

Zion News

Dear Members of Zion,

It's hard to believe that May is more than half over. School is out and like summers past, the days and weeks will fly by. My hope and prayer is that you and yours will have a wonderful and memorable summer and vacation season!

Yet please don't take a vacation from worship. God's Word is very clear about the importance of our time together in God's House on a regular basis.

Some might recall, that years ago we had Worship on Saturday Nights and Sunday mornings. The decision was made to move services to Monday evenings so that those members who are out of town, especially in the summer months would still have an opportunity to Worship. We also do our best to keep the service to about a half hour as well, especially during the busy summer season. We can be certain that God wants us to do our best to be faithful in worship all year long!

Finally, I want to say "Thank you!" and "God Bless you!" to all our members for their cards, texts, and concerns, during my recent medical leave of absence. It was by the grace of God that I made it through the Palm Sunday Confirmation Service. If it was any other Sunday, besides Confirmation Sunday, I would have been home in bed. But with twelve young people and their families looking forward to being Confirmed, with the help and by the grace of God we made it through.

It was later that day that I ended up in the hospital. My blood pressure was very low. I was eventually diagnosed with a blood clot in my lung. I also went to the Medical Center in Omaha for more tests. What was it like and what is it like now? The symptoms were fatigue, dizziness, and brain fog. I would describe it as having no sleep for three or four days and still trying to function. The symptoms came over several days and gradually worsened. It will also take some time for them to go away. But with medication and rest, I am feeling better day by day. Thank you for your concern and prayers!

May God be with you and yours and bless you with an enjoyable, safe, and restful summer season.

Blessings,

Pastor Bruce



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

**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church
LCMS**

520 E. Main Street
Pierce, NE 68767



www.zionlutheranpierce.com

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

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Principal

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Find us on:
facebook®

PAX Worship

8:00am

Traditional Worship

10:00am

Monday Vespers

7:00pm

Rev. Gordon W. Bruce
Senior Pastor

Vicar Jacob Friedrich

Mr. Derek Jareske
Director of Christian Ed

Miss Amanda Jareske
Church Secretary

**Mr. Greg Warneke/Mrs. Stacy
Johnson**
Principal

Mrs. April Anson
School Secretary

**Prayer
List . . .**



Family of

Mari Ortmeier

Addie Voelker

Nate Bolling

Shane Dozy

Dawn Tucker

Lavonne Flerer

Dawn Flinn

Rayleen Wesemann

Pastor Birtell

Les Richmond

Betty Hengler

Joanne Strelow

STATISTICAL REPORT

Baptisms

4/06/25 Lawrence Dean Carlson

Confirmations

4/13/25 Brenna Benes
4/13/25 Burkley Collison
4/13/25 McKenna Deiterman
4/13/25 Mason Gnirk
4/13/25 Cooper Hansen
4/13/25 Keegan Holan
4/13/25 Jaxon Koerting
4/13/25 Caybri Monroe
4/13/25 Kendyl Olson
4/13/25 Teigan Warneke
4/13/25 Deacon Watts
4/13/25 Lucas Weber

Funerals

5/01/25 Gary Zierke

Transferred In

1/24/25 Kaitlin Young
2/04/25 Jadon Wagner

Transferred Out

4/01/25 Jody Stone Born
4/10/25 Dave Lauck
4/10/25 Shelly Lauck
4/14/25 Carol Sokol
5/02/25 Steven Reinke
5/02/25 Shannon Reinke
5/06/25 Mike Peters

Released

5/05/25 Amy Lambrecht
5/05/25 Autumn Lambrecht
5/05/25 Isaac Lambrecht

To care for the needs of this congregation and provide new opportunities to serve, we are looking for individuals who might be able to help with our lawn care needs. If you would like to serve in this way, please scan the provided QR code to be directed to a website where you can learn more about this process and sign up to mow and trim on a particular week, or several, during the next six months. Feel free to also reach out to a member of our Board of Trustees for more information. We are also looking for a few individuals who might be able to help with mowing and trimming, more so trimming, for the church cemetery every Thursday at 7PM until Memorial Day.



SCAN ME

*Help needed this
Summer to water the
planters for the church.
The schedule is a 2
week rotation. If you
have any questions,
please contact Betty
Hixson or the church
office*

DCE Report

Over the Last 36 Months:

Over the last thirty six months, I have been working in a variety of areas around the church, but my main areas of focus are related to school, children's, and youth ministries. In regards to children's ministry, the most present features in these recent months for this ministry subset would be the planning, organizing, implementation, and managing for Faith Weavers and Sunday School classes for children in the congregation and community, which resumed after Labor Day. Many of our new volunteers continue to help week to week, and we are looking toward offering a special type of instruction for the junior youth helpers. Our Sunday School teachers continue to lead their classes well, and we have been having very strong attendance this year, especially in the 1st through 3rd grade class. That being said, we would still like to add several substitute Sunday School teachers, and are currently looking for a new Faith Weavers cook, once a month, several individuals who may be willing to help serve meals, and several individuals who might like to help with the Crafts station. Looking toward the future, our next big endeavor for children's ministry, with an eye toward summer, is, of course, Vacation Bible School. Planning has begun, and if anyone would like to assist, please let me know.

In regards to school ministry, I continue to look forward to the activities, challenges, and opportunities that come in regards to this year. I continue to teach 5th and 6th grade religion classes on a regular basis, teach character education lessons to the various classes on a regular schedule, lead chapel on a monthly basis, teach preschool chapel on a regular basis, occasionally sit in on 7th and 8th grade religion classes, lead morning devotions for the teachers on a weekly basis, and assist in the classrooms, when needed. I also continue to help prepare the students for their opportunities to sing in church by teaching a music class to each grade on various days throughout the week. My goal, in working with the school teachers and students, is to provide Christ-centered, enriching, opportunities to grow in knowledge, service, praise, and worship within the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church. In this way, I hope to continue to serve as a bridge between both the church and school, and I hope to continue to grow the relationship that the students have with the ministries of Zion.

In regards to youth ministry, Vicar Friedrich and I have been working to offer a variety of unique events and fundraisers in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Meetings over these past months. The youth events go well, and the students have remarked that they like the events that have a specific theme. Our fundraisers continue to go extremely well, and I would like to thank the youth who have worked hard to manage each of these events, and the parents who give of their time and money to make these events work so smoothly. We would also like to thank this congregation for their generosity in supporting the youth programs of this church. We, of course, fundraise with a purpose. We are continuing to set aside money for the upcoming LCMS Youth Gathering which will take place in New Orleans in the summer of 2025.

Speaking of which, we have begun to hold monthly planning meetings, so that the 15 individuals who are planning to attend will be well prepared for this mountain top experience. This will be a large endeavor, so I would invite everyone to continue to pray for those adult leaders who are planning to walk with these students over this next year. Around \$30,000 will need to be fundraised for this event. 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. Finally, in regards to youth, I am also continuing my Sunday School class for youth students on Sunday mornings.

In regards to other ministry areas in which I am associated, I have been continuing to work with the PAX team on many Sunday mornings, largely in the area of audiovisual support. When the new sound system was installed, I was able to receive some training on how to best use these new tools and technology pieces. This, of course, has necessitated a need for a trained and experienced individual to sit behind the board, and with that in mind, if anyone would like to learn how to use the board, a training could absolutely be arranged. The video equipment has also been installed, and with that, we have recently begun live streaming our services, increasingly since Christmas. We would also like to train more individuals to learn how to manage the presentation and how to run the video livestream. Otherwise, I have also been sitting in on meetings, leading devotions for the quilters on a rotating basis, and attending group fellowship opportunities, when time allows. I also try to attend games and activities, as time allows. Another new development for this time is the addition of responsibilities in regards to the typical role of Sunday School superintendent.

Upcoming Endeavors:

Over the next several weeks, and months, we are hoping to continue to hold events for youth, we will continue to hold a variety of unique fundraisers, and we will continue to hold our monthly Fusion Youth Group meetings. We also continue to offer Sunday School and Faith Weavers classes until the first part of May. In the near future, we will once again begin planning for another week of VBS, of which we have already decided will be “Epic Australian Adventure” provided by Concordia Publishing House . In the further future, the LCMS Youth Gathering will continue to be a huge focus going into the summer months.

DCE Message

“Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanballat and Geshem, sent to me, saying, ‘Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono.’ But they intended to do me harm. And I sent messengers to them, saying, ‘I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?’”
(Nehemiah 6:1-3)

Have you ever been afraid that someone was actively conspiring against you? Has there ever been a time where it just seemed like the world was against you? Some people would say that you’re worrying over nothing, but I’m here to tell you a different message. No, when you get those paranoid feelings, let me tell you that you can take solace in the fact that you are indeed right, there ARE people conspiring against you, and the world IS against you.

That might seem unnecessarily unsettling for a devotion, but I think, somewhere in the back of our minds, Christians already know these things are true. Just like the enemies in our Nehemiah reading, we know we have enemies that are actively working to do us harm, namely sin, death, and the devil. Within the realm of sin, the sinful world, our sinful neighbor, and our own sinful nature are also trying to stop, derail, and defeat us all the time. In our personal life, professional life, and everything in between it can be pretty easy to get discouraged as our enemies relentlessly pursue us.

Just like Christians are very aware of sin, we are also, through the work of the Holy Spirit, very aware of God’s promises. Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that God has plans for us, and even though we live in a world where bad things happen, we can take heart in the truth that those bad things will not derail God’s Will in our life.

Unfortunately, though, when we go through challenging times, it can be hard to see the light of a new day dawning. We hear God’s Word and promises, and yet we have to wait for things to get better. Nehemiah and the nation of Israel was much the same. While they waited for things to get better for their nation, God called Nehemiah to lead the people into a new chapter. Against the sense of the world, God has ultimately chosen to deal with the problem of sin through the cross of His Son, Jesus Christ, and against all reason, God has chosen to combat the present effects of sin in the world through the hands and feet of His people and use us like Nehemiah.

I will be honest with you, the month of May always makes me a little sad as the summer months bring about many types of transitions. For instance, students finish school and move from one grade to another, some students finish at one school and prepare to move up, and some students graduate and prepare to leave home for new opportunities.

While change can bring new challenges, it can also bring new opportunities, and it is important to remember that there is still so much in which we can look toward. Summer also gives rise to VBS, weddings, vacations, family gatherings, and students returning for summer break. While one chapter ends, God has already begun preparing us for what lies ahead.

Like Nehemiah, while I'm afraid our enemies will indeed keep knocking at our door, we are still reminded that God remains with His people, and He continues to work out every situation for our ultimate good. In the midst of that hope, we continue to work where God has placed us, doing the work that God has prepared ahead of time for us to do, so when those enemies do come knocking, we can respond with the same words as our friend Nehemiah. "I am doing a great work (God's work) and I cannot come down."

DCE, Derek Jareske

Greetings from Vicar Jacob Friedrich

Greeting in the name of Jesus,

Since I started as a Vicar in July, I have been thrilled to work with our school students. Zion Lutheran School stands out because we teach kids that God is with us. No matter what happens, God's Word says Jesus Christ is with us in all circumstances. Joshua chapter 1 declares, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Here in this church, we are blessed to reach out to so many students in the name of Jesus. All the students can agree that they feel the presence of the Lord in our school. We teach them that the Lord remains with us throughout life. Even in hard times, our God never stops comforting us with His Word.

Even Though the school year is over and summer begins, our mission at the church never ends. We continue to show the presence of God through His Word and many activities. Each person who volunteers helps us to show Christ to our neighborhood. We still have a camping trip for the 5th and 6th graders to Ponca State Park. Also, our director of Christian education is hard at work to do vacation Bible School. The church continues to serve, so many may feel God's presence throughout the year. We look forward to serving, laughing, and teaching your children throughout summer vacation.

In Christ,

Vicar Jacob Friedrich

5th and 6th Grade Classroom Newsletter

First, I want to personally thank the Zion Lutheran congregation for this opportunity to teach these precious students.

What a group of amazing kids! These 5th and 6th Graders also had a productive and busy second semester.

In January we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week with several days of fun activities.

In February we led chapel with our skit on "The Good Samaritan". We also moved into this much needed and amazing new school building!

Then, on March 14, (3-14,) we celebrated Pi. Day by making cherry, apple, and pumpkin pies. We also made a large chocolate chip cookie.

In April we enjoyed practicing, performing, and singing in the Operetta, "The Sailor's Bible". We shared how God can bring peace in a storm.

We also welcomed our new class pet hamster named Marvin. He enjoyed all the attention he was getting from the students!

Finally, in May we went on our class field trip to the SAC Museum in Omaha. It was a great day of exploring and learning about space.

Thank you 5th and 6th Graders for a truly amazing school year!! Have an awesome and blessed summer break.

God's Blessings,

Mrs. Susan Harstad

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

-Psalm 113:3

3rd-4th Classroom

The 3rd and 4th graders are excited the end of the school year is approaching.

We recently took a field trip to the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. We got to experience a day in a rural school set in 1888 and learn about different forms of transportation from the 1800s.

In the classroom, we finished up our science projects on amphibians and reptiles.

We are so thankful to be in our new school building. The students love how spacious our room is and that they get to use lockers. Summer break is almost here.

We hope everyone has a great summer!

-Blessings from the 3rd-4th Classroom

Quilting

The Quilting Ladies will be ended their weekly sessions in May. We will resume again in Oct. We donated 93 quilts to Orphan Grain Train and 7 quilts 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. Even if you do not sew, we can use assistance putting the quilt layers together.



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 quickly move through the month of May, 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 near future, 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. Before that, though, 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 we head into the busy summer months, though, please continue to check our Facebook page, website, church announcements, and our other means of communications, so we can do our best to keep you informed of important dates as we work to plan around events and holidays.

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, we have a lot going on around here, so I would highly encourage everyone to make sure to reach out to us and provide your current contact information as we work to provide information on a regular basis through various means.

With all that said, here is a brief recap of a few unique events from the past few months. In the month of March, namely on March 2nd, we held a video game event for our youth students here at the church. This event went very well, and because we were able to set up several stations, the students had a lot of gaming options. In April, we visited Mercy Meals for their "Spring Pack Away Hunger Day," and through the efforts of the volunteers in attendance, we were able to add significantly to the boxes of meals packed to help with hunger relief. In May, we look forward to the vicarage camping trip to take place at Ponca State Park on the weekend of May 16th -18th.

In terms of fundraisers, in the month of February we sold Puffin Pastries, took over the aluminum can collection, and sold some Zion apparel to draw attention to both our church and youth ministry program. In March the youth group provided a unique basket for the Wild Game Feed, and we also hosted a Lenten meal. Although these were both only minor fundraising opportunities, we love to be able to add to the events provided by this congregation. Finally, in the month of April, we once again took orders to hid eggs in the yards of families who wanted their children to wake up to eggs on Easter morning. Vicar also hosted two fundraisers, namely a Pizza Ranch frozen pizza sale and a group night at Raising Cain's, to help with youth event expenses, such as his planned camping trip. Combined, all of these 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 is planning to take a group of 16 individuals to Ponca State Park for a fun and enriching weekend retreat. The students who have attended in the past have always had a great time, and many of the students attending this year seem to be looking forward to it quite a bit. We are also continuing to set aside money for the upcoming National Youth Gathering to take place in New Orleans this July. As we quickly approach these last few months of preparations, final meetings and more information will continue to be released, so please continue to frequently check our means of communication and keep our planners in your prayers

Again, all of these types of events are in addition to our monthly Fusion Youth Group meetings. 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 volunteers.

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 7th. At this time I 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.

I 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 Baumann, 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. Given our needs for this year and looking forward, we are specifically looking for, at least, two new volunteers to assist by cooking, several volunteers to help by serving the meal without cooking, and several volunteers to assist with the Crafts Station. For details, please contact Mr. J at the church phone number to inquire.

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!

Sunday School

The final week of Sunday School instruction for children for the summer took place on Sunday, May 11th, 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.

Hands for Christ

With the summer months fast approaching, the planning for this event, Hands for 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 6th-7th 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. Otherwise, if you have any questions at this point, feel free to direct those to Mr. J. 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.

If any students were unable to attend the kickoff event at the high school a few weeks ago, but they would still like to participate in this event, please let us know as soon as possible.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes for both 7th and 8th grade public school students have concluded for this school year. Congratulations to our newly confirmed 8th grade students, and we look forward to seeing our current 6th and 7th grade students for classes in the Fall. Please look for information regarding our acolyting program and policies as we look toward phasing out our current 8th graders and adding in our current 6th graders in July, both public school and Zion.

Greeting Cards

The youth group has many types of 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."



Vacation Bible School

Where can you hop aboard a tour bus that seeks to explore a place that boasts rough terrain, harsh deserts, tropical rainforests, and the Great Barrier Reef all without ever having to leave your own hometown? What about a place where you can visit this summer to hear more about the love God showed to His people through this Son, Jesus Christ? Think you know?



Come find out if you're right this summer as our tour group journeys into the Word for another summer of adventuring, learning, and growing at Zion Lutheran Church in Pierce, NE. During Vacation Bible School, this year, we invite everyone to pack their map, binoculars, and their Bible as we prepare to explore the various and unique landscapes that make up the breathtaking continent of Australia in

the pursuit to find excitement and explore the truth of Jesus' guiding and enduring presence with His people.

The theme for Zion Lutheran Church, Pierce, VBS this year will be "Epic Australian Adventure" by Concordia Publishing House, and it will be taking place Monday, June 2nd, through Friday, June 6th, from 9:00AM to 12:00PM each day, with the VBS closing to take place during the 10:00AM church service on Sunday, June 8th. All students going into PreK through 6th grade are welcome to join as participants, and anyone 7th grade and older is encouraged to lend a hand as a volunteer.

Get excited for an epic trip Down Under this summer!

Looking ahead, all students involved in VBS this year are welcome to participate in the VBS closing service, 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 on Sunday, June 8th, 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.

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. You can also call the church phone number (402-329-4313) to sign up throughout the week, Monday through Thursday.
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 2nd through June 6th from 9AM to 12PM, daily**. For questions, please contact Mr. Jareske by email (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.

VBS VOLUNTEERS:

Looking through the month of May, VBS will once again be here before we know it! 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 1st, beginning at 12PM 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.

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. Get excited for an epic trip Down Under this summer!

VBS NEEDS:

Thinking ahead about our Science, Games, and Craft stations this year, we will soon be putting together a list of a few items that can be claimed, purchased, and donated by anyone who might like to assist VBS by donating items this year, as 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 like to donate to help with the purchasing of needed items, claiming and donating one of the suggested items from the board in the narthex beginning in mid May would be a huge help. The list of needed items can also be found and claimed, online, using our church website and church Facebook page, again beginning in mid May.

Thinking ahead, if you would be willing to donate, please either plan to take and return one of the cards from the Zion Lutheran Church narthex bulletin board with the suggested donation, contact the church office (402-329-4313) to let us know which card you would like to claim, or sign up online using our website/Facebook page. The cards and donations can be returned to the basket sitting by the VBS display table in the church narthex Monday through Thursday during regular business hours and on Sunday mornings beginning in May. Donations can also be dropped off at the church office.

It truly is a wonderful and humbling opportunity to be able to offer VBS to this church and community, but truthfully, offering a VBS of this size does come with an associated cost each year.

With that in mind, we do rely on the generosity of this congregation and community to be able to provide an experience of this quality, so if you feel so moved to donate to help support our VBS program, an offering box will be featured in the church narthex throughout the month of May for this purpose. Donations can also be brought to the church office, Monday through Thursday from 9AM to 4PM. For those who are already planning to donate this year through their time, talents, and treasures, please know that we really do appreciate everyone who has worked to continually support our VBS program. Thank you! 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).

Youth Fundraiser



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUTH GROUP
PRESENTS**

A PIZZA RANCH FUNDRAISER

**Please consider joining the Zion Youth Group as we help
at the Pizza Ranch in Norfolk, NE to raise money toward
our upcoming activities, trips, and other events.**

**MAY 28TH, 2025
FROM 5:00PM TO 8:00PM**

**1700 Market Lane, Unit 430
Norfolk, NE 68701**

David Beikmann

1509 3rd Road
Palmer, KS 66962
(402) 200-9720



13th April 2025

Zion Lutheran School

520 East Main
Pierce, NE 68767

Dear Members of Zion and its school board:

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior! After much prayerful consideration, I have been led by the Holy Spirit to accept your divine call to be principal and teacher at Zion Lutheran School of Pierce. With the help of God, my family and I would love to be a part of your ministry there.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. This Bible verse has always meant to me that Lutheran schools are a great place to prepare children for lives of service. Your congregation has been committed to Christian education and has been very blessed.

Thank you for your prayers through the call process and now I ask you to keep Linn Lutheran School and the congregations of Zion-Linn and St. John- Palmer in your prayers. I look forward to serving you to start the 2025-2026 school year at Zion.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Beikmann". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "David" being more prominent than the last name "Beikmann".

David Beikmann

Tyler Linneman



Master of Divinity Student
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

May 5, 2025

Dear Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is a joy to be writing to you and I pray this letter finds you well during this blessed Easter season. Christ is risen indeed, Alleluia!

I praise our Lord further still having received from your congregation the assignment to serve as vicar during 2025 and through 2026. With joy and thanksgiving, I, Tyler Linneman, accept this assignment to walk alongside of you in the coming year to serve as vicar. I have been told that your congregation maintains a well-established vicarage program, having trained many vicars prior. I hear good things from those who return from this program, so I am excited to have received this opportunity myself.

I want to take a moment to briefly introduce myself. I was born and raised in a farming family in Carrollton, Missouri. My family farms corn and soybeans south of town in the river bottoms next to the Missouri River. I grew up driving tractors and trucks for my dad and grandpa and when I was old enough, started to work on the farm as well as several of the agricultural businesses in town. I have two brothers, one who works at a grain company in Illinois and one who just took a job as an engineer in Springfield, Missouri. In my senior year of high school, after much prodding from people who knew me well, I heeded the Lord's call into the ministry. I attended Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward where I graduated with a Bachelor in Theology. Since then, I have been at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis completing my Master of Divinity. When I get free time away from my studies, I like to spend as much of it outside as I can. I like to fish, hike, ride atvs, and boat. I also like getting to go out to the farm and talk shop whenever I can. While I look forward to becoming a pastor, I will still be a farmer at heart.

Next year, I am really looking forward to getting to meet as many of you as I can, both for it's own sake as well as so that I can really begin to learn how to minister to real people. From what I can tell, your parish has ample opportunity to do just that. I have read about your work in Faith Weavers, Youth education, Adult education, and with the School. I am excited to see what your labor is accomplishing in Pierce, and how I can help.

I pray that the Lord would continue to bless your work in his kingdom, and that through it, he may raise up myself and all vicars blessed to join with you to be faithful pastors to serve his people. And I pray that all of you would be blessed and kept safe in his care always. Feel free to reach out to me at the contact information here.

Your brother in Christ,

Tyler Linneman



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSION FUND/ENDOWMENT FUND REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2025 THRU MARCH 31, 2025

	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>REMITTANCES</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FUND			
BALANCE FORWARD			\$2,155.00
1ST QUARTER	\$5,118.00		\$7,273.00
NEBRASKA DISTRICT LCMS		\$3,395.00	\$3,878.00
SCHOLARSHIP FUND - BALANCE			\$10,196.10
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$600.02		\$10,796.12
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 1 BALANCE			\$4,319.80
SOUND SYSTEM FUND PHASE 2 BALANCE			\$3,696.53
MEDIA TECHNOLOGY FUND - BALANCE			\$1,775.40
EASTER BREAKFAST - BALANCE			\$1,622.78
 MIDWEST BANK CHECKING ACCOUNT INTEREST			 \$56.82
1ST QUARTER	\$15.28		\$72.10
MEMORIAL FUND - BALANCE			\$3,796.51
BENEVOLENCE FUND - BALANCE			\$3,214.98
CHOIR FUND - BALANCE			\$869.30
ORGAN FUND - BALANCE			\$13,991.00
HENRICKSON ORGAN-TUNEUP		\$780.00	\$13,211.00
PAX MUSIC FUND - BALANCE			\$2,076.24
VICAR FUND - BALANCE			\$12,356.70
1ST QUARTER	\$1,570.00		\$13,926.70
TRANSFER TO GENERAL ACCOUNT		\$6,919.98	\$7,006.72
 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND - BALANCE			 \$18,579.28
ENDOWMENT INVESTMENT INCOME	\$2,910.00		\$21,489.28
ENDOWMENT MIDWEST BANK CD #2053	\$295.34		\$21,784.62
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND #625&071	\$144.28		\$21,928.90
DIRECT DEPOSITS	\$715.00		\$22,643.90
MIDWEST BANK ACCOUNT INTEREST	\$12.08		\$22,655.98
FURNACE LOAN		\$979.62	\$21,676.36
JOHNSON ELECTRIC-BY PASS DIMMER		\$460.00	\$21,216.36



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries Daily Devotions this year are written by multiple authors and follow a weekly schedule based to the Three-Year Lectionary Series C found in the Lutheran Service Book. Try them for your family devotion time.

Listen to LHM's **Daily Devotions** at:
<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp?>

SERMON SCHEDULE:

May 25

"What's Your Story?"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Gregory Manning

Our difficulties often become the backdrop against which God reveals His faithfulness.

Each challenge is an opportunity for Him to display His power.

(John 9:1-11)

June 1

"God's Gumbo"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Church is like a pot of Louisiana gumbo, a diverse stew bound together by the power of Jesus' love.

(John 17:20-21)

June 8

"Ticket Stubs Turned to Joy"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Holy Spirit calls us to turn from the darkness of a self-centered life and come into the light of Jesus' self-giving love.

(John 16:20)

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH VOTERS MEETING

APRIL 23, 2025

Chairman Mike Krueger called the meeting to order.

Vicar Friedrich opened the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Todd Stonacek moved to accept the minutes. Rick Sirek seconded. Motion carried.

Tyler Krueger gave the Board of Education and school report. He then stated the issues that were brought to the school board the end of January and the steps that led to involving Bob Ziegler from the Synod to reconcile the discord that was evident throughout the school staff. Mr. Ziegler spoke more on the process that led up to Mrs. Snodgrass' resignation and then fielded questions from the voters resulting in considerable discussion. Tyler moved that his report be accepted as written. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

Greg Warneke gave the General Treasurer's report as written. He moved to accept his report as written. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Mike Baumann gave the Mission Treasurer's report as written. Mike moved to accept his report. Rick Sireck seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter reviewed the Statistical report. It was discussed that we are losing members. Jerald made a motion to accept the report as presented. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Jerald Wachter reported on the Elders. Submitted as written. Jerald moved to accept his report. Doug Cromwell seconded. Motion carried.

Brady Bretschneider gave the Trustee report. Presented as written. Brady made note that a member paid for the dimmer switch repairs. Brady made a motion to go ahead with replacing the kitchen door and the tumblers in the office door. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried. Funds will come from capital improvements. They will do a sign up for mowing. It took about an hour for mowing and trimming with 2 people at the church. He would also like to see volunteers mow the cemetery and will do a sign up for that as well. Brady moved we accept his report. Andrew Wolf seconded. Motion carried.

Vicar Friedrich gave his report. Pastor Bruce is doing fine but still having tests. He is teaching 7th & 8th grade and 5th & 6th grade confirmation. He is making sure he is prepared for worship. He checks to see if Mr. J needs any assistance or help with the kid's activities. He needs support, appreciates comments and opinions. Next week he will be in St. Louis. He will receive his call because he is completing his delayed vicarage and will be ready to be placed with a congregation. He will return and complete his year at Zion in July.

Mr. J gave his report as written.

There was no old business.

New Business. Greg Warneke asked the voters to approve the budget that he has presented. Brady Bretschneider seconded. Motion carried.

Al Collison said there is \$3,000,000 raised. \$1,000,000 pledged, which leaves roughly \$2,000,000 left to raise in the second capital campaign. The construction loan interest rate was 5%. The long-term interest rate will be 4.3%. LCMS can possibly do fund raising free of charge.

Members expressed their concern over Zion's debt.

Brady Bretschneider made a motion to adjourn. Gerry Krueger seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Krueger, secretary



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

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