

# Zion News

Dear Members of Zion,

The month of May is upon us and very soon Summer Vacation will arrive for our children and young people. It's hard to believe, but the year of our Lord 2024 is now one-third over. It seems likely that the busy summer months for which we wait all year, will likely pass just as quickly.

Yet in the midst of all our busyness the Savior Jesus Christ tells us in Mark 6:31:

**“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”**

We live in a busy world. Yet our Lord Jesus invites us to find our rest in him and him alone.

Jesus also said:

**“Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.”**

As we spend time with our Lord in worship, our devotions, and in prayer, we will find the rest and spiritual refreshment that we seek and at times desperately need. Our Lord Jesus provides us with spiritual refreshment in the pages of His Holy Word, in Worship, and especially at the Lord's Table where he feeds us His very body and blood for the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith unto life everlasting.

The world busy place, especially during the summer months. Yet we find genuine rest in the Lord Jesus and His promises. Jesus said: “I am with you always.” That's not only “Good News.” it's Great News!” In the fast-approaching busy summer months, be sure to find your rest and peace in Christ alone.

Blessings,  
Pastor Bruce



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

**Zion Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
LCMS**

520 E. Main Street  
Pierce, NE 68767



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

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**Principal**

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Find us on:  
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**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 . . .**



Family of  
Sharon Broekemeier  
Dave Ruge  
Danny Anderson  
Dee Rathjen  
Cory Bockelman  
Pastor Birtell  
Dawn Tucker  
Nate Bolling  
Dawn Flinn  
Shane Dozy  
Rayleen Wesemann  
Jolene Buss

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## **STATISTICAL REPORT**

### ***Baptisms***

3/17 Ryker Scott Brovont

3/23 Cooper Matthew Collins

### ***Confirmations***

3/17 Timothy Eugene Brovont

3/17 Cristina Lynn Brovont

3/17 Avery Brunckhorst

Ethan Claussen

Cooper Collins

Natalie Endorf

Kaelyn Halsey

Malee Hamilton

Erin Hilkemann

Jaelyn Jensen

Brody Kesting

Kohle Koehler

Arriah Ludden

Alyvia Marks

Brooke Podany

Easton Price

Cole Snodgrass

Elliot Vanness

Darcy Watts

Destiney Watts

Camassia White

### ***Transferred In***

3/28 Drew Schultz

3/28 Shawn Schultz

3/28 Stella Shultz

3/11 Brandon Kroeger

### ***Transferred Out***

3/5 Shellea Olsufka

3/5 Chase "Joce" Schnelle

## **Greetings in Christ!**

I once again must express my gratitude for the opportunities for practical experiences available to me ever after several months as Vicar at Zion. I feel that I am becoming more efficient in my sermon preparation, thanks in large part to the frequency of my preaching. I was very pleased to preach at both St. John Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church in Foster over Lent. Further, I feel I have gained valuable experience in sermon preparation by preaching consecutive Sundays.

I have also made the most out of all my opportunities to teach. In 7th and 8th grade religion at Zion Lutheran School, we have begun a comparative religion curriculum. Since I have some experience with outreach to Muslims/with Campus ministry, I have instructed the Zion School students on Islam & outreach toward Muslims. 7th grade public school confirmation classes have concluded. We got through all material necessary, so I did not have them return to class after Palm Sunday.

Faith Weavers continues to go well. I have done my best to vary our classes and provide students with opportunities to show off their creativity. I have found that this not only keeps the students engaged and entertained, but helps them to gain some “ownership” over the stories which they are taught.

I attended the Nebraska District Pastors’ Conference in Kearney from April 8-9. I was very appreciative of this time of fellowship among the pastors of the Nebraska District, and I feel I have been able to incorporate some of the matters discussed at the conference into my work as Vicar here at Zion. I continue to be grateful for the experiences I have been granted as Vicar at Zion Lutheran Church, and I look forward to the months ahead.

In Christ,  
*Vicar Wesley Johnson, Vicar*

### ***DCE Message***

*“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!”*

*(Matthew 7:7-11)*

I feel like I have been telling the same story, or group of stories, a lot lately. I mean, I already do that quite often. Unfortunately, I tend to tell the same stories to the same people because I share certain stories so religiously that I often forget who I have already told, so I just end up telling the same things to the same people again. For that reason, I am going to share this account to everyone, all at once, so then I know everyone has heard it. Don’t worry, though, because it is relevant to my point. I promise.

When I was serving at a previous church, the youth group was supposed to hold a car wash in the afternoon, but the forecast, at least in the days leading up to the event, predicted rain. Even on the morning of the event, a Sunday, the sky was very overcast and gray looking. I remember the youth students came to Sunday School class that morning, and they were very worried that the event, and the youth activities for that evening, were going to get rained out. Seeing their concern, I told the students we should pray about the situation. I told the students we should

pray it didn't rain during the car wash or during the youth activities for the evening, which involved water games, but then once all of the outdoor activities were finished for the day, lets say at about 9:00PM, then it could turn into a complete downpour, as the students informed me that we really did need the rain. After crafting our prayer, we lifted up our concerns to God and then continued with the rest of class.

The day continued, and even though the afternoon and evening continued to look overcast and gray, it never did rain throughout the entirety of both events. That evening, I said goodbye to the youth students as they all got into their vehicles to head home, and I stayed to clean up the rest of the supplies from the meeting. As I was outside cleaning, though, it did, in fact, began to rain at what must have been approximately 9:00PM, I kid you not.

While we were at Camp Luther for our youth retreat this past month, the forecast consistently predicted rain and inclement weather, and so I told the students this story. I encouraged them, in the midst of the panic, to lift their concerns up to the God who could do something to help. Some of them did, although I doubt they thought it would make much difference. You know what, though, there were several times where it didn't rain while we were outside, but then once we returned to the building for an indoor activity, it would then begin to pour.

To anyone else these would just simply seem like absolutely amazing coincidences, and yet I don't believe in absolutely amazing coincidences. I do, on the other hand, believe in an absolutely amazing God.

I think one of our problems in our world today is that Christians, people who say they believe in an absolutely amazing God, don't believe God is actually still amazing. We say God created the whole world, but sometimes I think we doubt that God is actually still powerful. We read about the miracles Jesus performed in the Bible, but sometimes I think we doubt that God actually still performs miracles in our world today. We tell people to pray, but sometimes I think we doubt that God actually listens, cares, or can do anything to help when we ourselves pray. We doubt and limit God instead of praying without ceasing.

Now, with that in mind, we are always careful to say that God is not a magic genie who grants our every wish just because we want something, and I hope my two stories from above do not give you that impression. No, in the midst of our concerns and struggles we always ultimately pray that God's Will will be done, and churches are filled with people who can just as easily tell a story where a prayer seemingly went unanswered. We teach, simply put, that God answers prayers in one of three ways, yes, no, or not right now, and it can be hard to understand why something so important to us can go unheeded. This might drive us to give up on praying entirely, much to our detriment.

You see, in the midst of our anguish and doubt, we must always keep in mind that we are not God, and that our ways are not God's ways. Maybe, just maybe, the prayers we are praying, the prayers we think to be so big, are actually shortsighted. Maybe God, in His loving care, has already seen the concern of our hearts and has worked out a solution, an answer to our prayers, that is so much greater than we could have ever possibly imagined. Maybe God is, in fact, amazing, powerful, miraculous, and caring. Could you believe it?

I believe He is, and that is why I believe we need to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking. We need to keep praying. After all, we miss one-hundred percent of the shots we never take.

DCE, Derek Jareske



### **3rd/4th Grade News**

The 3rd and 4th graders are excited the end of the school year is approaching. We just took a field trip to Lincoln to tour the Nebraska History Museum and the Nebraska State Capitol. At the Nebraska History Museum we saw some awesome artifacts and saw some beautiful artwork at the capitol. At the end of April we are going to Nucor for an Arbor Day event where we get to plant trees. In May we will attend the Ag Literacy Festival here in Pierce. We are very busy this time of year and are grateful we get to enjoy all of God's blessings.

### **7th/8th Grade News**

The minds of the students in Jr. High have been busy throughout this school year. Absorbing information that they can hopefully carry on into the years to come. Consumed with understanding new topics, participating in extracurricular activities, and diving into God's word. Experiencing many stories such as *The Giver*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *Indian Captive*, *Black Beauty*, etc. Our favorite is *The Outsiders*. Exploring cells, theories, processes, and modern genetics in science. Researching the civil war, reconstruction, and moving west in social studies. Introducing ourselves to the Spanish language and becoming experts in English. Spelling many words and growing our vocabulary skills. Absorbing many formulas, operations, functions, and equations. Continuously trying to find x. Last but not least, waiting anxiously to test our archery skills during our field trip in May. The school year has been stimulating, exciting, and hopefully compelling. It has flown by rapidly. Every day remembering that "the future of this world is in this room today."



## Kindergarten Zion News

This year's kindergarten includes 11 students. We have 6 boys and 5 girls. They are Cord Christensen, Kimber Christiansen, Albert Grashorn, Bradley Hoffmann, Piper Koenig, Kollins Krueger, Paige Riggert, Octavia Rosenkrans, AtzLee Stonacek, Coy Suehl, and Owen Wolff. This semester we also had Miss Slater, a student teacher from Wayne State College in our classroom. We are working very hard on our operetta which will be performed with the 1st and 2nd graders on Thursday, April 25th, in the gym. We also have been learning so much about letter sounds such as digraphs (sh,th,ch) and sneaky e words (cake, rope, bike, etc.). We are evolving as fluent readers. Math lessons include counting coins, drawing pictures for addition and subtraction story problems, and symmetrical shapes. We all used paint to make symmetrical butterflies which were so beautiful. At Easter time we even learned how to paint a paper egg with watercolor paint. Our kindergarten class is very creative even when it comes to building with magna-tiles or legos. In science we planted flower seeds which are just coming up! Finally, we have learned so much about Jesus. During the past few weeks, we have learned about Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. We know that He is always with us and loves us so much! May you continue to grow in God's Word just like we have done this school year!

### Mrs. Test and the Kindergartners



# MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SNODGRASS

## School Year Ending

Our school year is fast coming to an end for 2023-2024. The last day at Zion will be on May 8 with 8:10am chapel service. Our students will sing at the service and be recognized for their accomplishments this school year. Then the students will get to celebrate with movies and popcorn with their classes.

We all look forward to the warmer weather of summer and time off from school. Our school will be saying goodbye to two teachers that are retiring at the end of the year. Kathy Test and Lavonne Flerer have faithfully served our school for many years and we will miss them greatly. We wish them the best in retirement and are so happy for the extra time they will be able to spend with their families. Stacy Johnson, our long-time Academic Coordinator will not be returning on a regular basis so she can be spending more time with her family. She has spent the last year working diligently on our accreditation process and offering her expertise to Mrs. Snodgrass. We wish her the best and want her to know she will be missed.

If you see any of these ladies, Please thank them for their service to our school and students. They are a large part of the success of Zion Lutheran School and our students!

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

## **What are the Opportunity Scholarships of Nebraska?**

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

## **Nebraska Tax Opportunity**

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

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



# ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

PIERCE, NE

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and academic excellence.



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## Zion Lutheran School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates

*Natalie Endorf*

*Kaelyn Halsey*

*Maelee Hamilton*

*Meredith Krienert*

*Savannah Lingenfelter*

*Alyvia Marks*

*Cole Snodgrass*

*Elliot Vanness*

*Destiney Watts*

*Camassia White*



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

As we look forward to May, school is quickly winding to a close, and it is once again time to look forward to another summer season. Although the close of another school year comes with many bittersweet moments, such as the graduation of our Zion Lutheran School 8th graders, we here in the Zion youth group planning department are also filled with a lot of excitement about the many types of opportunities that can take place in the summer months. With that in mind, there are a lot of interesting opportunities currently being planned for the next several weeks, and months, and we hope that our youth students take some time during this fun and fast season to join us for some upcoming events and meetings. If, on the other hand, you haven't joined us lately and need a bit of catching up before jumping back into things, let me just say that the last several months have had quite a few opportunities for fellowship and excitement, as well. To that end, 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, as we quickly look toward the summer season, a few reminders about games and activities would be especially helpful for the people who love to show our support and encouragement. For families that are especially involved, a calendar of events would also be helpful as we work to plan around busy summer schedules. Speaking of calendars, we hope you will continue to add our upcoming events to your calendar over this next season. We would love to see as many youth students as possible at everything planned this summer, and we hope our youth would like to share the fun by bringing a friend as well!

Speaking of events, we have several planned for the near future. First will be our Fusion Youth Group meeting for 7th through 12th graders planned to take place every month, usually the second or third Sunday of the month, usually from 5PM to 8PM at Zion Lutheran Church. As you may have noticed, we have started to make these meetings last an hour longer on a typical basis because the students so constantly wanted to stay for an extra hour at the end of each meeting, and we didn't want parents to get confused about picking up, or expecting, their youth students. What a great problem to have!

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

As always, the previous paragraph is especially vague due to the schedule for Zion News releases, and so I would highly encourage everyone to regularly review our more consistent means of communication, namely weekly church announcements, our church Facebook page, emails, text messages, and our church website for up to date information.

With all that said, here is a brief recap of a few unique events and fundraisers from the past few months. In the month of March, namely on March 10th, we held a board game and spaghetti feed for our youth students here at the church. This event went very well, and through some stealthy strategizing, Mr. J was able to pull off a win in the game of "Settlers of Canaan" in which he and a few students were playing.

In terms of fundraisers, in the month of February, we returned to Pizza Ranch to hold another fundraiser where the students served as the waitstaff, and in March the students were contracted to hide eggs in the yards of various families. The youth also hosted a Lenten meal, and although this was only a minor fundraising opportunity, we love to be able to provide a meal to the congregation before one of our Lenten services. Combined, these three fundraisers were a huge success, and they really did a lot to build up the youth fund for planned trips, events, and experiences. Thank you to the youth who always work hard to manage each of these events, and to the parents who give of their time and money to make these events work so smoothly. We would also like to thank this congregation for supporting the youth program of this church.

We, of course, fundraise with a purpose. In the short term, Vicar and Mr. J recently took a group of 27 participants, 4 chaperones and 23 students, to Camp Luther in Schylar, NE for a fun and enriching weekend retreat. The students who attended this year had a great time, and although the weather was a little less than ideal at times, it was great to be able to learn about what it means to be a Christian leader with these individuals. We are also continuing to set aside money for the upcoming National Youth Gathering to take place in New Orleans in the summer of 2025. As we quickly approach the one year away mark, more information in reference to this event will very quickly start becoming available, so please look forward to upcoming meetings and messages for those who are looking forward to attending next summer.

Again, all of these types of events are in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Group meetings in which we typically gather as a group, share a meal, discuss a Bible Study lesson, plan future youth initiatives, and have fun through fellowship activities. To round out the options, although Sunday School classes for children have paused for the summer months, Mr. J is more than happy to continue his Sunday School class for any youth students who would like to continue our study and discussion of the Bible on Sunday mornings. Anyone in 7th through 12th grade is welcome!

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

### **Faith Weavers**

Another year of Faith Weavers instruction here at Zion Lutheran Church is in the books. As always, our faithful group of students and volunteers had a year full of fun crafts, exciting games, memorable music, and enriching lessons that ultimately concluded with our end of the year picnic on May 1st. At this time we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the parents that cooperated with our Faith Weavers program by sharing their children with this church on Wednesday evenings, so that we can work to learn and grow by diving into the Bible each week.

We would also like to thank our amazing group of volunteers who truly and absolutely make this program possible. We sincerely would not be able to provide this type of instruction if it not for the amazing commitment of our gifted leaders and guides. With that in mind, if you would like to answer the call to serve by helping with Faith Weavers next year, please contact Kim Bauermann, Suzie Wachter, or Mr. Jareske (402-329-4313). To ensure the continued success of this ministry for the future, we would like to find a few additional volunteers to help in various areas next year.

Finally, we would like to thank this congregation for their support, encouragement, prayers, and generosity. Your collaboration with this program this year has been truly and greatly appreciated!

## **Hands for Christ**

Planning is well underway to provide this weekend long event for 8th through 12th grade students and adult volunteers aimed at service and community enrichment planned for June 14th and 15th. If anyone is interested in helping, and has not yet signed up, please plan to speak to Mr. J in the near future to receive some registration materials and event related information. **Registration materials must be turned in by the end of the public school year, May 22nd, so please make a plan to return all needed forms to the Avera Clinic, Zion Lutheran Church office, or the Pierce Public High School office, as soon as possible.** If, at this point, you have any questions, feel free to speak to Mr. J at your earliest opportunity. Zion Lutheran Church is blessed to have several congregation members on the planning committee for this endeavor, so if he is unable to provide an answer, he will certainly be able to work with someone who can.

## **Cards**

The youth group has graduation cards, in addition to our other available cards, in the church office. We have also started to supply a greater selection of birthday cards for all ages, so hopefully everyone will be able to find the right box of cards for their needs. If anyone needs cards in the next several weeks, or months, payment can be placed in the lockbox on the card assortment shelf. Checks can be made payable to "Zion Youth."

## **Sunday School**

The final week of Sunday School instruction for children for the summer took place on Sunday, May 12th, at our usual time and locations. Although Sunday School classes for children paused for the summer months at that time, Vicar will be continuing with his class, and Mr. J is more than happy to continue instruction for any youth who would like to proceed with our study and discussion of the Bible on Sunday mornings over the next few months. Mr. J and his students typically meet in either the church gym or Vicar's office, and recently, they have been reviewing a broad summary of the early biblical accounts that we all grew up learning, just a little more deeply.

## **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.*



## **VBS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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 2nd, beginning at 12PM. 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 the meeting on that Sunday.

If you would like to be involved in the planning process in the weeks leading up to VBS, please plan to attend our future planning meetings. The dates and times for these meetings are included in our weekly church announcements and on our church website. This event takes a lot of planning and preparation, and so we do appreciate any help that anyone is able to offer. Catch you on the next wave!

## Vacation Bible School

Are the oceans filled with dangerous depths or marvelous mysteries? Are there treasures waiting just below the surface of the water waiting to be discovered?

Find out this summer as we dive into the Bible for another summer of splashing, learning, and growing at Zion Lutheran Church in Pierce, NE. During Vacation Bible School, this year, we hope everyone has packed their scuba gear as we prepare to explore the vast recesses of the ocean in the pursuit to sink into the truth of God's deep and endless love for His people.

The theme for Zion Lutheran Church, Pierce, VBS this year will be "Scuba" by Group Publishing, and it will be taking place Monday, June 3rd, through Friday, June 7th, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM each day, with the VBS closing to take place during the 10:00AM church service on Sunday, June 9th. All students going into Pre K through 6th grade are welcome to join as participants, and anyone 7th grade and older is encouraged to lend a hand as a volunteer.

Reminder, the VBS closing will take place during the 10:00AM church service on Sunday, June 9th, 2024. All students involved in VBS this year are welcome to participate, so we can really show the congregation what we learned throughout the week. If students are planning to participate in this service, please plan to arrive to the church and meet in the Zion gym by 9:45AM, so we can practice and assemble in groups. The students will sit with their class for the duration of the service as they will sing several times throughout. Get excited for a trip under the sea this June because adventure awaits this summer!

### VBS INFORMATION AND DONATIONS

Although it may be hard to believe, VBS is less than a month away. Keeping that in mind, we are asking the congregation to consider aiding our VBS program by lending their support through a variety of ways, such as:

1. Please continue to keep our students and volunteers in your prayers.
2. We need volunteers who would be willing to serve in a variety of areas. Please consider registering to help with VBS by filling out a paper registration, found at the church office or on our church website, or by completing registration online at our church website, <https://zionlutheranpierce.com/>, under "Educational Ministries" and the VBS tab.
3. Students are now able to be registered, so please consider inviting friends or family members. Paper registrations are available in the church office or can be printed from our church website, and online registration can be completed from our church website, <https://zionlutheranpierce.com/>, under "Educational Ministries" and the VBS tab. Paper registrations may be returned to the Zion Church offices during our regular business hours.
4. For your convenience, a donation board will be featured in the Narthex starting in mid May, so if you are able to buy or provide a few needed items from our wish list, that would be very helpful. Needed items will also be included on our church website, as well. For those interested in making cookies, peanut products (including peanuts and peanut butter) are sticky prohibited. We will begin looking for cookie bakers in mid May, and a sign-up sheet will be included online and in the church narthex/church office.
5. For those who would like to support our VBS but cannot volunteer or provide items, we will be accepting monetary donations, as well. 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).

Reminder Vacation Bible School will be taking place June 3rd through June 7th from 9AM to 12PM, daily. For question, please contact Mr. Jareske by email ([dcejareske@zionlutheranpierce.com](mailto:dcejareske@zionlutheranpierce.com)) or by phone (402-329-4313). Also, as these types of messages only appear on a semi-regular basis, and new and up to date information can be found by checking our church website, we would strongly suggest checking out our VBS page of our church website on a regular basis.



### **NEW PROJECT CONNECT BOOKLETS---**

Zion's LLL—MC is bringing you some new Project Connect booklets for your reading pleasure, faith strengthening, and/or your personal needs. The new June 2024 Project Connect booklets will be found at the TOP LEVEL of the Project Connect display rack. The PC display rack is located in the narthex to your right as you exit the west narthex door. The New Booklets for JUNE are: WHY DO BAD

*THINGS HAPPEN?---why trouble exists, the benefits that may come, and what God has done with the evil and pain. LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD---showing God's love to the hurting and to the spiritually lost is urgent in our neighborhoods. EVERYONE IS A GIFT---do we recognize the worth and dignity that God gives every human being including YOU? UNCOVER THE LOVER WITHIN---This professional marriage counselor was disappointed that her marriage did not measure up. Read how to uncover the lover within.*

The April and May Project Connect Booklets are provided. The Booklets for MAY are: SURVIVING BREAST CANCER; YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S PLAN; FORGIVENESS IS A CHOICE; and HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FAITH. The April New Booklets remain in the top level of the display rack. They are: A GREIF LIKE NO OTHER; A TREASURE REVEALED; THE TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS; and HOPE AND HEALING—SURVIVING BREAST CANCER. The April New Booklets remain in the middle level of the display rack. They are: A GREIF LIKE NO OTHER; A TREASURE REVEALED; THE TRUTH ABOUT ANGELS; and HOPE AND HEALING—SURVIVING BREAST CANCER

### **Zion LLL—MC (Lutheran Layman League---Mission Connection)**

We closed out our year of promoting the LLL—MC; Lutheran Hour Ministries—Mission Connection with our April meeting. We were able to send a \$100.00 gift to the Nebraska District LLL Worker Scholarship Fund. Our plans are to continue this fall with our first meeting of the year to be on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Our primary goal is to have a Bible study for the strengthening of our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our meetings are normally very brief. After the Bible study and the brief meeting we have small luncheon with time to socialize. **PLAN TO COME AND JOIN US IN SEPTLEMBER!**

### **QUILTERS:**

The Quilting Ladies will be ending the weekly sessions in May and will resume again in Oct.. We were able to construct 103 quilts this year. We donated 103 to Orphan Grain Train and 9 were donated to the Zion Wild Game Feed and locally. We would like to thank everyone who donated sheets, fabric, or batting. Your support is appreciated. We meet once a week on Thursday afternoons and welcome anyone who is interested to join us next fall.

### **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.



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MEETING

April 18, 2024

Chairman Tom Weinrich called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bruce opened with prayer.

Roll call was taken.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Mike Krueger made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rick Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Warneke gave the General Treasurers Report. Submitted as written. 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.

Rick Sirek presented the Statistical Report as written. Rick moved to accept the report. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried. Rick stated the rest of the Elders Report would be covered in Pastor's report. He noted that the school is progressing. He moved to accept his report. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Brady Bretschneider gave the Trustee Report. The church roof loan has been paid off between the roof insurance and a CD, the debt has been retired. The trustees have been taking care of minor things. Brady moved to accept his report. Mike Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Education Report was given by Tyler Krueger. Submitted as written. He moved to accept his report. Doug Cromwell seconded; motion carried.

Pastor Bruce gave his report. Submitted as written. Pastor moved to accept his report. Blaine Bockelman seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Johnson gave his report. Submitted as written. Vicar moved to accept his report, John Meier seconded. Motion carried.

Jennifer Snodgrass report on the school. Submitted as written. Jennifer moved to accept her report. Seconded by Gerry Krueger. Motion carried.

Mr. Jareske gave the DCE report. Submitted as written. Mr. J. moved to accept his report. Seconded by Ken Peekenschneider. Motion carried.

Old Business. Tami White reported on the new school. The Alumni Committee is currently contacting Alumni. The school build is still on tract to be completed by November 2024. The next capital campaign will start in April of 2026.

Mike Krueger stated Missionary Gary Thies will be here Sunday, even though his wife's funeral was just this past Tuesday. It would be great if we could "pack the house".

New Business. Greg Warneke stated that the school note requires a yearly budget. It is required to be done by July 1. Greg had a copy of the completed budget that he could turn in for review of the loan committee. Greg moved to accept his projected 24-25 budget. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

John Meier moved to approve the application of a vicar for the 2024-2025 year. Rick Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Brady Bretschneider moved to adjourn. Mike Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Krueger, Secretary

4/11/2024  
02:15 pm

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Income Statement**

**Book 01 - General**

**Income**

Envelopes  
All Other Income  
Investment Income

	Quarter 3	Year-to-date as of 3/31/2024
Envelopes	120,350.57	403,921.15
All Other Income	27,504.33	120,051.81
Investment Income	71,202.26	113,184.90
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 219,057.16</b>	<b>\$ 637,157.86</b>

**Expense**

Operating Expense  
Program Expense  
Salary/Worker Benefits

	Quarter 3	Year-to-date as of 3/31/2024
Operating Expense	22,716.72	188,223.57
Program Expense	2,299.81	9,610.08
Salary/Worker Benefits	188,931.44	589,437.54
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 213,947.97</b>	<b>\$ 787,271.19</b>

**Summary for Book 01 - General**

	Quarter 3	Year-to-date as of 3/31/2024
Income:	219,057.16	637,157.86
- Expense:	213,947.97	787,271.19
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$ 5,109.19</b>	<b>\$ 150,113.33</b>

*+ 113,878.80 Root Insurance*  
*678,392.39 Money To Root*  
*Loan*  
**+ 113,878.80**  
**- 36,234.53**

4/11/2024  
01:39 pm

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Balance Sheet 3rd Qt. 2023-24**  
Finance year 2024 as of 3/31/2024

**Book 01 - General**

**Assets**

**CASH**

Church Checking Acct.

Midwest Bank General Acct

Church Checking Acct.:

MWB Payroll Acct.

Midwest Bank Payroll Acct

MWB Payroll Acct.:

Roof Repairs Account

Money Market Roof

Roof Repairs Account:

Steward Account

Steward Account

Steward Account:

CASH:

**Total assets:**

	Balance as of 7/1/2023	Balance as of 3/31/2024	Change	Percent change
Church Checking Acct.:	806.07	-3,450.25	-4,256.32	-528.0%
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	4,957.09	-696.87	-12.3%
CASH:	120,430.71	1,707.19	-118,723.52	-98.6%
<b>Total assets:</b>	<b>120,430.71</b>	<b>1,707.19</b>	<b>-118,723.52</b>	<b>-98.6%</b>

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

(no Minor group)

NE - Withholding

Employee Health Ins. Liab

Employee DCA

(no Minor group):

Current Liabilities:

**MWB Loans**

Midwest Operating Note

MWB 23 Operating

MWB 24 Operating

Midwest Operating Note:

MWB Loans:

**Liabilities:**

**Equity**

**Equity:**

Book equity:

**Total liabilities, dedicated and equity:**

NE - Withholding	371.16	636.66	265.50	71.5%
Employee Health Ins. Liab	653.94	2,173.92	1,519.98	232.4%
Employee DCA	1,542.71	1,908.47	365.76	23.7%
(no Minor group):	2,567.81	4,719.05	2,151.24	83.8%
Current Liabilities:	2,567.81	4,719.05	2,151.24	83.8%
Midwest Operating Note:	8,186.53	0.00	-8,186.53	-100.0%
MWB 23 Operating	0.00	37,425.10	37,425.10	- %
MWB 24 Operating	0.00	0.00	0.00	- %
Midwest Operating Note:	8,186.53	37,425.10	29,238.57	357.2%
MWB Loans:	8,186.53	37,425.10	29,238.57	357.2%
<b>Liabilities:</b>	<b>10,754.34</b>	<b>42,144.15</b>	<b>31,389.81</b>	<b>291.9%</b>
<b>Equity:</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>- %</b>
Book equity:	109,676.37	-40,436.96	-150,113.33	-136.9%
<b>Total liabilities, dedicated and equity:</b>	<b>120,430.71</b>	<b>1,707.19</b>	<b>-118,723.52</b>	<b>-98.6%</b>

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

<b>ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME - GENERAL</b>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
BALANCE FORWARD			\$7,509.73
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #0699 (1)	\$770.38		\$8,280.11
ENDOWMENT THRIVENT FS/HARLEY BOVEE (2)	\$169.83		\$8,449.94
ENDOWMENT LPL FINANCIAL INCOME (4)	\$10,218.00		\$18,667.94
ENDOWMENT NATIONAL FINANCIAL INCOME (5)	\$9,960.36		\$28,628.30
HARLEY, KOLTERMAN, REED FOUNDATION LCMS (3)			
HARLEY & HENRIETA BOVEE GRANT			
INCOME TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$21,118.57	<b>\$7,509.73</b>

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

<b>RESTRICTED - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<u>VALUE</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>	<u>MATURITY DATE</u>
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	\$405,333.19		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>\$447,348.19</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED - SCHOLARSHIP</b>			
MIDWEST BANK CD #100893	\$7,300.00	1.390%	3/30/2025
ROYAL ALLIANCE FINANCIAL	\$78,471.86		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>\$85,771.86</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED - CHURCH GENERAL</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)	\$1,341,316.61		
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICE (5)	\$1,363,624.69		
MATCHING DEBT DRIVE 02/09/24	-\$50,000.00		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - CHURCH GENERAL</b>	<b>\$2,873,373.26</b>		

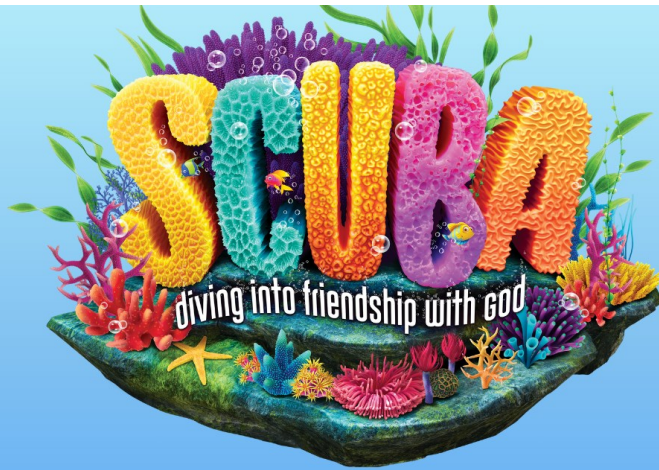
Michael J. Baumann  
Mission and Endowment Treasurer

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

June 2023



May 2024



## SAVE THE DATE!

Zion Lutheran Church (Paper Registrations)  
Pre-K through 6th Grade Students

520 E. Main Street, Pierce, NE 68767  
Contact: (402)-329-4313

Mon., June 3rd, through Fri., June 7th, 2024 (9AM-12PM)  
VBS Closing Service: Sunday, June 9th, starting at 10AM

VBS Online Registration:

<https://zionlutheranpierce.com>

Check Under "Educational Ministries" and "VBS"





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

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