# Nivine Service



# Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

June 27, 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**

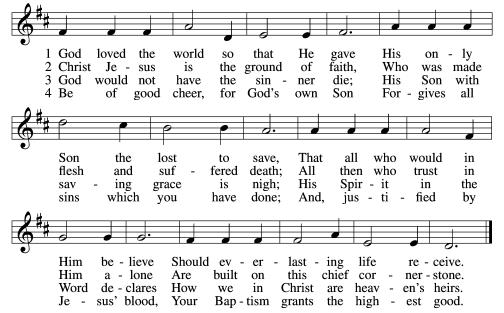
The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation as Jesus has given it. As he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his 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 Lord Jesus Is Faithful, and in Mercy He Raises You Up from Death to Life

The Lord is faithful. His steadfast love never ceases, and "his mercies never come to an end" (Lam. 3:22–23). To keep us in repentance and to make our faith grow, He causes grief for a while, but He does not cast off forever; in due time, "he will have compassion" (Lam. 3:31–33). Therefore, "hope in him," and "wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD," for "the LORD is good to those who wait for him" (Lam. 3:24– 26). That is what the woman did who had "a discharge of blood," and also the ruler whose daughter was "at the point of death." Each waited on the mercy of the Lord Jesus, and each received His saving help (Mark 5:21–28). The woman had suffered much for 12 years, and the ruler's daughter had already died before Jesus arrived. Yet at the right time, the woman was immediately "healed of her disease," and the little girl "got up and began walking" (Mark 5:29, 42). Such is "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ," who humbled Himself unto the extreme poverty of death "so that you by his poverty might become rich," even unto life everlasting (2 Cor. 8:9)...

#### 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave



- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.
- △ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **Confession and Absolution**

Stand

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

#### Invocation

- $\mathbf{P}$  In the name of the Father and of the  $\mathbf{P}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.

Exhortation LSB 184

- 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

- 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

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther

#### Introit

I lift up my eyes | to the hills.\*
From where does my | help come?

My help comes | from the LORD,\*
who made | heaven and earth.

The LORD is your | keeper;\*
the LORD is your shade on your | right hand.

The sun shall not strike | you by day,\*
nor the | moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all | evil;\*
he will | keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your | coming in\*

from this time forth and for- | evermore.

Gloria Patri

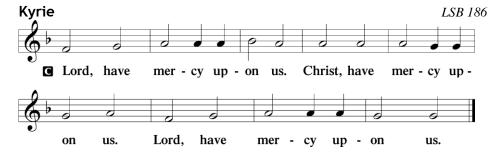
LSB 186

and to the Son

and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.





#### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, during His earthly ministry Your Son Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. By the healing medicine of the Word and Sacraments pour into our hearts such love toward You that we may live eternally; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

#### **Old Testament Reading**

Lamentations 3:22–33

<sup>22</sup>The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

<sup>23</sup>they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

<sup>24</sup>"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

<sup>25</sup>The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

<sup>26</sup>It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

<sup>27</sup>It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

<sup>28</sup>Let him sit alone in silence when it is laid on him;

<sup>29</sup>let him put his mouth in the dust—there may yet be hope;

<sup>30</sup>let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults.

<sup>31</sup>For the Lord will not cast off forever.

<sup>32</sup>but, though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love;

<sup>33</sup>for he does not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Romans 11:33, 36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl- | edge of God!\*

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable | his ways!

For from him and through him and to him are | all things.\*

To him be glory forever. | Amen.

#### **Epistle**

2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15

#### **Encouragement to Give Generously**

<sup>1</sup>We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own free will, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup>and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup>Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup>But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

<sup>8</sup>I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup>For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. . . .

<sup>13</sup>I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness <sup>14</sup>your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel Mark 5:21–43

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fifth chapter.

**G** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

#### Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." <sup>24</sup>And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. <sup>25</sup>And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup>and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup>For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." <sup>29</sup>And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?" <sup>32</sup>And he looked around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

35While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" <sup>36</sup>But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." <sup>37</sup>And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." <sup>40</sup>And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup>And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**©** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

#### Nicene Creed

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.



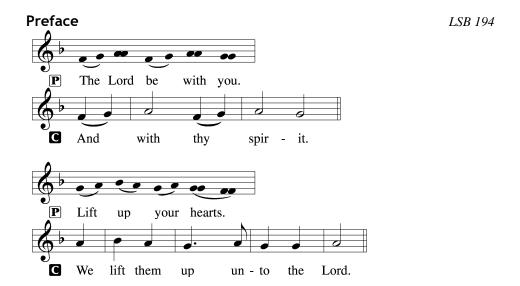
#### Sermon

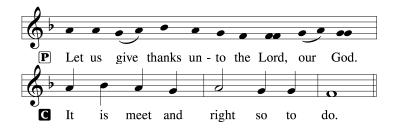
Stand



#### Prayer of the Church

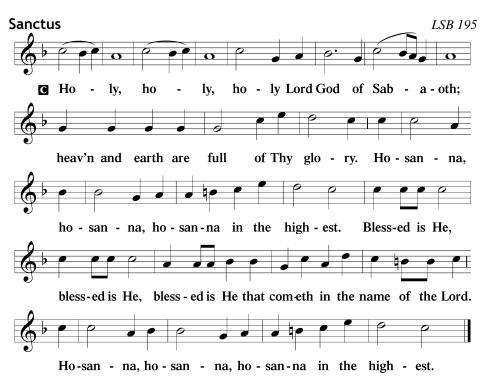
#### Service of the Sacrament





#### **Proper Preface**

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

**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

LSB 197

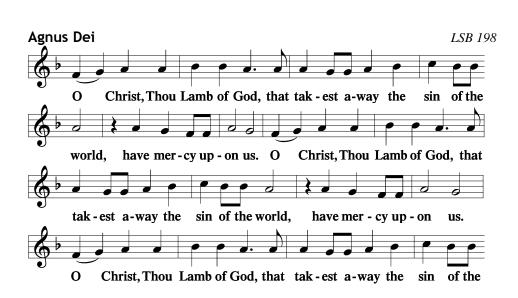
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.





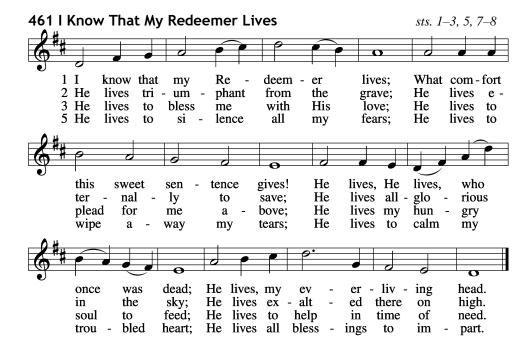
Sit





Lord, may Thy bod-y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high-est good!

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- He lives and grants me daily breath;
   He lives, and I shall conquer death;
   He lives my mansion to prepare;
   He lives to bring me safely there.
- 8 He lives, all glory to His name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same; Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Tune and text: Public domain



In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal LSB 199

 ${\mathbb P}$  The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart  ${\mathcal F}$  in peace.

C Amen.

Stand



#### 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.

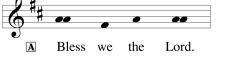


P The Lord be with you.



#### Benedicamus

LSB 202





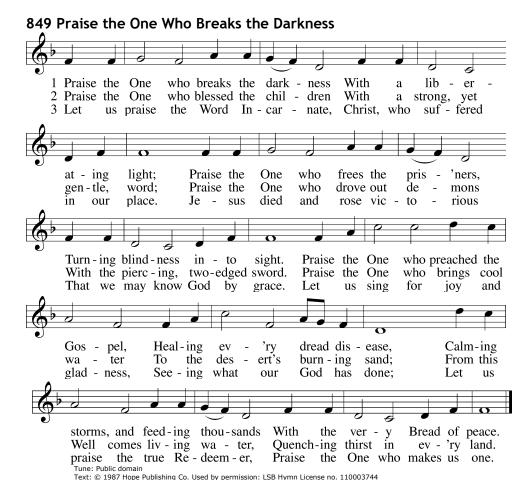
Benediction LSB 202

**P** 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  $\mathcal{F}$  give you peace.

**6** Amen, amen, amen.

1 CD 200



#### Acknowledgments

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| Prayers for Our Members                      |                  |  |
|--|------------------|--|
| Monique Pohlman                              | Expectant Mother |  |
| 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: <a href="mailto:school@zionkearney.org">school@zionkearney.org</a>

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

 $\textbf{Website:} \ www.zionkearney.com$ 

| Prayers for Our Members' Family & Friends           |           |  |
|---|-----------|--|
| Nicole Teten (Chris & Sarah Hoehner's daughter)     | Expecting |  |
| Naomi Wollberg (Andy & Jeanne Wollberg's daughter-  | Expecting |  |
| 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    |  |
| 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    |  |
| Kolby Shiers (Jessica's cousin)                     | Cancer    |  |
| Tyrone Uhlir (Pam's nephew)                         | Cancer    |  |

#### Today's Radio Broadcast is given to the Glory of the Lord by Robin & Flynn Baker

Today's Altar Flowers is given to the Glory of the Lord by Steve & Fran Junge

#### **Worship Assistants**

#### Sunday, June 27 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Bruce Brooks

Usher: Mike Wilens & Jeff Strong

Engineer: Shawn Starkey Announcer: Jesse Florang Altar Guild: Linda Johnson

#### Sunday, July 4 ~ 9:00am

Elder: Dan Oertwig

Usher: Fled Flessner & Lennis Hodgson

Engineer: Jamie Nikodym Announcer: Lonna Gronewoller

Altar Guild: Becky Thornton & Carol Herron

#### Our Response to the Gospel

Date: 06/20/2021

Offering: \$4,723.75

Weekly Need: \$7,542.37

## This Week at Zion

| Sun<br>06/27  | 9:00a<br>10:30a                               | Divine Service<br>Radio Broadcast 1460am   |
|---------------|---|--|
| Mon<br>06/28  | Birthdays<br>Anniversaries                    |  |
| Tues<br>06/29 | 1:30p<br>Birthdays<br>Anniversaries           | Sleeping Mats Elijah Burger Paul Burger Dana Daniels Susan Tonniges Blake Wilbur |
| Wed<br>06/30  | Birthdays<br>Anniversaries                    | <br>Alfred & Carolyn Westman   |
| Thurs 07/01   | Birthdays<br>Anniversaries                    |  |
| Fri<br>07/02  | Birthdays<br>Anniversaries                    |  |
| Sat<br>07/03  | 5:00p<br>Birthdays<br>Anniversaries           | Divine Service   |
| Sun<br>07/04  | 9:00a<br>10:30a<br>Birthdays<br>Anniversaries | Independence Day<br>Divine Service<br>Radio Broadcast 1460am<br>                 |



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

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

<u>Thank You</u> - I would like to thank everyone who sent cards for my 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The messages in the cards were very beautiful. Thank you all again.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Vi Fox

<u>VBS Supplies</u> - Can you help provide craft supplies or money for this year's Mystery Island VBS? Please check out the display in the hallway, grab a fish indicating what you wish to provide, and return the item or money to the office by Thursday, July 15. **THANK YOU** for helping! Questions? Call/text/email Carol DeLoach: 308/627-2279, carol.deloach@gmail.com

<u>Peaches</u> - Zion will once again be selling peaches the first three weeks of August. The first weekend of August will the Board of Education, the second weekend will be Mary Martha, the third/final weekend will be the Zion Youth.

<u>Volunteers Needed</u> - The Board of Education has offered to help our new teacher, Mrs. Joy Barefoot, make the move from Lincoln to Kearney. We are looking at moving Joy around July 17. If you are able to help load and/or unload please contact the school office or Mr. Splittgerber at 308-293-0168. Many hands make light work, so help if you can! More details will be forthcoming, so stay tuned!

#### 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 <a href="www.zionkearney.com">www.zionkearney.com</a> 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, signup to sponsor a radio broadcast! 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/

## Vacation Bible School at Zion Mystery Island

Vacation Bible School will be held July 18-22 from 6:00-8:00pm. It will be for preschool to  $5^{th}$  grade. We also need volunteers for anyone from  $6^{th}$  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.

## JOIN THE FUN IN THE SUN WITH THIS UNIQUE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God?

Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There's a sea of confusion about who God is and what he's like, so we'll track down the one true God and learn how amazing he is through the pages of Scripture.

Mystery Island VBS is packed with teaching that connects the Bible to the real world and gives kids a better understanding of our aweinspiring Creator and the salvation he offers through Jesus Christ.

Each day, kids will learn more about one of God's amazing attributes (great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy) and how that applies to their lives.



## **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.

#### **Employment Opportunities:**

#### Lunchroom Helper:

We are looking for someone that could work from 10:30-12:30 Monday thru Friday, helping in the lunchroom. Daily tasks would include table setup, assistance with lunch distribution, table wipe down and putaway, and floor cleaning. If interested please call the school office at (308)-234-3410. Please share with anyone looking for part-time hours in great school environment.

#### Church & School Custodian:

Zion is looking for a custodian for the new school year. The position is for 29 hours a week. This is an important and valued position! If you or someone you know takes pride in making a clean and safe workspace, consider working with our wonderful staff at Zion Lutheran. In interested, please call the school office at (308) 234-3410.









## Two Concerns for the Church:

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, 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.
   <u>Additional resources regarding the</u> 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** 



## How Sweet is the Fruit of the Spirit Bible Maze

