 **From the Pastor’s** **Cup…**

Dear Church Family,

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.* Acts 2:1-3 NIV

Pentecost is the longest of the church seasons stretching from the Day of Pentecost on June 5th 2022 to Christ the King Sunday on November 20th 2022. It numbers 24 Sundays encompassing the seasons of summer and fall and the months of June, July, August, September, October and November. The color of this season is **GREEN**. Green are the altar paraments and stole the pastor wears. Green for the growth of the church and individual Christians.

Thanks to COVID and the upgrade to Zion’s sound & camera system along with our ability to live stream worship on Facebook, you can worship with us wherever you might be…like on trips or vacation or family events. And if you miss on Sunday we do archive all the services on the church page.

When I visit those from our church family who are unable to be with us physically, they marvel at the quality picture and sound of the live stream worship and express deep gratitude at being able to see friends and family in the sanctuary setting…that’s how good the three new HD cameras and speaker system are!

I just received the NEW **2023 Year A Sundays & Seasons** from Augsburg Fortress ELCA Publishing House. For me, this **2023 Year A Sundays & Seasons** is just like when as I child, we received in the mail the JCPenny or Sears Christmas catalog and I would spend hours looking at their offering of Christmas toys! But there is a BIG difference from then and now.

The difference being that I now I use **2023 Year A Sundays & Seasons** to plan out worship for the next year. The transition date is November 20, 2022 when our three year lectionary switches from Cycle C (the Gospel of Luke) to Cycle A (the Gospel of Matthew). The logic of the three year lectionary is that the person sitting in the pew each Sunday will in three years hear the majority of the Bible read in worship.

If you don’t know, I prefer to plan ahead, usually six months out to a year. I learned this when I served as the associate pastor of a corporate sized church under three different senior pastors and two different interim senior pastors in six years and six months. Life and leadership was in constant flux so as the glue that held it together. I did a lot of strategic and tactical planning.

Speaking of planning ahead, I plan to offer again **GriefShare Support Group** this August. **GriefShare** *is* **Your Journey from Mourning to Joy!** If you have lost a spouse, child, family member or friend, you’ve probably found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. That’s the reason for GriefShare, a special seminar and support group for people grieving the loss of someone close.

We will be meeting at 10 am Saturday mornings in August, September and October. Our meeting site will be Zion’s fellowship hall. We invite all who have participated before in a GriefShare seminar support group to attend again as a refresher! Here is the schedule of sessions and topics:

**#1 - 10 a.m. August 6, 2022, When Your Dreams Fall Apart #2 - 10 a.m. August 13, 2022, The Seasons of Grief #3 - 10 a.m. August 20, 2022, The Emotions of Grief (Part 1) #4 - 10 a.m. August 27, 2022, The Emotions of Grief (Part 2) #5 - 10 a.m. September 3, 2022, When Your Spouse Dies #6 - 10 a.m. September 10, 2022, Your Family and Grief #7 - 10 a.m. September 17, 2022, Where is God? #8 - 10 a.m. September 24, 2022, Stuck in Grief or Moving On #9 - 10 a.m. October 1, 2022, Growing Through Grief #10 - 10 a.m. October 8, 2022 , Grief Recovery Tool Kit #11 - 10 a.m. October 15, 2022, God’ Spiritual Hospital #12 - 10 a.m. October 22, 2022, Longing for Heaven (final session)**

These sessions are independent of each other so missing a session or two isn’t a problem. Hopefully with scheduling this at 10 a.m. and in the months of August, September and October, we will miss Husker football & volleyball and the threat of bad weather.

Sincerely, Pr. Jer

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes**

**May 4, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by President Gary Wiese

**Members present:**  Kristi Dorn, Brenda Gronewold, Alan Folkerts, Neal Meints, Cindy Parde, Paul Remmers, Pam Trauernicht & Gary Wiese

**Members absent:**   VeAnn Jurgens

**Pastor Jer shared:**  Regroup & Reflect – When We Have Lost Our Focus

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from the 4/05/2022 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 5/04/2022 meeting.

**Upcoming Weddings:**

* 06/11/2022 - Jayde Carstens & Jared Marsh
* 06/18/2022 - Dillon Buss & Cari Lineweber
* 07/09/2022 - Nicole Busboom & Nathan Bartels
* 07/16/2022 - Blake Lenners & Marisa Pitre (Omaha) taking weekend off to do wedding 2022
* 10/29/2022 - Brooke Mason & Daniel Barr
* 06/10/2023 - Abby Mason & Heath Hovendick

**Upcoming Baptisms:**

* 5/15/22 Watson Ridge Gronewold son of Joel & Joselyn Gronewold
* June/July Lane Andrew Frost (son of Hayden Frost and Madison Axtell-Frost)

**April mileage:**  299 miles

**Freeman Baccalaureate** Wednesday, May 11, 2022 @ 7:00.

**Supply pastor:**

* May 29, 2022 10:00 am ~ Rev Fred Anderson (402)802-0624 $175 + mileage from Lincoln
	+ Cemetery Board is aware that pastor will not be here for service.
	+ Rev Arden Dorn will be Zion’s emergency coverage from May 26 to May 30.
* July 17, 2022 9:00 am ~ Rev Fred Anderson (402)802-0624 $175 + mileage from Lincoln
* July 24, 2022 9:00 am ~ Rev Roger Hoffman (402)269-2201 $175 + mileage from Syracuse

**Celebrating God’s Work in Progress – Old Business**

* **Well Update** – Considering
	+ a submersible pump for the well just North of Windbreak to connect to the ball park. Need power, and pressure tank.
	+ A second well to the West of church for the rest of church campus.
* **Elevator -** repair vs. replacement?
	+ Source company has been out of business 15+ years.
	+ Current elevator works without weight, but binds when loaded. IF repairs can be located,
	+ Replacement options.
		- Received one verbal bid for hydraulic, chain driven system with new door system.
		- Timeframe is 6 – 8 weeks out.
	+ Get another bid, and relook at this in June.
* **Parrish Hall Bathrooms –** Mostly cosmetic updates. Looking at handicap accessible options. Renovation will start after VBS and should be updated over the summer.
* **Storage Shed/Garage** – Would be great to add this to/or close to our parsonage, but at this time, priority will be given to the elevator and well. Both seem to be a higher necessary than a garage/storage area.
* **Round Table committee** -  Continued discussion from Janitorial meeting. Since last review, and through COVID, some duties have decreased, some have increased. Will review duties and responsibilities, consider establishing a minimum hour per week guideline for that position with the current duties.
* **Picture Directory** – Committee is organizing and will begin looking at options in early summer.
	+ In house photographer/or electronic file with photographer release.
* **Mother’s Day** May 8th Oldest in-turn is Mildred Meints, youngest Kaitlyn Buss.  Council will supply recognition flowers.
* **Greeters –** Reinstating as needed.

**Discerning God’s Will – New Business**

* **Graduate recognition – May 22nd** - Ask council will order cake and ask Hospitality or Youth committee to serve following service.
* **Sweet Corn** money designation. Some discussion will decide in June.
* **Mission Festival** – September 25, 2022 – considering speakers for the service.

**Ministry Team Report as of 5/04/2022**

* Financial-General Fund-Balance on hand 4/01/2022 $105,960.00
* Income- $13,056.76  Expenses- $22,038.06
* Balance on hand- 4/30/2022-- $96,978.70
* Sinking Fund - $139,297.23
* Seminary Fund - $30,8855.50
* Thrivent Mutual Funds - $2,747.91
* Open Savings - $29,223.63
* Memorial Balance - $12, 230.37

Motion was made to approve the Financial and Ministry Team reports.

Next council meeting will be Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Devotions – 7:00

Committees – 7:05

Council – 7:30

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Brenda Gronewold, Secretary

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Worship Committee**: Did not Meet

**Parish Ed:** Heather Hippen, Kate Meints, Linsey Gronewold

**Old Business:** Mother’s Day Carnations, Last day of Sunday School is May 8th, VBS Starts Tuesday May 31st.

**New Business:** VBS organization and implementation, Changes in directory for 2022-2023 school year, Rally Sunday

**Park Board**: Pastor, Paul J, Kenny R, Neal M, Kenny N.

**Old Business:** Well-use an old one north of trees, Fanzone, Paul spoke with Blake Meints for materials being ordered. Kenny N will find someone to lead this project.

**New Business:** Ad signs Banners Kenny sends out text, Concessions, Kennry R talks with Josh Glynn about roof, Need out popcorn machine german school/concessions. Paul bought new batteries for mowers, Sprinklers has been run. Alex B will get float to help with sprinkler. Paul has a fuller park calendar updated.

**Property & Management**: Jordan Busboom, Alan Folkerts, Paul Remmers, Mike Busboom, Mike Deter, Doug Parde..

**Old Business:** Waiting on well to be drilled, also discussing trying well north of trees.Elevator looking at setting a quote for new one, haven’t found anyone to repair old one.

**New Business:** Looking into sewage smell in parsonage.

**Memorial Committee**: Did not meet

**Endowment Committee**: Did not meet.

**Hospitality Task Force**: Did not meet.

**Publicity**: Did not meet**.**

**Willie and Anna Meints Youth Endowment Fund.**

**Committee members:** Steve Oltman, Deann Oltman, Doreen Wallman, Council Rep. Brenda Gronewold.

**New Business:** Advisory account balance:January $356,875.01February $336,348.97

March 22 $333,488.00

****February 2022, 20 College Student Application checks wrote for $941.00 each, for a total of $18,820.00.

**Graduate Recognition!!**

**Chelsea Leners**

Graduated from Beatrice High School. She Plans to attend The University of Nebraska, Omaha majoring in Physical Therapy.

**Addison Dorn**

Graduating from SCC-Beatrice with an Academic Transfer degree. She plans to attend Doane University in the fall to earn her bachelor's degree.

**Booker Theye**

Graduating from Beatrice Public Schools.  Booker will be attending the Choice Program in Beatrice where he will be learning life skills and be transitioning into a work program to obtain a job in the future.

**Jamison Theye**

Graduated from University of Nebraska Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a Major in Accounting and Minor in Finance.  She will continue at UNL in the Fall to get her Masters in Accounting and begin taking her CPA exams.

**Katie Meyer**

Graduated from UNL with Masters in Sociology.

**Cole Parde**

Graduated from Freeman High School. He will be farming.

**Brittany Thomas**

Graduated from Bryan College of Health Sciences Mid-Term with a bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences.  She is currently applying for entry into Physician's Assistant Programs once her patient care hours have been met.

**Breanna Trauernicht**

Graduating from UNL in May! After graduation, I plan to continue my education through Chadron State College where I will work towards receiving my master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

**Natalie Boyer**

Graduated from Southeast Community College- Beatrice with a degree of associate of applied science health sciences.

**Sydney Carstens**

Graduated December 2021 from University of Iowa with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in Human Relations She moved to Arizona where she is employed with Centria Autism and has started her masters degree in psychology with Grand Canyon University.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Congratulations to Pastor Jer and our very own Zion Lutheran Church** for being recognized as the Beatrice Daily Suns Best of the Best of Gage County as the favorite minister and church. Thank you to Pastor and our Zion family for making our church such a great place to worship!

**Zion will begin summer hours (service start time 9am) on June 12.**

**Council is looking for volunteers** to serve on a committee to update Zion’s picture directory. If you are interested in researching current options or providing photography services, please contact Brenda Gronewold at 402-520-0397.

**Happy Spring!**

Writing this to you as spring is in full bloom here in Colorado Springs!
This last season for me has been full, yet fun and rewarding for me! As I help to oversea training and development for our iEDGE program, I have helped run a three month transition program this spring with my co leader Brendan. This time is intended to help returning iEDGErs transition well from living and ministering overseas. I have structured it in a way that the first month is focused on rest and reflection/debrief, the second month is focused on looking inward and how God has wired them with their strengths and gifts to make a contribution to His kingdom, and the third month is forward thinking with solidifying next steps and what God is calling them to. We walk them through these things with different tools and resources all while they live and work in a community of those in Colorado Springs going through the same thing! This is the third group I have lead of this kind and we continue to see it serve our staff well as they adjust back to American culture and move into different roles. Some continue on staff with the Navigators, some move to seminary or ministry roles outside of the Navigators, and some transition into the workforce to use their degrees. We want to help them create space to invite God into this season of transition and reflection and have support from a community during this time. It is encouraging and life giving for me to be alongside them in this time helping them process their time overseas and how God met them and moved through them as well as help them figure out their next steps. In addition to helping lead the learning community, a lot of my time has been conducting interviews and reading through applications, traveling and helping with World Missions recruiting, and helping prepare and lead workshops on the Gospel and Gen Z to staff in the Navigators serving on college campuses. I am very thankful for this role and all the ways I get to come alongside staff and use my giftings of teaching and development! THANK YOU for all of your prayers and financial support that allows me to serve the kingdom in these ways and what God is doing both on college campuses in the US, as well as overseas! This is as much your ministry as it is mine and I am so grateful for each of you!

Laboring with you,

Cassie Thornburg

***WORSHIP LEADERS SCHEDULE***

**June 5th, 2022**

Acolytes– VBS

Reader – Peggy Johnson

**June 12th, 2022**

Acolytes–Max Behrens, Cale Behrens

Reader – Paul Jurgens

**June 19th, 2022**

Acolytes– Kalleigh Bender, Addison Kastanek

Reader- Cindy Parde

**June 26th, 2022**

Acolytes – Hudson Fikar, Kyson Kolm

Reader – Sammie Garton

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

1 Kenny Newman

 Shelby Meints

2 James Meints

4 Leonard Buhr

John Folkerts

Rhonda Fossler

Luke Kolm

Duane Zulauf

5 Bray Bloom

 Everly Meints

7 Faith Holland

8 Doug Harms

Dan Rademacher

Lexi Winkle

9 Evertt Bloom

Dustin Thompson

11 Dennis Behrens

Madison Fikar

Dale Zimmerman

13 London Meints

Carrie Reed

14 Rylee Zimmerman

16 Liz Borgman

17 Aaron Schoen

18 Ben Meints

19 Steve Behrens

Elmyra Graham

Kyle Schoen

20 Jeff Parde

21 Evan Busboom

23 Cerice Cornelius

Kali Oltman

24 Todd Bohlmeyer

Laurie Wallman

25 Cooper Lovitt

26 Jordan Jurgens

27 Kristin Hoffman

Paul Jurgens

28 Jordan Busboom

Norman Parde, Jr.

Patty Thomas

Marilyn Zimmerman

29 Karla Holland

Kyle Leners

Steve Oltman

31 James Leners

Joel Gronewold