

# Zion News

Dear Members of Zion,

On the Church Calendar, we are now moving from the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Seasons to the Holy Season Lent. Lent is where the rubber hits the road as far as our Christian lives are concerned. Lent has been referred to as a “Penitential Season,” meaning that it is a time for reflection and introspection on our sinfulness. Then confessing those sins to God to be assured that Christ Jesus died on Calvary’s Cross to bring us the assurance of forgiveness and life everlasting.

We want to thank our Lutheran Laymen’s League for again providing our congregation with Lenten Devotional Booklets this year. The title of this year’s devotions is “Lamb of God.” If you have not picked one up already, please do so. There is a devotion for every day of the Lenten season, plus Holy Week and Easter. On the inside cover, you will also find a schedule of service dates and times for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter.

As we have in the past, there will be Midweek Lenten Services every Wednesday at 12:15 and 7:00 PM. There will also be Lenten Suppers served every Wednesday before Church beginning at 6:00 PM. We do want to say to the various church groups that have volunteered to serve these wonderful, delicious meals: THANK YOU!!

After the worst snow since 2010, the weather has been almost like Spring. Perfect weather for winter construction! We have witnessed wonderful progress being made on our new School Building.

The steel frame is now in place and workers are in the process of putting on the roof, and then the sides of the new School Building. While I am sure that many of us are anxious to see our New School completed, from what we are being told, so far everything is on schedule for a completion date sometime in November of this year.

As the weeks of Lent will soon fly by, we look forward to Holy Week and the celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bruce



**Maundy Thursday-March 28 @ 12:15pm and 7:00pm  
(COMMUNION)**

**Good Friday- Tenebrae Service – March 29 @ 7:30pm**

**Easter Sunday– March 31 @ 6:30am and PAX 9:00am  
(COMMUNION)**

*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](http://www.zionlutheranpierce.com)**

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

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

**Church**

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**Pastor**

[ziongw@ptcnet.net](mailto:ziongw@ptcnet.net)

**School**

[zls@zionlutheranpierce.com](mailto:zls@zionlutheranpierce.com)

**Principal**

[jnodgrass@zionlutheranpierce.com](mailto:jnodgrass@zionlutheranpierce.com)



**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. Stacy Johnson**  
*Academic Coordinator*

**Mrs. April Anson**  
*School Secretary*

**Prayer  
List . . .**



Mike & Kim Baumann  
Dee Rathjen  
Beth Guenther  
Colton Beacom  
Rhonda Shipman  
Brenda Roberts  
Dawn Tucker  
Nate Bolling  
Dawn Flinn  
Shane Dozy  
Ivy Clausen  
Rayleen Wesemann  
Jolene Buss

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Ryan Babl

Andrew Wolff

Jeff Meier

## **STATISTICAL REPORT**

### ***Baptisms***

11/26

Emmie Alyson Wragge

12/9

Tatum Paige Tietgen

### ***Confirmations***

11/26

Cody James Larson

### ***Funerals***

1/2

Kerri Weinrich

1/5

LaVon Wachter

### ***Transferred Out***

12/4

Steph Polt

12/4

Kaden Mosel

12/4

Chris Brummels

12/4

Kristi Brummels

12/4

Jada Brummels

12/4

Logan Brummels

12/4

Ali Brummels

12/4

Connor Brummels

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

Eligible benefit members (age 16 and older) of Thrivent Financial, can help choose where Thrivent distributes part of its charitable funds each year. Call 1-800-847-4826 and say "Thrivent Choice" or visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice). The deadline to designate for 2023 is March 29, 2024. You do not need any certificate number or birth date. It is very simple. Zion Lutheran Church or School both can receive these choice dollars.

**Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and wandering all the precious things that were hers from days of old. When her people fell into the hand of the foe, and there was none to help her, her foes gloated over her; they mocked at her downfall. (Lamentations 1:7)**

My grandfather and I attended a concert recently where we heard *Tenebrae* by the Argentinian composer Osvaldo Golijov. It was a piece that was based on the French tradition of applying a musical setting to the Book of Lamentations. We learned that *Tenebrae* was written shortly after Golijov had visited Jerusalem, the city at the heart of Lamentations, and witnessed for himself the first days of the Second Intafada (a series of terrorist attacks in Jerusalem from 2000 to 2005).

We were assured that the concert program was put together before October 7<sup>th</sup> and the conflict between Israel and Hamas that has now seemed to spread throughout the Middle East, and even beyond, and which has now, unfortunately, claimed the lives of three of our service members. Nevertheless, it's hard to imagine anything other than the current conflict was on the minds of anyone in the audience, including myself and my grandfather.

Of course, conflict is nothing new to Israel or Jerusalem, and the Book of Lamentations, the inspiration for Golijov's *Tenebrae*, is dedicated to Jerusalem's destruction at the hands of foreigners, almost 600 years before the birth of Christ. Now, there are plenty of cities that get destroyed in the Bible, so why is an entire book dedicated to the destruction of this one city?

The destruction of Jerusalem was the start of the time of the Babylonian Captivity. Millions lost their homes. But for the people of Old Testament Israel, Jerusalem wasn't just a home, it was a promise. God dwelled with His people in His Temple in Jerusalem, and He promised that all nations would be blessed through His people Israel. So when Jerusalem was destroyed, including the Temple of God, there was good cause for lament.

But Jerusalem wouldn't stay destroyed, and neither would God's Temple. The time of exile would not last forever. Both the city and the Temple would be built. And God would keep His promises. He would dwell with His people, but this time in the flesh – in Jesus Christ.

Like how the Temple was destroyed and rebuilt, Jesus would be killed, and He would rise again. But today, the Temple in Jerusalem is still destroyed. Unlike the Temple, Jesus is alive. He reigns in glory with His Father in heaven.

It may seem we live in a more precarious time now than we have for the last few years, at least internationally. But even with all the instability we see in our world, we can be confident in the sure hope of our Lord. Because He lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Vicar Wesley Johnson*

### ***DCE Message***

Some of you may know, and if you don't, you will soon, that we have an awesome group of volunteers who spend the afternoons on many Thursdays throughout the year creating quilts to give away to various groups and organizations. If you already knew that, you might not know that after they complete their work each week, they spend a little bit of time engaging in a time of devotion with Vicar, Pastor, or myself. When I lead, I like to try to write my own devotions, if inspiration strikes. On this last occasion, based on a devotion I originally prepared for January that got a bit delayed in delivery, our conversation briefly turned toward Lent, and I thought I might share some of those insights here. I hope the quilters will forgive me for recycling.

For context, here is the part of the devotion that prompted these remarks:

*“...so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.”  
(Hebrews 9:28)*

*What type of new year resolution did you make this year?*

*At the start of a new year it is quite common to make resolutions to better ourselves in some way, right?*

*Usually resolutions are things like exercising more, eating better, quitting a bad habit, reading more, seeing the world, or spending more time with family and friends.*

*Our resolutions usually center on things that will help us live longer, look better, and be happier.*

Just like at the new year, Lent is, at least for some people, an additional time to recommit to better practices. This usually plays out in the form of “giving something up for Lent” where in which you commit to abstaining from a poor practice that you typically enjoy. This is commonly referred to as a “fast,” mirroring in a minor way the fast Jesus performed before being tempted in the wilderness. We, of course, do not give up food for forty days and forty night, but instead, we abstain from things like chocolate, soda, video games, television, or excess shopping. We give up, typically, bad habits that are enjoyable, sometimes a little too much, to prepare for the Lenten season.

Did you know, though, that the common practice, when performing a fast, is to replace the bad habit with, instead, a more beneficial spiritual discipline? Instead of just giving up chocolate, you could take the money that you would typically spend on that item and use it to benefit someone else, like the food pantry or Orphan Grain Train. Instead of just giving up playing video games for an hour each day, you could spend that hour reading devotions, studying God’s Word, or engaging in prayer. In this way, this time of fasting can have the twofold benefit of both removing the bad and encouraging some new servant oriented and devotional practices.

At the same time, even if you choose not to refrain and abstain during Lent, you could still use the season to recommit to lapsed habits. Maybe you have a devotional that has been sitting on the shelf, and this can be your opportunity to dust off the cover and begin the study. If, on that note, you are looking for a new devotion, the Lenten booklets provided by the church, at least based on my prior experience, are quite good.

Now, as I close this message, I do want to add one more small note. I am sure that it has become clear at this point that some people like to engage in a fast during the season of Lent, and some people do not. As this is not commanded nor forbidden by the Bible, it is a matter of Christian freedom, and as such, each Christian is free to choose if they want to fast. With that in mind, Lent does not need to be an opportunity to boast, if you choose to engage in a fast, or a time to judge, if you know someone who does not. Lent is supposed to be a season of humble preparation for the great sacrifice that Jesus paid on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and with that, a fast should be nothing more than an opportunity to enrich our own faith walk as we take the time to contemplate this reality in prayer, praise, study, and worship.

DCE, Derek Jareske

# MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SNODGRASS

## Construction Progress!

The construction of the new Zion Lutheran School has made amazing progress! It is exciting to see all the changes each day! I feel our members that witnessed the first construction of the school must have watched the progress with anticipation as we all are presently. We have provided Lutheran education in the area for 120 years and with the new school we pray we can continue for another 120 years!

The building will be two stories tall and house all our grades preschool through eighth grade along with offices, restrooms, and a library. It will be wonderful to have this new facility to welcome our students to each morning. We are very appreciative of all our church members and organizations that made donations to make this dream come true for our children.

Jennifer Snodgrass



## ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

PIERCE, NE

**NOW ENROLLING FOR  
24-25 SCHOOL YEAR**

Secure your child's future  
with a foundation built on the  
love of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and academic excellence.



Preschool for 3, 4, & 5 year olds  
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Student Teacher; Miss. Slater

### Autobiography

Nearly seven years ago, I was sitting at my desk in high school, working with my guidance counselor, trying to figure out what career would be the best fit for me. During this time my guidance counselor had my classmates and I take various quizzes. Every time that I took a quiz it always said, “educator.” This is when I started to think hard about my future after high school.

I graduated from Pierce Jr./Sr. High in 2019 with the decision to further my education. I chose to attend Wayne State College for its unmatched education as well as for its reputation of being one of the best schools for becoming a teacher. At this point, I had decided I was going to become an elementary teacher. For the next five years, I took various classes that opened my mind and showed me that I made the right career choice. At first, I struggled with what I wanted my endorsement to be. I started with special education, but my heart just wasn't in it.

I then decided that my endorsement would be in early childhood education. I had already been working for a childcare provider where I worked closely with young children. This is how I knew that early childhood education was a great fit with my elementary education major. Once I chose this path, I knew in my heart that it was the right fit for me. I have continued to work towards my goals, and I have never looked back. I can appreciate all of the ups and downs throughout this adventure because, at the end of the day, it has led me to where I am today. Ever since I was a young girl I have always had a passion for working with children of all ages, but it wasn't until I completed my first practicum that I truly knew that I was in the right field. I was so excited to teach young minds and to grow alongside them. Wayne State College has given me so many opportunities to grow and to learn in many different areas.

Wayne has prepared me for my future and has helped build me up for success. My professors have shown me various ways to help students learn and excel. One of the ways I was shown was differentiation. I want to be able to help my students learn in the best way possible and in a way that helps them succeed. Children learn at different rates and various levels. I incorporate differentiation by being understanding, kind, and a mentor to my future students. Students have the right to a fair, understanding, and great education. I want to show my students that with the right motivation, they can move mountains and obtain their goals through hard work. I want to help them be excited about their education and to help maintain their focus on their future goals.

Another important aspect of teaching is how a subject is taught. I believe it is important to watch closely, but also listen to your students. A teacher is not always going to know right away how a student learns best. Each student is unique and will learn differently from others. This could mean hands-on work, verbal instruction, or being shown visually. I want my students to be able to vocalize what they need within the classroom. As their teacher, I want to be able to adapt, learn, and recognize what I can bring to the table to help my students succeed. I am thrilled to have these various experiences that will prepare me for my future. I have always seen myself as a teacher and a mentor to young students. Teaching is my past, present, and future. This is a ride that thrilled me to be in the driver's seat and ready to see where the road takes me. I hope this autobiography about my life helps you understand what I have been up to for the past five years! I am thrilled and honored that I can teach and learn from your students this semester. I look forward to getting to know the families of the students I am teaching this semester!

God's blessings,  
Sydney Slater

# Preschool News

The preschoolers have done a great job of adjusting and getting into our daily routine this year. We have 14 students enrolled in our preschool.

We love using our “marshmallow toes” in the hallway. If you see a preschooler ask them, “What are marshmallow toes?”. They would be happy to tell you. We are always practicing making green choices and not making red choices.

Our day is busy with working on name activities, letters, numbers, singing, and learning about Jesus. Our favorite Jesus Time story is Noah’s Ark. Jesus Loves Me is our all-time favorite song in the classroom.

Currently, we are learning about bears. Preschoolers even got to bring a bear to school where we sorted them by color and size. The bears spent the night hibernating in our classroom. The students were so surprised to come back to school to see where their bear had been sleeping in the classroom. We ended the unit by going on a bear hunt ... thankfully, we didn’t find any real bears.

## Blessings from the Preschool Classroom





**Zion Lutheran Preschool**  
**We still have openings for Preschool Enrollment 2024-2025:**

We currently have openings in our **Prek5** preschool class. Our Prek3 and Prek4 preschool classes are FULL. You can find more information and the enrollment sheet on our school website at <http://www.zionlutheranpierce.com/school.html>. **All** paperwork will need to be completed and submitted in order to enroll your child in preschool for the next school year. If you have any questions please contact the school office at (402) 329-4658.

**PART TIME AIDE POSITION**

Do you love sharing God's word and working with children? Zion Lutheran School has a part-time aide position opening just for you at the present time. The position would be approximately 29 hours a week. Please send your resume to Zion Lutheran School Attention: Jennifer Snodgrass. If you have any questions call 402-329-4658.

**SCRIP CARDS**

We have Scrip giftcards available in the school office. By purchasing Scrip giftcards you're getting your shopping done and you're helping our school and students of Zion Lutheran. Scrip order forms can be found in the Narthex. If you any questions, please call the school office at 402-329-4658 and ask for April.

## 5th/6th Grade Newsletter

This year so far has been such a roller coaster. At the beginning of the year we had our chapel about how we are connected to the Lord's prayer. We also have taken a road trip to GIS days. GIS stands for geographical information system. We had a blast there and learned about mapping hurricanes, mapping and locating and we also won a game of Kahoot. A lot of the class has been participating in sports. During Lutheran school week we learned about Australia. It was very interesting and fun. During Lutheran Schools week on Monday we had class color day, our color was pink. On Tuesday we had character day. On Wednesday we had dress your best and on Thursday we had pajama day, because we did not have school on Friday. Yay. We also did devotions every morning in the gym during Lutheran Schools week. 5th and 6th gave been destroying the 7th and 8th graders in dodge ball at recess. We have been learning lots in math, reading, science and English. That has been what is going on in the 5th and 6th grade classroom.

By: Alayna Herian



ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL - PIERCE  
**WILD GAME FEED**

SATURDAY  
**3.16.24**

PIERCE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

»»»»»» **FREE WILL DONATION BUFFET** ««««««

**5-7:30 WILD GAME FEED BUFFET**

RESERVED & GENERAL SEATING AVAILABLE

**LIMITED RESERVE TABLES AVAILABLE**

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

**DECOY TABLE \$250 | SEATING FOR 8 + CUT THE LINE PASSES**

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

+20 MEAT RAFFLE TICKETS

+EXCLUSIVE BIRD DOG TABLE SPONSOR GUN & LADIES PRIZE RAFFLE TICKET

+LISTED IN THE PROGRAM

**AUCTIONS**

**SILENT AUCTION**

BIDDING WILL OPEN MARCH 11TH ONLINE

ALL BIDS WILL TAKE PLACE ONLINE AT [EVENTS.HANDBID.COM](https://EVENTS.HANDBID.COM)

BIDDING WILL CLOSE AT 8PM MARCH 16TH, 2024

**7:45 PM LIVE AUCTION**

**CROSS GRAND PRIZE - \$2000**

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

\*WINNER DRAWN AT THE END OF THE EVENT ON MARCH 16TH.

**MUSIC & DANCING  
TO CLOSE OUT THE NIGHT**

**RAFFLE TICKETS**

USE THIS QR CODE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS



**GUN RAFFLE TICKETS**

\$10 EACH OR 3 TICKETS FOR \$20

KIMBER CUSTOM 1911 LW .45 ACP PISTOL

**MEAT RAFFLE TICKETS**

\$5 EACH OR 5 TICKETS FOR \$20

**2 QUARTERS OF BEEF**

DONATED BY  
TOM & RUTH WEINRICH

**4 SIDES OF PORK**

DONATED BY  
JAY & LARELL MEIER  
CHAD LINGENFELTER



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



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

This time of the year, at least for me, always seems to come with a lot of wonder. Wonder that we have started a new year, wonder that we are already in February, and wonder, especially this year, that we are just about to start the season of Lent. That means that Palm Sunday, Confirmation, Holy Week, and Easter are all fast approaching. Even with all of these fast approaching dates, including the ones like Confirmation that specifically impact the youth of this congregation, I don't want to get too ahead of ourselves and forget to see the opportunities that are currently taking place. With that in mind, we, here in the Zion Lutheran Church youth group planning department, have a lot of interesting opportunities planned for the next several weeks, and months, and we hope you take some time during this whirlwind time to join us for some events and meetings. That being said, the last several months have had a few opportunities for fun and excitement, as well. Enclosed are a few brief reminders and a quick recap of some things that have happened in regards to the Zion youth department lately. First, if any students would like a church worker from this church to try to attend an upcoming activity, make sure to let us know when these events will be taking place. As we quickly look toward the spring season, a few reminders would be very helpful for the people who love to show our support at games and shows. Speaking of activities, we hope you will continue to add our upcoming events to your calendar over this next season. We would love to see you at everything planned for the next few months, and we hope that you would like to share the fun by bringing a friend as well!

Speaking of events, we have several planned to take place here in the near future. First will be our regular monthly Fusion Youth Group meeting for 7th through 12th grade students planned to take place every month, usually the second or third Sunday of the month, usually from 5PM to 7PM 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. Both of these events have differing schedules and time frames depending on what we are doing, and where we will be going. Third, we will likely be planning to hold a variety of different fundraisers throughout the year, depending on the month, so we can continue to fundraise for our various initiatives. We would love to have your help! As you might have noticed, at this point, the previous paragraph is a little vague. With that new ZionNews schedule being quarterly, as opposed to monthly, it is a little bit harder to pin down three months worth of opportunities, especially if plans have to change. With that in mind, I would highly encourage everyone to regularly review our weekly church announcements, our church Facebook page, and our church website for up to date information on a week by week basis.

With that business taken care of, here is a brief recap of a few unique events and fundraisers from the past few months, in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Meetings. For instance, in the month of December we held our annual youth Christmas party which included a potluck, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. In the month of January, specifically on January 26th, we took a group of 18 participants, 12 youth and 6 chaperones, to Great Bear Ski Valley in Sioux Falls for a day of fun and fellowship on the slopes. Both of these events went very well, and I love how students are already commenting that they are excited for the next planned activity, including ones that are still months in the future. In terms of fundraisers, December is always a big month for us as we worked to juggle three opportunities, namely our yearly Advent meal, Christmas card sale, and cookie/candy platter sale. Combined, these three fundraisers are always a huge success, and they really do a lot to build up the youth fund for planned trips and experiences. At this point, I would like to thank the youth who have worked hard to manage each of these events, the parents who give of their time and money to make these events run so smoothly, and this congregation for their generosity in supporting the youth programs of this church. Otherwise, besides offering coffee on Sunday mornings, we did not fundraise during the month of January. We do have a fundraiser planned for the month of February, namely our next instance of serving as the waitstaff at the Pizza Ranch in Norfolk on February 26th, and we would love your support of both our youth program and this fundraising partner. We, of course, fundraise with a purpose. In the short term, Vicar and I are planning to, once again, take a group of students to Camp Luther in Schuyler, NE as part of his yearly vicarage project. The students who attended last year had a great time, and we are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity again this year. Check further in this ZionNews booklet for more information about this upcoming event. We are also continuing to set aside money for the next National Youth Gathering, which will take place in New Orleans in the summer of 2025. 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. I am also continuing my Sunday School class for youth students on Sunday mornings. Anyone 7th through 12th grades are welcome!

There really is a lot going on here at Zion, and we would love for all of the youth of this congregation to be a part of all of these exciting experiences. If this sounds interesting, more information can always be found on our church website under "Educational Ministries" and "Youth Ministries." Finally, if any confirmed youth would be interested in serving as an usher during next year, please speak to Mr. Jareske in the near future, so we can get your name on our list of ushers.

Mr. J

## **Faith Weavers**

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

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

In addition, if any students in 7th grade and above and/or adults would like to help with FaithWeavers this year by answering the call to serve in some capacity, week to week, please contact Kim Baumann, Suzie Wachter, or Mr. Jareske (402-329-4313) as soon as possible. To ensure the continued success of this ministry, we are still looking for several volunteers to serve in various areas as new volunteers would be beneficial toward long term success, even if you would be willing to substitute to start.

Also, if you would be interested in donating to support the FaithWeavers program again this year, besides monetary donations, included in our weekly church announcements and website will be a list of some requested items. As always, your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated! For those who wish to donate, please put donations in the kitchen with a note (from who, for who) and alert church staff about your donation. Frozen items should be placed in the freezer.

Rolls of 85/15 or 80/20 ground beef  
Large packages of frozen chicken nuggets  
Packages of hamburger buns  
Large packages of frozen french fries  
Large jars/bottles of plain apple sauce  
Large bags of plain tortilla chips  
Bags of shredded cheddar cheese  
Regular bottles of mild taco sauce  
Regular jars of mild salsa  
32oz containers of chicken broth  
Bags of shredded mozzarella cheese  
24oz jars of spaghetti sauce  
16oz packages of penne pasta

## **Sunday School**

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

## **Youth Sunday School**

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

## **Camp Luther Youth Retreat**

We are planning a fellowship retreat for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to Camp Luther over the weekend of April 26th-28th. Planning is still underway, but for anyone who would like to help, at this point, by contributing to a scholarship fund for camp attendees, there will be a donation box featured in the Narthex. You may also contribute through the offering plate by dropping in a plain white envelope marked “Camp Luther Trip.” If you would like more information about this process, or if you would like more information about this upcoming trip in general, please feel free to reach out to Vicar Johnson or Mr. J in the near future.

## ***YOUTH GROUP SKI TRIP***



### **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**

Hard to believe, but it is once again time to start looking forward to Vacation Bible School for this upcoming summer! Planning is currently underway, and as we speak, Mr. J is reviewing which curriculum we will be using for this year. As we are still in the early planning stages, if you would like to be involved in this process, please speak to Mr. J in the very near future. This event takes a lot of planning and preparation, and so we appreciate any help that anyone is able to offer. For parents and guardians, look for more information to come in the next few weeks, and months, in our weekly announcements, church Facebook page, and on our church website, especially in regards to VBS registration.

### **Youth Fundraiser**

To raise money for our upcoming Camp Luther trip and other events, we will be hosting another fundraising event on **Monday, February 26th, at the Pizza Ranch in Norfolk, NE from 5PM to 8PM**. Just like in previous times, our youth will be serving as the waitstaff, and interested parties can show their support by leaving a tip for our group. Pizza Ranch has also committed to donating a portion of the sales generated between 5PM and 8PM to our group, so we hope you will choose to help both Pizza Ranch and our youth group by staying for a meal, as well. For any youth and/or parents that would like to assist with this endeavor, please speak to Vicar/Mr. J about signing up to help as soon as possible.

## **FUNERAL HELP NEEDED**

As many of you know the Ladies Aid group from our congregation has dissolved as we only had three members left.

The Ladies Aid with the help of volunteers from the congregation have been able to do a “great” service to members of our congregation in serving lunch for funerals. This involves furnishing a cake or salad when called upon. Also it takes eight to ten volunteers to help serve lunch and clean up. It usually takes three to four hours out of your day. Our goal is to get enough ladies so it don’t always fall on the same people. We could also use some men to pick up trays.

I’m in hopes we can continue this service to our church family in their time of need. I also want to thank everyone for their service in the past years. Many of you have gone beyond your call of duty.

Please call Sharolyn Buss (402) 329-6992 or the church office (402) 329-4313 if you are interested in helping out.



Lutheran Hour Ministries began the ministry of The Lutheran Hour in 1930. Today, this radio program reaches over ONE MILLION people each week. It receives no funds from the LCMS. It is supported financially by individuals and/or families for this world-wide ministry. Today it is reaching individuals and families in 60 countries throughout the world. You or your family may become supporters of this special ministry. You may support it by sending you check to: LUTHERAN

HOUR MINISTRIES; 660 MASON RIDGE CENTER DRIVE; ST. LOUIS, MO. 63141-8557. Thank you for your consideration.



**LENTEN DEVOTIONAL TIME-**  
**Lenten Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries**

The **Lamb of God** is the new devotional booklet provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries for your devotional meditation during the Lenten season. The Zion LLL—MC will have these booklets available in the narthex for your spiritual growth in Christ. In **Lamb of God**, we have God's Son come to earth as the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus is made known to us as *both God and Man, full of grace and truth*. He has come into the world to seek us out—you and me—to rescue us from the power of evil, and to make us His beloved children forever.



***DID YOU LOSE A RING— PLEASE  
CLAIM AT THE CHURCH OFFICE—  
FOUND IN THE SANCTUARY***

**ALTAR GUILD**

Looking for new/additional members. Please contact Jacque at 402-750-7785.

**GOOD FRIDAY CHOIR**

Anyone interested in singing at the Tenebrae Service please contact the office. First practice will be after Lenten service on February 28th. All are welcome and encouraged to come!

**Have an item for ZION NEWS?**  
Organizations or individuals having items for future issues of "ZION NEWS" are encouraged to submit them at any time. Items can be emailed to the church office or left in the church office.

**LWML NEWS- MISSION CENTRAL TRIP**

The LWML Norfolk Zone is sponsoring a bus trip to Mission Central on Tuesday, April 9th. The cost will be \$25.00 per person. The bus will leave the Wal-Mart Parking Lot at 8am and return around 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come. If you would like to go send your money to Annie Rumsey 56128 826th Rd. Madison, NE 68748. Must have the money by March 15th.

Any questions you can call Margo Dawson at 402-860-1706.

## **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Todd Stonacek. Pastor Bruce opened with prayer. Old Business. Tami White gave an update on the progress of the new school, as well as including a printout of committees that have been formed since the school project was started and a printout of the Zion Lutheran Church and School gift chart.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Brady Bretschneider made a motion to accept the minutes, Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Warneke gave the General Treasures report. Submitted as written. Greg also included a copy of the budget projections 2023-2024, that were required with the loan on the new school build. Greg moved to accept his report. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Baumann gave the Mission Treasurers report. Submitted as written. Mike moved to accept his report. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Doug Cromwell gave the Statistical Report as written. Doug moved to accept the Statistical report. Gerald Hixson seconded. Motion carried.

Doug gave the Elders Report. The Elders have done an Usher training with 20 in attendance. The Elders had a letter printed in the Pierce County Leader encouraging keeping Sunday morning for worship and competing in sporting events in the afternoon. The church's constitution is currently under review. It is an ongoing process and the Elders are working with a Pastor from the Synod to help with changes and wording, it will then be reviewed and voted on by the Voters Assembly. It was brought up as a reminder the Monday night service is supposed to be a vesper service and a bit shorter than the Sunday services. Doug made a motion to accept his report. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Brady Bretschneider gave the Trustee report. Submitted as written. Brady made a motion to accept his report. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler Krueger gave the Education report. Tuition will be moved up to \$750 per child for the 2024/2025 school year. Two teachers are retiring at the end of this school year, Mrs. Test and Mrs. Fleer. The board is working to complete contracts for the remaining teachers and have been interviewing candidates for the positions that need to be filled. Mrs. Steffen will fill the kindergarten vacancy, so interviews are for Preschool and Mrs. Fleer's position. Tyler made the motion to accept his report. Randy Snodgrass seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Bruce submitted his report as written. Todd Stonacek said he would check with the Randolph organists to see if any would be interested in helping out with services. Pastor Bruce moved to accept his report. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Johnson submitted his report as written. Vicar moved to accept his report. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer Snodgrass presented the School Report as written. Jennifer moved to accept her report. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. J gave the DCE report. Submitted as written. Mr. J moved to accept his report. Tyler Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

New Business. The Corporate Resolution needs to be signed at the bank with the election of new officers. Tom Weinrich, Greg Warneke, Brady Bretschneider, Dennis Watts, and Mike Baumann will sign the resolution and be able to sign papers at Midwest Bank for the Church to conduct business. Greg Warneke moved to approve the corporate resolution. Seconded by Mike Baumann. Motion carried.

The Salary Guideline committee recommends to approve the 5% salary increase. With the retirement of teachers and decreased health insurance premiums, the budget increase will actually be 3.12%. Doug Cromwell made a motion to accept the budget increases as proposed. Ken Peekenschneider seconded. Written ballot votes were taken and the motion carried unanimously. Motion carried.

Tyler Krueger stated the School Board would like to call Susan Harstad to replace Mrs. Fleer. Arlan Warneke made a motion to call Susan Harstad to teach at Zion Lutheran School Pierce NE. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Warneke stated we need to earnestly start looking to replace him as General Treasurer. Mike Baumann, Mission Treasurer, will retire when Greg retires. The elders will look into a replacement.

It was mentioned the corner outside the narthex is dark in the evenings. With the construction, the lighted sign is no longer working. The Trustees will check out the lighting for safety.

Todd Stonacek moved to adjourn. Brandon Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Krueger, Secretary

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

**OCTOBER 1, 2023 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2023 MISSION REPORT**

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
<b>ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND</b>			
BALANCE FORWARD			\$505.00
4TH QUARTER			\$3,814.80
NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS	\$3,309.80		<b>\$595.00</b>
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE</b>			
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$592.58		\$10,683.46
CARTER MEIER/CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY		\$500.00	\$11,276.04
KENNEDY SUCKSTORF/LUTHERAN HIGH		\$2,225.00	<b>\$10,776.04</b>
<b>SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 1 BALANCE</b>			
INSPIRMEDIA PRODUCTIONS			\$9,435.99
RENEWED VISION PRESENTER		\$4,691.25	\$4,744.74
		\$424.94	<b>\$4,319.80</b>
<b>SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 2 BALANCE</b>			
ENVELOPES			\$756.33
	\$2,019.73		<b>\$2,776.06</b>
<b>MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE</b>			<b>\$1,775.40</b>
<b>EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE</b>			<b>\$1,593.11</b>
<b>BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOME/CHRISTMAS</b>	\$1,808.00		<b>\$1,808.00</b>
<b>LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE/CHRISTMAS</b>	\$904.00		<b>\$904.00</b>
<b>MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST</b>			\$70.93
4TH QUARTER	\$12.76		<b>\$83.69</b>
<b>MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE</b>			
CONCORDIA PUBLISHING HOUSE/30 BIBLES		\$488.20	\$7,913.91
			<b>\$7,425.71</b>
<b>BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE</b>			
CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY			\$2,915.51
MOTEL ROOM-YANKTON/NON-MEMBER	\$904.00		\$3,819.51
		\$88.96	<b>\$3,730.55</b>
<b>CHOIR FUND - BALANCE</b>			<b>\$869.30</b>
<b>ORGAN FUND - BALANCE</b>			<b>\$13,991.00</b>
<b>PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE</b>			
PAX CHRISTMAS			\$1,176.24
	\$497.00		<b>\$1,673.24</b>
<b>VICAR FUND - BALANCE</b>			
4TH QUARTER			\$16,070.00
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT	\$2,139.80		\$18,209.80
		\$6,849.80	<b>\$11,360.00</b>
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE</b>			
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$3,078.00		\$10,981.44
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #1400	\$270.31		\$14,059.44
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071	\$106.33		\$14,329.75
DIRECT DEPOSITS			\$14,436.08
MIDWEST BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$715.00		\$15,151.08
FURNACE LOAN	\$9.69		\$15,160.77
		\$979.62	<b>\$14,181.15</b>



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

JOHNSONS INC/HVAC SVC & 2 BLOWERS REP.	\$2,191.20	\$11,989.95
DSN SECURITY/NEW MONITOR & 3 SWITCHES	\$958.00	<b>\$11,031.95</b>

**OCTOBER 1, 2023 THRU DECEMBER 31, 2023 ENDOWMENT REPORT**

<b>ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME - GENERAL</b>	<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	<b><u>REMITTANCES</u></b>	<b><u>BALANCE</u></b>
BALANCE FORWARD			\$7,516.77
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #0699 (1)	\$640.24		\$8,157.01
ENDOWMENT THRIVENT FS/HARLEY BOVEE (2)	\$169.83		\$8,326.84
ENDOWMENT LPL FINANCIAL INCOME (4)	\$10,404.00		\$18,730.84
ENDOWMENT NATIONAL FINANCIAL INCOME (5)	\$10,034.64		\$28,765.48
FAUDEL, KOLTERMAN, REED FOUNDATION LCMS (3) HARLEY & HENRIETA BOVEE GRANT			
INCOME TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$21,255.75	<b>\$7,509.73</b>

**\*\*RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT INVESTMENTS\*\***

<b>RESTRICTED - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b><u>VALUE</u></b>	<b><u>INTEREST RATE</u></b>	<b><u>MATURITY DATE</u></b>
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND 303362-5	\$3,715.00	2.250%	9/18/2027
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND 304207-1	\$12,300.00	2.750%	10/4/2025
MIDWEST BANK CD #100560	\$26,000.00	4.170%	4/10/2024
ROYAL ALLIANCE FINANCIAL	\$377,129.15		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>\$419,144.15</b>		

<b>RESTRICTED - SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b><u>VALUE</u></b>	<b><u>INTEREST RATE</u></b>	<b><u>MATURITY DATE</u></b>
MIDWEST BANK CD #100893	\$7,300.00	1.390%	3/30/2025
ROYAL ALLIANCE FINANCIAL	\$73,107.02		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>\$80,407.02</b>		

<b>RESTRICTED - CHURCH GENERAL</b>	<b><u>VALUE</u></b>	<b><u>INTEREST RATE</u></b>	<b><u>MATURITY DATE</u></b>
MIDWEST BANK CD #100699 (1)	\$60,000.00	5.130%	6/6/2024
THRIVENT FINANCIAL SERVICE/HARLEY BOVEE (2)	\$22,464.83	3.000%	PERPETUAL
FAUDEL, KOLTERMAN, REED FOUNDATION LCMS (3)	\$135,967.13		PERPETUAL
LPL FINANCIAL SERVICE (4)	\$1,214,861.76		
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICE (5)	\$1,318,970.10		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - CHURCH GENERAL</b>	<b>\$2,752,263.82</b>		

Michael J. Baumann  
Mission and Endowment Treasurer

**\*\*As specified by donors, endowment principal is restricted and only the investment income may be used according to endowment policy.\*\***

1/8/2024  
01:29 pm

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Balance Sheet**  
Finance year 2024 as of 12/31/2023

**Book 01 - General**

**Assets**

**CASH**

Church Checking Acct.  
MWB Payroll Acct.  
Roof Repairs Account  
Steward Account

	Balance as of 7/1/2023	Balance as of 12/31/2023	Change	Percent change
CASH:				
Church Checking Acct.	806.07	(9,355.02)	-10,161.09	-1,260.6%
MWB Payroll Acct.	200.35	200.35	0.00	- %
Roof Repairs Account	113,770.33	0.00	-113,770.33	-100.0%
Steward Account	5,653.96	2,309.48	-3,344.48	-59.2%
<b>CASH:</b>	<b>120,430.71</b>	<b>-6,845.19</b>	<b>-127,275.90</b>	<b>-105.7%</b>
<b>Total assets:</b>	<b>120,430.71</b>	<b>-6,845.19</b>	<b>-127,275.90</b>	<b>-105.7%</b>

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

(no Minor group)

**MWB Loans**

Midwest Operating Note

Current Liabilities:	2,567.81	3,025.53	457.72	17.8%
	2,567.81	3,025.53	457.72	17.8%
MWB Loans:	8,186.53	35,675.43	27,488.90	335.8%
	8,186.53	35,675.43	27,488.90	335.8%
<b>Liabilities:</b>	<b>10,754.34</b>	<b>38,700.96</b>	<b>27,946.62</b>	<b>259.9%</b>

**Equity**

**Equity:**

Book equity:

Equity:	0.00	0.00	0.00	- %
Book equity:	109,676.37	-45,546.15	-155,222.52	-141.5%
<b>Total liabilities, dedicated and equity:</b>	<b>120,430.71</b>	<b>-6,845.19</b>	<b>-127,275.90</b>	<b>-105.7%</b>

1/8/2024  
03:31 pm

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Treasurer's Report**  
Finance year 2024, Quarter 2

**Book 01: General**

**Income**

Envelopes  
All Other Income  
Investment Income

	Actual Qtr. 2 2024	Actual as of 12/31/2023	Actual as of 12/31/2022
Income:	206,202.56	418,100.70	328,283.54

**Expense**

Operating Expense  
Program Expense  
Salary/Worker Benefits

Expense:	243,823.52	573,323.22	406,230.52
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*\$113,878.80 Insurance  
Money For Church Roof*

Summary: Book 01: General

	Actual Qtr. 2 2024	Actual as of 12/31/2023	Actual as of 12/31/2022
Income:	206,202.56	418,100.70	328,283.54
- Expense:	243,823.52	573,323.22	406,230.52
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>-37,620.96</b>	<b>-155,222.52</b>	<b>-77,946.98</b>

# *The Old Rugged Cross*

*But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles*  
**1 Corinthians 1:23**

Once there was a little girl who proudly wore a shiny cross on a chain around her neck. The cross was pretty and it found a special place over her heart. Things would have stayed that way, except that one day she was approached by a man—one of those crabby kind of guys that, thank heaven, you don't meet very often. The man said, with a gruff voice: "Young lady, I imagine you think Jesus died on a cross for you. If He did, I don't think that cross was pretty like the one you're wearing. It was a an ugly wooden thing. I don't think you should wear it as a piece of jewelry. After all, you wouldn't wear a hangman's noose or an electric chair around your neck, would you?"

That little girl, quick on her feet with an answer beyond her years, responded with respect: "Yes, sir, I do believe Jesus died for me on a cross. And I know that His cross would not have been as pretty as mine. But I also know, sir, what they told me in Sunday School."

"And what was that?" the man queried. "In Sunday School, my teacher told me that whatever Jesus touches, He changes," she answered. "I believe that this is true for this cross. I know that it's true for me."

That crusty old man was absolutely right. The cross upon which Jesus died to save us was not a pretty thing. It was rough and rude and crude. It was an instrument designed to give torment to the one who hung upon it. Even as the grouch was right about the horror of the cross, the little girl was right as well. The death of Jesus transformed an ancient instrument of torture into God's saving purpose and a symbol of salvation His Son won for us at such a high cost.

Yet it is not just the old rugged cross that has been changed by Jesus' life, suffering and death. The power of His redeeming, forgiving sacrifice transforms all who are called to believe on Him in faith. Christians, whose souls were once blackened by sin, are by the washing of Baptism, made white as snow. We who once were lost and without a family are—through the cleansing of Jesus' blood—found and adopted into God's family of faith. The old rugged cross on which Jesus died became the empty cross and became our symbol for forgiveness, life and salvation. For as Jesus rose, we too, shall rise. For we are people of the resurrection. That separates us from all other religions. We worship a rise Lord. Thanks be to God!





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

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