



From the Pastor's Cup... 1

December 2024

What does Charlie Brown say in A Charlie Brown Christmas?

"I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus.
Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy.
I don't feel the way I am supposed to feel."

Dear Church Family

Karen can tell you one of my favorite CD's is A Charlie Brown Christmas. I play that CD almost every day of the year in an office that has become my special place. It picks up my spirit, puts a song in my heart, and reminds me "why" I am here. It also reminds me that ADVENT is always near and dear!

ADVENT comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "approach" as in the beginning or the approach of the seasons. The four WORDS of ADVENT are hope, peace, joy, and love. These four WORDS should be spoken, prayed and lived every day by every Christian. These four WORDS could fundamentally change how we live our Christian life. These four WORDS would fundamentally change the QUALITY of our Christian life in three very important ways:

1. QUALITY of our speech. Our speech would move from human vulgarity vernacular to a Christ-like vocabulary and sentence structure. We should speak with clarity that is easy to understand. We should speak with a clear purpose to uplift those around us as Christ did. And we should be authentic and honest with our words.
2. QUALITY of our relationships. The five basic elements of any QUALITY relationship are trust, forgiveness, integrity, compassion, and of course hope. Each of these are important individually, but in concert with each other, they substantiate and validate the relationship we have with those around us.

3. QUALTY of repairing broken relationships. Participating in open and clear communication is far better than bottling up our emotions inside. Practice forgiveness. Rebuild trust. Apologize. Spend quality time together. Be emphatic. Being emphatic is the ability to see things from the other person's point of view. Set boundaries which is an essential skill for fostering a healthy relationship. AND practice active listening for conflict resolution, problem solving, and constructive criticism.

This is who we should be as the baptized children of God. We are either ALL God's children or WE ARE NOT. Our baptism has joined us to the person of Jesus Christ and the work of Jesus Christ. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's free unconditional, abundant gift of GRACE to all people and for all people. The Law of Jesus Christ is JUSTICE and PEACE for and to ALL people. I hope that during this Advent Season we all focus on the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb.

As Martin Luther said on his deathbed, "We are all beggars, this is true." We are ALL beggars seeking that which we will never deserve. Poor, blind, filthy, wretched beggars with our hands outstretched to God. And we receive from God this gift we do not deserve, and yet, God gives it freely because of Jesus' unconditional love and sacrifice.

It's hard to say why A Charlie Brown Christmas is such a BIG deal to me or how tenderly I hold it in my heart. I see myself in Charlie Brown. Someone who is maybe different from the other kids, someone who has tried really hard, someone who has often failed, but someone who will get up and try again.

Sincerely Pr. Jer

SUNDAY 9 am Adult Coffee Fellowship in December

We invite you to coffee fellowship and a time of informal discussion over the gospel reading for each Sunday worship service. This might even give you a better understanding of the context of each story.

Sunday, December 1 – Luke 21:25-36

Sunday, December 8 – Luke 3:1-6

Sunday, December 15 – Luke 3:7-18

Sunday, December 22 – Luke 1:39-55

8th GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS Instead of confirmation class on Wednesday nights you switch to the Sunday School Christmas Eve program practice in December!

My Faith Story – During worship on each Sunday in Advent there will be a church member sharing their response to the question, “How does the Season of Advent impact my vocation (work/ministry)?” I have asked them to share, in 3 to 5 minutes, their response. It is my hope that this sharing will cause the church family to reflect on their own faith story,

Sunday, December 1 – Robert Ideus

Sunday, December 8 – Stephanie Wallman

Sunday, December 15 – Ivy Bloom

Sunday, December 22 – Dr. Sandy Parks



Candlelight Service - 6 pm Sunday, December 1, 2024

Pause, Prepare, and Ponder Advent

We invite you to pause, prepare and ponder this first Advent Sunday evening. We invite you to spiritual introspection, prayerful waiting, and pausing from constant busyness in normal lives. We invite you to prepare for a baby, marveling that the creator of the universe was formed in a woman’s womb, full of hope and potential, fragility and vulnerability. We invite you to anticipate Christ’s imminent arrival among us as well as his arrival to come—where pain, sorrow, injustice, warfare, and death itself are no more—in a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness is at home.

We pause, we prepare, and we ponder. The hospitality team will be hosting a time of fellowship after this service.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting - November 6, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Cindy Parde.

Members present: Cindy Parde, Kristi Dorn, Kenny Reed, Jason Wallman, Paul Jurgens, Carrye Meints, DeAnn Oltman, Neal Meints, Kevin Buhr

Absent: Pastor Jer

Pastor Jer shared: Pastor Jer shared his report with a copy for everyone. He was out due to illness.

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 11-6-2024 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from October 9, 2024 meeting.

Upcoming Weddings

- **2/8/2025** - Cole Jurgens & Jenilee Wright
- **10-4-2025** - Shelby Baehr & Anthony Hernandez

Upcoming Events:

- Zion's Advent Candlelight Service will be Sunday, December 1, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

October Mileage: 902 miles

Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business

- **Nominating Committee** - The committee is still contacting a list of people. Hope to have the list finalized by December.
- **Venmo** - The Venmo account has been established. The QR code has been in the bulletins. People may use this instead of the envelopes for their pledge if they choose to do so.
- **Candlelight Service Offering/ December Offerings** - Candlelight Service offering will go to the Assisted Living residences where our members reside. Christmas Eve and Day offerings will go to the Backpack program. The 5th Sunday in December will go to the Cemetery.
- **Christmas Tree Set-up** - November 29th at 8:00 a.m.
- **Budget Meeting** - The budget meeting for 2025 will be December 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Discerning God's Will – New Business

- **Volunteers** - Discussion of maybe having members volunteer for helping with certain activities in church.

Ministry Team Report as of November 6, 2024

- Financial-General Fund Balance on hand - 10/1/2024 - \$113,200.23
- Income - \$35,451.71
- Balance on hand – 10/31/2024 - \$120,195.44
- Sinking Fund - \$58,925.98
- Seminary Fund - \$58,727.19
- Thrivent Mutual Fund - \$3,017.02
- Open Savings - \$25,840.79

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

Next Council Meeting will be Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Devotions - 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carrye Meints, Secretary

Committee Notes for November

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Did not meet

HOSPITALITY: Jeni Bohlmeier, Angie Grone, VeAnn Jurgens, Makayla Wiese, DeAnn Oltman,

Absent: Karla Carstens, Cally Ideus, Deb Rinne Removing: Linda Blackwell

Confirmed Char Board 11/13 Everyone is excited! Even outside members coming who are interested in the Church.

Past events: Trunk or Treat was a success!

New Members each were contacted

Upcoming: Candlelight service – hot chocolate and toppings

Card making class – next year spin into having a card making station for parents waiting for kids @ events.

New adult activitiesUpcoming!

Marketing / Budget plan presented

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE: Did not meet

PARISH ED:

Members Present: Nicole Behrends, Courtney Schlake, Allison Lane, & Lanette Nelson, Alyssa Lieneman
Members Absent: Jay Bartlett

Balance: \$1,139.69

- New Business
 - Finalize Christmas program and review music.
 - Sent home the Christmas Program Practice Schedule on 11/3. Also posted on Facebook.
 - Christmas Goodie Bags for Christmas Program – 100 bags
 - Cindy Lieneman will donate candy.
 - Popcorn balls? Fruit? Other ideas?
 - Tree of Warmth
 - Starts December 1st
 - Courtney will deliver items to First Christian Church
 - Lanette will order curriculum for classrooms.
 - New Parish Ed Member
 - Looking for one more replacement
- Old Business
 - Christmas Program
 - Select Christmas Program
 - Send out Program Schedule – Courtney
 - Tree of Warmth
 - Thrivent Grant – Doreen Remmers
 - Starts December 1st
 - CASA 5th Grade Shopping Trip
 - Shopping Day: November 24th
 - Thrivent Grant: Mary Lenner
 - Parish Ed will visit classrooms to order more curriculum.
 - Jess Ideus will create her own worksheets.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT: Neal Meints, Kevin Buhr, Jordan Busboom, Luke Ideus, Kenny Reed

Secretary's minutes – approved as read

Old Business – Fellowship doors
North Church Doors
Date to clean gutters
Obtaining bid for tuck point

New Business – ceiling fan in sanctuary

PARK BOARD: Did not meet

PUBLISITY: Did not meet

STEWARDSHIP: Did not meet

WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS ENDOWMENT: Did not meet

WORSHIP & MUSIC: Picked hymns

YOUTH: Did not meet

Exciting news and another option for giving is available for our Zion members .

A QR code has been added to the Sunday bulletins. Simply scan the QR Code to the right to access Zion's Venmo account and submit your offering.

Offering envelopes and online giving via Vanco are still available to members as well. **Any members with questions regarding these options can reach out to a church council member.**

Zion Lutheran Church

@Zion68422



venmo

Scan this code to pay

Fifth Sunday Offerings & Special offerings for December

December 1st Candlelight Service - will go to the Assisted Living residences where our members reside.

Christmas Eve and Day offerings will go to the Backpack programs

The 5th Sunday - December 29th will go to the Cemetery.

Poinsettia Sign up

The clip board is on the welcome center in the Fellowship Hall - please list who is giving the plant and who it is in memory or in honor of so can be listed in the bulletin.

Please if at all possible don't bring them to Church until December 20th. It is hard to keep the poinsettias alive and looking pretty for the whole month of December!



It Coming!!! Annual Report Time Again!

Please start thinking about year end reports. Be watching the bulletins and January Newsletter on deadlines for the reports. Have a Blessed Holiday Season!



Grace Circle

On Nov. 13, Grace Circle met at the Villa for their monthly Bible Study and business meeting. We opened with the hymn “Will You Come and Follow Me” and a prayer. Stephanie Wallman led us in our lesson on “Receiving Grace.”

Chairperson Elnora Lenners opened the business meeting. Minutes were read, treasurers’ report given and roll call taken. There is \$149.00 in treasury. 11 members answered roll call. We welcomed 1 new member, Lois Buhr.

A .50 fine was paid to the card fund if you were thankful for the rain. Christmas cards were signed for the church’s shut-ins. For Christmas we will give \$50 of the card fund money to CASA and \$5 to the Salvation Army bucket. We will give a thank you gift card to Stephanie for Christmas. This money to come from the Grace Circle treasury. Remaining money in treasury to be given to the local Willow Center and Sewing for Babies.

Christmas meeting will be held at the American Legion on Dec. 11 @11:30. We are inviting Pastor and Karen to join us.

Meeting was closed with the Thank Offering service.

Sec. Mickey Larkins

Blanket Sewing

Thank you

Thank you again to John and Marcia Busboom for delivering the quilts to Omaha to be sent off to Minnesota to the LWR warehouse. A total of school kits and 76 quilts were delivered this week.

And **thank you to the 7th & 8th grade Confirmands** for loading them into the trailer the night before they were taken to Omaha.

Also, previously 25 quilts had been delivered to CASA and 25+ quilts to Table Grace in Omaha. We kept 6 quilts back for people in need. So, a total of **132 quilts** had been completed this year. Way to go ladies! Mildred also has many more quilt tops waiting for us to finish this coming year! **GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS!**



150th Anniversary Weekend Celebration – October 27th 2024



Entrance to the Fashion Show



The speaker Sue McClain
from
Humanities Nebraska



The servers for the Fashion Show brunch



Sunday Morning Worship with Pastor Casey Lieneman and Rev. Dr. James Fruhling



A view of the Congregation, 393 in attendance. What a wonderful service and a wonderful crowd for the special day followed by the soup luncheon. Thank you to the planning committee!

Youth

ZION SUNDAY SCHOOL
October Perfect Attendance

LITTLE ANGELS
Burke Meints
Dorothy Freeman
Eloise Blecha
Hank Bartlett

PRE-K
Brantley Glynn
Henry Behrends

KINDERGARTEN
Ace Bartlett
Jaxson Lane
Rory Detert

1ST GRADE
Bennett Wiese
Claire Freeman
Emmalynn Blecha
Tucker Parks
Vonn Behrens

2ND GRADE
Beau Gronewold
Carson Behrends
Connor Jensen
Logan Hippen
Madison Detert
Shane Parde

3RD GRADE
Brooks Coffin
Emma Lane

4TH GRADE
-

5TH GRADE
Brixton Coffin
Devyn Gronewold
Ellis Freeman
Tanden Wiese

6TH GRADE
Jace Behrends
Mason Hippen

7TH GRADE
Alexis Folkerts
Nora Glynn
Sadie Gronewold
Tavin Lieneman

8TH GRADE
-

Christmas Program

SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 27TH	6:30 - 8:00 PM
7th & 8th Grade Christmas Program Practice	
DECEMBER 4TH	6:30 - 7:30 PM
2nd - 8th Grade Christmas Program Practice	
DECEMBER 11TH	6:30 - 7:30 PM
2nd - 8th Grade Christmas Program Practice	
DECEMBER 18TH	6:30 - 8:00 PM
ALL Sunday School Students Christmas Program Practice	
DECEMBER 24TH	6:00 PM
Christmas Eve Program	



Youth continued!



Parish Ed is looking for one more member to join their committee in January.

If you are interested in helping with this committee, Please get in contact with Allison Lane.

There will be an information meeting for families and youth leaders on December 7th at 2:00 pm at First

Lutheran, Lincoln (1551 S 70th St, Lincoln, NE 68506) for an upcoming summer Middle School Trip to South Dakota 5th Grade - 9th Grade (Power Chats and Bible explorations on Discipleship and visiting Mt. Rushmore and Wind Cave for adventure activities) with Hannah Hrenchir and surrounding churches. **If you're interested but can't attend the meeting, please contact Hannah at hannah.hrenchir@gmail.com for the zoom meeting information.** Pre-Registration is open with **the last day of registration being April 11th.**



CAMP REIMBURSEMENTS

Youth who attended confirmation camp or a summer Christian based camp in 2024 are eligible to be reimbursed for 75% of the camp cost based on the "Early Bird Discount".

Please complete the **Willie & Anna Meints Endowment Fund Youth Camp Application**, located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. Submit the application along with the paid receipt to the church office, attention: Willie & Anna Meints Endowment Fund.

The deadline to submit the application for reimbursement is December 15th (same year the Confirmand or youth attended camp).

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall and pick up information on Summer Camp at Camp Carol Joy Holling. 2025 date at

June 1- July 24th Register at NLOM.org/caroljoyholling/register
Also, posters by both front doors with QR codes.



1. Pamphlets on the early bird savings.
2. Leadership Camp
3. Positions available for 18 years and older:
 - Village Leaders** (with concentrations available in lifeguarding, outdoor education and challenge course facilitation)
 - Healthcare Intern**
 - Marketing Intern**
 - Equine Intern**

HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES ...

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV)

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Beatrice Middle School & High School Mini Marts

Consider donating - sandwich/trash bags, dish soap, canned fruit/vegetables, canned soup, pudding cups, pop tarts, macaroni & cheese

Collection baskets are located in both hallways

Requested by: Amber Lovitt -CASA Executive Director
\$250 Thrivent Grant written by Bev Stokebrand (Mert Rademacher's sister)



Tree of Warmth

Consider donating - hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks

Requested by: Zion Parish Ed & Sunday School kids

\$250 Thrivent Grant written by Carley Remmers (daughter of Dennis & Doreen Remmers)

Big Note of Thanks to other \$250 Thrivent Grant Writers for the recent projects listed below:

- Mickey Larkins** to Zion Hospitality Team for the Candlelight Service Fellowship
- Lois Lawrence (Mert Rademacher's sister)** for the Mother to Mother Ministry Ham Give Away

This was done in conjunction with American Lutheran Church of Filley with Carol Frerichs coordinating the project

- Stan & Mary Lenners** to the 5th Grade Sunday School class for their Holiday Shopping Spree for those in need. Items are selected from the wish list trees you see in Beatrice
- Karla Carstens** to the REAL Moms group of the community served by Christ Community Church

Zion is helping Blue Valley Community Action Wishlist program again this year – by adapting children who are in need of a Christmas miracle.

Through this program you can adopt a star that represents a Gage County child. If you or your family, church group, or Sunday School class would like to adopt a child, simply take a star, shop for them – return back to church next Sunday, December 8th. Then they will then be returned to Blue Valley Community Action to be delivered to the recipient.

Help us make Christmas merry throughout Gage County



Congratulations

Congratulations to Alan & Sheryl Wiese on their new granddaughter - Lexi Rae Behrendt born November 2nd. Lexi is the daughter of Logan and McKenzie Behrendt and brother and sister Rhett and Bry.

Congratulations to Heath & Abby Hovendick on the birth of their baby boy Levi James Hovendick. Born November 9th. Congratulations to grandparents Chris and Renae Mason.

Thank you's

The 150th Anniversary Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed food, time or shared talents during our final celebration! Special thanks to those who donated and purchased items on the Silent Auction. These funds will be used to support future projects connected to the German School House Heritage Room.

A BIG THANK YOU to the Anniversary Committee for all your hard work this past year! A lot of time and hard work went into planning the events. It was a great day to be a member of Zion. We both had numerous members, past members and visitors say to us what a wonderful service it was yesterday. Pastor Jer & Karen

A HUGE thank you to the Anniversary Committee for the many, many hours and personal time they spent doing research and planning our churches celebration. Thank you so much.

Shirley Gronewold

Dear Friends

From all of us at Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, we want to express our gratitude for your wonderful gift of \$3,634. You make such an impact on our campers, retreat guests, and staff.

We had such a joyful summer with our campers and Summer Ministry Team members, celebrating and exploring who we are truly Created to Be. It was wonderful to witness our youth growing and learning more about their authentic selves that God has made, while having a lot of fun! Campers went swimming, horse-back riding, participated in team-building activities, studied the Bible, and so much more.

Thank you for helping us make camp possible for all Children and young people!

In Christ,

Trish Haniszewski,CFRE

Development Officer

This thank you was received from Alvera Bade.

"I just want to say "a Big Thank You" for the wonderful service and 150th Anniversary Celebration. The church service was so very special and memorable! It brought back many memories. Lunch and fellowship was so enjoyable too. God bless all of you for the planning and hard work, kindness, and more.

Just a little history note on Alvera.

Alvera Wallman, a teacher at a local country school, became director of the junior choir after the Fruehlings left Zion in 1962. When Alvera was going to marry Victor Bade in 1965, she decided to have her junior choir, with a few of her school students who were not Zion members, sing at her wedding. Since there were only 10 cherub robes, one lone kindergartener had to have a red robe.

Dear Friends

Thank you for your donation of \$500 to Special Olympics Nebraska and for helping us give every athlete the chance to feel like a champion.

Every day, we work to create opportunities of acceptance and inclusion for more than 6,000 individuals with and without intellectual disabilities through programming in sports, health, education, advocacy and leadership. We strive to build a future full of justice and joy for our athletes and our state, and we would not be successful without support like yours.

Special Olympics Nebraska allows people with intellectual disabilities to discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. Our athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment – on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential.

We believe in a world where there are millions of different abilities but not disabilities. And we're spreading the message everywhere. Your gift helps us do just that.

Thank you for your support.

Carolyn Chamberlin President and CEO

Snow Brigade

For the week of Dec 2 – Mike Busboom Captain, Dean Zimmerman-tractor, Russ Wallman-Tractor, Greg Dorn, Paul Remmers, Craig Ideus, Terry Gronewold, Alex Buhr, Bob Freeman.

For the week of Dec 9 – Jason Lovitt Captain, Les Lieneman-tractor, David Meints-tractor, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson, Jeff Wiese.

For the week of Dec 16 – Steve Oltman Captain, Eric Parde-tractor, Chris Fossler-tractor, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Kyle Schlake.

For the week of Dec 23 – AJ Wiese Captain, James Meints-tractor, Alan Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeier, Brian Garton, Josh Gronewold.

For the week of Dec 30 – Justin Hippen Captain, Gary Gronewold-tractor, Stan Lenners-tractor, Mark Buhr, James Lenners, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman, Luke Ideus.

Bulletins Sponsored in the Month of November

For the week of November 10th – Larry & Macy Gronewold, Patty Brittnay & Jeremy Thomas in Memory of Eleanor Wolken's birthday would have been November 14th. Happy heavenly birthday Eleanor.

For the week of November 17th – By the family of Bernice Parde in memory of Bernice Parde. Bernice's 96th birthday would be November 22nd. Happy heavenly birthday Bernice!

For the week of November 24th – by the family of Arnold Buhr in memory of Arnold. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers!

Card Shower in honor of Mildred Meints 95th Birthday, December 17th. Mildred's address is:

Gold Crest Retirement
200 Levi Lane
Room 416
Adams, NE 68301





The Hospitality Committee hosted a charcuterie board make and take on Wednesday, November 13th. It looks too pretty to eat! By the smiles it was a HUGE success! This committee is planning more fun events like this - so keep alert in the bulletins and newsletters!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Heath Grone

3 Peggy Johnson
Allison Lane

4 Henry Behrends
Steve Harwood
Ainsley Hostetler
Cole Parde
Deborah Rinne

5 Amber Dorn

6 Lincoln Eickhoff
Anthony Hoffman
Breanna Pennisi

7 Janice Jurgens

8 Hunter Blackwell
Henrietta Jurgens

9 Baylor Scott
Duane Schuster

10 Beth Buhr
John Gronewold

Sarah Bartlett
Shelby Petrzilka
Watson Gronewold

12 Paige Buss
Maizy Wollenburg

13 Stephanie Wallman

14 Alex Busboom
Kiera Busboom
Jonathan Rademacher
Nicole Behrends
Kit Meints
Chris Fossler

15 Terry Gronewold

16 Lynette Jurgens
Jayden Wiese

17 Janet Harms
Garrett Lenner
Mildred Meints

18 LeAnn Fossler
Mildred Fossler
Debra Thompson
Dean Zimmerman

19 Dusty Mencl

21 Christy Buhr
Abbie Hoffman

22 Shane Parde

23 Peyton Winkle

24 Declan Leehy

25 Joyce Harms
Marilyn Robinson

27 Avery Busboom
Mari McKee

28 Kristen Meyer
Clara Fehringer
Laura Fikar
Les Lieneman
Jeff Wallman
Emma Frerichs
Avery Frerichs

29 Ada Gronewold

31 Paige Mahler
Mavis Dorn

YOUR VOCATION FOR THE MONTH

What you do for God!

WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

December 1

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Presleigh Borgman
Nora Glynn
Lector: Todd Bohlmeier
Greeters: Council & 7th graders
Special Music: The Quartet
Men's Choir
Serve Breakfast Club: Jess Ideus

December 8

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Shirley Gronewold
Acolytes: Colt Rinne
Sadie Gronewold
Lector: Stan Lenners
Greeters: Todd & Jeni Bohlmeier
Mark & Christy Buhr
Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom
Serve Breakfast Club: Paul Remmers

December 15

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Keyboard: Janelle Ideus
Guitar: Deric Bloom
Special Music: Endless Hallelujah
Arden Dorn
Acolytes: Karlee Riha
Tavin Lieneman
Lector: Doug Parde
Greeters: Eddie & Lynette Dorn
Doug & Rhonda Dorn
Serve Breakfast Club: Jennifer Mahler

December 22

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Kipton Lovitt
Alexis Folkerts
Lector: Carrie Reed
Greeters: Brian & Sammie Garton
Gary & Brenda Gronewold
Special Music: Amigos
Serve Breakfast Club: No Breakfast Club

December 25th Christmas Day

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Pastor & Karen Gilbreath
Lector: Karen Gilbreath
Greeters: Council
Special Music: possible Les Lieneman

December 29

Pastor: Jerry Gilbreath
Organist: Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes: Konnor Kolm
Millie Garton
Lector: Gerald Ideus
Greeters: Kyle & Michelle Kolm
Les & Mert Rademacher
Special Music:
Serve Breakfast Club: No Breakfast Club

December Table Troop: Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenners, Al Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr

December Altar Guild: Caroline Ideus, Dianna Andrew, Susan Buss, Patti Behrens, Lynette Jurgens

December 2024

1 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/ Quartet/Men's Choir/Communion 6 pm Candlelight Service - offering to assisted-livings with our members	2	3	4 6:30-7:30 pm 2nd-8th grade Christmas program practice 7 pm Committee Mtg 7:30 pm Council	5	6	7 2 pm Planning Meeting @ First Lutheran in Lincoln/Zoom meeting about 2025 summer trip to South Dakota
8 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom	9	10	11 11:30 Grace Circle Christmas Mtg. @ the American Legion 6:30-7:30 pm 2nd-8th grade Christmas program practice	12	13	14
15 8:45 SS 9 am BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship /Communion/Endless Hallelujah/Arden Dorn ****Deadline for Camp reimbursement****	16	17	18 6:30-8:00 pm ALL Sunday School Students Christmas Program Practice	19	20 <u>Please wait to deliver Poinsettias starting today if at all possible</u>	21
22 8:45 NO SS 9 am NO BKF Club/Adult SS 10 am Worship	23 ****Print Newsletter****	24 Christmas Eve 6 pm Christmas Eve Program Offering to the Backpack programs	25 Christmas Day 10 am Worship/ Communion Offering to the Backpack programs	26	27	28
29 5 th Sunday- Cemetery 8:45 <u>NO</u> SS 9 am <u>NO</u> BKF Club/ <u>NO</u> Adult SS 10 am Worship/ Communion/Men's Choir	30	31				

Anniversary Update submitted by Mert Rademacher

The end of 2024 and Zion's Anniversary year will soon be here. The Anniversary Committee would like to thank all who have helped to make this, the 150th year, a memorable year. The Anniversary Committee also wants to thank Zion's church council and Pastor Jer for being supportive of the recognition events that we wanted to plan and the creation of a Heritage Room which would display Zion's history. We hope the events and the Heritage Room were and will continue, in the case of the Heritage Room, to be utilized and educational to many for years to come.

***The anniversary year may be coming to a close but the work for the Heritage Room is NOT! The Anniversary Committee received many items to display but know there is more history and artifacts that will be shared. **The Anniversary Committee has asked council if a Heritage Committee could be established as a church committee which they approved. This committee would meet quarterly (4 times a year) and would continue the purpose of the Heritage Room.** If you have an interest or would like to help with this committee, please let council or Marcella Rademacher or Connie Thornburg and THANK YOU.

RECOGNITION SUNDAYS:

The first Recognition Sunday in March focused on the early German immigrants who wanted a "Place to Belong" in the Bear Creek area. These 50 years, 1874-1924, were marked by a tremendous amount of building, creating places where they could worship; they missed the faith community and their home church they had left in their homeland of Hanover Germany. A special thank you goes out to Bishop Scott Johnson for assisting with the service on this Recognition service. The Meints sisters' wagon greeted all who attended that service.

The early settlers also wanted a "Place to Believe", to be able to gather with other believers which was the focus for the 2nd Recognition Sunday in July. And gather they did as these 50 years, 1924-1974, were when many organizations and choirs were formed. Zion members were able to gather on Saturday evening with fellow believers from other area churches but also a group of northern Germany travelers. Softball at Fuller Field was enjoyed by all. Sunday welcomed son of Zion, Rev. Arden Dorn, as our guest minister and Mark Reents, great-grandson of JB Reents, who shared thoughts on his great-grandfather's legacy. Thank you to all who helped with the brunch that followed the service and to all who brought vehicles from that time era.

Zion's 3rd and final Recognition in October was a Sunday devoted to thanking all those who have chosen Zion as their "Place to Become" God's servant. Zion is blessed to have many volunteers and members who are willing to give of themselves in so many ways; council, committee members, Sunday school/Bible school/confirmation teachers, volunteering for events, and more. Special recognition was given to those members who served in the service role for more than 43 ½ years, the service years of Pastor JB Reents. Those members recognized were:

- Ervin/Lois Meints: 48 years as church and cemetery groundskeeper (custodians for 28 years during this time also)
- Mildred Fossler/Rosanna Miller: Over 50 years of blanket sewing with the Ladies Aid
- Shirley Gronewold: 55 years teaching 3 year olds as a nursery Sunday school teacher (also assistant organist for 45 years during the same time)
- Alnora Daubendiek: 67 years as the church organist and Men's Choir accompanist.

Dr James Fruehling, son of Zion pastor, Richard Fruehling, was a guest organist and provided prelude music. Rev. Casey Lieneman, a son of Zion, was Zion's guest speaker on this recognition Sunday. Thank you to all who supplied soup and desserts for a soup luncheon after this service.

SILENT AUCTION:

The Anniversary Committee would like to thank all who donated items for the two silent auctions that were held and to those who bid on the items. Approximately \$2400 was raised which was and will continue to be used to create and maintain the Heritage Room.