes the world by receiving God's grace through the Word and Sacraments daily. By relying upon the means of grace I can overcome temptation because victory is achieved through faith in Christ. Concordia Seminary St. Louis has helped me to hone my skills as a servant to the Lord and has prepared me for vicarage. I am grateful for the experience God has given me to fulfill my obligations as a vicar.

DCE Message

“Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”

I think every teacher quickly learns how to pick their battles. So many different types of things happen, both bad and good, in a given day that it would be impossible to go to war over every little thing. If you treated every accidentally dropped book like it was purposefully pushing someone off the play equipment, you would never be able to get anything done. That being said, I also think that every teacher quickly finds which hills they are willing to die on.

For example, some teachers cannot stand when someone uses incorrect grammar. For some it is the difference between their, there, and they're. Some teachers cannot stand when student do not come to class prepared with everything they are going to need for class that day, and some teachers hate a messy desk. Depending on experience and training, each person is going to come into the classroom with their own set of firmly held ideals. These would be the hills worth dying.

Somewhere along the way in my own educational training, I realized that one thing that I absolutely could not stand is a bully. I do not care for name calling, making fun of someone, or physically harming someone who is smaller, weaker, or at an otherwise disadvantage. This would be a hill in which I would be willing to die, and I am sure that I am not alone.

Now perhaps, at this point, you might be wondering why I chose the above featured Bible verse and then started this devotion in such a way. Lets see if I can make things more clear. They say that a true sign of integrity is doing the right thing even if no one is watching. I know that sounds like a novel concept. Why would I do something nice if no one is going to be around to give me praise, rewards, or accolades? Why would I care about someone else if it is going to do nothing to benefit me in any way?

In our verse from above, Jesus addresses this very idea by saying that, when you bend low to serve the poor, the hungry, and the downtrodden, you should imagine serving our Savior, Himself. Imagine serving someone not because you will receive some reward, but because you seek to share, with the help of the Holy Spirit, the type of sacrificial love that your Savior first showed you. Imagine if, instead of walking past someone who is in pain, you decided to walk alongside that person who is struggling. To return to my earlier point, imagine if, instead of going with the crowd, you stood up for someone who is being kept on the outside by others.

As Christians, we will likely never get a reward for doing the right thing, at least not while we continue through this sinful, fallen, world. The Bible actually promises that the road we walk, the road Jesus paved for us, will be filled with obstacles, suffering, and all types of hardships. That is why it is so hard to stand up and do the right thing. The world, sin, and the devil do not like when we stand up against bullies. Further, Jesus promised that the world would be against us at every turn for following Him, but even with that, we should still take heart for He has, truly and really, overcome the world.

Despite consistent reminders that try to prove otherwise, Jesus has already overcome the greatest obstacles that stood before us, so now we have nothing fear. On the cross, Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil, and now, with the help of the Holy Spirit, He has called us to make a difference in the sinful world in which we currently live. That, of course, includes such activities like feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting the lonely, and standing up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. In this way, even as we imagine serving the Savior whom we love, those we serve can see the God we love working through us.

I hope, as we look toward the fall season and the new opportunities and challenges presented therein, we all make a plan to stand up for the weak and marginalized in the places where we gather. Although it might seem difficult, and there is little compensation for doing so, I hope we are all willing to die on the hill of loving others.



hello!

My name is Sydney Slater. This is my first year as a preschool teacher at Zion Lutheran Schools! I am so excited to have the opportunity to shape your children's minds! I'm so happy to be a part of your child's life. For some background, I graduated in May 2024 with my bachelor in elementary education and early childhood education. This is an exciting time for me and your child. It will be firsts for everyone and I am so excited to take that step with your children. It is going to be an amazing school year!

Psalm 32:

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you"

God's Blessings!

Miss Slater



Dear Families of Zion Lutheran Church and School,

What a blessing it is to have this opportunity to be you 5th and 6th grade teacher. This will be my 35th year in the teaching ministry and I am looking forward to being able to continue sharing Jesus with the students here at Zion. I attended Zion Lutheran School, K - 8, and graduated from Pierce High. I graduated from Concordia University, CUNE, Seward, NE with a degree in Elementary Education and Secondary Math. My first call was to teach at Immanuel Lutheran School, Silo, a small rural school near Lewiston, MN. It was here where I met my husband, Dan, and we raised our three daughters, Angela, Danielle, and Nicholle. I also taught at Immanuel Lutheran School in Plainview, MN. In 2014 we moved from Minnesota to Norfolk, NE. I accepted a call to teach JH Science at Christ Lutheran School before transitioning to teaching Math to 5th - 8th graders. Angela & Matt Wingert live in Orange, CA and have 3 children, Grace, James, and Ellise. Angela teaches AP Psychology at Orange Lutheran High School and Matt is employed at Concordia University in Irvine, CA. Danielle and Jonathan Jahnke live in Alexandria, MN. Jonathan is the Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. They have 2 children, Everlee and Judah. Danielle taught art at Lutheran South High School in St. Louis, MO. She continues using her gifts to make costumes for the local community theater. Nicholle and Luke Blomenburg live in Omaha, NE. Nicholle teaches K - 1 at the Concordia Academy Elementary School and recently received the Outstanding Young Educator Award through the National Lutheran Educators Association. Luke is in his 4th year of medical studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. We enjoy traveling to see family and spending time with our adorable grandchildren! I also enjoy listening to music, hiking, and spending time on the beach, especially with those grandchildren!

God's Blessings,
Susan Harstad



Message from Principal Snodgrass

The 2024-2025 School year for Zion Lutheran School is

opening August 14, 2024 at 8:00am. We will start our day with opening chapel at 8:10am. It is a great way to start our school year by worshiping and praying to our Lord to guide us all year long. Christian education is not offered in all communities so we in Pierce are so blessed to have this opportunity. The theme for this school year is endure. Hebrews 12:1-3

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, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

We are happy to welcome some new staff members Miss Sydney Slater in Preschool, Mrs. Susan Harstad in grades 5 & 6, and Mrs. Brooke Kilcoin as Paraprofessional. It is great to have all of these people join us in our love for teaching and nurturing children.

As you can see, the new school is progressing along with the completion date set for the end of November 2024. The plan is to move into the new school over Christmas break and start second semester there. It is exciting to see all the changes happening around us. We look forward to moving even though we will miss our current building and have many happy memories here. We will make new memories in our new building for many years to come!

ZION TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND: If you would like to help provide students with a Christian education, please consider donating to the Zion tuition assistance fund. It is easy to donate! Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran School and just write in the memo tuition assistance. Have a special student in mind for assistance? Contact the school office at 329-4658 to set up a donation for them.

What are the Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska?

The Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska are offered to students entering a nonpublic school for grades Kindergarten, 9th grade, or transferring from a public school from any grade level. Please visit nebraskaopportunity.org for more information about these scholarships.

Nebraska Tax Opportunity

This year brings a terrific opportunity for you to benefit students who attend private schools and receive a dollar-for-dollar income tax credit for up to 50% of your Nebraska income tax liability for 2024. For more information, please visit the school website www.zionlutheranpierce.com and click on the Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska link.

SCRIP: If you would like to purchase Scrip, order forms are available in the Narthex. Order forms and/or RaiseRight purchases need to be submitted before Tuesday of each week. Contact the school office at 329-4658 with any questions.

June 2023



July 2024



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 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. For families that are especially involved, a calendar of events would also be helpful as we work to plan around busy schedules. Speaking of calendars, 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 events, we have several planned for the near future. First will be our 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 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 all that said, here is a brief recap of a few unique events and fundraisers from the past few months. For starters, in the month of April, namely on April 26th through April 28th, we took a group of students and several adult leaders to Camp Luther for our yearly youth retreat. This event went very well, and I believe the students that attended had a very fun, educational, and enriching experience. In May, we held a traditional Pentecost feast, which, if you didn't know, is traditionally celebrated with cheesecake. 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. Finally, in July, we took a camping trip with the youth group students to the Willow Creek State Recreation Area to stay overnight in tents, hike, and spend some time in the great outdoors.

In terms of fundraisers, we just recently held a fundraiser at TLC Carwash where the students provided car washing services, vacuuming services, and drying services. This fundraiser went extremely well, and I would like to thank the youth who have worked hard to manage each of these events, and the parents who give of their time and money to make these events work so smoothly. We would also like to thank this congregation for their generosity in supporting the youth programs of this church. Finally, I would like to offer a huge thank you to TLC Carwash for hosting us, managing this fundraiser, and for donating to the youth group.

We, of course, fundraise with a purpose. Currently our longterm goal and yearlong initiative will be to set aside money for the upcoming National Youth Gathering, which will take place in New Orleans in the summer of 2025. For more information about this event, 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 are taking place currently for 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 4th, 2024, and it 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, 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 one has 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, at least, one new volunteer who would be able to assist in the kitchen with cooking this year. For more information, please contact Mr. Jareske to inquire.

For those planning to serve this year, a volunteer meeting has been planned to take place on Wednesday, August 28th, from 5:30PM to 6:00PM, for those volunteering to cook, and 6:00PM to 7:00PM, for those volunteering to guide students and/or teach, in the church fellowship hall, for both groups. At this meeting we will discuss any new updates concerning our Faith Weavers program for this year, so if you are planning to serve, please plan to attend.

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!

Sunday School

Sunday School classes for all grades will resume beginning on Sunday, September 8th, 2024, at our usual time of 9:00AM to 9:45AM. Each week, students should start in the Zion Lutheran Church gym and wait for their teacher to take them to their classroom.

As this is still about a month away, and we are still working to organize classes for this year, please continue to check the church announcements, Facebook page, and website for updates each week. That being said, we are currently looking for a new volunteer who might just feel called to take over the teaching responsibilities for one of our Sunday School classes. We are also 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, our new vicar, Vicar Jacob Friedrich, will likewise be looking forward to beginning his new Adult Bible Study in the Zion fellowship hall on September 8th during the regular Sunday School time.

Going into this new school year, please consider 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 by reviewing the Bible lessons that speak to the enduring questions that people have had across all generations. This class is continuing currently, and we typically meet in either the church gym or Vicar's 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.

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 4th, 2024. These classes will continue at that time on most Wednesday evening into the spring, unless otherwise announced. As in previous years, the 7th grade students will be learning from our new Vicar in the 7th/8th grade Zion Lutheran School classroom, and the 8th grade students will be learning from Pastor Bruce in the 5th/6th grade

Cards

The youth group has a variety of available cards in the church office. 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 lock-box on the card assortment shelf. Checks can be made payable to "Zion Youth."

National Youth Gathering (NYG)

We are officially less than one year away from this exciting and enriching opportunity for youth students between the ages of 14 and 19 years old from all over the United States. For those who have not had experience with the National Youth Gathering, NYG for short, 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 takes place, something like 20,000 to 30,000 youth students and their Adult Leaders travel to the selected host city, New Orleans, LA will be the host city for the July 2025 gathering, and they spend a week journeying through what can only be described as a true mountaintop experience.

For churches that take students, it does turn out to be a huge undertaking, and as anyone previously involved in an NYG can tell you, it does take a lot of planning and effort to get everything coordinated. With that in mind, for those hoping to attend this event, and for those planning to walk with those students over this next year, we will need to begin working to diligently organize plans over the next 11 months. For that reason, Mr. Jareske will be holding monthly planning meetings for interested youth, who meet the age requirements, to discuss deadlines, events, new developments, fundraisers, and other details along with preparing students for what they should expect when attending an event of this type.

Although our next planning meeting for youth will take place on the evening of Sunday, August 25th, from 5:00PM to 6:30PM in the church fellowship hall, these types of meetings might need to take place on a different schedule based on the needs of the youth and Adult Leaders involved in the planning process. For that reason, if you have a youth students who is planning to attend, and/or if you are an adult, 21 years and older, who would like to possibility walk with our youth students as Adult Leader, please plan to check our various forms of communication, Facebook, website, emails, church announcements to name a few, for updates as to when meetings will be take place.

If, at this point, any youth are interested in attending the NYG in 2025, it would be best for them to plan to attend any upcoming planning meetings, so we can begin to discuss planning details and fundraising efforts for the next several months. If, on the other hand, youth students who are hoping to attend this event are unable to attend a meeting, please let Mr. Jareske know after the meeting takes place, so he can work to provide the appropriate materials.

That being said, it is the hope of those working to organize and plan this endeavor that students planning to participate are able to attend as many meetings and fundraisers as possible, so they can help share the responsibility of planning and fundraising with their fellow youth participants. We know it sounds cliché, but students who participate in the events leading up to the NYG tend to have a higher appreciation for the gathering as they were so invol-



Vacation Bible School

During the week of June 3rd through June 7th, Zion Lutheran Church and the students of this community dove deep into God's Word as we swam into unknown waters through our Vacation Bible School for this year, Scuba by Group Publishing. Throughout this week, our over 40 volunteers and roster of approximately 122 registered students learned from several accounts from the Bible that taught us that God is real, loving, faithful, forever, and for everyone. 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 our King!

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 diving 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!



☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

☆ **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 ☆

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Zion Lutheran Church Legacy Workshop

On Sunday, October 6, beginning at 11:30 AM, Zion Lutheran Church, Pierce is hosting an educational workshop featuring Craig Stirtz. Craig serves as the Nebraska District's Gift Planning Counselor, assisting our members as we plan gifts for loved ones and ministry, which is a service he has been providing for over 30 years in Nebraska.

Craig will cover multiple topics including: ways to create an estate plan that reduces taxes and maximizes what your loved ones are able to keep, how assets pass (inside and outside of probate), common mistakes people make and how to avoid them, why comprehensive estate planning is important, legacy planning (planning both for loved ones and ministry) and how to make gifts for ministry without disinheriting your loved ones.

This workshop is not a sales pitch as Craig has no products to sell and makes no commissions. It is an opportunity for you to hear what he has learned through his work that will help you avoid mistakes and maximize your gifts to loved ones and ministry.

Craig offers free, confidential and family focused planning for those wishing to include one or more LCMS ministries in their estate plan - including our congregation. For more information about his services, plan to attend the workshop or contact Craig at 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfn.org.

Why is Zion Lutheran Church hosting a Legacy Workshop?

Most people have loved ones they wish to remember in their estate plan. Most Lutherans also support ministries that are important to them, including our congregation. Yet few really know the best way to do everything they want to do for their loved ones and to make a gift for ministry. You may be reluctant to attend a workshop/seminar for fear you will have your arm twisted, will receive a sales pitch or will receive non-stop calls in the future. None of those will be true with this workshop.

Craig Stirtz offers numerous educational workshops each year for LCMS congregations. These are not high pressure, sales pitch meetings. Rather they are educational, offering information about mistakes people often make in their estate plans (resulting in more in taxes and less to their loved ones). The workshop also provides information on several ways members can make reduced tax gifts for their loved ones and for ministry. You can leave your checkbook at home, as Craig has nothing to sell. These workshops are offered by the church as a gift to our members. Lunch is provided.

If you do not have a will, if you have not created or reviewed your estate plan in the past 5 years, if you want to leave a gift for ministry or if you just want ideas on how to reduce taxes and get more to your family and your favorite charities, it is important that you join us for this workshop! Join us at Zion Lutheran School Gym on Sunday, October 6, beginning at 11:30 AM to learn valuable information about how careful estate planning can be a great blessing for you, your loved ones and for the ministries you wish to support. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up by using the QR code to register or notify the church office of your interest [by calling the church office at \(402\) 329-4313](tel:4023294313), or [by emailing zionluth@ptcnet.net](mailto:zionluth@ptcnet.net).



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

APRIL 1, 2024 THRU JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND			
BALANCE FORWARD			\$
2ND QUARTER	\$8,021.02		
NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS		\$12,042.02	
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE			
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$592.30		
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 1 BALANCE			
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 2 BALANCE			
ENVELOPES	\$644.80		
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE			
EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE			
SUPPLIES-TOM CARSTENS, HYVEE, TIGER TOWN		\$795.33	
FREE WILL DONATIONS	\$825.00		\$
MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST			
2ND QUARTER	\$14.81		
MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE			\$
CHRIS CARSTENS-BAPTISM BANNERS		\$180.00	\$
BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE			\$:
CHOIR FUND - BALANCE			
ORGAN FUND - BALANCE			\$1:
PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE			\$1
VICAR FUND - BALANCE			\$6
2ND QUARTER	\$1,695.00	-	\$8
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$6,240.00	\$2
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE			\$14
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$3,003.00		\$17
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #1400	\$289.18		\$17
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071	\$120.17		\$17
DIRECT DEPOSITS	\$715.00		\$18,30:
MIDWEST BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$13.00		\$18,32:
FURNACE LOAN		\$979.62	\$17,34:
JOHNSONS INC-HVAC PLANNED MAINT.		\$1,105.00	\$16,23:
A to Z VAC-COMMERCIAL VACUM		\$749.00	\$15,48:

APRIL 1, 2024 THRU JUNE 30, 2024 ENDOWMENT REPORT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church									
Budget 2023-24									
	1st Qt.	2nd Qt.	3rd Qt.	4th Qt.	Fiscal Year 2023-24	Budget 23-24	% of Budget		
Income Accounts									
Envelope Offerings/Debt Receipts	\$ 124,923.87	\$ 158,646.71	\$ 120,350.57	\$ 183,056.95	\$ 586,978.10	\$ 518,000.00	113.3%		
Other Income	\$ 9,468.38	\$ 13,119.10	\$ 14,102.33	\$ 13,713.76	\$ 50,403.57	\$ 48,550.00	103.8%		
Tuition Book Fees School Surplus	\$ 56,784.00	\$ 13,176.00	\$ 13,402.00	\$ 4,376.50	\$ 87,738.50	\$ 120,000.00	73.1%		
Endowment Investment Income	\$ 20,721.89	\$ 21,260.75	\$ 71,202.26	\$ 20,988.43	\$ 134,173.33	\$ 143,000.00	93.8%		
Total Income	\$ 211,898.14	\$ 206,202.56	\$ 219,057.16	\$ 222,135.64	\$ 859,293.50	\$ 829,550.00	103.6%		
Expense Accounts									
Office Expense	\$ 4,948.40	\$ 6,429.68	\$ 4,196.74	\$ 4,471.29	\$ 20,046.11	\$ 14,700.00	136.4%		
Property/Maintenance/Insurance	\$ 7,029.49	\$ 14,002.55	\$ 7,034.41	\$ 7,236.25	\$ 35,302.70	\$ 35,590.00	99.2%		
Loan Interest Expense	\$ 2,080.89	\$ 2,252.54	\$ 525.04	\$ -	\$ 4,858.47	\$ 2,060.00	235.8%		
Utilities	\$ 5,931.54	\$ 8,952.96	\$ 10,960.53	\$ 7,998.32	\$ 33,843.35	\$ 36,500.00	92.7%		
Program Expenses	\$ 4,853.91	\$ 2,456.36	\$ 2,299.81	\$ 7,819.09	\$ 17,429.17	\$ 12,700.00	137.2%		
Salary/Wages/Worker Benefits	\$ 187,635.67	\$ 207,188.93	\$ 185,289.44	\$ 189,096.30	\$ 769,210.34	\$ 712,989.00	107.9%		
Hired Maintenance	\$ 3,141.00	\$ 2,540.50	\$ 3,642.00	\$ 2,752.00	\$ 12,075.50	\$ 15,000.00	80.5%		
Total Expense	\$ 215,620.90	\$ 243,823.52	\$ 213,947.97	\$ 219,373.25	\$ 892,765.64	\$ 829,539.00	107.6%		
Income less Expenses	\$ (3,722.76)	\$ (37,620.96)	\$ 5,109.19	\$ 2,762.39	\$ (33,472.14)	\$ 11.00			

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MEETING JULY 18, 2024

Chairman Tom Weinrich called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bruce opened with prayer.

Roll call was taken.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Greg Warneke made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Mike Baumann seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Warneke gave the General Treasurer's Report. Submitted as written. Greg moved to accept his report as given. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Baumann gave the Mission Treasurer's Report as written. Mike moved to accept his report.

Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

Rick Sirek gave the Statistical Report as printed. Rick moved to accept his report. Greg Warneke seconded. Motion carried.

Elders Report. Rick Sirek made a motion to move the Kolterman money to the Vicar account. Mike Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Brady Bretschneider and Ruth Weinrich gave the Trustees Report. The current custodian has stepped down so they are currently searching for a new service to provide cleaning. They discussed separating the church and school, as far as cleaning, possibly making it easier to find someone for either. Tate Reinke has been taping the services and uploading them to the internet since covid. He uses their camera and it is very time consuming. He will be leaving for college and it was brought up to use memorial money to purchase a camera that will automatically upload the service and just has many uses. Mike Krueger made a motion for the Trustees to pursue purchasing a camera with available memorial funds with a \$7000 cap. Tami White seconded. Motion carried. The signs on the northeast and south side of the church are getting old. Anything new would have to be approved by the state because it is close to the State Highway, making a new sign very costly. They are open to suggestions; they are not doing anything yet. Brady moved we accept his report. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler Krueger gave the BPE report. The possibility of St. John's member's children attending school at Zion was discussed. The Board went to the Elders for their opinion as far as what to charge for tuition. It was discussed at great length with no decision made. There is not a student attending this year, so we will revisit the subject at a later voter's meeting. Tyler moved we accept his report as written. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Bruce gave his report as written. Rick Sirek moved to accept Pastor's report. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Johnson gave his report as written.

Jennifer Snodgrass gave the Education report as written. Jennifer moved we accept her report. Greg Warneke seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Jareske gave the DCE report. He moved we accept his report as written. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business. Tami White reported on the New School Project. The school received a \$25,000 grant. Tami thanked Greg Warneke and Dennis Watts for all of their extra work involved with the school project. Linda Peekenschneider said the Legacy Committee has a catered luncheon and after the luncheon a financial planner will give a presentation. The alumni committee has letters going out to alumni. November 2024 is still the projected completion date.

Arlan Warneke commented that the Lutheran Hour sermon on July 7th is definitely worth listening to.

Greg Warneke moved to adjourn. Rick Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Krueger, Secretary

LLL—MC Begins a New Year

COME AND JOIN US—Zion’s Lutheran Layman’s League-Mission Connection will begin a new year on **Thursday, September 12th at 2:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for a Bible Study followed by a brief meeting and closing with fellowship social time including refreshments. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for the New Bible Study for 2024-2025 LLL---MC season.

Project Connect Booklets

The LLL---MC has placed new Project Connect booklets in the display rack located by the west entry door of the narthex. The booklets deal with a variety of topics from the Biblical spiritual point of view. The following is a list of those booklets posted throughout the summer months.

SURVIVING BREAST CANCER *YOUR PLACE IN GOD’S PLAN*
FORGIVENESS IS A CHOICE *HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FAITH*
A GREIF LIKE NO OTHER *A TREASURE REVEALED*
THE TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS
HOPE AND HEALING—SURVIVING BREAST CANCER
WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN? *LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD*
EVERYONE IS A GIFT *UNCOVER THE LOVER WITHIN*
WHO IS JESUS; THE BIBLE;
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE? JOURNEY THROUGH DEPRESSION

These Project Connect booklets may be found in the **top two levels** of the display rack. These topics are dealt with from the spiritual point of view. Yes, they focus on the Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *This is the reason the booklets are called “PROJECT CONNECTION”.* *They “connect” us to our Triune God!*



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

Lutheran Hour Ministries worldwide, reaches over 195 million people each week with Gospel messages. All praise to God!!

Are you going toThe Nebraska State Fair August 23 – September 2 If so, check out these activities...

- **LHM/LLL Fair Booth Ministry** – All days of the Fair. Located in the Nebraska Hall and open from 10 AM to 9 PM each day.

If you’d like to volunteer to help, call: Lloyd Probasco at 402-613-8001, lloydprobasco@gmail.com

[Ron Reiser – 308-390-9130](mailto:RonReiser@icloud.com) or Paul Schmidt at 402-460-0004, psflatwater@icloud.com

Worship Service – September 1st, 10:30 AM in the area of the AGI Stage. Guest: Pastor Lee Weander, with Special Music by Hannah Cmeyla from Our Savior, Norfolk. All are welcomed!!!



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

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PIERCE, NE
PERMIT #17