

March 2023

A Place of Belonging...

Zion Lutheran Church



Dear Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church,

We entered this season of Lent when our focus typically shifts toward an intentional relationship with the triune God. My wife, Deacon Coco Lyons, and I are entering into a short time of bible reading and discussing during our morning routine. Then in the evening, we set intentional time to read a book related to the bible readings. This Lenten discipline will help us draw closer to God, grounding ourselves in God’s word. It will also draw us together on our spiritual journeying together.

I encourage you to enter into a Lenten discipline of your choosing. There are two approaches. One approach is to add something to your life that draws you closer to God, similar to what Deacon Coco and I are doing.

The second approach, which you might find helpful, is getting rid of a few things in your life that are snuffing your relationship with God. It is often the case that we find ourselves caught in the busyness of the world, and trying to add something would make us have even less time for Jesus. It may be time to drop a few plans and discern what is necessary for your life. Fewer commitments or obligations will alleviate some room for you to enter a closer relationship with Jesus.

May your Lenten journey draw you closer to God. May it bear good fruit and help you anticipate the Easter season.

Rev. Jacob Krueger
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor

ZION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
2023 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Simon Rezac—President
Wayne Burcham—Vice President
Glenn Hartmann—Treasurer
Lisa Zessin—Secretary
Byron Nelson —Co-Financial
Randy Strauss—Co-Financial

Contact Information

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MAY YOUR TROUBLES
BE LESS
and your
Blessings
be MORE
AND NOTHING BUT
HAPPINESS
come through your
door

FIVEarthHOME

IRISH BLESSING

Zion Updates



Installation of Leaders of the Congregation

Installation of the new Zion leaders was held on Sunday, February 19. Offices being held include
President: Simon Rezac; Vice President: Wayne Burcham; Treasurer: Glenn Hartman;
Secretary: Lisa Zessin; Co-Financial: Byron Nelson and Randy Strauss.
Thank you for committing your time to serve on Zion Council!

Pastor Jacob's Installation - February 26, 2023

Pastor Jacob was installed at Zion during an afternoon service at 4:00 pm on February 26th followed by a meal. Pastor Heidi Wallace presided at the service and Pastor Amanda "Day" Hefner gave the sermon. THANK YOU to everyone who supplied Side Dishes/Salads & Help for Pastor Jacob's Installation, it was greatly appreciated. -Zion Social Committee



Lenten Service Meals Each Week – 5:30-6:45 PM

Zion will be hosting a meal prior to the Lenten Services - Time 5:30 to 6:45

March 1st - Soup

March 8th - Sloppy Joes, Chips & Relish

March 15th - Taco Bar

March 22nd - Pizza & Salad - (Freewill Donation)

March 29th - Croissant Sandwiches/Sub Sandwiches or Sloppy Joes (TBD) Chips & Relish

We will be asking for bars or cookies for the Lenten Meals. The sign-up sheet is located on the Nolte Center bulletin board. Please contact Janet Wacker if you would like to help on a specific Wednesday at 402-450-3518.

Special Events and Volunteers

Birthdays

Austin Drake	March 1	Paige Schneider	March 20
Nate Kobus	March 1	Allison Schneider	March 20
Ryan Nelson	March 2	Roger Vollstedt	March 20
Ashley Hines	March 3	Braeden Kobus	March 21
Glenn Hartmann	March 9	Wyatt Lenner	March 21
Kathy Anderson	March 10	Hayden Frank	March 22
Betty King	March 12	Charlie Carlson	March 26
Steve Schmalken	March 12	Luella Deckinger	March 28
Nancy Keller	March 14	Linda Burcham	March 29
Thomas Bartels	March 15	Bill Dedick	March 29
Michael Nelson	March 15	Tammy Schmalken	March 30
Natalie Sehi	March 15	Velda Schmidt	March 30
Carolyn Turen	March 16	Mason Oldehoeft	March 31
Scarlett Battles	March 18	Meredith Schneider	March 31
Riley Donahoo	March 20		

Baptisms

Meaghan Webster	March 1	Jessica Nieman	March 24
Jim Rippe	March 5	Koren Keller	March 29
Presley Carlson	March 11		
Megan Heidtbrink	March 11		
Cheryl Nelson	March 20		
Allison Schneider	March 21		
Ron Liston	March 24		

Anniversaries

Gunnerson, Kirk & Brandy	March 16, 1991
Burcham, Dylan & Amanda	March 23, 2013
Anderson, Craig & Kathy	March 27, 1976

Volunteers – March 2023

Date	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant	Communion Prep	Lector	Acolyte	Council Person	Usher	Usher
Wed. March 1	Tregan	N/A	N/A	Tregan	Janessa/Rylen	Wayne	Grant	Cheryl
Sun. March 5	Simon	Katie/Simon	Kelly/Tammy	Diane	Mason/Dawson	Randy	Leon	Diane
Wed. March 8	Grant	N/A	N/A	Grant	Rylen/Tregan	Randy	Janessa	Simon
Sun. March 12	Katie	Dave/Katie	Kelly/Tammy	Sue	Heston/Bo	Simon	Gary	Dave
Wed. March 15	Tregan	N/A	N/A	Tregan	Grant/Janessa	Simon	Shaylee	Lisa
Sun. March 19	Rob	Rob/Diane	Kelly/Tammy	Katie	Rylie/Mason	Byron	Russell	Cheryl
Wed. March 22	Rachel	N/A	N/A	Rachel	Tregan/Janessa	Byron	Grant	Rylen
Sun. March 26	Katie	Katie/Carolyn	Kelly/Tammy	Linda	Dawson/Heston	Glenn	Mark	Kelly

If you are interested in being an Assisting Minister, Reader, Usher, Acolyte, please contact Cheryl Nelson at 402-525-5387 or cheryl1955Nelson@gmail.com Please submit any Address or E-Mail Changes to the Office. If we missed your Birthday, Anniversary or Baptism Date, please notify the office so we can update our records. Please contact Pastor Jacob to get your monthly Newsletter delivered via email.

Council Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council held February 7, 2023

Council Members Present: Wayne Burcham, Byron Nelson, Glenn Hartmann, Lisa Zessin, Simon Rezac, Randy Strauss, Pastor Jacob

Meeting Called to Order

Byron Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:17 pm with devotion and song led by Pastor.

Approval of Agenda

Byron called for a motion to approve the agenda with additional items presented by Wayne. Lisa Zessin made a motion to approve the agenda. Randy Strauss seconded. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from December meeting reviewed. Randy Strauss made a motion to approve the minutes. Wayne Burcham seconded. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report

Updates on status of visits, worship, confirmation, Coffee with the Pastor, installation, and First Communion class. Forms for ELCA and NE Synod will be completed by March. Consideration by council for purchase of a Processional Cross with use of memorial funds – this will be led by the Worship Committee. Discussion on the usage of rooms throughout the building and the equipment located in these rooms.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Total regular offering for **January 2023** was \$10,807.18. Total expenses were \$9,346.11. **Net increase of \$1,461.02.** The asset account balance is \$165,467.61. Special operating funds are \$57,763.41. The year-to-date building fund is \$25.00. This leaves a spendable balance of \$107,704.20. Parsonage Improvement Fund <\$0>.

No update at this time regarding updates on QuickBooks Online and web-based ServantKeeper. Will look for the updates during March meeting.

Simon Rezac made a motion to approve the report as presented. Randy Strauss seconded. Motion passed.

Ministry Reports

Worship: Committee is meeting with Pastor this week. Focus on discussion will be Easter service.

Stewardship: Still looking for volunteers.

Evangelism: Deb Lewis has joined this committee.

Education: Communion classes on 15th and 29th. Movie morning during the annual meeting was very light in attendance. Sunday School class will plan to sing for Palm Sunday, April 6th.

Social: Ash Wednesday soup supper on Feb 22nd. Pastor Installation service Feb 26th at 4:00 with meal to follow. There will be Wednesday evening suppers throughout Lent season, 5:30-6:45.

Property: Stairs have been installed from the deck to the sidewalk. A display/hanger is being put together for the funeral pall.

Old Business

- **Review of 2023 Annual Meeting minutes** – Motion made to publish the draft of annual meeting minutes by Simon Rezac. Seconded by Randy Strauss. Motion passed.
- **Service of Installation**
 - This will take place on February 26th at 4pm with meal to follow.
 - Reviewed list of roles needed for this service.
- **Membership Roster Review and Follow-up**
 - Committee of Wayne Burcham, Sue Dedick, Dave Wacker, and Pastor continue to work.

New Business

- **Reminder on fraudulent requests through Pastor via email/text** – if a request is received from Pastor, it will be done via a phone call or in-person. No requests for money or purchases will be done via email/text.
- **West Gate Bank Form** – update to the information on council members to verify access to sign on checks as needed – removal of exiting council members has been completed.
- **Expedited Approval/Publishing of Council Meeting Minutes** – Discussion on the timeline of when minutes will be drafted, reviewed, and published. Update will be made to the timing of council meeting minutes to be sent to council electronically and approved by council electronically so these will be added timelier to the subsequent newsletter.
- **Election of Council Officers**
 - **President** – Byron Nelson nominated Simon Rezac. Lisa Zessin seconded. Approved.
 - **Vice President** – Wayne Burcham voluntary nomination. Lisa Zessin seconded. Approved.
 - **Secretary** – Lisa Zessin approved by acclamation.
 - **Treasurer** – Glenn Hartmann voluntary nomination. Byron Nelson motion. Wayne Burcham seconded. Approved.
 - **Co-Financial** – Byron Nelson & Randy Strauss. Glenn Hartmann motion to accept by acclamation. Wayne Burcham seconded. Approved.
- **Assignment of Council Officers to Church Committees**
 - Worship – Randy Strauss
 - Stewardship – Wayne Burcham
 - Evangelism – Lisa Zessin
 - Education – Glenn Hartmann
 - Social – Simon Rezac
 - Property – Byron Nelson

Next Meeting

- The next Zion Lutheran council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 7th, at 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

- Being no further business before the Church Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Zessin
Zion Church Council Secretary

Zion Lutheran Church: February Pastor Report Rev. Jacob W. Krueger

For your information:

- **Visits**
 - I continue to visit members of Zion and connect with folks who have not been to church as much lately.
- **Worship**
 - I continue to preach weekly and will preach until I take a Sunday off.
 - I worked with Ann and Linda to select hymns for February.
 - The worship committee plans on meeting on Thursday, February 9, at 11:00 AM.
 - We will primarily talk about Lent and Easter and several other things related to worship.
 - I have purchased some worship resources for our use in worship. Here are the following:
 - Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Guitar Books

- All Creation Sings (ACS) Guitar Books
 - All Creation Sings Assembly Book
 - All Creation Sings Accompaniment Book
 - Year A Psalter § Leader Binders (Purple)
- **Confirmation**
 - Confirmation has been a true joy of mine thus far. We have four great students.
 - We will meet at 4:00 PM until Lenten services start. After Easter, we will regroup to determine when we will meet for confirmation.
 - The last three weeks, we have talked about prayer. Our final scheduled conversation on prayer will be on February 8. We will conclude our conversation on prayer by writing a few prayer petitions for worship. ○ I bought seven sets of bibles and supplement books.
- **Coffee with the Pastor**
 - There was a good turnout for the coffee with the pastor. Thank you to the many who brought baked goods that we ate along with our coffee. We will continue coffee with the pastor on the first Wednesday of the month from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM. I encourage people to stay as long or as little as they can. This gathering is a great time to get to know other church members and me.
- **Installation**
 - I will be installed on February 26 at 4:00 PM. After the service, there will be a meal organized by the social committee. Pastor Heidi Wallace will install me, and Pastor Amanda 'Day' Hefner will preach.
- **First Communion Class**
 - On January 15, I led a first communion class with our younger members. On July 29, Cheryl led Sunday School and helped the students bake bread.
- **Organizing the Church**
 - We have started working on getting rid of stuff in the various rooms of the church. We can continue to work on cleaning up our rooms and think about how Zion Lutheran Church February Pastor Report Rev. Jacob W. Krueger we can best utilize our space. Furthermore, I hope we can be flexible in how we use our rooms.
- **Thank You**
 - Thank you to the entire congregation for their prayers, cards, and support during my family's mourning of the death of my grandfather, Arthur Hillman. Thank you for the flowers that were at the viewing and the service. Those flowers now reside in my office, reminding me of the resurrection and the many memories I have with my grandfather. The family felt that support, which meant a lot to them, Coco, and me.
- **Looking forward:**
 - I will lead a study on February 12 and 19 on the sacrament of baptism.
 - We are working on going through the roster. Dave Wacker, Sue Dedick, Wayne Burcham, and I are working on ensuring our roster is up-to-date and has the correct contact information.
 - I need to work on filling out forms that the Nebraska Synod and the ELCA require each year. The Council President may be requested to help fill these forms out.
- **For discussion:**
 - Can the worship committee use memorial money to purchase a processional cross?
 - Action: None

In Christ's peace and love, Rev. Jacob Krueger

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30-6:45 PM – Soup Supper -Nolte 7:00 PM Worship	2	3	4
5 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School	6	7 7:00 PM Council Meeting – Nolte Center	8 5:30-6:45 PM – Meal -Nolte 7:00 PM Worship	9	10	11
12 9:00 AM Worship- 10:15 Sunday School	13	14	15 5:30-6:45 PM – Meal -Nolte 7:00 PM Worship	16	17	18
19 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School	20	21	22 5:30-6:45 PM – Meal -Nolte 7:00 PM Worship	23	24	25
26 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 Sunday School	27	28	29 5:30-6:45 PM – Meal -Nolte 7:00 PM Worship	30	30	

Simply Giving®

This might be a good time to think about automatic with-drawl through Simply Giving., your gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift—weekly, semi-monthly or monthly—the option is yours. Visit with Pastor Jacob if you are interested.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to have your name added to any of the volunteer groups (i.e., Usher, Acolyte, Asst. Minister, Reader, Communion Bread Baking, Communion Prep, Mowing, etc. Please contact Cheryl Nelson at 402-525-5387 or cheryl1955Nelson@gmail.com

10 GOOD REASONS TO CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE

1. You want to volunteer!
 2. You have an address change!
 3. You are having a baby!
 4. You want to share good news!
 5. You are going to the hospital!
 6. Your phone number changed!
 7. You need a special prayer, or pastoral visit!
 8. Your family information has changed!
 9. You are having a problem or concern!
 10. You miss us and just want to say "Hi!"
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