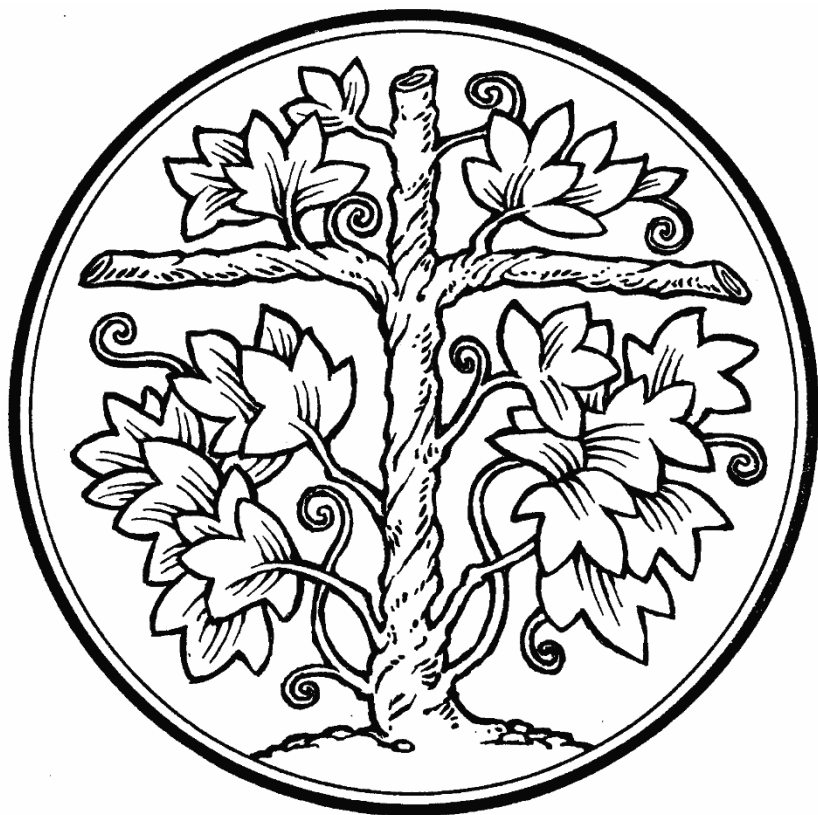


Divine Service



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church
Kearney, Nebraska

Welcome to Zion!

All worshippers please fill out an attendance card in the pew rack and let us know how we might be of service to you.

Holy Communion at Zion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation as Jesus has given it. As he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. *All communicants* need to register in the narthex prior to the service.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are asked not to commune until they are able to speak with our pastor first. He is happy to visit with you about the Christian faith and how to receive the Lord's Supper for your good and for the good of others. Those not communing are invited to come to the altar, cross your arms in front of you, and bow your head to receive a pastoral blessing.

Jesus Christ Is the True Vine Who Bears Much Fruit in Us

“God is love,” and He has manifested Himself to us by sending *“his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him”* (1 John 4:9, 16). By the ministry of the Gospel, *“he has given us of his Spirit,”* so that we also believe and confess *“that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh.”* In this way, we *“abide in him and he in us,”* and we *“love one another”* (1 John 4:2, 7, 13). Such divine love is exemplified in Philip's preaching of *“the good news about Jesus”* to the Ethiopian eunuch. And when *“they came to some water,”* the eunuch was baptized into the very Gospel that Philip had preached (Acts 8:35–38). That Ethiopian was thereby grafted into *“the true vine,”* Jesus Christ (John 15:1), just as we are. Already we are clean because of the Word that Christ has spoken to us and by the washing of water with His Word. We now abide in Him by faith in His forgiveness. As He abides in us, both body and soul, with His own body and His blood, He *“bears much fruit”* in us (John 15:3–5).

Confession and Absolution

595 O Blessed Spring



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

G **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ~~the~~ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 145:1–2, 8, 10, 21; antiphon: John 16:16

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.

I will extol you, my | God and King,*
and bless your name forever and | ever.

Every day I will | bless you*
and praise your name forever and | ever.

The LORD is gracious and | merciful,*
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

All your works shall give thanks to you, | O LORD,*
and all your saints shall | bless you!

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

A little while, and you will see me no | longer;*
and again a little while, and you will | see me.

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

This Is the Feast


Refrain




C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 — Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

First Reading

Acts 8:26–40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Gradual

adapt. from Matthew 28:7; Hebrews 2:7; Psalm 8:6

Christ has risen | from the dead.*

[God the Father] has crowned him with glory and | honor.

He has given him dominion over the works | of his hands;*

he has put all things un- | der his feet.

Epistle

1 John 4:1–11

Test the Spirits

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

God Is Love

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

G Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

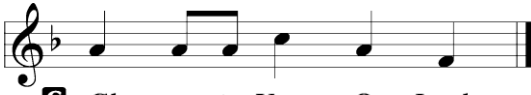
You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

I Am the True Vine

¹[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

sts. 1-2, 5-8

All Sing verses 1-2, 7-8; Men sing v5; Women sing v6.



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to
2 Praise we Him, whose love di - vine Gives His
5 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky, Hell's fierce
6 Now no more can death ap - pall, Now no



our vic - to - rious King, Who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, Gives His bod - y for the feast—
pow'rs be - neath You lie; You have con - quered in the fight,
more the grave en - thrall; You have o - pened par - a - dise,



Flow - ing from His pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
You have brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!
And Your saints in You shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
Newborn souls in You to be.
Alleluia!

△ 8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, Your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon ~ The Vine and Branches

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life *✠* of the world to come. Amen.

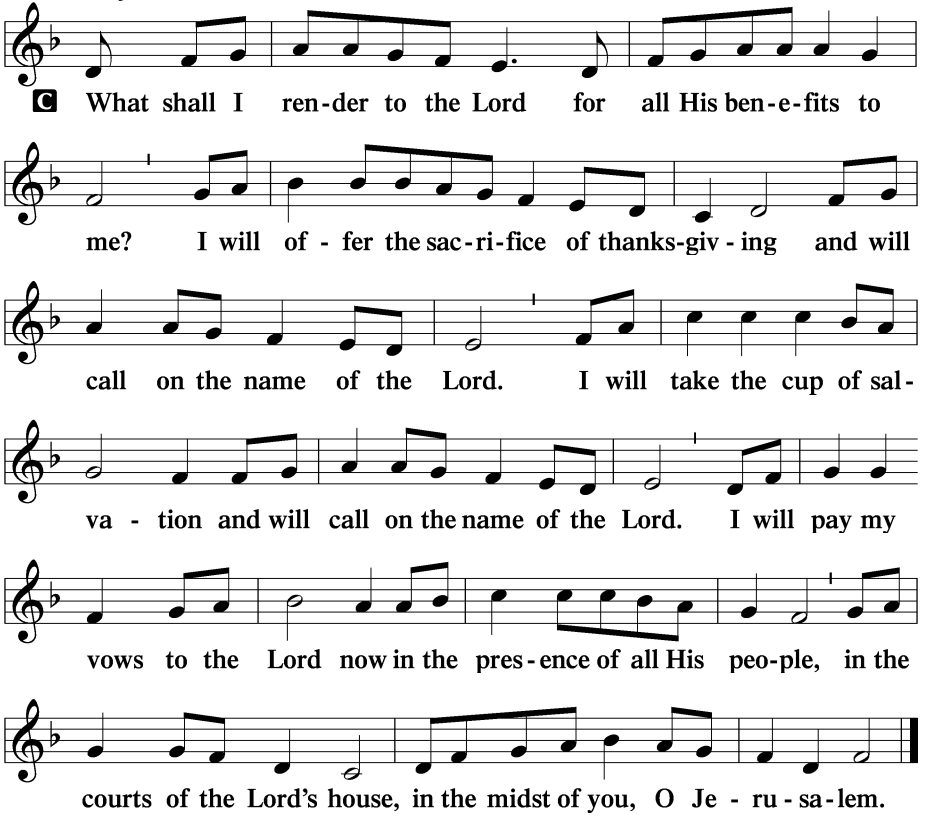
The Rite of Confirmation

LSB 272

Prayer of the Church

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the very Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

G Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ∇ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ∇ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



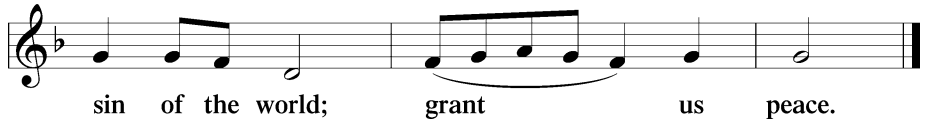
C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



Sit

Distribution

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which Thou for
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in Thee and
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is nigh, who
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not rob me
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed, ho - ly



me didst shed, These are my life and strength for -
 Thou in me, No sor - row fills my soul, de -
 jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and thus se -
 of my cheer; For He who is of death the
 Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy prais - es



ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.
 light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.
 cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.
 mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.
 tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be



for my soul the high - est good!

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919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus



- 1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Tune and text: Public domain

540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
 2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,
 3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
 4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
 food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,
 Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es,
 lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
 Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
 To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
 Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
 food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our
 You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
 Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
 thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
 branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
 God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

5 Christ, the way that leads un failing
 To the Father's home on high,
 Christ, the truth that frees the captive,
 Christ, the life that cannot die.
 Mediator to the Father,
 Sacrifice and great High Priest:
 Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions,
 There to share Your wedding feast.

△ 6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega,
 Christ, the firstborn from the
 dead,
 Christ, the life and resurrection,
 Christ, the Church's glorious
 head:
 Praise and thanks and adoration
 And unending worship be
 To the Father and the Spirit
 And to You eternally.

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

G Amen.

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

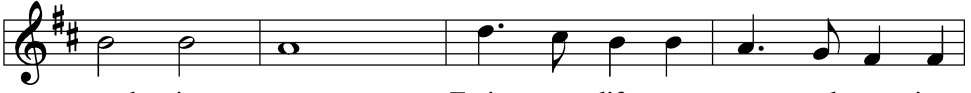
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

691 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

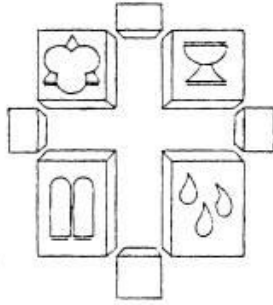
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Confirmation Class
Zion Lutheran Church Kearney, Nebraska
May 2, 2021



Abigail Marie Burger

Parents: Paul & Rachael Burger

**Grandparents: Helen & the late Ordale Burger
David & Mona Geidel**

Baptismal Sponsors: Michael & Sherry Burger, Naomi Geidel

Date of Baptism: November 19, 2006

Hebrews 12:1-2

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Landen Michael Eckhoff

Parents: Shane & Kelly Eckhoff

**Grandparents: The late Jerry & Linda Eckhoff
Bob & Nancy Luettel**

Baptismal Sponsors: Shawn & Robyn Hovseth

Date of Baptism: July 21, 2007

Deuteronomy 28:6

⁶ Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

Brynne Renae Fisher

Parents: Ryan & Brooke Fisher

**Grandparents: Harvey & Barb Fisher
Dan & Shirley Oertwig**

Baptismal Sponsors: Tim & Kari Taubenheim

Date of Baptism: April 27, 2009

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me

Austin David Knott

Parents: Tim & Shawna Knott

**Grandparents: Randy & Teri Knott
Steve & Vera Thorpe
Loren & Julie Dibbern**

Baptismal Sponsors: JD Foster & Abby Barth

Date of Baptism: November 19, 2006

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.



Lauren Kay Starkey

Parents: Shawn Starkey, Amanda Haussler

Grandparents: Roger & Donna Starkey

Brad & Judy Ferguson

Baptismal Sponsors: Adam & Jami Helmbrecht

Date of Baptism: December 16, 2012

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Makenna Jo Starkey

Parents: Shawn Starkey, Amanda Haussler

Grandparents: Roger & Donna Starkey

Brad & Judy Ferguson

Baptismal Sponsors: Adam & Jami Helmbrecht

Date of Baptism: December 16, 2012

Psalms 84:10

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Colton William Zehendner

Parents: Charles & Jacquelyn Zehendner

Grandparents: The late G. William &

the late Cynthia Zehendner

Norman & Cynthia Erickson

Baptismal Sponsors: Courtney Dalrymple & Zachary Moje

Date of Baptism: October 7, 2007

Philippians 1:21

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**May the Holy Spirit dwell in your heart always and keep you
strong in the faith.**

Prayers for Our Members

Jade Florang, Monique Pohlman	Expectant Mothers
Norman Abels (<i>Brookestone Meadows - Elkhorn</i>)	Healing
Judy Ahrens	Healing
Vaughn Albrecht (Mount Carmel)	Healing
Tom & DyAnn Altwine	Healing
Lyle Colsden (<i>Mother Hull</i>)	Healing
Pat Flodine (<i>Cambridge Court</i>)	Healing
Vi Fox (<i>Prairie View</i>)	Healing
Verleen Gentry	Healing
Ruby Hatfield	Healing
Boyd Millsap	Healing
Michelle Millsap	Healing
Roger Riekenberg	Healing
Don Richmond	Healing
Marion Richmond	Healing
Ivan Bombeck	Cancer
Fran Junge	Cancer
Bertha Marienau	Cancer
Bev Nuttelman	Cancer
Kim Vos	Cancer

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Pr. James DeLoach, Pastor + (308) 627-5260

james.deloach@zionkearney.org

Pr. Doug Gaunt, Pastor + (308) 455-0552

doug.gaunt@zionkearney.org

Tony Splittgerber, Principal + (308) 293-0168

anthony.splittgerber@zionkearney.org

Church Office

Administrative Assistant: Jessica Shiers

Email: school@zionkearney.org

Phone: (308)-234-3410 **Fax:** (308) 236-8100

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm

Radio Broadcast: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. on 1460 AM

Website: www.zionkearney.com

Prayers for Our Members' Family & Friends

Dawn Gaunt (<i>Pr. & Carol Gaunt's daughter-in-law</i>)	Expecting
Nicole Teten (<i>Chris & Sarah Hoehner's daughter</i>)	Expecting
Naomi Wollberg (<i>Andy & Jeanne Wollberg's daughter-in-law</i>)	Expecting
Shannon Howell (<i>Quentin & Janel Lange's friends</i>)	Expecting
Mariah Rodriguez (<i>Quentin & Janel Lange friend</i>)	Expecting
Will Brennemann (<i>Jami Helmbrecht's father</i>)	Healing
Tom DiMartino (<i>Don & Shirley Helmbrecht's brother-in-law</i>)	Healing
Reg Duke (<i>Westman's brother-in-law</i>)	Healing
James Gentry (<i>Verleen Gentry's son</i>)	Healing
Roger Hoffman (<i>Marc's father</i>)	Healing
Sharon Kreutzer (<i>Richard's mother</i>)	Healing
Lyra Mais (<i>Zion student</i>)	Healing
Bailey Markowski (<i>Steve & Fran Junge's great niece</i>)	Healing
Mary Ann Mertz (<i>Pam's Uhlir's friend</i>)	Healing
Tim Powers (<i>Kim Wilken's brother</i>)	Healing
Roy Reynolds (<i>Verleen Gentry's son-in-law</i>)	Healing
Lynne Saathoff (<i>Verleen Gentry's sister-in-law</i>)	Healing
Randy Solomon (<i>Beth Rosenthal's father</i>)	Healing
Spellman Family (<i>Quentin & Janel friend</i>)	Healing
Janet Stalder (<i>Carol Florang's sister</i>)	Healing
Angela Well (<i>Charles Marineau's granddaughter</i>)	Healing
D.D. Dugger (<i>Sue Kaiser's brother</i>)	Cancer
Stuart Gronewoller (<i>Lonna's brother-in-law</i>)	Cancer
Ron Halvorsen (<i>Jeff's dad</i>)	Cancer
Carol Haubold (<i>Don Helmbrecht's sister</i>)	Cancer
Randy Jochum (<i>Ken Hockemeier's brother-in-law</i>)	Cancer
Fred Koch (<i>Pam Uhlir's cousin</i>)	Cancer
Lynda Kreutzer (<i>Rich & Carol's sister-in-law</i>)	Cancer
Sherman Luhn (<i>Kim Vos' father</i>)	Cancer
John Moore (<i>family of Susan Tonniges</i>)	Cancer
Sharon Mulhair (<i>Pam Uhlir's cousin</i>)	Cancer
Jeannie Schmidt (<i>Lisa Splittgerber's sister-in-law</i>)	Cancer
Tyrone Uhlir (<i>Pam's nephew</i>)	Cancer

**Today's Radio Broadcast is given to the Glory of the Lord by
Dan & Shirley Oertwig in honor of their anniversary**

Worship Assistants

Sunday, May 2 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Eric Rosenthal

Usher: Fred Flessner & Lennis Hodgson

Engineer: Jamie Nikodym

Announcer: Jesse Florang

Altar Guild: Carolyn Westman & Linda Nuttelman

Sunday, May 9 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Dan Oertwig

Usher: Marc Hoffman & Steve Junge

Engineer: James Marquardt

Announcer: Lonna Gronewoller

Altar Guild: Carolyn Westman & Linda Nuttelman

Our Response to the Gospel

Date: 04/25/2021

Offering: \$5,780.00

Weekly Need: \$7,542.37

This Week at Zion

Sun 05/02	9:00a 10:30a	Divine Service Radio Broadcast 1460am
Mon 05/03	<i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	<i>Carol Herron</i> ---
Tues 05/04	1:30p <i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	Sleeping Mats <i>Kenzie Ahrens</i> <i>Lincoln Florang</i> <i>Janelle Schmid</i> <i>Hazel Stickney</i> <i>Robert Vos---</i> ---
Wed 05/05	8:30a <i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	Chapel <i>Ann Fattig</i> <i>Clayton McKillip</i> ---
Thurs 05/06	<i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	<i>Sharon Hockemeier</i> ---
Fri 05/07	<i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	Office Closed-Heartland Field Day --- ---
Sat 05/08	5:00p <i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	Divine Service <i>James Catterson</i> <i>Donald Helmbrecht</i> <i>John Musfelt</i> <i>Dan & Shirley Oertwig</i>
Sun 05/09	9:00a 10:30a <i>Birthdays</i> <i>Anniversaries</i>	Divine Service Radio Broadcast 1460am --- ---



Zion
Lutheran
Church

Where our Triune God strengthens us
through His mercy in faith toward Him and
in fervent love toward one another.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ascension Day Service - Please plan to attend an Ascension Day Service hosted by Holy Cross on May 13th at 6:30pm. There will be an ice cream social following service hosted by Holy Cross LWML.

Offering Options:

There are several options:

- 1) Place your offering in the basket as you leave
- 2) Go to zionkearney.churchtrac.com/give
- 3) Go to zionkearney.com and click on the ChurchTrac icon
- 4) Mail your gift to Zion Lutheran Church, 2421 C Ave, Kearney, NE 68847 or place it in the mail slot on the south side of the building.

A Bible Study - is prerecorded and available each Sunday, along with a study guide you can use to follow along. We are studying the three lessons for the day—the Old Testament, the Epistle, and the Gospel. Go to Zion's website www.zionkearney.com to access the video and study guide.

Mission Offerings - The second quarter missions will support Higher Things and Issues Etc. If you would like to donate to these missions, please use the mission envelopes located in the narthex. Thank you for your support. To learn more about these organizations please visit:

<https://higherthings.org/about>

<https://issuesetc.org/support/>

Church Management System - Zion has switched to a web-based church management system called ChurchTrac. Please pick-up a yellow sheet in the narthex to get setup today to view all of the benefits and features.

Crossroads Mission - Mary Martha Peace Circle is collecting items for the Crossroads Mission Avenue, the homeless shelter in Kearney. If you would like to contribute, a collection bin for their critical needs will be located at the church through May 16th. Items will also be collected at the May 10th Mary Martha meeting. Thanks for your support.

Critical needs include:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Non bleach floor cleaner
- Glass cleaner
- Disposable gloves (large & extra large)
- Trash bags (13 & 33 gallon)
- Disposable cups
- Laundry detergent
- Bath towels
- Twin sheets
- Pillows
- Cough drops
- Ibuprofen/Tylenol
- Cold medicines
- Shaving razors
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Canned food
- Butter/flour/sugar
- Cooking spices

Radio Broadcast - Please help Zion spread the Gospel! There are several open dates.

Vacation Bible School - The date has been set for July 18-22 from 6:00-8:00pm . It will be for preschool to 5th grade. We will also be recruiting volunteers for anyone from 6th grade up to help out. There will be more information to come, please continue to watch the bulletin.



SCHOOL NEWS

Heartland Field Day - The Kindergarten to 8th grade students will participate in the Heartland Field Day on Friday, May 7th. The office will be closed that day.

Last Day of School - The last day of school for the students will be Wednesday, May 19th with an 11:30am dismissal.

Best of Kearney - Congratulations to the Zion preschool for being voted Best of Kearney by the Kearney Hub readers seventh year in a row.

Registration Open - Registration is now open for the 2021-2022. There are limited preschool spots available. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office. Please tell your family and friends about Zion. Enroll early to make sure you have a spot.

New Teacher Search - The search for another high quality Lutheran teacher has begun. Full time teachers in our school must be members of the LCMS (or willing to become so). The grade level will most probably be for the 3rd/4th grade. If you or someone you know might be interested in this position, please contact Mr. Splittgerber.

Scrip Cards - Scrip cards are still available during this time. Visit the office during normal hours to purchase your gift cards.



NLSA

National Lutheran School Accreditation

Did you know?

On March 15-16, Zion hosted an accreditation validation team. The team studied Zion's self-study for a month, and spent two days at Zion verifying that information. They interviewed students, parents, and staff. They also studied all aspects of our school program. Here are the results:

The Validation Team's Overall Impression of the School

- ✓ Positive school climate, very welcoming,
- ✓ Christ-centered interactions and instruction.
- ✓ Supportive relationship with church and school.
 - ✓ Unified and exceptional leadership
 - ✓ Cohesive faculty/staff
- ✓ Curriculum and instruction impressive-Classical
 - ✓ Growing enrollment.

Outstanding Strengths

- ✓ Impressive curriculum and instruction as reflected by student testing results.
 - ✓ Exceptional administrative leadership
 - ✓ Encouraging and welcoming,
 - ✓ Christian School culture
 - ✓ Clear Lutheran identity
 - ✓ Dedicated Teaching staff
- ✓ Great congregational-school relationship

Major Deficiencies

- ✓ NONE

Accreditation Recommendation

The members of the Validation Team recommend:
ACCREDITATION IN GOOD STANDING

These are great marks! From here, Zion has developed an action plan to continue to improve over the next 5 years! God has blessed this school!

Thanks for being a part of it!

Pastors, Teachers, Parents, and Community Members,

The Opportunity Scholarships Act (LB364) will be debated by the Nebraska Legislature on Wednesday, April 28!

**Support
LB364!**

Senators need to hear from you!

LB364 increases scholarship opportunities for low-income families to attend the private school of their choice by enacting a tax credit for donations to nonprofit scholarship granting organizations.

There are many families in your community and across the state who want the choice to send their kids to private or parochial school, but can't because of financial obstacles. LB364 would help to transform the lives of students and families in Nebraska.

If you haven't already, **please send a message to your State Senator** urging them to support this bill.

Learn more at investinkidsnebraska.org/

Contact your senator:
investinkidsnebraska.org/be-an-advocate/





Nebraska
District LCMS
www.ndlcms.org

Two Concerns for the Church:

1 The Equality Act currently before Congress in Washington D.C

2 K-12 Health Education Standards proposed by the Nebraska Department of Education

What is it?

The Equality Act that is being considered by Congress sounds innocent. All Americans should enjoy equality and the protections of the U.S. Constitution. But in elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals.

In fact, those churches and institutions that are bound by the Word of God to the truth of marriage between a man and a woman could be punished for simply standing on our consistent beliefs. The Equality Act effectively outlaws the words of Christ and our free exercise of religion.

The Equality Act expands the definition of "public accommodation" and puts an ultimatum to individuals, religious non-profits, food banks, schools, charities, adoption agencies and others: "Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment."

*Read a letter from Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison and find additional information and resources at the link provided.

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) recently released a **first draft of K-12 Health Standards**. These standards are meant to guide curriculum for all Nebraska schools, including public and non-public schools.

The Health Standards are a deeply flawed, ideologically driven document. Should such standards be adopted by schools, children will be placed in peril, many educators will find their professional judgment and conscience under attack, and the culture will move toward a further normalization of child sexualization.

Read the proposed Health Standards and take special note of the "Human Growth and Development" section in each grade. Here are a few highlights:

- In Kindergarten, students will "discuss different kinds of family structures (e.g. single parent, blended, intergenerational, cohabitating, adoptive, foster, same-gender, interracial). Note that traditional marriage between a man and woman is not mentioned.
- In 1st grade, students "define gender, gender identity, and gender-role stereotypes."
- In 4th grade, students "distinguish between sex assigned at birth and gender identity and explain how they may or may not differ."
- In 8th grade, students would be taught that abortion is "reproductive care" and how to develop a plan to eliminate an unplanned pregnancy.

*Find the proposed Health Standards and additional information and resources at the link provided.

What can you do?

The Equality Act

1. Treat all people with kindness and respect (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:31).
2. Become informed about the **Equality Act** and the issues of gender dysphoria.
3. Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials. Our friends at Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI) have created a **simple web tool** to allow you to reach out to your congressman.
4. Pray for our officials, government, and the church in these challenging days.

[Additional resources regarding the Equality Act:](#)

- **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty**
- **Alliance Defending Freedom** — The True Impact of the “Equality Act”
- **Heritage Foundation** — 11 Myths About H.R. 5, the Equality Act of 2021

K-12 Health Education Standards

1. Pray for Christian teachers and staff serving in our public schools, that they may find opportunities to freely share their faith.
2. Double down on your commitment to Christian education for your own family.
3. Talk about your concern for the new health education standards with your friends. Make sure that they are aware of the educational standards being proposed for every public school in Nebraska.
4. The Nebraska Department of Education is seeking feedback about these standards. Please take some time to fill out the **NDE online survey** and speak up for all Nebraska kids!
5. Watch for local Health Education Standards.

Looking for more information?

* Full details and all resources mentioned can be found on the Nebraska District LCMS website at www.ndlcms.org/action-alert



P	L	E	N	W	T	E	Y	E	P
Y	O	G	O	E	N	U	R	P	S
T	L	R	N	T	H	R	O	W	N
N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
E	V	R	U	F	R	O	G	L	Y
L	S	T	I	U	R	F	E	S	F
P	A	R	N	I	A	M	E	R	R
T	E	E	F	R	O	C	U	A	I
O	S	O	B	H	U	T	I	E	U
E	H	C	N	A	R	B	A	B	T

VINE BRANCH FRUIT PRUNES

WORD HOME PLENTY THROWN

FIRE BURNT GLORY DISCIPLES



Directions for Distribution of the Lord's Supper

1. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle for you to use prior to communing.
2. Those sitting in the south pews will commune on the right side of the altar.
3. Those sitting in the north pews will commune on the left side of the altar.
4. The usher will alternate between the south and north sides when releasing people to commune. Please allow the group from the other side to exit the aisle before you enter it so there is only one line at a time in the aisle.
5. Each side of the table will have a maximum of five or six people at a time (except when family members commune together) so we can keep an appropriate distance from others.
6. The first person of a group from the south side will stand just to the right side of the altar and the others will follow as they fill in around the right half of the altar.
7. The first person of a group from the north side will stand just left of the center of the communion rail and the others will fill around the left side of the altar.