



From the Pastor's Cup...

July 2024

Dear Church Family,

It was the summer of 1990 which proved to be a hot and dry July month in central Nebraska. Farmers grow corn out there because they have the water to irrigate their fields. The home we had built in 1984 was beginning to show a need for a new paint job. The white paint with brown trim was fading and peeling, and some of the windows and doors needed exterior caulk.

The new paint job would also help with the sale of our ranch-style home in January 1991. The housing market was flat at that time, and we were hoping (praying) it would sell before I graduated from college in May. Our plan was then to pack up the family and our belongings and head to Wartburg Seminary so I could work the campus maintenance crew before summer Greek in August.

Did I say it was hot and dry that summer? I used a week's worth of PTO's I had accumulated working at Bethphage Mission to get the paint job done. When it is hot like it was in 1990, I decided to paint smarter, not harder. The first day I started in the shade scrapping and caulking. I tried to stay in the shade as best I could "but the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry (Robert Burns)." I usually ended up in the sun but that wasn't the worse part. The worst was standing on ladder rungs most of the day. I was using the ladder I inherited from my dad, and it had round wooden rungs.

It is best to stay well hydrated to prevent calf muscles from cramping up but there is not much you can do for a foot's aching arch on a wooden round rung. I marveled at how tough my dad had been using that ladder without complaining. By the end of the week the job was done, and I figured I was safe to hang up both my paint brushes and ladder for a while, if not for good.

Remember what Robert Burns said, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." That happened to us. Our home went on the market January 1, 1991, and was sold by the end of the week. The housing market wasn't flat for us when God is your real estate agent. Just a note, the couple who bought that house 33 years ago still live there and call it home, and they have changed the exterior color on it.

Our sales agreement contract gave us until February to find alternative housing for four months until graduation. Thank God for church families because one of our Bethany Lutheran Church farm families had a rural rental property open at that time. Our three kids were excited about moving to the country so they could ride the school bus twice a

day with their friends from Sunday school. It was a farmhouse that was painted half white and half purple. The two colors met halfway in the front without any real rhyme or reason. It was probably a real landmark for anyone who was given directions based on that half white half purple house in the country on the church road to Bethany.

It had been vacant for a while, so we did have some mice and miller moths to deal with inside. Karen was not a big fan of either mice or moths. The farmer didn't want us to pay any rent, but he did ask us to do two things. First, that we pay for any utilities while we stayed there. And second, that I would paint the whole house white. Remember what Robert Burns said, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." In April, when the weather was better for exterior painting, out came the ladder and paint brushes.

I really feel like I destroyed a real landmark when I painted that farmhouse ALL white. No more could it be used to give accurate directions like, "When you get to the half purple half white house turn left." There are probably still people out there driving around trying to find a half purple half white farmhouse living forever in limbo, forever lost, like an episode from the Twilight Zone.

One thing I have discovered about God and the plans of mice and men is this, "Sometimes you have to trust in what is not seen because our unseen God is at work behind what we can see or paint!" Well one good thing, at least the parsonage is made out of brick. Amen!

Sincerely Pr. Jer

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting

June 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Cindy Parde.

Members present: Cindy Parde, Kristi Dorn, DeAnn Oltman, Kenny Reed, Carrye Meints

Absent: Neal Meints, Kevin Buhr, Paul Jurgens, Jason Wallman

Pastor Jer shared: Regroup & Reflect

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 6-5-2024 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from May 7, 2024, meeting.

Upcoming Baptisms:

- 6-17-2024- Didi Anne Dorn (Tandon & Kayla Dorn)
- 6-30-2024 - Waylon Lee Buss (Evan & Kaitlyn Buss)

Upcoming Weddings:

- **7/27/2024** – Emily Lenners & Brendan Lipovsky
- **11/2/2024** – Maggie Parde & Cole Baumgartner
- **2/8/2025** - Cole Jurgens & Jenilee Wright
- **10-4-2025** - Shelby Baehr & Anthony Hernandez

Upcoming Events:

June 1 & 2 was the Nebraska Synod Assembly in Kearney.

Confirmation Camp began on Sunday, June 2.

Sunday June 23, 2024 Rev. Dennis Rock from Lincoln will be filling in for Pastor Jer.

Sunday September 29, 2024, Mission Sunday, NLOM/ Camp Carol Joy Holling Executive Director Jason Gerdes here.

April's Mileage: 498 miles

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- **Pews and Welcome Center** - We decided to relocate the welcome center. People were not remembering to stop by in the Unity Room, so we felt the Fellowship Hall would be a better location. We will be moving some pews around to different locations.
- **Zion's Funeral Policy** - The new policy was mailed out to the 3 funeral homes in Beatrice.

Discerning God's Will – New Business

- **Summer Schedule** - Church will start at 9:00 a.m. throughout the summer.
- **Semi-Annual Meeting** - Due to the Anniversary celebration on July 21, 2024, we will now have the Semi-Annual Meeting on July 14, 2024, right after church. The agenda is being worked on.
- **Review Zion's Church Constitution** - We went over Chapters 9 & 10. There were some typographical errors that were corrected. Next meeting we will be going over Chapters 11 & 12.

Ministry Team Report as of May 7, 2024

- Financial-General Fund Balance on hand - 5/1/2024 - \$154,737.17
- Income - \$18,319.43
- Balance on hand – 5/31/2024 - \$98,362.66
- Sinking Fund - \$56,898.23
- Seminary Fund - \$57,311.55
- Thrivent Mutual Fund - \$2,891.79
- Open Savings - \$23,149.81

Motion was made to approve the Financial and Ministry Team Reports.

Next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Devotions - 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carrye Meints, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Paul Remmers, John Gronewold, Keith Parde, Kristi Dorn, Larry Gronewold

Treasurer's Report Balance: 5/31/24 \$ 4863.71

Old Business: 1. Roll the Feb/Mar CD's – new 6 month at 5.05%
2. Paid off windows

New Business: 1. Tuck pointing – if an more expense this year cover up to \$10K
2. CD Maturing in August \$ 32K
CD Maturing in Nov \$ 26K
3. Discussed possibly donating to AC units will meet in August instead of September to decide the amount.

HOSPITALITY: Did not meet

New Business: Will resume serving during Rally Sunday

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Did not meet

PARISH ED:

-Did not meet in person this month.

- Balance on hand as of 6/19/24
 - \$1,892.92
- Old Business
 - Doreen Remmers & Connie Thornburg have agreed to teach 3rd grade next year. Thank you!
 - We are always looking for substitute teachers for Sunday School. Please reach out to any Parish Ed member if you're interested.
 - Vacation Bible School was a success!
 - \$236 total offering.
 - 80+ kids attended.
 - Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped throughout the week & everyone who donated items for the picnic, etc.
- New Business
 - The first day of Sunday School/Rally Sunday will be September 8th.
 - Preparing for next Sunday School year, we will be ordering curriculum this summer. No changes based on survey results.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Kenny Reed, Connor Mason, Jordan Busboom

Old Business: 1. LED Cross on top of church has been fixed
2. Looking for someone to install doors on fellowship hall

New Business: 1. Van's waterproofing will come look at Church exterior and quote repainting the gutters
2. Looking at doors for schoolhouse

Park Board: Did not meet

Publicity: Did not meet

STEWARDSHIP: Did not meet

WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS ENDOWMENT: Did not meet

Balance: 4/26/24 \$ 322,752.56

5/31/24 \$ 329,858.27

New Business: Any youth who attended confirmation camp in 2024, should submit a receipt for partial reimbursement of camp fees.

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Shirley Gronewold, Alnora Daubendiek, Carrye Meints
picked hymns for June – August 11th

YOUTH: Did not meet

The church council has relocated the Welcome Center to the fellowship hall, and we will continue to utilize the desk for sign up boards, various means of communication, sermon notes, etc. We ask that consideration is taken to avoid putting food or drinks on it.

Note Change of Date for the Semi-Annual Meeting in July

The semi-annual meeting is being moved to Sunday, July 14th due to the 150th Anniversary Celebration with the German tourist and special speaker Pastor Arden Dorn being here on July 21st. This allows our members to take part in both the semi-annual meeting and the Celebration Sunday.

Youth

Parish Ed is looking for a Third-grade teacher for Sunday School next Fall. If interested, please contact one of the Parish Ed Committee members. **Members are** Jay Bartlett, Allison Lane, Courtney Schlake, Lanette Nelson, Nicole Behrends, Alyssa Lieneman and Council Rep is Carrye Meints.



Thank Zion for giving me the opportunity to attend the NE SYNOD ~It was a wonderful couple of days hearing about our Nebraska Synod disciples “Cultivating Love”.

So much inspiration from the messages shared by our Bishop Scott Johnson, Keynote speaker Jeff Chu, and congregation leaders and members. So much Love being shared throughout the Nebraska Synod, God it at work here!

A few other take aways...

- “Cultivating” is the act of trying to develop or improve something
- Faith is active in “Love”
 - Love between ourselves and God
 - Love for one another as communities of faith
 - Love between ourselves and our neighbors
- **Cultivating Love means being rooted in Christ, being grounded in grace and being connected to our communities!!**
- Nebraska Synod is matching across the board that numbers are down in worship attendance after the worst of COVID -19 is done, but this true across for ALL denominations and non-denomination congregations. There could be a lot of reasons for this, the Sunday morning competition is in the mix.
- The hope ~ average giving per confirmation member remains constant.
- In the past we have been a church lead by clergy, the struggle is real to raise up the pastors needed to maintain. In 2019, 358 candidates took the first step to be enter the ministry, in 2023, 158, this is for the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Nebraska had 4 enter the process in 2023. The future looks like~ Lay Led and Clergy supported and friends the future in now!
- Our NE Synod is aware of the issues we are facing and is at work “Cultivating.”

I recommend the experience, besides the great messages and witnessing what is going on in our NE Synod, it’s a great venue, great food, great fellowship and renewed hope for our future church. **Thank you again ~Marcia**



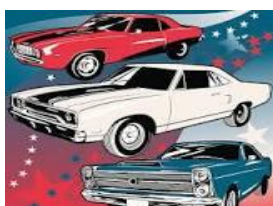
Men’s Choir Practice –we will be singing on July 21st for the Anniversary Sunday the men will practice on Monday night July 15th at 7:00 pm.

150th Anniversary committee Summer Silent Auction Update...

Due to a lack of receiving donated items we will wait till this fall to hold the next auction to generate funds for the 150th anniversary celebration!



As part of the Upcoming July 150th Anniversary celebration there will be a “Show & Shine” display of vehicles from the period of 1924-1974.



This will take place on **Sunday morning July 21st**. Vehicles from this period will be displayed in the parking lot for all to see and enjoy! Anyone interested in bringing your vehicle please **contact Terry Oltman at (402)416-4902**.

1924-1974 Throwback Party for the Community Food Pantry

Now through July 21st celebration purchase any of the items listed below and return to the collection table located in the fellowship hall.

Invented in 1920's – Welch's grape jelly, Velveeta Cheese

1930's – Mott's Apple Sauce, Ritz Crackers

1940's – Cheerios, Raisin Bran Cereal

1950's – Minute Rice, Pam

1960's – Pop Tarts, SpaghettiOs

1970's – Hamburger Helper, Orville Redenbacher
Popcorn

(Generic Brands are Welcome!)

Our goal is 150 items or more to celebrate 150 years! We thank Carley Remmers for writing a Thrivent Mini Action grant for \$250 to support this project!

Be sure to check out the “Zion Trivia Bites & Pictures” denoting each decade on the table as well!

You are invited to Zion's 150th Anniversary

Celebrating the second 50 years: 1924-1974

Saturday, July 20th -An Evening at Fuller Park-begins at 6 pm

Featuring: Mini-softball marathon with area churches & the visiting
"Germans" (see below)

Potato Sack Races & Frisbee Golf

Concession Stand open

Crawford Homemade Ice Cream & Fruit Pies

Short Firework Display at dusk

Sunday, July 21st - Zion Church Grounds

Featuring: **8:30-11 am** "Show & Shine" 1924-'74 Vehicle Display

9 am Church Service with Pastor Jerry Gilbreath

Guest Pastor Arden Dorn "son of the congregation"

After the service a light breakfast snack

held in the Fellowship Hall

10-11 Self-guided tours of Zion's "under construction"

German Schoolhouse Heritage Learning Center

11-1pm American Legion Fisher Post #367 Virginia

Chicken BBQ Vans chicken 1/2 chicken and sides

served. Drive thru available. Freewill Offering

BTW- The "Germans" are a group from northern Germany, where many of Zion's founders had immigrated. They are on a tour of the Midwest and will also be at the church service on July 21st. Similar groups have visited Zion previously.

Celebration events are supported by a \$250 Thrivent grant written by Annette Daubendiek

Thank yous received:

I would like to thank everyone for remembering me on my birthday! I enjoyed reading each card and message! Blessings to you all!

Evelyn Meints

I would like to thank the congregation for the lovely plant I received for Mother's Day. Blessings to you all!

Anora Schoen

Thank you to Zion Church to each of you for your prayers for our family! The power of prayer is so amazing! Kylo still has a few hurdles to overcome but with time he will get there. He has made so much progress since we have been home & continues to get stronger every day! Thank you!
Cody, Bridget, Korley & Kylo Quint

Grace Circle

Grace Circle met @1:30 PM on June 12, 2024. The meeting opened with the singing of the hymn, "Healer of Our Every Ill" and a prayer. Stephanie Wallman led us in our lesson on mental health in ministry.

Elnora Lenner, Chairwoman, opened the meeting. Minutes were read and corrected. We will not be going to Jeannie's Place on our social outing. A sack lunch will be provided from Subway.

Roll call showed 9 members present. The treasure balance is \$73. Offering and (birthday, anniversary) fines were taken.

Seven members have signed up for the social outing to the SE NE Cancer Garden on June 15th.

Meeting adjourned.

Sec. Mickey Larkins

SE Cancer Memorial Garden was the destination for our Saturday morning road trip to Humboldt. What a wonderful tribute to those that have survived cancer and memorial for those that have lost the battle. The garden is a work of beauty with lovely flowers, special areas and statues representing different cancers and cancer journeys. The group heard a presentation from Jan Wilhelm on her inspiration for the garden, and stories behind many of the tributes and the community's involvement with maintenance and future plans. This is a garden for all seasons, those involved have created a peaceful place to celebrate and remember. God's work is present! The group was blessed with a beautiful morning and lunch fellowship.

Father's Day Celebration

The newest Father we celebrated was Tandon Dorn – father of Didi Dorn born on May 17th. Congratulations Tandon.

The wisest father we celebrated was Donny Lenners – Congratulations Donny!

Also, on Father's Day we celebrated the baptism of Didi Anne Dorn – daughter of Tandon & Kayla Dorn. Didi was born on May 17th. Sponsors for Didi were Nate & Nicole Bartels and Addison Dorn. Grandparents are Michael & Doreen Busboom and Greg & Krisit Dorn. Didi's great-grandparents are Irene Busboom, Phyllis Niles, Gerald Dorn & Donna Chumney. Please keep Tandon, Kayla, Della and Didi and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Welcome Waylon Lee Buss as a baptized member son of Evan & Kaitlyn Buss. Waylon also joins sister Ellianna and brother Tholen at home. Waylon was born March 23rd. Sponsors for Waylon were Christian Schleif and Miranda Zeman. Waylon's grandparents are Darwin & Susan Buss.

Sympathies

Our sympathy to Alex & Beth Buhr and family on the passing of Dennis Buhr – Alex's father. Dennis's funeral was held here Saturday, June 8th. Please continue to keep Alex & Beth and the boys and the rest of the extended family in your prayers.

Our sympathy to the family of Wayne Trauernicht - Wayne passed away Sunday, June 9th. Wayne's funeral was here at Zion on Wednesday, June 12th. Please keep Dorothy, Terry, Kevin & Pam, Barbara & Steve, Linda & Hunter and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Our sympathy to the family of Ernie Zimmerman – Ernie passed away Tuesday June 18th and his funeral was at Zion on Friday, June 21st. Please keep Rosie, Rhonda & Dennis Fossler and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Bulletins sponsored in the month of June

IF INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A WEEKLY BULLETIN you may do so by contacting the Church secretary and making a check out to Zion Church for \$75.00.

Bulletins sponsored for the Sunday of June 2nd was Karen Buhr and family in memory of Leonard Buhr for his birthday on June 4th. Happy heavenly birthday Leonard!

Cemetery new fencing update!

If you haven't been to Church lately here are some photos: of the changes taking place at the cemetery. The cemetery board and others have been busy removing trees and the old fencing in preparation of the new fence. Updates will be printed in the bulletins and next newsletters. Future announcements will keep everyone informed of continued changes and improvements. Any donations can be sent to Les Lieneman or Don Schuster and they will put it in a separate account for the cemetery fence project.



JULY 2024

	1	2	3 No Church Council/ Committee mtgs due to the annual meeting this month	4	5	6
7 9 am Worship/ Communion/coffee fellowship by Grace Circle	8	9	10 1:30 Grace Circle	11	12	13
14 9 am Worship/baptism/coffee fellowship by Joy Circle & Volunteers Annual Mtg following <u>worship</u>	15 7 pm Men's Choir Practice	16	17 Youth trip to Colorado	18 Ladies Aid Youth trip to Colorado	19 Youth trip to Colorado	20 Youth trip to Colorado
21 150th Anniversary Celebration 9 am Worship/Men's Choir/Communion/coffee fellowship by the Anniversary Committee	22	23	24 ***Print newsletter***	25 Ladies Aid	26 Lenners/Lipovsiky wedding rehearsal	27 Lenners/Lipovsiky Wedding Quilt Auction Camp Carol Joy Holling
28 9 am worship/coffee fellowship by Joy Circle & Volunteers	29	30	31			

YOUR VOCATION FOR THE MONTH

What you do for God!

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

July 7 – 9:00 am

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Avery Busboom
Brogan Ideus
Lector: Kenny Reed
Greeters: Council
Coffee Fellowship: Joy Circle
& Volunteers

July 14 – 9 :00 am

Semi - Annual Meeting

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Logan Busboom
Presleigh Borgman
Lector: Cindy Parde
Greeters: Jacob & Nicole Behrends
Todd & Jeni Bohlmeyer
Coffee Fellowship: Joy Circle
& Volunteers

July Table Troop: Larry Gronewold (L), Eddie & Lynette Dorn, Gary & Brenda Gronewold, Dave & Carrye Meints, Kenny & Janet Schuster, Steve & Peggy Johnson.

July 21 – 9:00 am

150 Anniversary Celebration

Pastors: Jerry Gilbreath
Rev. Ardon Dorn
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Henry Garton
Kipton Lovitt
Lector: Sammie Garton
Greeters: Dennis & Patty Behrens
Doug & Rhonda Dorn
Coffee Fellowship: Joy Circle
& Volunteers

July 28 – 9:00 am

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Harley Grone
Karlee Riha
Lector: Carrye Meints
Greeters: Gary & Brenda Gronewold
Craig & Jess Ideus
Coffee Fellowship: Joy Circle
& Volunteers

July Altar Guild: Danelle Evers, Carrye Meints, Linda Blackwell, Denise Schlake-Ideus, Cheryl Folkerts

JULY BIRTHDAYS

2 Sydney Carstens

Cody Buss

8 Kyla Davison

Kate Meints

Dillon Buss

9 Natalie Denny

Natalie Coffin

10 Cindy Parde

Declan Petrzilka

12 Karen Gilbreath

Lori Robinson

13 Camden Behrens

14 Scott Carstens

16 Perry Jurgens

Tracy Lidolph

17 Devon Busboom

Tandon Dorn

18 Jamison Theye

Tiffany Trauernicht

19 Cheryl Folkerts

20 Brett Oltman

21 Lawrence Jurgens

22 Ross Eickhoff

Matt Ideus

Brooklyn Lidolph

23 Bristyl Brown

Preston Huls

Carley Remmers

Dale Hrenchir

24 Anora Schoen

Aspyn Kay Schmitter

26 Natalie Niles

28 Eldon Mencl

29 Nicole Bartels

James Scholl

30 Denise Schlake-Ideus

31 Jen Busboom

Cindy Gronewold

Steve Johnson

Dawson Smith



