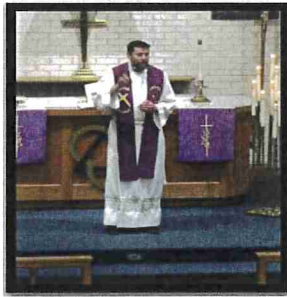


# Zion Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

### February 2024



Having recently returned from Fort Wayne and the Symposia held by Concordia Theological Seminary, my mind has been rather occupied with reflections on the papers presented by some of the more learned men of our Synod. The second Symposium was dedicated to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Walkout” at the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis on January 22, 1974. It was on that date that most of the faculty and most of the student body arranged a public display of leaving the campus in protest against the removal of the president of the seminary for false teaching. The support for some was out of personal loyalty, but there were many for whom it was a matter of confession. They were wrong.

While a number of errors were floating around, the chief one was related to the nature of Scripture. The president of the seminary and a number of the faculty were teaching a view of the Bible that was poisoned by the ways of the world, in short, that it is not the inspired, inerrant Word of God. Miracles, the historicity of Adam and Eve, and even the Resurrection of our Lord were called into question and the texts of Scripture were squeezed through the ringer of human wisdom to determine which were “authentic”. It was right to condemn these teachings and right to remove the president who advocated for them.

The question arises, “How could a seminary founded on the principle of purity of doctrine get knocked to its knees, riddled with error?” “How could a Synod that was formed to proclaim the purity of the Gospel in the face of errors brought into the Church slip into such error?”

In part, I think there is a level of pride. Scripture warns: “**Pride goes before**

**destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.”** (Prov. 16:18), and, “**Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.**” (1 Cor. 10:12). Pride in one’s wisdom as opposed to God’s; pride in the Synod’s growth in the decades before the Walkout; and pride in the respect given from the world around (both from the other scholars and from the secular community) all contributed to modifications in the St. Louis Seminary and our Synod as it taught and preached and carried out missions.

Thus our Synod was humbled, but for our good. The devil is always attacking, picking away at Christ’s Church where he can. We see in Christ’s Parable of the Sower the devil depicted as one who desires to remove the Word of God. It is the case then that the attack is against the Word of God, but this is always an attack upon Christ. It’s an attack on the Lord Jesus, not only because it is His Word, but because all of Scripture testifies to Him. We can’t pick and choose which parts we like and cast out the rest. The will of God is good and wise.

Our Synod survived those decades, though we still bear the scars. Some fellowships with faithful congregations were broken and have yet to be repaired; some pressures related to the errors taught still persist in pockets in our Synod; but the Word of the Lord remains forever. Christ’s Church therefore will stand and the gates of hell will not prevail against her since it is ever built on the Rock of Christ and the confession of His name drawn from Scriptures. Church members, congregations, pastors, and synods may rise and fall away, but God continues to work through His Word. We can give thanks to God that the errors were brought to light that led to some parting ways with the LCMS and for the removal of this error from the Seminary in St. Louis. It is a reminder that we all must walk in humility before God and under His revealed Word. It is good to have this humility, for Christ promises that the humble will be exalted. May God continue to grant Zion and all who pass through her doors a faithful humility and a persistence in the inerrant, inspired Word of God.

Your servant in Christ,  
Pastor Siebert

## Lent at Zion

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14 with Ash Wednesday. Lent services will be at 12:00 noon and 7:15 PM. We have two services every Wednesday. The noon service because many of our members do not like to be out after dark and the evening service for members who can only attend in the evening due to their work schedule. We are making an effort to accommodate both groups of members. It is a concern that so many members of our congregation don't attend the special services offered during the Lent and Advent.

A lent meal will be served on February 14 at 5:45 PM. A free will offering will be collected for Zion's orphanage in Kingesep. It is being prepared and served by LWML, LLL and the Altar Guild. This will be the only Lent Supper. Why only one supper during lent? The attendance has gradually dwindled to just a few people. The different organizations who provide the meal would gladly offer weekly meals, but it requires much work done by the same volunteers for so few who attend. Zion's executive board is not planning to have an Easter Breakfast for the first time in many years. As with the lent meals, few people attended the breakfast last year.

Pastor Siebert, the board of elders and the Executive board are discouraged by this lack of interest in attending the special midweek services and the opportunities to enjoy fellowship within our congregation. We would be happy to hear your comments or suggestions.

### Mark Your Calendars!

Adams County Lutheran Education Association (ACLEA) is hosting FIRE XIX on March 2, 2024 at the Adams County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 5:30.

Contributions made to FIRE go towards Zion Classical Academy Hastings and Christ Lutheran Juniata. Your donations give our children a better opportunity to flourish in a Christ centric environment where they know the truth of God, become disciples for life and are academically challenged; all central to their personal growth in achieving God's plan.

We ask that you prayerfully consider sponsoring an auction item of financially supporting FIRE. Donations in any amount may be made payable anytime by check to ACLEA or you may scan the QR code (bulletin inserts) or go directly to our fundraising page <http://bidpal.net/FIRE2024> and make a donation via credit card.

Best suggestion to buy banquet tickets in advance from an ACLEA board member or online. Contact [treasurer.acleafire@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.acleafire@gmail.com) or call 402-469-4038.

Banquet \$75 per person/\$1100 for Corporate table of 10. Silent Auction is online only. Live auction in person only. Please see an ACLEA member for more details or volunteer opportunities. Auction sponsorships/items must be received by February 12.

ACLEA P.O. Box 2122  
Hastings, NE 68902

### Food, Fun and Fellowship

Thanks to all of you who came to our Pre-New Years Eve Food, Fun and Fellowship party on December 30. We had a few more in attendance plus two visitors who attended our worship service. The next event will be in the spring of this year and planning to serve grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.



### **Dart Ball Tournament**

Looking ahead a bit to March, the annual Hastings Zone LLL Dart Ball Tournament will be Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 5:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. It will be at Zion, but hosted by Faith Lutheran Church's Lutheran Laymen's League. Supper will be served at 5:00. Then let the friendly competition begin. You do not have to be a member of LLL to participate and all ages are welcome. In other words, you don't have to be bald or have gray hair.

Please join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and "athletic" competition.

### **2024 Legacy Workshop**

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Minden invite you to join them for the 2024 Legacy Workshop on **Sunday, February 4 at 11:30**. This is presented by Craig Stirtz, the Nebraska District's Gift Planning Counselor. The deadline to register is Sunday, January 28. You can register by calling the church office at 308-832-1343 or email at [stpaulminden@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulminden@gmail.com)

Craig will cover multiple topics, including: ways to create an estate plan that reduces taxes and maximizes what your loved ones are able to keep, how assets pass (inside and outside of probate), common mistakes people make and how to avoid them, why comprehensive estate planning is important, legacy planning (planning both for loved ones and ministry) and how to make gifts for ministry without disinheriting your loved ones. This workshop is not a sales pitch as Craig has no products to sell and makes no commissions. It is an opportunity for you to hear what he has learned through his work that will help you avoid mistakes and maximize your gifts to loved ones and ministry.

Craig offers free, confidential and family-focused planning for those wishing to include one or more LCMS ministries in their estate plan- including your congregation. For more

information about his services, contact Craig at 402-616-0312 or [craig.stirtz@lfnd.org](mailto:craig.stirtz@lfnd.org).

### **TRIVIA NIGHT on Saturday, February 10, 2024, 7 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 906 N. California, Hastings, Nebraska.**

This will be a fun night, whether trivia is your thing or not. Think of the friendly competition, the camaraderie, the laughter, the aha moments! Pen-and-paper trivia events are played in a series of 7 rounds with 10 questions per round. There will be a 90 second answer period after each trivia question. A tie breaker question will follow the final round if necessary. Teams can talk about what the answer might be, and compete on which group can answer the most questions correctly. Themes range from general, food, drink, entertainment, sports, geography, animal, science, and funny. The games typically last about 1 ½ to 2 hours. Scoring will be done by the host. Prizes will be given. Registration is \$60 for a team of 6 people each, ranging in age from junior high to centenarians. Points Bump: Bring a Walmart gift card for Wellspring Pregnancy + Health Center (maximum of 6 points). Invite friends to play with you. Concessions will be available. You may bring your own beverage of choice (beer and wine may be brought in). Proceeds will be used to purchase a park bench in Heartwell Park with a plaque on it commemorating our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Any additional funds will go to Zion Classical Academy and Heartland Lutheran High School. To register, please call the church at 402-462-9023 or email at [peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com](mailto:peacelutheranhastings@gmail.com). Let the games begin!



### February Birthdays

Bryan Garver	Feb. 3
Caden Boyer	Feb. 7
Corinne Mankin	Feb. 8
Susan Poppe	Feb. 8
Craig Hinrichs	Feb. 9
Ron Woita	Feb. 11
Bailey Johnson	Feb. 12
Lin Johnson	Feb. 17
Mark Utecht	Feb. 18
Steve Buss	Feb. 22
Josephine King	Feb. 24
Wayne Mills (89)	Feb. 24
Allison Good	Feb. 25
Christopher Warneke	Feb. 25
Ezekiel C. Strong	Feb. 26
Eric Fielder	Feb. 26
Jesse Wright Jr.	Feb. 27

### February Baptism Birthdays

Kaitlyn Armstrong	Feb. 2
Bailey Kopish	Feb. 3
Mazi Dasher	Feb. 9
Ian Brown	Feb. 11
Ashley Peters	Feb. 11
Braden Huetfle	Feb. 12
Rayker Cookson	Feb. 13
Beth Lyons	Feb. 13
Landon Eckhardt	Feb. 23
Wayne Mills	Feb. 24
Charlene Stapleman	Feb. 25
Susan Poppe	Feb. 26
Kurt Kopish	Feb. 26
Steve Buss	Feb. 28
Pinky Joynt	Feb. 28
Douglas Roesener	Feb.



### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Edward & Mary Buss Feb. 1, 1953

### “Unforgivable? How God’s Forgiveness Transforms Our Lives”

Pastor Siebert is beginning a new Bible Study using a new book “Unforgivable” written by Rev. Dr. Mark Rockenbach and Ted Kober. It will begin the weekend of January 27 and 28. We are providing extra opportunities to attend Bible Studies by having Bible Studies on Saturday evening at 7:15 PM following our worship services. Some of the questions addressed are: How does anger give opportunity to the devil? What if they don’t repent? What if I can’t forgive myself? As Pastor wrote in the December newsletter, “Forgiveness of sins is central to life in the church.” We look forward to seeing you there.

# February 2024

# Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class		7:00 Board of Elders	8:30 AM ZCA Chapel with Pastor Hauptmeter 9:30 AM Bible Study 6:00 PM Confirmation Class			6:00 PM Worship with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	10:00 to 3:00 Quilt Tying at Peace Lutheran Church		8:30 AM ZCA Chapel with Pastor Olson 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 5:45 PM Lent Meal 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:15 PM Lent Service			7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study 9:00 AM LWML 6:00 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Bible Study
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00 AM Worship Service 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class						6:00 PM Worship Service with Communion 7:15 PM Bible Study
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	7:00 Executive Board Meeting	7:00 Executive Board Meeting	8:30 AM ZCA Chapel with Pastor Bremer 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:15 PM Lent Service			6:00 PM Worship Service 7:15 PM Bible Study
25	26	27	28	29		
9:00 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:15 AM Sunday School/Adult Bible Class			8:30 AM ZCA Chapel with Pastor Siebert 9:30 AM Bible Study 12:00 Ash Wednesday/Lent Service 6:00 PM Confirmation Class 7:15 PM Lent Service			March 2 ACLEA FIRE Doors open at 5:00 PM Banquet at 6:30