

# Zion News

Dear Zion Members,

Where does the time go? We are not more than halfway through the month of November and the Thanksgiving Holiday is now just around the corner. As in years past, Service will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Even in a world filled with turmoil and trouble, there is always much for us to be both thankful and grateful.

Of course, our thankfulness transcends any given day or holiday for that matter. A thankful heart is a blessing and a gift from God. Life itself is a gift. Every day is a new day an opportunity to live our lives in thanksgiving to our gracious God who has blessed us in so many ways.

There are several things that we are thankful for as a congregation this year. To begin with, we are thankful that since last Thanksgiving over 20 infants, youth, and adults have been brought into God's Family through the waters of Holy Baptism in our congregation. Twenty-nine youth and adults have been received as Communicant Members through the rite of Confirmation. Ten adults have been received by Transfer. Our congregation is truly blessed in so many ways.

We are also thankful that our congregation was recognized by Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for ten consecutive years in the Vicarage Program. It is a tremendous privilege for our congregation to have an ongoing role in the formation of future pastors in our Church. Presently there are eight pastors serving congregations in our Church who served their Vicarage here at Zion. To God be the Glory!

Finally, on a personal note, I am tremendously thankful for the faith-driven, forward-thinking, planning, and generosity of each of our members when it comes to the New School Project. The building site is even now a flurry of activity with footings being poured for our New School. Also, a Storm Shelter which will ensure that our children, young people, faculty and staff will be safe, if Lord forbid, a dangerous storm should ever strike our region or community. A school that will serve our church and this community providing a quality, Christ-Centered Christian Education for decades to come into the next century.

Blessings, Pastor Bruce

**Give thanks to the Lord,  
for he is good; his love  
endures forever.**

*—1 Chronicles 16:34*



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

**Zion Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
LCMS**

520 E. Main Street  
Pierce, NE 68767



**www.zionlutheranpierce.com**

**https://www.youtube.com/  
@zionlutheranchurchpierce3283**

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School Office.....402-329-4658

**Church**

churchoffice@zionlutheranpierce.com

**Pastor**

ziongbw@ptcnet.net

**School**

zlsoffice@zionlutheranpierce.com

**Principal**

jsnodgrass@zionlutheranpierce.com



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

**PAX Worship**

8:00am

**Traditional Worship**

10:00am

**Monday Vespers**

7:00pm

**Rev. Gordon W. Bruce**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Vicar Wesley Johnson**

**Mr. Derek Jareske**  
*Director of Christian Ed*

**Ms. Amy Weber**  
*Church Secretary*

**Mrs. Jennifer Snodgrass**  
*Principal*

**Mrs. Stacy Johnson**  
*Academic Coordinator*

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

**Prayer  
List . . .**



Nate Bolling      Dawn Tucker  
Shane Dozy      Dawn Flinn  
Ivy Clausen      Jolene Buss  
Janelle Fischer      Leroy Fischer  
Sharon Brokemeier  
Rayleen Wesemann

*Current Indebtedness*  
\$43,127.62

*Phase #2 Sound System*  
\$1,556.33

## **OFFICERS 2023/2024**

### **Chairman**

Tom Weinrich

### **Vice-Chairman**

Todd Stonacek

### **Secretary**

Sherri Krueger

### **Financial Secretary**

Rod Voelker/Mark Luebe

### **General Treasurer**

Greg Warneke

### **Mission Treasurer**

Mike Baumann

### **Board of Elders**

Rick Sirek (Chairman)

Brian Blecher

Doug Cromwell

Andy White

Mike Krueger

John Meier

### **Board of Trustees**

Dennis Watts (Chairman)

Eric Vanness

Gerald Hixson

Ruth Weinrich

Brady Bretschnieder

Tami White

### **Board of Education**

Brandon Hamilton (Chairman)

Casey Krueger (Vice Chairman)

Laura Benes (Secretary)

Ryan Babel

Tyler Krueger

Jodi Beacom

## **STATISTICAL REPORT**

### ***Baptisms***

8/6/23	Octavia Emerson
8/27/23	Brady Robert Kruger
8/27/23	Emersyn Inez Freeman
9/17/23	Skye Sharon Asmus
9/24/23	Stetson Ray Flesner
10/8/23	Julez Ella Magdanz
10/22/23	Gracie Collins Emerson

### ***Confirmations***

9/8/23	Tyler Carlson
10/1/23	Tiffany Botsco
10/1/23	Jonathan Doak
10/1/23	Talon Balaski
10/1/23	Molly White
10/1/23	Douglas Langston
10/15/23	Stormy Marie Alexis Stonacek

### ***Funerals***

9/18/23	Barry Tietgen
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### ***Transferred In***

8/14/23	Shellea Olsufka
8/14/23	Chase "Joce" Schnelle



Luke 17:12-18 (ESV)

12 And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance 13 and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” 14 When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. 15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”

In the appointed Gospel reading for this Thanksgiving, we find a Samaritan, a foreign leper that Jesus healed, returning thanks to Jesus, who he now recognizes as his Lord. By Jesus’ reaction to him, we might infer that the other nine lepers, the Samaritan’s neighbors, were probably Jewish – belonging to the same nation as Jesus. Yet, it is only the foreigner that returns with thanks. Thus, the faith of this Samaritan (former) leper is especially powerful, as he seems to have been doubly separated from the people of God. First, he has been separated by birth: he belongs to a nation that has for some time been in conflict with the people of God. Second, he has been separated by his disease: lepers would be expelled from their cities and forced to live outside the walls, so that their disease would not spread among the general population. Yet this Samaritan overcomes whatever fear he might have of approaching his Lord, and he gives Jesus the thanks He deserves.

I certainly have never been in such a dire position as the Samaritan leper we read of in Luke, but I nevertheless must express thanks for the grace I have been shown by God, and the confidence I have been given by you, the people of Zion Lutheran Church. I think any new move comes with some anxiety... but I was not sure what to expect three months ago, when I took on the new responsibilities of a vicar here in Pierce. What I found was a congregation willing to support me in my education and to provide me with great new experiences – teaching in Zion Lutheran School; bringing the Word to members of Zion in the hospital or those who are otherwise unable to attend regular worship; participating in various rites and ceremonies: including 7 baptisms and one wedding; and sharing the Word of God on Sundays in liturgy and preaching.

As we approach the Advent Season, our Lord invites us to share in His gifts – as He does in all seasons. Now is a time when we may ask ourselves how we may give thanks for all that He has done for us. Certainly there are many opportunities in our congregation: our \$50,000 matching debt drive, our school building program, and the numerous volunteer opportunities within our ministries are all means our God has given us to show our thanks.

I, for my part, thank God for the saints of Pierce Nebraska, and I look forward to our work together in the coming months.

In Christ,

Wesley Johnson

Vicar, Zion Lutheran Church

“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:4-8)

If you have ever broken a bone before, you know how hard it can be to go without that part of the body. If you break your arm, especially your dominate arm, you would certainly have to re-learn how to live your life and perform daily tasks without the use of that arm. Sure, this would include small changes like having to remember to lift with the other arm, but this might also include bigger changes like forcing you to have to learn how to write with your non-dominate hand. In this second case, I think we can all agree that we would begin to miss our other arm very quickly within the healing process.

I think the comparison given to us by Paul in the reading included above is especially easy to understand as we all know what it is like to have an overall body with individual parts. We know what a foot is, what it's used for, and how to use this appendage to aid the overall body. For instance, it wouldn't make very much sense to walk on your hands when you have two perfectly good feet that are designed for that very task, minus a carnival performance. Different parts of the body are invaluable to the overall whole, and like I stated above, we really miss them when they are gone.

The body of Christ, His Church, is like that, also. God has given everyone specific gifts that are unique to each individual, and one way we can offer a response in thankfulness to God is to use those gifts to benefit the Church and our neighbor. Of course, we don't want to twist any arms, pun unintended, but doesn't it bring a smile to our face when we see how God can use the voice of a great singer to enliven a worship service? Ultimately the body of Christ is strengthened when you are there to offer a joyful noise, teach, or serve in other ways.

We also tend to notice when something is missing. Maybe not right away, but we certainly begin to notice when things that always ran smoothly before suddenly start to come with complications. Just like an out of commission arm may make for a bad month, it matters when members of the body of Christ are sitting idly.

Now, at this point, let me make one quick qualification before I reach my conclusion, lest we get the wrong idea. No matter what we might think, no individual member of the body of Christ, other than Christ Himself, is so valuable that it can't be replaced. We might not want to imagine our congregation without our favorite small group leader, but unless Christ returns before hand, we all have an expiration date. With that, though, we can be comforted in the fact that God does have a way of growing the next generation to replace those who go before them. The hands and feet of new volunteers eventually must replace the volunteers of the past.

Here at Zion, we are at that time. Many ministries have been faithfully maintained by the service of individuals who have given of their time, talents, and treasures for countless years, and now those ministries are ready for an influx of new members to grow alongside, learn from, and eventually carry forward the work of those past servants. With that in mind, could you be someone who could attend an LWML meeting? Could you use your talents to help manage and/or teach a group of Faith Weavers students? You could learn how to run the soundboard on Sunday mornings? I couldn't possibly say, but I do know that we have all been blessed by God with unique skills and talents. As you read this message, ask yourself this question, “How can I use my talents to serve the Church for the glory of God?”

I know people usually like to be invited to serve, so if you have never been invited before, consider yourself officially invited to join the anatomy board.

# MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL SNODGRASS

Many things have been happening on our new school project since the beginning of the school year! Footings are in and now the storm shelter is getting formed up for concrete. The storm shelter will also be our library, it is located in the middle of the first floor of the building. Not only will the library provide educational needs for our students but will also serve as an area of safety.

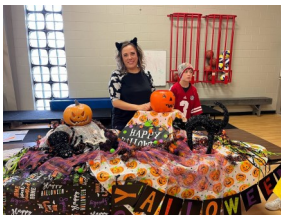
We look forward to the new school serving the needs of our children for many years to come. This is an exciting time for the students and the staff as we see the changes happen before our eyes each day.

To God be the glory that we are able to continue to provide a Christian education to Pierce and the surrounding communities! Christian education is so important in this day and age. It provides another opportunity for children to grow their relationship with the Lord. They hear the Word at church services, at home from their parents, and at school. We cannot keep our children from the things of the world but we can equip them with a deep understanding and loving relationship with the Lord.

Proverbs 22:6

*Train up a child in the way he should go;*

*even when he is old he will not depart from it.*



**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**



## PUMPKIN ROLL RUN



**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.

## **Teacher openings for 2024-2025 School year**

Do you have a love for teaching children and sharing the word of God? We have an opportunity for you! Zion Lutheran School is looking for a Preschool teacher and a teacher for Grades 5 & 6.

Our beloved teachers Mrs. Kathy Test (Kindergarten) and Mrs. Lavonne Fleer (Grades 5 & 6) are retiring at the end of the school year. We thank them for their many years of faithful service to our students and school! Mrs. Misty Steffen, our current Preschool teacher will be moving to Kindergarten starting the 2024-2025 school year.

Please submit your resume with references to Jennifer Snodgrass, Zion Lutheran School, 520 E. Main St. Pierce NE 68767.

### **Children's Christmas Service**

Our Children's Christmas Service will be December 17 at 2pm. If your child would like to participate in the service, please contact the school office by November 29th at 402-329-4658.



### **New Para-Educator**



Ms Wanda has been a resident of Pierce for over 20 years now. In 2003 a job at Farm Bureau brought her and her daughter Tiffany to the community. Since then

she has also worked for the Pierce County Assessor and recently ended an eight year stretch of owning J's Place. During this time she was also blessed with another daughter, Lillian, and with four amazing grandchildren. Prior to Pierce she grew up on a dairy farm outside of Dodge with her 5 brothers. She was able to get her teaching degree from Wayne State College and taught for a couple years at St Wenceslaus in Dodge. She is more than blessed to be bring this part of her past active again with the kids and families of Zion Lutheran School.



# 1st Grade Newsletter



This year our first grade class is bigger than ever! We have 17 kids full of energy, fun, curiosity, a love for Jesus, and did I say energy? We are learning how to take all our energy and use it in positive ways that would make our God happy. When I asked them what they wanted to share with all of you they said, "First grade is the best!", "We are the loudest!", "This class is funny!", and "This school is the best!". We are learning a lot about being the best versions of ourselves, how to read, and how to be independent young kids. Thank you to all our parents, grandparents, and Zion families who make it possible for us to grow each and every day!

Jennifer Rohrich- First Grade Teacher- - [rohrich@zionlutheranpierce.com](mailto:rohrich@zionlutheranpierce.com)



# 2nd Grade Newsletter

This year the second grade class has taken measures to be hands-on with their learning. Our class really loves activities that let them use their creativity, imagination, or activities that are interactive. I surveyed the group of students to find out what their favorite classroom learning experiences have been. The consensus was Blooket, Art, and Writing.



Blooket is an interactive game that the students use to study before big tests. This has been a fun way for the second graders to refresh their brain before testing. The student's favorite part about this game is that they are competing with classmates and are able to interact with their classmates within the game. (top picture is of students playing Blooket)

Wednesdays are our art days and the students won't let me forget! Every Tuesday I hear, "don't forget that we have art tomorrow". They are very enthusiastic about creating and using their imagination. Their favorite art project was learning to shade and learning to modge podge with glue. (picture to the right is of students with one of their art projects)



Writing has been a big part of our year so far. In just the first quarter, our class has written four stories! They are quite the authors. Each story has been a different genre. They have written a fantasy story, an autobiography, a nonfiction story, and a creative writing piece. Their creative writing story was their all time favorite story that they have written. The story was all about the Wild West. (picture to the left is of students creating art to match their stories)

## Zion Lutheran Youth Group Christmas Cookie and Candy Annual Fundraiser



**Need cookies or candies for neighbors, friends, relatives or Christmas parties, but don't have the time or want the mess? Let us help you out!!**

Zion Lutheran Youth Group will be selling an assortment of homemade decorated sugar cookies, molasses sugar cookies, chocolate mint cookies and candies. To guarantee best selection and quantity, preorders can be made by calling Sarah @ (402) 277-0654 by December 10th. Pick-up times are: Saturday, December 16th 10-noon in the church kitchen, Sunday December 17th following 8 & 10 am services and Children's 2pm Christmas program in the church narthex. All funds go towards Youth Group activities. A limited number of pre-made platters will be available for those that did not pre-order.

Items available include: Cookies: decorated sugar cookie cutouts, molasses sugar cookies, chocolate mint cookies

Candies: caramel Chex mix, peppermint almond bark pieces, dipped pretzel rods, chocolate fudge, caramels, English toffee, and Oreo balls.

We will also offer baked, undecorated sugar cookie cutouts by the dozen.

Dozen Decorated Sugar Cookies \$12, pre-orders \$10

Dozen Undecorated Sugar Cookies \$10, pre-orders \$8

Large Platter Cookies and assorted candy \$40, pre-orders \$35  
(consists of 6 pieces of each candy and 6 of each cookies)

Small Platter Cookie and assorted candy \$30, pre-orders \$25  
(6 pieces of your choice of 4 candies and your choice of 1/2 dozen cookies)



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, we are very quickly approaching the Thanksgiving holiday and the seasons of Advent and Christmas to follow. I, for one, hate to start the Christmas season too soon, certainly not before Thanksgiving at least, but when you work at a church, you sometimes have no choice but to start Christmas planning early. With that in mind, we, here in the Zion Lutheran Church youth group planning department, have a lot of interesting opportunities planned for the next several months, and we hope you take some time during this busy season to join us for some events and meetings. That being said, the last several months, since the last time that I wrote one of these messages, has had plenty of opportunities for fun and excitement, as well. Before that, let me offer a brief recap of a few things that have happened lately.

First, if any students would like a church worker from this church to try to attend an upcoming activity, make sure to let us know when these events will be taking place. As we head into the winter season, and new sports and activities begin, a few reminders would be very helpful for the people who love to show our support at games and shows. Speaking of activities, we hope you will continue to add our upcoming events and planned activities to your calendar over this next season. We would love to see you at everything planned for the next few months, and we hope that you would like to share the fun by bringing a friend as well!

Speaking of events, we have several planned to take place here in the near future. First will be our regular monthly Fusion Youth Group meeting for 7th through 12th grade students planned to take place every month, usually the second or third Sunday of the month, from 5PM to 7PM at Zion Lutheran Church, likely in the church fellowship hall/gym. 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. These events have differing schedules and time frames depending on what we are doing, and where we will be going. Third, we will likely be planning to hold a variety of fundraisers throughout the year, depending on the month, and we would love to have your help.

As you might have noticed, at this point, the previous paragraph is a little vague. That, of course, is because these Zion News messages will only be coming out once a quarter as opposed to once a month. With that in mind, it is a little bit harder to pin down several months worth of opportunities, especially if plans have to change in light of unforeseen circumstances. With that in mind, I would highly encourage everyone to regularly review our weekly church bulletin of announcements, our church Facebook page, and our church website for the most up to date information on a week by week basis.

In regards to past events, our last major fundraiser was a drive-in movie event that took place on September 9th where the youth students sold concession items to raise money for youth trips and events. This event was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, and it was a joint effort between the two youth groups from St. John's and Zion. Although this event wasn't as big of a success as some of our past fundraising efforts, as we split the total amount raised between two groups, this event provided a nice opportunity for the students from two different youth groups to work together and grow in Christian camaraderie. Of course, these fundraisers are only able to take place due to the generosity of the members of this congregation, and so we humbly say thank you to everyone for assisting with and/or giving to support the youth of this church and our youth program initiatives.

Regarding the types of trips and events that we fundraise toward, some of the auxiliary youth events which have taken place during the last several months have been a youth lock-in in August, a video game tournament in September, and a Reformation Day party in October. All of these events were a lot of fun for everyone involved, and just thinking about the youth lock-in, I received a lot of positive feedback from parents in the days following the event. This lock-in was the first youth event that was held with our new Vicar, Vicar Johnson, so we wanted to give him a good picture of what the youth ministry at Zion is all about right off the bat.

On top of the fundraisers and auxiliary events, we also held our usual Fusion Youth Group meetings in August, on August 20th, September, on September 17th, and October, on October 8th, for our 7th through 12th grade students. All of these meetings 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. There really is a lot going on here at Zion, and we would love for all of the youth of this congregation to be a part of all of these exciting experiences. If this sounds interesting, more information can be found on our church website under "Educational Ministries" and "Youth Ministries."

Finally, if any confirmed youth would be interested in serving as an usher during next year, please speak to Mr. Jareske in the near future, so we can get your name on our list of ushers. We are hoping to provide a training for new ushers as soon as our list of volunteers in finalized. **MR. J**

## **Faith Weavers**

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

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

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

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

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School classes for all grades will resumed starting on Sunday, September 10th, 2023, at our usual time of 9:00AM to 9:45PM. Each week, students should start in the Zion Lutheran Church gym and wait for their teacher to take them to their classroom. This year, Kathy Tinker will be teaching the Pre-School through Kindergarten class, Judy Voelker will be teaching the 1st through 3rd grade class, Claudia Riggert will be teaching the 4th through 6th grade class, and Mr. Jareske will be teaching the 7th through 12th grade class. We are still looking for several substitute teachers, so if you are interested in helping with Sunday School during this year, please let Mr. Jareske know, as soon as possible. Otherwise, please continue making Sunday School classes part of your weekly routine!

## **Youth Sunday School**

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

## **Calling All Callers**

Recently, our church staff has been working to rebuild our ushering program through the assistance of high school youth. One of our current obstacles is the lack of up to date information about who would be available to usher, and what kind of schedule would work best for participating individuals. With that in mind, we are currently seeking a group of congregation members to answer the call to assist our efforts by calling families with the intention of updating our current information. If you would be willing to serve in this way, please email Mr. Jareske or call to speak with him using the church phone number. We will look toward starting these phone calls after the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Christmas Cards

The youth students representing the Fusion Youth Group will be, once again, selling Christmas cards in the church narthex following both services on the four Sunday mornings in Advent to help fundraise for our various events and trips. Please come check out our selection starting in early December, so you can be prepared for the Christmas season.

## 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.*

## DEBT DRIVE

Great News!

We are now winding down another calendar year. But there is something different this year! At this time of year, we are usually in the process of retiring and operating debt that usually exceeds \$100,000.00!

But there is something different this year. This year our operating debt is less than half that amount. Specifically, our present operating debt is \$43,000!

We don't want to see this number grow in the coming months, so at our November Voter's Meeting our Voters Assembly approved a \$50,000, matching funds Debt Retirement Drive. Every dollar given for the Debt Drive will be matched up to \$50,000, with the goal of raising a total of \$100,000. This will retire our present debt and also put us in a good financial position for the coming months.

Please remember that it is our faithful weekly offerings that have enabled us to keep our operating debt at a manageable level. As you are able, please help with this important effort and support the ministries of our Church and School with your faithful offerings for the Lord's Word here at Zion.

## LWML Katherine Circle

October 11, 2023

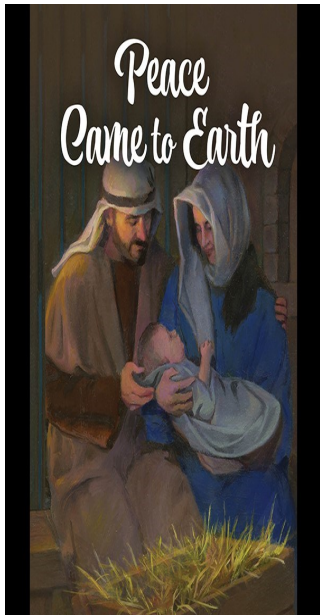
Shirley Warneke led the opening devotion titled "More Than A Greeting" from the book Together with Jesus.

The Bible study, led by Vicar Wesley Johnson, was titled "Mission of Love" from the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. Vicar asked us to close our eyes and tell what we think of when we hear the word *mission*. We discussed how we receive the Word and how Luther's Small Catechism with its six chief parts all point to how much God loves us by sending His Son Jesus.

Jacque Collison served a delicious pumpkin cake for dessert.

The meeting closed with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Dottie Ahlers, Secretary*



# **Midweek Advent Services** **12:15 P.M. And 7:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday, December 6**

LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR

**Wednesday, December 13**

PEACE TO ALL, NEAR AND FAR

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

OUR PEACE RESTS ON HIM ALONE

**\*\*\* ADVENT SUPPERS, 6:00 P.M. EACH WEEK\*\*\***

## **Christmas Services**

**CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE- 7:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE- 9:30 A.M.**

**NEW YEARS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE- 6:00 P.M.**

## **December 2023**

### **December 3 "Before They Call"**

Speaker Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

### **December 10 "A-T Walker "**

Speaker Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

### **December 17 "Life After Landing"**

Speaker Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

### **December 24 "TBD"**

Speaker Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

### **December 31 "Of Entrances and Exits"**

Speaker Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler



## **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING- NOVEMBER 6, 2023**

Chairman Tom Weinrich called the meeting to order.

Pastor Bruce opened with prayer.

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Brandon Hamilton moved to accept the report as written, Doug Cromwell seconded.

Greg Warneke gave the General Treasurer's report. Submitted as written. He stated the operating debt is \$43,000 and in our loan for the school, it is stipulated that we cannot exceed \$50,000 in any other loan. We need an income of \$18,000 per week to meet our financial obligations. A question was asked about the furnace debt. The furnace balance is \$13,521.82 with payments of \$326.54 per month at a very low interest. It was also brought up that the thermostat temperature needs to be monitored more closely to control costs. Greg moved to accept his report. Mike Baumann seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Baumann gave the Mission Treasurer report. Submitted as written. It was discussed to consolidate various categories in the treasurer's report. It was tabled and will be revisited at a future meeting. Mike moved to accept his report. Brandon Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Krueger gave the Statistical Report. Jennifer Snodgrass was installed as Principal of Zion Lutheran School. Vicar Brockman returned to the seminary for his last year and we welcomed Vicar Wesley Johnson in August. They are encouraging young people to continue to help with ushering. They are planning a call program to encourage parents to keep the youth involved with our services. Galen Anderson is the Head Usher for the 10AM service. An 8AM Head Usher is still needed. At the September 10th services, Randolph Fauser, Senior Gift Officer for Congregational Engagement from Concordia Seminary St. Louis, presented our church with a plaque for the 10 years of support of their vicarage program and our service towards the vicarage program. The elders are doing a constitutional review. LCMS Pastor Fouts will serve in an advisory capacity. Once the original has been reviewed. The old wording will be crossed out but readable with the new wording following. It would then be presented to the voters for approval. Operating debt currently is \$43,000 getting close to the \$50,000 limit. A debt drive needs to be run as soon as possible to get the debt lowered. Equipment in the parking lot needs to be in the back of the lot to keep the parking lot open. The cars that park on the northeast corner of the lot need to be removed, as the construction operators will need the space. Snodgrass Mow & Snow is a possibility for snow removal around the church. Mike moved to accept his report. Ruth Weinrich seconded. Motion carried.

Tami White gave the Trustee's Report. Linda Peekenschneider retired as organist. They are in search of replacements. The footings on the new school should be done on Thursday. Looking for new Trustees to fill openings. Doug Cromwell moved to accept Tami's report. Greg Warneke seconded. Motion carried. Education. Brandon Hamilton presented his report. Submitted as written. A budget expense report was included. They are planning to move the book fee from \$500 to \$750 next year and \$1000 in 2 years. A book fee assistance criterion will need to be set up so if there is a family that needs assistance, it will be available. Jeff Meier and Andrew Wolf have agreed to be new school board members as Brandon Hamilton and Casey Krueger's terms are up. Brandon moved to accept his report. Casey Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Bruce, Vicar Johnson and Derek Jareske will give full reports at the Voter's Meeting on Thursday. School Report was given by Jennifer Snodgrass. Submitted as written. Wanda Backus was hired to fill the vacant paraprofessional position and Mallory Rowley will help serve lunch. Kathy Test will be retiring after this school year. Jennifer moved to accept her report. Brandon Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business. It was noted that the school completion date is January 2025.

New Business. We have a member going to Lutheran High Northeast with tuition at \$2225, which will be paid out of scholarship fund. There are 2 members attending Concordia College in Seward. The \$500 per semester will also be paid.

Greg Warneke moved to adjourn. Mike Baumann seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Krueger, Secretary

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

**JULY 1, 2023 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 MISSION REPORT**

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
<b>ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND</b>			
BALANCE FORWARD			\$2,640.00
3RD QUARTER	\$1,660.00		\$4,300.00
NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS		\$3,795.00	\$505.00
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$10,116.46
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$567.00		\$10,683.46
<b>SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 1 BALANCE</b>			\$9,435.99
<b>SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 2 BALANCE</b>			\$676.27
ENVELOPES	\$80.06		\$756.33
<b>MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$1,775.40
<b>EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE</b>			\$1,593.11
<b>MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST</b>			\$57.12
3RD QUARTER	\$13.81		\$70.93
<b>MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$7,913.91
<b>BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$3,090.96
TOM'S SVC. GASOLINE ASSISTANCE		\$25.00	\$3,065.96
TOM'S SVC. GASOLINE ASSISTANCE		\$75.45	\$2,990.51
NE POWER CO./NON-MEMBER		\$75.00	\$2,915.51
<b>CHOIR FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$869.30
<b>ORGAN FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$14,871.00
HENDRICKSON ORGAN/REPAIRS & TUNEUP		\$880.00	\$13,991.00
<b>PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$1,176.24
<b>VICAR FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$2,110.00
3RD QUARTER ENVELOPES	\$2,345.00	-	\$4,455.00
KOLTERMAN TRUST TRANSFER PER VOTERS	\$18,500.08	-	\$22,955.08
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$6,885.08	\$16,070.00
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE</b>			\$12,591.76
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$3,078.00		\$15,669.76
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #1400	\$273.29		\$15,943.05
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071	\$105.17		\$16,048.22
DIRECT DEPOSITS	\$685.00		\$16,733.22
MIDWEST BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$9.01		\$16,742.23
FURNACE LOAN		\$979.62	\$15,762.61
MARKS ELECTRIC/CONDUIT A/C & MISC REPAIRS		\$267.54	\$15,495.07
FLOORTEC/CLEAN CARPETS MAIN CHURCH		\$1,237.50	\$14,257.57
HOFMANN PLB/NEW SEWER LINE PARSONAGE		\$2,310.50	\$11,947.07
WEST HODSON CONCRETE/STREET SEWER LINE		\$365.63	\$11,581.44
KUSTOM PEST CONTROL/BATS PARSONAGE		\$600.00	\$10,981.44



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

**JULY 1, 2023 THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 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			\$6,982.91
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #0699 (1)	\$647.28		\$7,630.19
ENDOWMENT THRIVENT FS/HARLEY BOVEE (2)	\$169.83		\$7,800.02
ENDOWMENT LPL FINANCIAL INCOME (4)	\$10,404.00		\$18,204.02
ENDOWMENT NATIONAL FINANCIAL INCOME (5)	\$10,034.64		\$28,238.66
FAUDEL, KOLTERMAN, REED FOUNDATION LCMS (3)	\$6,589.04		\$34,827.70
HARLEY & HENRIETA BOVEE GRANT			
INCOME TRANSFERRED TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$27,310.93	<b>\$7,516.77</b>

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

<b>RESTRICTED - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b><u>VALUE</u></b>	<b><u>INTEREST RATE</u></b>	<b><u>MATURITY DATE</u></b>
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND 303362-5	\$3,715.00	2.250%	9/18/2027
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND 304207-1	\$12,300.00	2.750%	10/4/2025
MIDWEST BANK CD #100560	\$26,000.00	4.170%	4/10/2024
ROYAL ALLIANCE FINANCIAL	\$364,126.30		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>\$406,141.30</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	\$71,044.57		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>\$78,344.57</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	4.280%	12/6/2023
THRIVENT FINANCIAL SERVICE/HARLEY BOVEE (2)	\$22,464.83	3.000%	
FAUDEL, KOLTERMAN, REED FOUNDATION LCMS (3)	\$135,967.13		PERPETUAL
LPL FINANCIAL SERVICE (4)	\$1,178,962.00		PERPETUAL
NATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICE (5)	\$1,225,348.01		
<b>TOTAL RESTRICTED - CHURCH GENERAL</b>	<b>\$2,622,741.97</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.\*\*

11/6/2023  
09:47a

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**1st Qt. July - Sept. 2023-24 Balance Sheet**  
Jul 1, 2023 through Sep 30, 2023

Minor Group	Balance As Of Jul 1, 2023	Balance As Of Sep 30, 2023	Current Year Change	Percent Change
<b><u>Fund 01 - General</u></b>				
<b>Assets</b>				
01, Church Checking Acct.	806.07	-10,657.45	-11,463.52	-1422.15%
02, MWB Payroll Acct.	200.35	200.35	0.00	0.00%
03, Roof Repairs Account	113,770.33	0.00	-113,770.33	-100.00%
04, Steward Account	5,653.96	5,616.86	-37.10	-0.66%
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>120,430.71</b>	<b>-4,840.24</b>	<b>-125,270.95</b>	<b>-104.02%</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
00, Current Liabilities	2,567.81	3,084.95	517.14	20.14%
01, Midwest Operating Note	8,186.53	0.00	-8,186.53	-100.00%
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>10,754.34</b>	<b>3,084.95</b>	<b>-7,669.39</b>	<b>-71.31%</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
00, Group 00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
<b>Subtotal Equity</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b><u>Fund Balance</u></b>				
Totals for Fund Balance	109,676.37	-7,925.19	-117,601.56	-107.23%
<b>Total Fund Balance/Equity</b>	<b>109,676.37</b>	<b>-7,925.19</b>	<b>-117,601.56</b>	<b>-107.23%</b>
Total Liability and Fund Balance	120,430.71	-4,840.24	-125,270.95	-104.02%

11/6/2023  
10:02a

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**1st Qt. July - Sept. 2023-24 Zionews**  
**As of September**

Level of Detail: Major, Responsibility: All

**Fund: 01 - General**

	Actual 2024	Actual 2023	Change	% Change
<b>Income</b>				
Major: Envelopes	124,923.87	104,646.62	20,277.25	19.38%
Major: All Other Income	66,252.38	36,486.83	29,765.55	81.58%
Major: Investment Income	20,721.89	27,790.97	-7,069.08	-25.44%
Major: Capital Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	--
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>211,898.14</b>	<b>168,924.42</b>	<b>42,973.72</b>	<b>25.44%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
Major: Operating Expense	133,869.12	24,920.23	108,948.89	437.19%
Major: Program Expense	4,853.91	1,939.26	2,914.65	150.30%
Major: Salary/Worker Benefits	190,776.67	167,834.61	22,942.06	13.67%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>329,499.70</b>	<b>194,694.10</b>	<b>134,805.60</b>	<b>69.24%</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>-117,601.56</b>	<b>-25,769.68</b>	<b>-91,831.88</b>	<b>356.36%</b>

# *THE HAND*

Thanksgiving Day was near. The first grade teacher gave her class a fun assignment– to draw a picture of something for which they were thankful. Most of the class might be considered economically disadvantaged, but still many would celebrate this holiday with turkey and other traditional goodies of the season. These, the teacher thought, would be the subjects of most of her student’s art. And they were.

But Douglas made a different kind of picture. Douglas was a different kind of boy. He was the teacher’s true child of misery, frail and unhappy. As other children played at recess, Douglas was likely to stand close by her side. One could only guess at the pain Douglas felt behind those sad eyes.

Yea, his picture was different. When asked to draw a picture of something for which he was thankful, he drew a hand. Nothing else. Just an empty hand. His abstract image captured the imagination of his peers. Whose hand could it be? One child guessed it was the hand of a farmer, because farmers raise turkeys. Another suggested a police officer, because the police protect and care for people. Still others guessed it was the hand of God, for God feeds us. And so the discussion went– until the teacher almost forgot the young artist himself.

When the children had gone on to other assignments, she paused at Douglas’ desk, bent down, and asked him whose hand it was. The little boy looked away and murmured, “It’s yours, teacher.”

She recalled the times she had taken his hand and walked with him here or there, as she had done with the other students. How often she had said, “Take my hand, Douglas, we’ll go outside.” Or, “Let me show you how to hold your pencil.” Or, “Let’s do this together.” Douglas was most thankful for his teacher’s hand. Brushing aside a tear, she went on with her work.

The story speaks of more than thankfulness. It says something about teachers teaching and parents parenting and friends showing friendship, and how much it means to the Douglases of the world. They might not always say so. But they’ll remember the hand that reaches out. To God be the Glory!





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

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