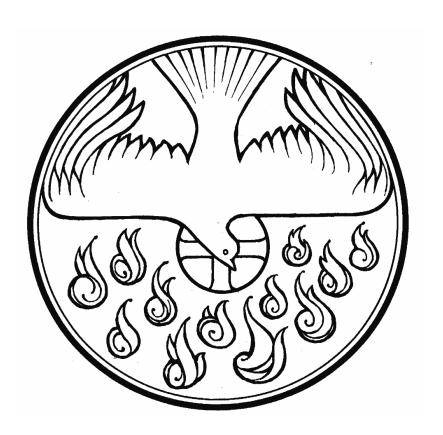
Divine Service



Pentecost

May 23, 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.

The Holy Spirit Brings the Dead to Life by the Righteousness of Christ

In returning to His Father by way of the cross and resurrection, Christ Jesus sends "the Helper" to His Church, that is, "the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father." The Spirit testifies of Christ and glorifies Him by taking what is His and declaring it to the world in the preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (John 15:26; 16:7, 14). He convicts the world of sin by the word of the Law, He forgives sins and justifies sinners by the Word of the Gospel, and He bestows the faith that says "Amen" to this righteousness of God (John 16:8-11). Therefore, the Lord pours out His Spirit on the apostles, that by their preaching, the Spirit should be given to His entire Church. As the multitudes are gathered from all the nations by "this sound," that is, by the preaching of "the mighty works of God" in Christ Jesus, so does God the Father pour out the Spirit of His Son "on all flesh" (Acts 2:6, 11, 17). The Lord God breathes upon the slain, and so shall they live; for so the Lord has spoken, and He shall do it (Ezek. 37:5-14).

•



Confession and Absolution

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.
- C Amen.

Exhortation LSB 184

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution LSB 185

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his | glory,*

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of | grace and truth.

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*

for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*

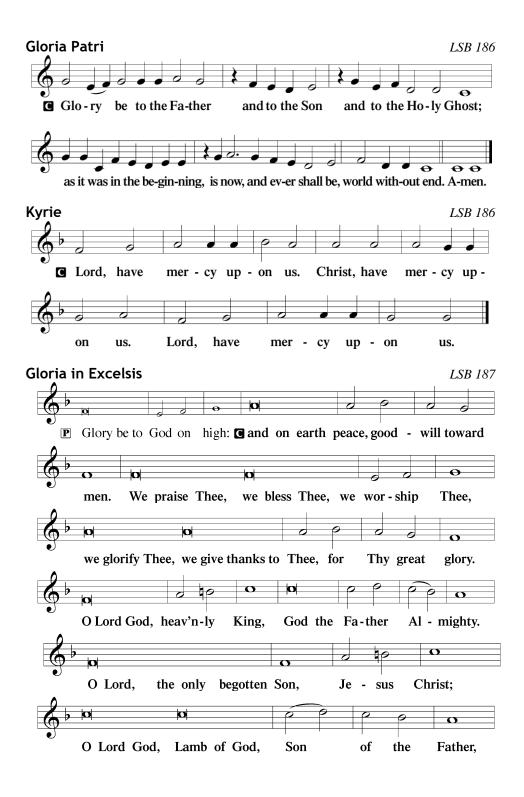
his understanding is beyond | measure.

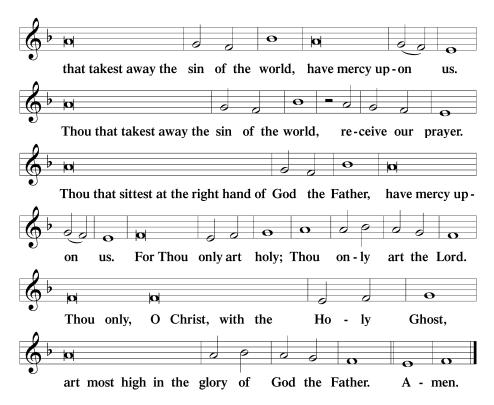
But the LORD takes pleasure in those who | fear him,*

in those who hope in his | steadfast love.

Praise the LORD, O Je- | rusalem!*

Praise your God, O | Zion!





Salutation and Collect of the Day



P O God, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GoD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Acts 2:17b: Romans 10:10

I will pour out my Spirit | on all flesh,*
and your sons and your daughters shall | prophesy.
With the heart one believes and is | justified,*
and with the mouth one confesses | and is saved.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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



 26 [Jesus said:] "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. . . .

The Work of the Holy Spirit

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²··I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

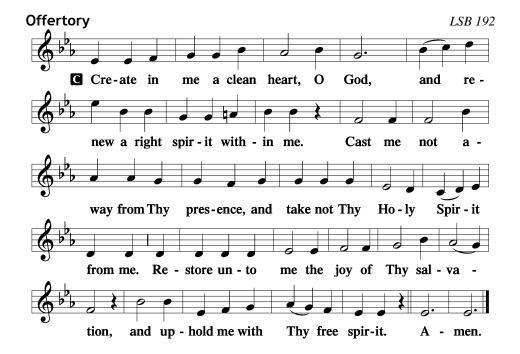
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life

→ everlasting. Amen.



Sermon

Stand

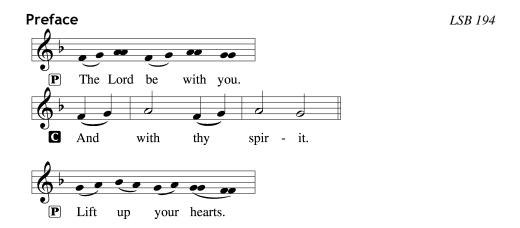


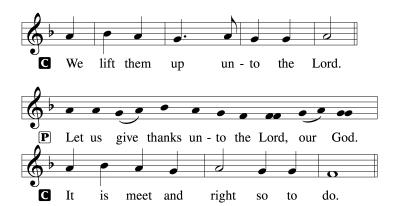
Farewell and Godspeed to Mr. Philip Vogel

High School Graduates Recognition and Blessing

Prayer of the Church

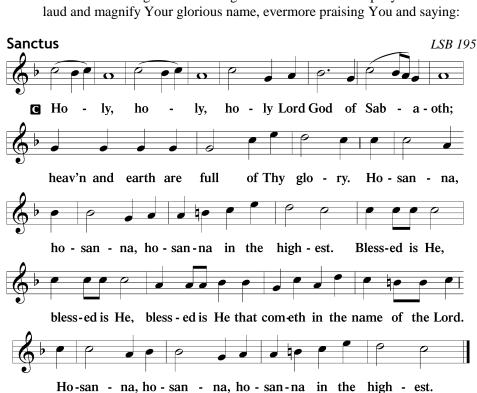
Service of the Sacrament





Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who ascended above the heavens and, sitting at Your right hand, poured out on this day the promised Holy Spirit on His chosen disciples. For all this the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Lord's Prayer LSB 196

P 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

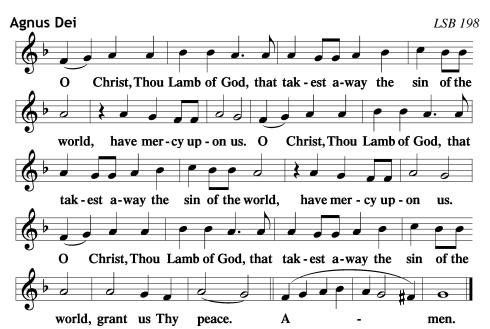
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

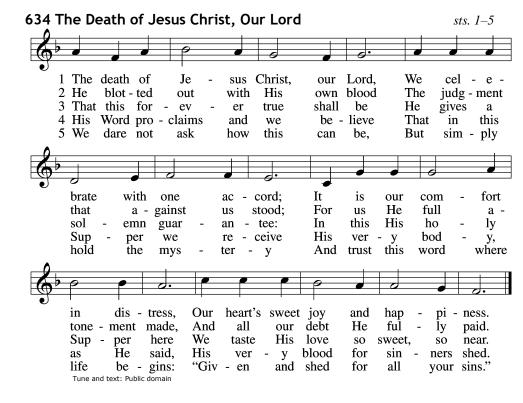
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

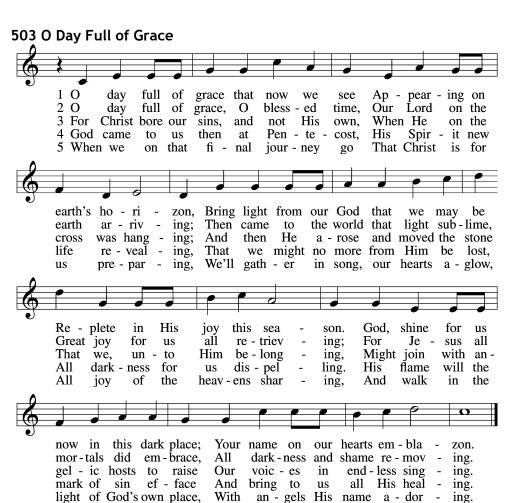
Pax Domini LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

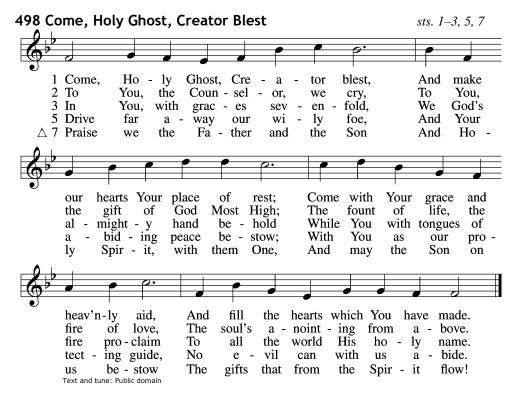
C Amen.







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In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal LSB 199

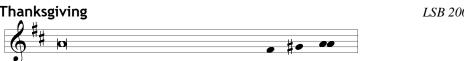
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.

C Amen.

Stand







A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



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.

C Amen.





P The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus LSB 202



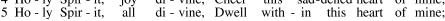


Benediction LSB 202

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and
 → give you peace.
- C Amen, amen, amen.

496 Holy Spirit, Light Divine







Chase the shades of night a - way, Turn the dark - ness in - to day. Show those glo-rious truths to me Which are on - ly known to Thee. From sin's bond-age set me free. Thy mer - cy pit - y me, sa - cred, Yield set-tled peace, Let it grow and still in-crease. Cast down ev - 'rv i - dol throne, Reign su - preme, and reign a - lone. Tune and text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Prayers for Our Members		
Monique Pohlman	Expectant Mothers	
Birth of a baby boy to Reese and Jade	Thanksgiving	
Florang		
Norman Abels (Brookestone Meadows - Elkhorn)	Healing	
Judy Ahrens	Healing	
Vaughn Albrecht (Mount Carmel)	Healing	
Tom & DyAnn Altwine	Healing	
Lyle Colsden (Mother Hull)	Healing	
Pat Flodine (Cambridge Court)	Healing	
Vi Fox (Prairie View)	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 9:00am-1:00pm Radio Broadcast: Sunday @ 10:30 a.m. on 1460 AM

Website: www.zionkearney.com

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

Today's Radio Broadcast is given to the Glory of the Lord by Jeff & Niki Halvorsen for their anniversary

Worship Assistants

Sunday, May 23 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Nathan Gaunt

Usher: Mike Wilkens & Jeff Strong

Engineer: Shawn Starkey Announcer: Brooke Fisher

Altar Guild: Carolyn Westman & Linda Nuttelman

Sunday, May 30 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Eric Rosenthal

Usher: Marc Hoffman & Steve Junge

Engineer: James Marquardt Announcer: Jesse Florang

Altar Guild: Carolyn Westman & Linda Nuttelman

Our Response to the Gospel

Date: 05/16/2021

Offering: \$5,048.63 Weekly Need: \$7,542.37

This Week at Zion

Sun	0.00-	Divine Service
5 u	9:00a	Divinio Del Vice
05/23	10:30a	Radio Broadcast 1460am
	10:30a	FH-graduate receiption
	12:00p	FH-Schmid
Mon	Birthdays	Henry Hodgson
05/24		Phyllis Wells
	Anniversaries	
Tues	1:30p	Sleeping Mats
05/25	Birthdays	Verleen Gentry
		Mandi Blessing
	Anniversaries	
Wed	Birthdays	Seth Long
05/26	Anniversaries	Aaron & Bailey Hockemeier
		Allen & Debra Mitchel
Thurs	Birthdays	Landen Eckhoff
05/27	Anniversaries	
Fri	Birthdays	
05/28	Anniversaries	Arlee & Ann Abels
		Randall & Judy Ahrens
		David & Joyce Hartman
Sat	5:00p	Divine Service
05/29	Birthdays	
	Anniversaries	
Sun	9:00a	Divine Service
05/30	10:30a	Radio Broadcast 1460am
	Birthdays	
	Anniversaries	Adam & Chelsea Herrera
		Josh & Angela Jorgensen



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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Godspeed, Mr. Vogel: In today's service we will say "Farewell and Godspeed" to Mr. Phil Vogel. Mr. Vogel has served as a teacher at Zion for the last seven years and has now accepted a call to serve Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. Please join us for a light reception in the fellowship hall immediately following a brief Voters' Meeting. Please continue to pray for Mr. Vogel, his wife, Leah, and his children, Camden and Lydia, for safe travel as they move.

<u>Card Shower</u>: Zion's eldest member, Ms. Vi Fox, celebrates her 103rd birthday on June 9th. Please remember her in your prayers and send her a birthday card to rejoice on this occasion. You may send your cards to:

Vi Fox c/o Good Samaritan Society -Prairie View Gardens 1705 Prairie View Place Kearney, 68845

<u>Blessing of our High School Graduates:</u> We will ask God's blessing upon Zion's 2021 High School Graduates in today's service. Immediately following a brief Voters' Meeting please take a moment to congratulate them in the fellowship hall, where they will receive a gift from Zion's Youth Group. This year's Zion graduates are as follows:

Gabriel Bates - Kearney High School Kaitlyn Kaufman - Kearney High School Jessica Zehendner - Heartland Lutheran High School

Special Voters' Meeting to Consider a Call: TODAY

The Council has called a Special Voters' meeting on **Sunday, May** 23rd following the Divine Service for the congregation to consider a Call to Mrs. Joy Barefoot to serve as a teacher beginning with the next academic year

Mrs. Joy Barefoot

Mrs. Barefoot is a 1989 teacher graduate of Concordia College (now Concordia University of Nebraska). She earned special distinction as an All-American cross-country runner. She has taught 23 of 24 years in Lutheran schools in Nebraska and Iowa. She has taught all levels from preschool thru middle school, but has found her passion in the teaching of younger students. In 2015, Joy obtained an endorsement in Early Childhood Education from the University of Nebraska. Her most recent position was teacher and administrator of Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Lincoln, Nebraska. She is an active member of Good Shepherd, heading the Human Care Group and participating regularly in bells and Bible study.

She is a married to Thomas Barefoot, and is the mother of two school age children, Luke and Rachel, who will be fifth graders next year.

Zion Lutheran Church and School Board of Education policy indicates that all full-time, K-8 teachers are to be 1) members of Zion Lutheran Church and 2) preferably synodically trained (hold a Lutheran Teachers' Diploma (LTD). Mrs. Barefoot would fit these requirements.

<u>Card Shower</u> - Zion is hosting a card shower for:

- Anthony Splittgerber for 21 years in Lutheran Education
- Darcy Willers for being at Zion for 20 years
- Carol DeLoach for 10 years at Zion.
- Phil Vogel for 7 years at Zion and for blessing on his future

Zion is extremely blessed to have all of them on staff and part of our family! Congratulations! Thank you for all that you do for Zion and the students! Mr. Vogel Zion will miss you.

Please place the cards in their church mailbox or drop them off at the office. <u>Office Closed</u> - The office will be closed on Monday, May 31st in observance of Memorial Day.

Offering 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.

<u>A Bible Study</u> - 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.

<u>Church Management System</u> - 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.

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

<u>Mission Offerings</u> - 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/

<u>Vacation Bible School</u> - 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 is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those that are willing to volunteer and for those that would like to participate. There will be more information to come, please continue to watch the bulletin.

SCHOOL NEWS

<u>Summer Office Hours</u> - Summer office hours will be Monday-Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm.

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

<u>Registration Open</u> - 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.

<u>Scrip Cards</u> - Scrip cards are still available during this time. Visit the office during office hours to purchase your gift cards.









Two Concerns for the Church:

The Equality Act currently before Congress in Washington D.C

2 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, samegender, 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

- Treat all people with kindness and respect ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself" Mark 12:31).
- Become informed about the **Equality**Act and the issues of gender dysphoria.
- 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 congressperson.
- Pray for our officials, government, and the church in these challenging days.

 Additional resources regarding the.

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

- Pray for Christian teachers and staff serving in our public schools, that they may find opportunities to freely share their faith.
- Double down on your commitment to Christian education for your own family.
- 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.
- 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!
- 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**



Directions for Distribution of the Lord's Supper

- 1. <u>Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle for you to use prior to communing.</u>
- 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. <u>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.</u>
- 6. The first person of a group from the south side will stand just to the right of the center of the communion rail 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.

+ + + KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE + + +

What is "Pentecost"?

The word "Pentecost" (pronounced PEN-tuh-kost) comes from the Greek word *pentekostos* which means "fiftieth." Exactly 50 days after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the form of flames of fire.



Why is Pentecost so important?

When Jesus died, the disciples were sad because they thought that their friend and Lord was gone forever. But Jesus rose again! Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus did finally ascend into heaven leaving the disciples below. However, before Jesus actually died, rose again and ascended into heaven, He made a promise to His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. He said that the Holy Spirit would come and guide them "into all the truth" (John 16:13). Jesus doesn't leave us alone to fend for ourselves. Jesus is here with us, and the Holy Spirit guides and leads the Church into the truth of the wonderful Gospel! We celebrate and remember this at Pentecost.

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Parents:

At home, read the story of Pentecost in Acts 2 to your children. Remind them that the Holy Spirit comes to us through the Word and Sacraments just as our Lord has promised. Encourage them to thank God for the gift of His Holy Spirit in their lives.



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