



# Pastor's Message

Dear Zion Members,

For the last several weeks our announcement sheet for Sunday and Monday worship has indicated that we need \$17,000 a week to cover operating expenses for Zion Church and School. This figure is accurate and intimidating to be sure.

However, this does not mean, that we need \$17,000 in the offering plate each week to cover expenses. Several additional sources of revenue help to fund our General Budget in the course of the Fiscal Year. These include the Zion Endowment Fund, Tuition and Book Fees, and Interest Income. Also the Zion Capital Improvement Fund, Kolterman Farm Income, Matching Funds from Debt Drive, and other income. Combined, these additional sources of income along with weekly offerings have enabled our congregation to meet its financial obligations year after year down to the present day.

The summer months have arrived. Please prayerfully consider your own need and the need of your family, especially your children to be in worship each week even through these summer months. God's Word clearly teaches that when it comes to our worship there is no "Summer Break." We are reminded in the Third Commandment: **"Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it Holy."** If Sunday doesn't work, Monday Night is a great alternative.

Also please remember that ministry expenses continue here at Zion Church and School even when you are absent from worship. Ministry costs also continue to rise due to inflation. These include Staff Salaries, Insurance Costs, Utility Costs, and General Operating Expenses.

Please make every effort to be faithful in your Worship and your Offering each week. To help members keep up with their weekly offerings even when they are absent from Worship, we recommend **"Direct Deposit Giving"** through your local Bank.

God has blessed and will continue to bless our congregation both now and in the future. With the New School Project, this is an exciting time in our Congregation's History. Now is the Time! May God bless and guide us as we move forward in faith, this year and beyond.

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce

## **Greetings and God's peace – Vicar Justin Brockman**

June is upon us and there have been many blessed opportunities that came up this last month. Summer is fast approaching, and many sports camps and outdoor camps are beginning to kick off the summer. School for Zion ended a couple of weeks ago and many people started their summer vacations a bit early. The weather has also been seasonable and filled with much needed rain. Not to mention the nice days we have had this past month.

Speaking of nice days. Many of you know that the Camp Luther trip happened this past month. The youth involved with it had a blast on the trip. We ended up going to Pizza Ranch in Norfolk for dinner on Friday. It was requested by many of the youth to do this. Not only did it have good food it also allowed us to give them some business for allowing us to host a fundraiser there to fund this trip. Meals for the weekend consisted of brunch on Saturday with dinner on Saturday night. The mornings were snacks for those that wanted something right away. On our final day we just had leftovers from dinner and brunch that Saturday.

For the days at the camp, I had planned some devotions for all 3 days that had an activity tied in with the theme for that day. The devotions were the perfect opportunity to reach out to our Faith Weavers youth that were with us to teach them more about the gospel. The devotions seemed to have been well received too.

They had a theme every day for the three days we had that revolved around the bible verse and theme of faith, hope, and love. The basis of the theme came from 1 Corinthians 13:13. **So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

It was a blessing to be able to have Camp Luther support us on the trip. The kids got to do several supervised activities from the Camp Luther staff including boating, swimming, field games, axe throwing, and a large game of capture the flag in the woods. They also hosted a campfire devotion with songs and a bible lesson the 2<sup>nd</sup> night after which we had Smores.

On our final day there was an early rise in which we did a chapel service with a devotion as well as our final activity before departing that morning. The entire trip was a tremendous blessing to organize and put together. Those that participated or volunteered their time and resources for the trip I thank you wholeheartedly for the support!

As we did for our youth this past month, I just wanted to offer you the same love that the youth got at Camp Luther. The bible verse I wanted to share with you all is Romans 5:5.

**Hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

## **Message from Mr. J- Director of Christian Education**

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” (Ephesians 6:10-11)

With this message, we are quickly entering into the month of June, and with the summer months fully in sight, I am sure you know what is right around the corner. Of course I am referring to Vacation Bible School! If you haven't heard, VBS will take place at Zion Lutheran Church during the first full week of June, June 5th through June 9th, from 9AM to 12PM each day, and the theme will be “Keepers of the Kingdom” by Answers in Genesis. This event is open to students in Preschool through 6th grade going by the grade that they will be entering for this upcoming school year, and any students, and adults, who will be entering 7th grade and older are welcome to help as volunteers during this week. If anyone is interested and has not yet had a chance to register, either as a participant or volunteer, there is still time to do so, and participants and volunteers can either pick up a registration paper from the church office or register online using our church website (<https://zionlutheranpierce.com>) under “Educational Ministries” and “Vacation Bible School.” We hope to see you there!

With that little advertisement in mind, I wanted to take some time in this message to explain why this type of message is so important for the people of today. This might seem blunt, but of course, the Bible tells us that the devil is real. In fact, in 1 Peter 5:8-9 we are told, “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” You know that the devil exists, but I think sometimes we forget how real and dangerous the devil really is.

I think this has something to do with scary movies and supernatural television shows. To some level I believe we have been desensitized to this type of thing, and for so long we have been told that monsters like the ones in popular media don't exist that we have allowed the real threat to fade into the background. I think this is playing right into the devil's hands. By moving the darkness to the farther reaches of our mind and placing the devil in the same realm as werewolves and zombies, we have made it easier for him to operate unimpeded. We have no reason to actively resist him because, if some people are being honest, we might not believe those types of supernatural things still happen today.

I am, of course, talking about things like possessions and the occult. When we read about these things in the Bible, we may absolutely believe that they happened during the time of Jesus, and yet we may be a little skeptical that those types of things still happen today. Spoiler alert, black magic and the dark arts are not just things from fairy tales, and we are warned against these very things in the explanation of the Second Commandment in Luther's Small Catechism. Things like ouija boards and mediums are counted as “satanic arts,” and although these things don't appear as darkly obvious like the occurrences mentioned in the Bible, they are nonetheless dangerous. Again, I think this is by design.

If you really think about it, isn't that what the devil is all about now of days. Doesn't temptation often begin with the words, “What's the harm?” Yes, just because we have made the devil small, tucked away, and less powerful in our own minds doesn't mean that he actually is small and powerless. With all that being said, what can we do? If the devil is that crafty and dangerous, what can we as lowly humans do to combat this enemy? Hopefully, by now, your mind has been drawn back to the words from Ephesians 6:10-11 featured above, and you know the answer.

Yes, the devil is powerful, but our God is the most powerful. Nothing can stand against our God, and when He fights for us, we have nothing to fear. Again, due to movies and comics, we are conditioned to believe that evil must be equal to good, or else what is the fun of watching/reading? If evil doesn't stand a chance of winning, either due to evil having an equivalent power, or good having an inherent weakness, why should I care? This is not the case with our God. The devil is not equal to God, and God does not have any weaknesses. In fact, God has already secured the victory over the devil when Jesus died on the cross to redeem and save us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. The fight is already over, and with God we have nothing to fear.

So where does that leave us? Until the time of Jesus' return the devil does still roam around trying to find a way to pick us off. Until the bitter end, the devil will continue to try to use the power of the world to pull us away from God and the shelter of His Church. For that reason, we must fully rely on God and His holy Word and always use the tools that God has given us to resist the power of devil. These are the words of Ephesians 6:10-20, and this is the point of VBS this year. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God has not left us empty handed. Actually, quite the opposite. God has armed us with His full armor, so that we, with the help of the Holy Spirit, can always be prepared to resist the devil and proclaim the Gospel. Thus said, ready yourself, and let's get to work.

DCE, Derek Jareske



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.

At the time of writing this message, school is out, and at least according to the academic calendar, summer has begun in Pierce, NE. It's hard to believe that another school year has come to a close, and VBS is only a few weeks away. That being said, with all of the new found freedom and time off summer is not just an exciting time to play summer sports and go to the pool, but it is also an excellent time for ministry events and youth activities. Before I get into that, though, let me offer a few reminders and recap a few things that have happened lately. First, even though school is out, if any students would like a church worker from this church to try to attend an upcoming summer activity, make sure to let us know when these events will be taking place. Just as the school calendar was helpful in highlighting certain upcoming opportunities, a list of your upcoming events would be helpful, as well. Speaking of calendars, we hope you will add our upcoming events and planned activities to your calendar for the summer. 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 during the month of June. First will be our regular monthly Fusion Youth Group meeting for 7th through 12th grade students planned to take place on Sunday, June 11th, from 5PM to 8PM at Zion Lutheran Church, likely in the church fellowship hall/gym. Second will be a youth activity to be planned for later in the month of June. We would like to also hold a fundraiser during this month, likely a bake sale, to be planned to take place toward the end of June. If you would be interested in baking for this type of fundraiser, please let Mr. Jareske know in the near future. Otherwise, these events are still in development, and so we would strongly encourage you to continue to check the church announcements, Facebook page, and website for updates as the details for these, and all, youth events become more concrete.

Although we did not hold any type of fundraising effort in the month of May, I did want to give you a slight update as to how well the Pizza Ranch fundraiser we held back in April in Norfolk went on the evening of April 26th. As the event had yet to take place at the time of my last writing, I was not able to report, at that time, that this event was a huge success, and that we were able to exceed the amount that we were able to raise during our last time we fundraised at this location. Of course, these fundraisers are only able to thrive due to the generosity of the members of this congregation, and so we humbly thank everyone for giving to support the youth of this church and our youth program initiatives. The funds

raised by the youth while they served as the waitstaff on this evening went to cover costs and expenses associated with our recent youth retreat to Camp Luther.

With that in mind, we recently did return from this retreat, which took place at Camp Luther over the weekend of May 19th-21st, and our 22 youth participants and adult chaperones had an absolutely amazing experience spending time growing together through activities, fellowship events, and God's Word. For those who haven't heard, this event included daily devotions planned by Vicar Brockman, night games, group meals, canoeing/kayaking, swimming, capture the flag, camp activities, a bonfire with songs and a devotional, and a small chapel service all before returning back to Pierce on Sunday afternoon. It was truly a whirlwind weekend fully of fun, faith, and fellowship, and everyone involved went home encouraged and, honestly, little bit tired. Thank you to everyone, especially our amazing leaders and chaperones, who worked so hard to make this event possible. Parents who had students associated with this event in some way, please let us know how you felt this trip went, so we can continue to plan trips of this type in the future. This type of feedback also helps to deepen the experience of our Vicar as he seeks to plan new types of events in his future ministry.

Finally, besides our big Camp Luther trip, we held our joint youth event with the youth group from St. John's at the end of April, specifically on April 30th, and we held our monthly Fusion Youth Group meeting on the evening of Sunday, May 7th, here at the church. Both events went very well, and the students had a great time playing games, sharing a meal, and learning more about God's Word through short devotionals and studies. I may be biased, but as I believe we really do have a great time, we would love for you to join us for an upcoming events and/or meetings. As always, more information can be found on our church website under "Educational Ministries" and "Youth Ministries."

Mr. J

June 10th - Christian Cross Festival- 3PM to 11PM at Skyview Lake in Norfolk, NE

June 11th - Fusion Youth Meeting - 5PM to 8PM at Zion Lutheran Church

June 16th-17th - Hands 4 Christ - Multiple Times and Locations (Check Registration Documents for Details)

End of June - Youth Event - (Date and Location To Be Finalized)

End of June - Youth Fundraiser - (Date and Location To Be Finalized)

## **Faith Weavers**

School is out, and you know what that means. Faith Weavers has concluded our weekly classes for another school year. We had an absolutely amazing time learning with these students this year, and on our final night we were able to celebrate with these students by honoring the students who had faithful attendance, celebrate one of our graduating volunteers, and have some fun with activities and bounce houses. Looking ahead, if anyone would like to volunteer next year, please speak to Kim Baumann, Suzie Wachter, or Mr. Jareske (402-329-4313) in the near future. Again, May 3rd was the final date of Faith Weavers for this school year and the date of the closing picnic. We look forward to seeing everyone again next school year when we plan to once again offer our Faith Weavers ministry program in the fall.

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated their time, talents, and treasures to support the Faith Weavers program throughout this last year. It truly takes a team of committed volunteers, parents, students, and congregational supporters to make everything run smoothly from year to year. Just know, you are truly appreciated, and your continued support goes along way in making this ministry program possible. Thank you!

## **Hands for Christ**

With the summer months here at last, the planning for this event, Hands 4 Christ, is well underway to once again provide this weekend long event for 8th through 12th grade students and adult volunteers aimed at service and community enrichment. This event will take place over the weekend of June 16th-17th at various times and locations with several activities, meals, and service opportunities incorporated within. Please check the specific details for this event against what you received at the time of registration. If you have not yet had a chance to register, please plan to speak to Mr. Jareske as soon as possible. Otherwise, if you have any questions at this point, feel free to direct those to Mr. Jareske. Zion Lutheran Church is blessed to have several congregation members on the planning committee for this endeavor, so if Mr. Jareske is unable to provide an answer, he will certainly be able to work with someone who can.

**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "HANDS FOR CHRIST" YOUTH MISSION EVENT KICKS OFF JUNE 16. FREE FAMILY EVENT FOR ALL AGES, JUNE 16 AT 7:00 PM AT THE PIERCE HIGH SCHOOL GYM. DOORS OPEN AT 6:30.** Maggi Thorne, A National Motivational Speaker, will be sharing her experiences as a 7 Time participant on **AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR**. She was in the top 20 of the Women of **AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR**, and the 15<sup>th</sup> women to scale the warped wall. She will be sharing her experiences from growing up in San Diego, California in a poor family to becoming a California State Track Champion in hurdles in high school. This led to a full ride to the University of Nebraska and being the first person in her family to get a college degree. Her amazing walk of faith and trust in God has led her to overcoming many hurdles in life, such as overcoming a traumatic brain injury. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska with her 3 children. She is being sponsored by **HANDS FOR CHRIST** as they kick off their week-end Youth Mission event. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> Year the Youth and adults of the community unite in their mission of assisting those in Pierce to complete tasks at their homes they may not be able to do themselves on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Wednesday Night Bible Study**

The Bible Study opportunity lead by Mr. J is once again available and all are welcome! Consider joining Mr. J on Wednesday nights, at approximately 5:30PM during the summer months, for a study that seeks to explore many of the major accounts from the Bible. We will typically meet in the church fellowship hall, but if another meeting is set to take place on that evening, we will meet in the gym and move accordingly. Also, if Mr. J plans to be out of town on a particular week, this study will **not** take place, and he will make sure to provide advanced notice.

## **Cookie Help**

As you may have noticed, the church has recently acquired some new tables to help facilitate the fellowship coffee time that has been taking place following services on Sunday mornings. With this in mind, we are hoping to be able to use these tables to continue to serve cookies even on Sundays without special events, so if you would like to aid with this endeavor by baking/buying and donating cookies, this would be greatly appreciated. Cookie donations for upcoming weeks can be dropped off at the church office Monday through Thursday (store bought) or toward the end of each week (baked) during regular office hours. Thank you!

## **Sunday School**

Reminder, the final date for children's Sunday School classes for this year was Sunday, May 7th, 2023.

As of now, our Sunday School program for children will take a break for the summer and will resume next fall. Classes for youth and adults held by Mr. Jareske and Vicar Brockman will continue during the summer months unless otherwise announced.



In a world full of dangers and distractions around every corner, what can we do to find protection for ourselves and those we love? As always, God's Holy Word, the Bible, provides the answer even as we will travel back to a world of princesses and kings, knights and dragons, and castles and kingdoms to explore just what the Bible has to teach us. During Vacation Bible School we hope everyone is prepared to take a medieval journey to a world of adventure where God's Word is mightier than any sword, and a great king takes on the form of a humble servant to save everyone and become the greatest hero the world has ever known.

The theme for Zion Lutheran Church, Pierce, VBS this year will be Keepers of the Kingdom (Answers in Genesis), and it will be taking place Monday, June 5th, through Friday, June 9th, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM each day, with the VBS closing to take place during the 10:00AM church service on Sunday, June 11th. All students going into Pre K through 6th grade are welcome to join as participants, and anyone 7th grade and older is encouraged to volunteer.

For parents, guardians, and interested volunteers, registration is still open! Online registration, both child and volunteer, can be found on our church website, under "Educational Ministries" and the VBS tab, and paper registrations can be found on our church website and in the church office, now. Mr. Jareske will be leading this event, and he can be contacted by phone (402-329-4313) or by email ([dejare01@icloud.com](mailto:dejare01@icloud.com)) for questions. As these messages only appear monthly, new and up to date information can be found by checking our church website, so we would suggest checking out our VBS page on a regular basis. Adventure awaits this summer!

## **VBS Volunteers**

Ready or not, VBS is almost here! As in previous years, we would like to invite all volunteers, including group leaders, assistants, and stations leaders, to plan to attend our major VBS training and decorating day on Sunday, June 4th, beginning at 11:30AM on this date. We will plan to meet in the church fellowship hall to eat lunch, which will be provided, and discuss relevant information pertaining to VBS for this year. After the meeting concludes, we will then plan to move around the church and finish with any decorating that remains at that time. If you are a volunteer this year, especially if you have not attended our planning meets up to this point, please plan to attend this meeting on this date. This event takes a lot of planning and preparation, and so we appreciate any help that anyone is able to offer. We will look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Also, if you are still interested in helping at this point and have not yet had a chance to register, please feel free to let Mr. J know at your earliest opportunity. We still have quite a few roles that need to be filled, so any help would be appreciated.

## **VBS Donations and Help**

For people who would like to donate, a list of ideas is included below.

Speaking to our Craft Station leaders for this year, we have decided that it would be easier and more budget friendly if we order all of the craft items in bulk as opposed to asking for single donations. With that in mind, we know this congregation loves to be able to support VBS even if they cannot donate their time during the week. If you are one of those people, and you would still like to donate to help with

the purchasing of these items, claiming and donating one of the suggested amounts on the board in the narthex would help cover the cost of the needed items.

If you would be willing to do so, please either plan to take and return one of the cards from the Zion Lutheran Church narthex bulletin board with the suggested donation or contact the church office (402-329-4313) to let us know which card you would like to claim. The cards and donations can be returned to the clear box sitting on the VBS display table in the church narthex Monday through Thursday during regular business hours and on Sunday mornings. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office. Checks can be made payable to Zion Lutheran Church, and they can be sent to Zion Lutheran Church (520 E. Main Street, Pierce, NE 68767).

The Craft Station and Games Station leaders are requesting that people save and donate their used plastic soda bottles, with caps, (16.9-20 oz) to assist with one of the crafts and one of the games during the week. These can be brought to the church office during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday (9AM to 4PM), or the church narthex on Sunday mornings. Also, to help with the Snack Station, a signup sheet for cookie and snack donations will be featured in the church narthex beginning this weekend. You can also call the church phone number (402-329-4313) to signup throughout the week, Monday through Thursday. For those interested in making cookies, we would like to offer a reminder that peanut products (including peanuts and peanut butter) are sticky prohibited.

For those that would like to volunteer online, a link to an online signup page can be found on our church Facebook page and website. Donations for the Snack Station should be brought to the church on, or before, the requested date included. Supplies for the Craft Station and Games Station should be brought to the church by, or before, Monday, June 5th.

Otherwise, please continue to keep our students and volunteers in your prayers, and as always, we appreciate any and all help. We sincerely thank everyone for their generosity and support!

## **LWML Agape Circle**

**March 19, 2023**

Zion's LWML Agape Circle met on Wednesday, May 10 at the church. Marlys Bockelman gave a devotion entitled " Living Courageously " and Jacque Falter also gave a devotion " God Has A Plan ". Vicar Brockman led the bible study " Chosen For A Purpose ". President Lynette Koehler called the meeting to order with 12 members present. The secretary report was read and approved. The treasures report was read and approved. We have three new members join the Agape Circle, Nancy Kahny, Sierra Hansen and Lorie Sullivan. Sandy Buckendahl gave a report on the Spring Ahead in Faith Spring Rally. Pastor Bruce gave an excellent bible study and also the guest speaker gave an excellent presentation. The Fall Rally will be on October 7 at St. John, Battle Creek. Committees were selected for the fund raiser, they are; advertisement will be Jacque Falter and Sierra Hansen, decoration will be Jolene Smith and Syliva Furstenau. The meeting closed with the taking of mites, the LWML pledge and prayers. Dessert was served by hostesses Marlys Bockelman and Jacque Falter. Next month meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14 at the church. Jolene Smith will be hostess.

*Respectfully submitted, Holly Koehler, Secretary*

**LWML Mites** will be collected Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Reminder- mites are collected the first Sunday of the month. Thank you for supporting our mission.



## **SUPPORT YOUTH GROUP**

**Stop by the office to get your greeting cards including birthday, sympathy, graduation, confirmation, etc.**



### **Kindergarten Update**

This past school year Zion had 15 wonderful kindergartners: Lydia Beltz, Tessa Beltz, Hudson Brovont, Christian Coltsden, Cannon Krueger, Bentley Kruger, Riley Kuhl, Briggs Miller, Riley Miller, Lux Paulsen, Clara Peekenschneider, Kyler Stonacek, Duke Svehla, Carter Tietgen, and Lauren Zuhlke. We have definitely grown and “bloomed” in so many ways.

We’ve learned to blend sounds together to read 3 and 4-lettered words. We have learned over 20 sight words that have helped us read over 14 decodable readers! Our math lessons last term taught us how to count by 2’s and 5’s. We have learned how to measure to the nearest inch, how to make patterns, and how to count pennies, nickels, and dimes. We also learned how to draw pictures for addition and subtraction story problems and tell time to the hour. But most importantly, we have learned about Jesus. During the last month of school, our Bible lessons have been about Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, and about Pentecost. We know that Jesus is our best friend and is always with us no matter where we go.

Other special events in the past month include making “mud pies” (a special chocolate pudding treat), and being leaders for a chapel service. In May we visited various places in our town which included Dr. Handle’s office, Midwest Bank, Lied Public Library, and Mrs. Test’s home for pizza! We also stopped at J’s Place for ice cream cones to celebrate the end of a fabulous school year!

Blessings from Zion’s Kindergartners and Mrs. Test.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOTER'S MEETING MAY 1, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Weinrich.

Pastor Bruce opened with a prayer.

Roll call was taken.

Ashton Spieker requested to become a voting member. Rick Sirek made a motion to approve Ashton as a voting member. Andy White seconded. Motion carried.

Review of minutes. Dennis Watts made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

General Treasurer's report was given by Greg Warneke. Greg moved to accept his report as written. Andy White seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Baumann gave the Mission Treasurer's report. Submitted as written. Mike moved to accept his report. Tami White seconded. Motion carried.

Endowment was included in the Mission Treasurer's report.

Rick Sirek gave the Elders Report. Rick gave the Statistical report. He moved to accept the Statistical report. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried. Rick gave the report from the Elders April 17 meeting. We will go back to having ushers during services. The offering basket will now be passed during services. DCE Intern Derek Jareske received his call and signed the papers. Rick moved to accept his report. Mike Baumann seconded. Motion carried.

Dennis Watts gave his report as written. Since the Trustee meeting, a person has been hired for cleaning and will begin training with the Tinkers for the next few weeks. The roofing material is set to come in next week and the project will begin. 4 to 5 weeks is the time frame for the project. Shannon Reinke gave an update of the phases of the sound system project. Phase 1 has been met and has been ordered but is taking a while to come in. It will be installed once all of the pieces come in. They are hoping Phase 1 will be complete by June. Phase 2 is the speakers. The cost is approximately \$20,000. Phase 3 is the camera system. Dennis Watts made a motion to begin Phase 2 fundraising, once the \$25,000 is raised Phase 2 can be completed. Seconded by Andy White. Motion carried. Dennis moved to accept his report. Ken Peekenschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Brandon Hamilton gave the Education Report. Submitted as written. Brandon moved to accept his report. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Bruce gave his report. Submitted as written. Doug Cromwell made a motion to accept his report. Dennis Watts seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Brockmann gave his report. Submitted as written. Vicar moved to accept his report. Jerald Wachter seconded. Motion carried.

Stacy Johnson gave the School report. Stacy said Brandon covered most of her information in the Education report. It has been a busy, good year with much growth. She moved to accept her report. Chris Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Jareske gave the DCE report. Submitted as written. Mr. J moved to accept his report. Randy Snodgrass seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business. Rick Sirek informed the voters of the covenants that are being required for the loan on the new school. The operating debt needs to be paid off, and we need to vote yes or no to approve or not approve paying off the operating debt. The capital appreciation on the original restricted funds investments is \$379,000 and is an option for operating debt repayment. There cannot be a debt with another lender over \$50,000 or the loan will be recalled. This means our operating debt needs to be under \$50,000 for the life of the loan. The school board is planning on having cottage meetings with school parents as well as church members to stress consistent giving. Brandon Hamilton and Andy White are organizing these meetings. There was considerable discussion. Rick Sirek made a motion to vote yes to retire the operating debt from the restricted church general endowment account or run a campaign to retire the debt, if the money is used from the restricted church general endowment account, there will be a campaign to replace the money used. Andy White seconded. Written ballots were counted. Motion passed with 44 yes and 5 no votes. Motion carried.

Brandon Hamilton made a motion to adjourn. Vickie Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Krueger, Secretary

4/25/2023  
09:41a

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
3rd Qt. July 2022- March 2023 Zionews  
As of March  
Level of Detail: Major, Responsibility: All  
**Fund: 01 - General**

|                                 | <u>Actual 2023</u>        | <u>Actual 2022</u>       | <u>Change</u>             | <u>% Change</u>        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                   |                           |                          |                           |                        |
| Major: Envelopes                | 319,960.23                | 394,298.92               | -74,338.69                | -18.85%                |
| Major: All Other Income         | 62,678.13                 | 165,668.61               | -102,990.48               | -62.17%                |
| Major: Investment Income        | 70,177.39                 | 67,136.17                | 3,041.22                  | 4.53%                  |
| Major: Capital Improvement Fund | 3,115.53                  | 980.00                   | 2,135.53                  | 217.91%                |
| <b>Total Income</b>             | <b><u>455,931.28</u></b>  | <b><u>628,083.70</u></b> | <b><u>-172,152.42</u></b> | <b><u>-27.41%</u></b>  |
| <b>Expense</b>                  |                           |                          |                           |                        |
| Major: Operating Expense        | 84,312.06                 | 63,884.33                | 20,427.73                 | 31.98%                 |
| Major: Program Expense          | 5,992.33                  | 6,941.88                 | -949.55                   | -13.68%                |
| Major: Salary/Worker Benefits   | 535,575.25                | 479,307.99               | 56,267.26                 | 11.74%                 |
| <b>Total Expense</b>            | <b><u>625,879.64</u></b>  | <b><u>550,134.20</u></b> | <b><u>75,745.44</u></b>   | <b><u>13.77%</u></b>   |
| <b>Income Less Expense</b>      | <b><u>-169,948.36</u></b> | <b><u>77,949.50</u></b>  | <b><u>-247,897.86</u></b> | <b><u>-318.02%</u></b> |

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Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Balance Sheet by Minor Group**  
Jul 1, 2022 through Mar 31, 2023

| Minor Group                             | Balance As Of<br>Jul 1, 2022 | Balance As Of<br>Mar 31, 2023 | Current Year<br>Change    | Percent<br>Change      |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Fund 01 - General</b>                |                              |                               |                           |                        |
| <b>Assets</b>                           |                              |                               |                           |                        |
| Church Checking Acct.                   | 13,672.76                    | -11,638.21                    | -25,310.97                | -185.12%               |
| MWB Payroll Acct.                       | 200.35                       | 200.35                        | 0.00                      | 0.00%                  |
| Roof Repairs Account                    | 115,928.31                   | 111,029.09                    | -4,899.22                 | -4.23%                 |
| Steward Account                         | 1,702.19                     | 2,724.43                      | 1,022.24                  | 60.05%                 |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b><u>131,503.61</u></b>     | <b><u>102,315.66</u></b>      | <b><u>-29,187.95</u></b>  | <b><u>-22.20%</u></b>  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                      |                              |                               |                           |                        |
| Current Liabilities                     | 2,364.27                     | 3,803.63                      | 1,439.36                  | 60.88%                 |
| Midwest Operating Note                  | 34,416.87                    | 173,737.92                    | 139,321.05                | 404.80%                |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                | <b><u>36,781.14</u></b>      | <b><u>177,541.55</u></b>      | <b><u>140,760.41</u></b>  | <b><u>382.70%</u></b>  |
| <b>Equity</b>                           |                              |                               |                           |                        |
| Group 00                                | 0.00                         | 0.00                          | 0.00                      | 0.00%                  |
| <b>Subtotal Equity</b>                  | <b><u>0.00</u></b>           | <b><u>0.00</u></b>            | <b><u>0.00</u></b>        | <b><u>0.00%</u></b>    |
| <b>Fund Balance</b>                     |                              |                               |                           |                        |
| Totals for Fund Balance                 | 94,722.47                    | -75,225.89                    | -169,948.36               | -179.42%               |
| <b>Total Fund Balance/Equity</b>        | <b><u>94,722.47</u></b>      | <b><u>-75,225.89</u></b>      | <b><u>-169,948.36</u></b> | <b><u>-179.42%</u></b> |
| <b>Total Liability and Fund Balance</b> | <b><u>131,503.61</u></b>     | <b><u>102,315.66</u></b>      | <b><u>-29,187.95</u></b>  | <b><u>-22.20%</u></b>  |



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

**JANUARY 1, 2023 THRU MARCH 31, 2023**

| <b>ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND</b>      | <b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b> | <b><u>REMITTANCES</u></b> | <b><u>BALANCE</u></b> |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| BALANCE FORWARD                               |                        |                           | \$572.00              |
| 1ST QUARTER                                   | \$7,016.00             |                           | \$7,588.00            |
| NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS                        |                        | \$2,819.00                | <b>\$4,769.00</b>     |
| <b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE</b>             |                        |                           | \$8,769.50            |
| ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME                   | \$637.00               |                           | \$9,406.50            |
| ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #0893               | \$17.38                |                           | <b>\$9,423.88</b>     |
| <b>SOUND SYSTEM FUND - BALANCE</b>            |                        |                           | \$12,422.03           |
| SPECIAL ENVELOPES                             | \$419.50               |                           | \$12,841.53           |
| AARON ANDERSON MEMORIAL                       | \$20.00                |                           | \$12,861.53           |
| SOUND SYSTEM STAND                            |                        | \$3,115.53                | <b>\$9,746.00</b>     |
| <b>MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE</b>        |                        |                           | <b>\$1,775.40</b>     |
| <b>EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE</b>             |                        |                           | <b>\$1,577.30</b>     |
| <br>  |                        |                           |                       |
| <b>MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST</b> |                        |                           | \$56.48               |
| 1ST QUARTER INTEREST                          | \$39.42                |                           | \$95.90               |
| TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL ACCOUNT                |                        | \$70.84                   | <b>\$25.06</b>        |
| <b>MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE</b>                |                        |                           | <b>\$4,076.33</b>     |
| <b>BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE</b>             |                        |                           | <b>\$3,090.96</b>     |
| <b>CHOIR FUND - BALANCE</b>                   |                        |                           | <b>\$869.30</b>       |
| <b>ORGAN FUND - BALANCE</b>                   |                        |                           | \$12,621.00           |
| 1ST QUARTER                                   | \$1,900.00             |                           | \$14,521.00           |
| AARON ANDERSON MEMORIAL                       | \$50.00                |                           | <b>\$14,571.00</b>    |
| <b>PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE</b>               |                        |                           | \$1,462.65            |
| CAT PRODUCTIONS-REPAIRS                       |                        | \$286.41                  | <b>\$1,176.24</b>     |
| <b>VICAR FUND - BALANCE</b>                   |                        |                           | \$10,875.00           |
| 1ST QUARTER ENVELOPES                         | \$2,170.00             |                           | \$13,045.00           |
| TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT                   |                        | \$6,495.00                | <b>\$6,550.00</b>     |
| <br>  |                        |                           |                       |
| <b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE</b>     |                        |                           | \$12,312.37           |
| ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME                   | \$3,753.00             |                           | \$16,065.37           |
| ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #0560               | \$43.25                |                           | \$16,108.62           |
| LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071       | \$96.05                |                           | \$16,204.67           |
| FURNACE LOAN PAYMENTS                         |                        | \$979.62                  | \$15,225.05           |
| PAT BELTZ-INSTALLED 26 WINDOWS                |                        | \$3,200.00                | \$12,025.05           |
| BINSWANGER GLASS-DOOR REPAIRS                 |                        | \$614.67                  | \$11,410.38           |
| MASTER DRAIN CLEANING-PARSONAGE TWICE         |                        | \$310.00                  | \$11,100.38           |
| JOHNSONS-LOCKER ROOM TOILET REPAIR            |                        | \$300.59                  | <b>\$10,799.79</b>    |

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

**JANUARY 1, 2023 THRU MARCH 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                              |                        |                           | \$7,175.80            |
| ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #0699 (1)          | \$181.80               |                           | \$7,357.60            |
| ENDOWMENT THRIVENT FS/HARLEY BOVEE (2)       | \$169.83               |                           | \$7,527.43            |
| ENDOWMENT LPL FINANCIAL INCOME (4)           | \$10,519.00            |                           | \$18,046.43           |
| ENDOWMENT NATIONAL FINANCIAL INCOME (5)      | \$7,080.07             |                           | \$25,126.50           |
| FAUDEL,KOLTERMAN,REED FOUNDATION LCMS (3)    |                        |                           |                       |
| INCOME TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL ACCOUNT        |                        | \$21,130.37               | <b>\$3,996.13</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         | 0.550%                      | 4/9/2023                    |
| ROYAL ALLIANCE FINANCIAL                    | \$374,726.14        |                             |                             |
| <b>TOTAL RESTRICTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</b> | <b>\$416,741.14</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              | \$69,609.57         |                             |                             |
| <b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - SCHOLARSHIP</b> | <b>\$76,909.57</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           | 0.750%                      | 6/6/2023                    |
| 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)                   | \$1,265,917.16        |                             |                             |
| NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICE (5)              | \$1,245,724.24        |                             |                             |
| ERWIN KOLTERMAN FARM TRUST                  | \$18,500.00           |                             |                             |
| SUSAN BRODHAGEN ESTATE                      | \$122,709.08          |                             |                             |
| <b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - CHURCH GENERAL</b>    | <b>\$2,871,282.44</b> |                             |                             |

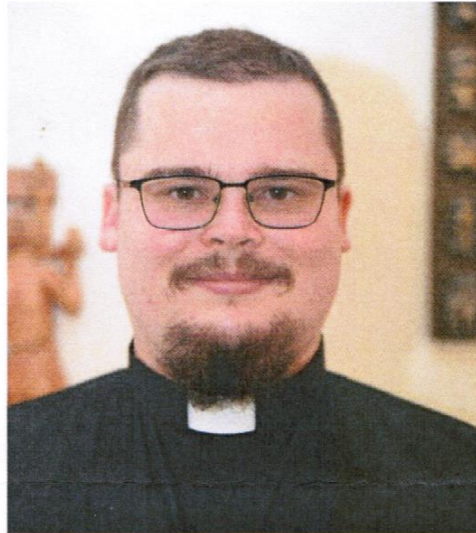
Michael J. Baumann  
Mission and Endowment Treasurer

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



Greetings in Christ!

My name is Wesley Johnson, and I am very excited to be the Vicar at Zion Lutheran Church for 2023-2024! I am truly humbled by the confidence you have placed in me by inviting me to share I the proclamation of the Word of God as your vicar next year. While I have never "officially" lived in Nebraska, I have family in Fremont that I have been visiting at least annually since I was an infant, so I consider Nebraska a second home state. I have heard many good things about Zion Lutheran Church from some of my colleagues here at Seminary, and I consider Justin Brockman, your current vicar, to be a good friend from our time as neighbors in the same dorm here in St. Louis.



While I was not raised a Lutheran (I was raised Baptist and confirmed as a Lutheran only in 2019) I nevertheless have been moved by the great generosity of this church, and especially the dedication of all our people to the training of new church workers, including seminarians like me.

I am from Sandusky, Ohio, a small city on the shore of Lake Erie, one of the great lakes. In fact, apart from my time at St. Louis, I have never lived far from the water due to my mother being a US Navy Officer until her retirement in 2018. So although I have visited Nebraska many times in my life, Pierce will still be an exciting new environment for me.

I recognize I have much to learn and much to grow in my formation toward the ministry of God's Word, and I am very happy to have the opportunity to grow with all of you. In the course of my studies here at Concordia Seminary and working with Lutheran Senior Services in St. Louis, I have gained a great appreciation for ministry to the older members of our churches and the homebound, and I look forward to continuing my growth in this area with you in Pierce.

Finally, I wish to offer a closing prayer, in sure confidence that our Lord will sustain the life-giving proclamation of His Word accomplished for our benefit in His church.

*Merciful Savior,*

*Even as you were preparing to give yourself up for us on the cross, you advocated for us, who have heard your word, that we might be one in you.*

*Bless the proclamation of your Word in Zion Lutheran Church in Pierce, Nebraska, and by that word, create faith in the hearts of all people.*

*We pray in your name, Jesus, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever.*

*Amen.*

In Christ, the perfecter of our faith,

*Wesley Johnson*

Wesley Johnson

