**Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

**“*Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people***

***for discipleship here and throughout the world.”***

**Last Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration of Our Lord February 27, 2022 *For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.***

**Prelude – Bell**

*Epiphany commemorates the arrival of the magi who came from afar to pay homage to the Christ child. Yet, the Christ child is born to us every day and our Epiphany continues.*

**Gathering** P- Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true of Moses, and true for Peter, James and John. **C- This is my son, my Chosen, listen to him!** *Luke 9:35* P- We pray it will be true of us who see God’s glory in the Word. We who are being “transformed into the same image” by God’s Spirit.   **C- This is my son, my Chosen, listen to him!** *Luke 9:35*

**Gathering Hymn – HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE! ELW 315**

How good, Lord, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.

2 How good, Lord, to be here,
your beauty to behold
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.

3 Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified
and our redemption see.

4 Before we taste of death,
we see your kingdom come;
we long to hold the vision bright
and make this hill our home.

5 How good, Lord, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

**Confession and Forgiveness** *As you are able, please stand. We will be “passing the peace” by using the peace sign (V for Victory sign). This may be different to how we once did this, but it is a safer way today and we receive and give Christ’s victory!*

P- The peace of the Lord be with you all!

**C- And also with you!**

*Share the peace safely (V for Victory) with each other.*

P- Blessed by the holy Trinity, **+** one God,

who creates us,

who redeems us,

and calls us by name.
**C- Amen.**P- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- Most merciful God, **C- we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory when it made us confront ourselves.**

**We have failed to show hospitality**

**to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance from the things we have done**

**and the things we have left undone.**

**For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us in the glory of your Son**

**borne among us, may we reflect the love for all creation. Amen.** P- Rejoice in the good news:

In **+** Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendents of the Most High, adopted in the household of Christ,

and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.  **C- Amen.** *Please be seated.*

**Children’s Time - Mystery Sermon Box**

**Special Music- Amigos!**

**Readings**

## Exodus 34:29-35 Lector – *Moses’ face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God’s glory, taking it off when he spoke directly to God.*

Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterwards all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him. Here ends this reading.

## Psalm 99 - Praise to God for His Holiness

## *Read responsively.*

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!
   **He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!**The Lord is great in Zion;
**he is exalted over all the peoples.**Let them praise your great and awesome name.
**Holy is he!**Mighty King, lover of justice,
**you have established equity;**you have executed justice
**and righteousness in Jacob.**Extol the Lord our God;
   **worship at his footstool.
   Holy is he!**

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
   **Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
   They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.**He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
   **they kept his decrees,
   and the statutes that he gave them.**

O Lord our God, you answered them;
   **you were a forgiving God to them,
   but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**Extol the Lord our God,
**and worship at his holy mountain;
   for the Lord our God is holy.**

**1st Corinthians 3:12-4:2** Lector – *In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses’ face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ’s likeness. Paul writes:*

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

## Treasure in Clay Jars

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. Here ends this reading.

**Prayer of the Day** *As you are able, please stand.*
P- Holy God, **C- mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

**Gospel – Luke 9:28-43a** P- The conversation about Jesus’ suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus’ identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.

## The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah’—not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!’ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

## Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, ‘Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.’ Jesus answered, ‘You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.’ While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

## Jesus Again Foretells His Death

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples. The Gospel of the Lord.

**C- Praise to you, O Lord!** *Please be seated.*

**Message – The Ultimate Close Encounter with God!**

*The Ultimate Close Encounter with God is but ONE prayer away. Are we willing to fold our hands in His hands and with a heart that seeks God’s plan our lives? Please take the time to make His Way, His Plan, ours All the Way!*

**Offering Hymn – Shine, Jesus Shine ELW 671**

**Refrain:** Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.

**Verse 1** Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us, Shine on me, shine on me:

**Refrain**

**Verse 2** As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me.

**Refrain**

**Offering Prayer**  *As you are able, please stand.* P- Blessed are you, O God, **C- you offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey, and prepare us to carry your love**

**to a hungry world. Amen**

**Apostles’ Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Prayers of the Church** – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy” please respond with* ***“hear our prayer!”***

**Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**Announcements in the Life of Our Church**

**Blessing & Dismissal** P- God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and calls you by name,

**+** bless your going out and coming in,

today and forever. **C- Amen.**  P- Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

**C- Thanks be to God!** **ZION…a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!**

**Sending Hymn – Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways ELW 772**

**Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!**

**2 Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.**

**3 Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way,
restore your wand'ring sheep.**

**4 Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.**

**Pastor Jer’s phone number – 402-404-0494**

**Britan’s number – 308-730-0599**

Pastor…………………………..…………….. Rev. Jerry Gilbreath

Organist……………………………..……….. Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes……………………………………... Cooper Lovitt, Savannah Mahler

Reader………………………………………… Connie Thornburg

Special Music…………………………………. Amigos

**Vital Statistics**

Church 140 11812.88

**This Week**

Sunday School, 8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

God’s Grace DVD series, 9 am

Worship/10 am

**Next Sunday**

Sunday School,8:45 am

Breakfast Club, 9 am

God’s Grace DVD series, 9 am

Worship 10 am

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Welcome to worship! Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the unity room. We are so glad you are here!**

**HANDICAP PARKING**-IN THE NEED FOR MORE HANDICAP PARKING FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES, WE WILL BEGIN TO USE ALL SPACES FROM PARSONAGE TO NORTH DOORS OF CHURCH FOR THOSE THAT HAVE DIFFICULTY WALKING OR USE WALKERS. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THOSE THAT TRULY NEED THE CLOSER PARKING.  THANK YOU!! *~The Church Council*

**Share Your Musical Talents** –To reserve the Sunday of your choice, visit with Pam Trauernicht: call 402-230-0123 or email pamtrauernicht@diodecom.net

**Dear Women of Zion Lutheran Church** Thank you so much for the delicious Chicken Noodle soup and bars that were delivered to Trenn, Joey and Ethan Hoffman-Ideus. Everyone enjoyed the special treats! It was very thoughtful of you to remember our family and we appreciate it very much. God’s Blessings to you all. Sincerely, on behalf of Trenn, Joey, & Ethan- Brenda Smith.

***Country Club 4-H Members*** would like to extend an invitation to any Clover Kids (ages 5-7) or anyone interested in joining 4-H (ages 8-18) to attend our next 4-H meeting where we will be making a stamped book project.  Join us March 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.  We ask that adults attend with their Clover Kid.  Please RSVP to Marcia Busboom (402-223-8309), Rhonda Dorn (402-520-1320) or Connie Thornburg (402-673-3605) by March 6 so we have enough craft supplies.

**Boundless CJH Camp 2022-**Long ago God’s people in exile in Babylon experienced the devastating loss of almost every part of their lives that had given them identity, purpose, confidence, and hope. Through this loss, they rediscovered God- the one who created and sustained them and held them in loving hands. The awesome God of creation is also merciful God of everyday life. This Summer, campers will explore the hopeful and saving story of God and God’s people. They will experience the good news of God’s generous and merciful power in their lives. Just as God was loving and faithful at the time of creation, in life o Israel, and through Jesus Christ, so God continues to be in this world now. God’s love for us is truly ***BOUNDLESS.***

***“I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.” Ephesians 3:19 (CEV)***

**LWR BLANKET SEWING** All are welcome to come and help assemble blankets for Lutheran World Relief. NO experience needed! If you know how to use a stick pin and enjoy a day or part of a day of fellowship you are welcome. March 14, 15,28,29 from 9-3 come for a few hours or spend the day bring your own lunch if you plan to spend the day contact Denise Ideus (402)806-2236 or Karen Gilbreth (402)661-9362 with any questions!

**1st Communion Classes for 5th Grade Students** will be March 16th - April 13th. Check the March Newsletter for more information.

**The postponed WELCA January General meeting** will be held Sunday March 6th right after the church service in the Fellowship Hall.

**HELP NEEDED!**

**FOR WHO:**  St. Monica's Mother/Child Project

                     A Substance Abuse Program in Lincoln

**WHAT:**  Women's new/gently used clothing -all sizes

              Children's hangers

              Cash Donations for clothing racks & shelving

**QUESTIONS:** Direct to bretrauernicht@gmail.com

***Hebrews 13:16 "Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices.”***

**DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS NOW!**

Go to Thrivent.com/Thrivent choice or call 800-847-4836

Does it Matter? In 2021 alone, 3,913.00 Choice Dollars were received & designated to the Upstairs Parish Hall Renovation Project.

Over the past 10+ years Zion has received over $35,000.00 in choice dollars!

**REMINDER TO SIGN UP FOR BREAKFAST CLUB IN WELCOME CENTER**

**Helping out next Sunday**

Acolytes – Navaeh Niles, London Meints

Reader – Jenny Busboom

Breakfast Club Food – Marcia Busboom

Special Music – NA

**February Altar Guild- Dorothy Trauernicht**, Rose Gronewold, Cindy Jurgens, Carrie Reed, Janet Harms

**February Table Troop volunteers- John and Marcia Busboom,** Doug or Rhonda Dorn, Gary Wiese, Duane and Janice Parde, LeAnn Johnson

**Feb. 28 Snow Brigade #5 –** Paul Remmers\*Council, Craig Ideus\*Captain, Dean Zimmerman-Tractor, Russ Wallman – Tractor, Terry Gronewold, Dave Holland, Greg Dorn, Alex Buhr, Mike Busboom, Dan Jurgens

**SHUT INS**

**Gold Crest** –Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

**Homestead House** – Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman

**Whispering Winds Cottage** – LaVern Parde

**Our Homes Assisted Living** – Randy Oltman

**Please email, text or call Britan Meints by Wednesday evening for any announcements at**

**Phone: (308)-730-0599 Email:** **britanmeints@gmail.com**