



ZION REFORMED CHURCH

2026



PASTOR'S POSTS

Dear Zion Family,

In the Gospel of Luke 9:35, the Father speaks from the cloud: "This is My Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him." As we walk the road of Lent, these words steady our hearts. Lent calls us away from noise, distraction, and self-reliance, and brings us again to Jesus. We listen to Him in His teaching, in His call to repentance, in His mercy toward sinners, and in His clear path toward the cross.

To listen to Him during Lent is to follow Him to Jerusalem. It is to hear Him speak of suffering and not turn away. Yet the voice from heaven also reminds us who He is—the chosen Son, radiant in glory.

As Easter approaches, we listen with hope. The cross is not defeat but redemption. The grave is not the end but the doorway to life. Zion Family, may this season tune our hearts to Christ—listening, trusting, and rejoicing.

In Christ,

Pastor Petri



Consistory Highlights

*The next consistory meeting is scheduled for March 12.



Feb. 18 – April 5



Brotherhood Ministry:
March 1 at 8:30am;
Zion's basement



Food Pantry Needs

Please Bring Items Monthly - 1st Sunday



***March 7, 10 am @ Zion**



Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

**** Set clocks 1 hour ahead: March 8****



Lawn bids due to
Keaton Buseman by
March 8.



**Family
Ministry
March 11
6:30pm Meal
7pm Ministry**



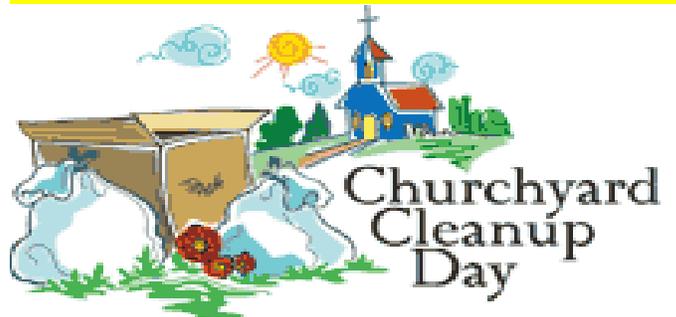
Easter Lily forms are available! Cost is \$18. Lilies will be displayed on Easter Sunday. Deadline is March 15.



7th Grade – HS: Wednesdays @ 7pm



WOZ Lenten Brunch – Sign Up!
March 28 - 10am



Plan on Saturday, March 28, 1pm: Outside church clean up! Please bring your gloves and rakes. Q: See Keaton Buseman
NOTE: WOZ will be in the church from 10am-noon on 3/28.



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 29



**Children will sing and carry
palms – March 29**



“Preparing Our Hearts”

March reminds us that change is coming. Even here, when winter still lingers, the days grow longer and hints of spring begin to appear. Beneath the surface, new life is forming. In much the same way, God is always at work within us — even when we cannot yet see the fruit.

As we enter the Lenten season, we hear the gentle invitation from Joel 2:13: “Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.” Lent is not about earning God’s favor. Instead, this season is an opportunity to prepare our hearts — to turn again toward the One who has already claimed us as His own.

In our busy roles as caregivers, workers, and friends, it is easy to become distracted or weary. March gives us a reminder to pause. To pray. To open Scripture. To lay our concerns before the Lord and trust His faithfulness. Just as the soil must be softened before it can receive new growth, so our hearts are shaped through repentance, gratitude, and quiet trust. And as surely as spring follows winter, resurrection follows the cross. May we use this season to return to the Lord with confidence, knowing that He meets us with grace.

In Christ’s love,
Tonya Halsne
WOZ President



Spiritual Nourishment

Have your children, grandchildren, or even you ever said, “That’s not fair!” Whose turn is it to pick a movie, or take out the garbage? Who gets the biggest brownie? We don’t have to look far to see inequality in the world. Some children grow up in safe environments with access to healthy food and quality education, while other children grow up economically depressed or in war zones where safety and basic necessities are scarce. Our country faces mass shootings, lawlessness, divisiveness, and homelessness. We don’t have to look far to see that life isn’t fair. Some residents right here in Franklin County don’t have enough means to buy the groceries they need.

The prophet Habakkuk also witnessed and experienced injustice, conflict, violence, and destruction. In Habakkuk chapters 1 and 2, faithfulness to him meant praying fervently for God to do something. God told Habakkuk in a vision for him and the people to keep watch and wait; the righteous person will live by his faithfulness. Then in chapter 3 verses 18-19a “yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength”. We too can pray for our world and country; contact our lawmakers for needed change, give to missions, and share the message of God’s salvation.

In this Lenten season, we are reminded of what Jesus did on that cross for us, His resurrection, and His coming again to make things right. Hope and believe for a better future. Acts 17:31 says “For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” Let’s remain faithful until that day comes.

Molly Allen, Spiritual Life Committee



PRAYER and Praise

"Connecting with God on Holy Ground"
Zion's Prayer-O-Thon

Each year during the time between Maundy Thursday (April 2 – April 5) and Resurrection Sunday Zion holds a 60 hour Prayer-o-thon. Prayer and reflection during this time allow us to deeply contemplate the events leading to Jesus Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. By engaging in prayer and reflection, we can cultivate a greater understanding of the spiritual journey and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Resurrection Sunday.

How it works:

The church and Sanctuary are open during the 60 hour period for individuals or a small group to come and pray. Typically, individuals take a 30 minute slot, with the idea that someone is praying throughout the 60 hour period. Materials are available at the prayer station to help you during your prayer

time. Everyone is encouraged to come to the church either during the day or throughout the night. If you are unable to come to Zion, praying at home is also welcome.



1. Submit prayer requests to the church office so a list can be available during the Prayer-o-thon by **March 29**.
2. Be thinking about when and how you can participate in the Prayer-o-thon.
3. Sign up sheet is currently available!

Questions: See Duane Carstens or Brian & Ann Lupkes



Easter Mixed Chorus:
Will practice after
service every Sunday
until Easter, April 5.

On the Bulletin Board

Please remember that there are places in need! There is a list of items needed from the Orphan Grain Train and Nursing Facilities/Shelters.



	General	Benevolent	Attendance
FEB 1	\$1,491.00	\$465.00	75
FEB 8	\$3,680.00	\$1,035.00	117
FEB 15	\$2,385.50	\$490.00	98
FEB 22	\$3,971.00	\$880.00	111



Duane and Lenora Payne / Phyllis Nelson



Gary Bennett, Charlane Janssen, Sharon Oleson,
Dale Butson, Jon Suntken, Arlene Maifeld, Bev Moore,
Darwin Butson, Brian Lupkes, Ted Hughes, Sam Butson,
Vernon VanHorn, Marsha Muhlenbruch



Church Camp

***All Youth:** If your child plans to attend Lakeview Summer Camp or Riverside Bible Camp, please have your confirmation to Marsha by May 3. As in the past years, Zion will pay half of the camper's fee. If there is another church camp that your child is interested in please give that contact information to Elder Phil Markwardt before the end of April because a survey must be completed to make sure that beliefs align.

Questions: See Elder Phil Markwardt



	<u>AUDIO</u>	<u>VIDEO</u>
MAR 1	Jerry	Duane
MAR 8	Jesse	Tonya
MAR 15	Dave	Carma
MAR 22	Jesse	Tonya
MAR 29	Jerry	Duane



Shelly Buseman* / Judy Klink



Children's Time during church service

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
March 1	Pastor Petri
March 8	Megan Mollenbeck
March 15	Shelly Buseman
March 22	Dave Harms
March 29	Ann Lupkes



DAYCARE PROVIDERS! After Children's Time

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME/Helper</u>
March 1	Kirsten/Marli
March 8	Sammy/Morgan
March 15	Shelly/Edrich
March 22	Molly/Tatum
March 29	Molly/Tatum



HOPE CIRCLE - MAR 05 @ 7:00pm (Fellowship Hall)

Devotions/Lesson: Rose; Host: Shelly

JOY CIRCLE - MAR 8 @ 7:00pm

Devotions/Lesson/Host: Carma

VESPER CIRCLE - MAR 9 @ 1:30pm (Fellowship Hall)

Devotions/Lesson: Judy D; Host: Esther

SUNRISE CIRCLE - MAR 11 @ 9am (Fellowship Hall)

Devotions/Lesson/Host: Mardel

Faith Circle - March 26 - Lesson 4

Would you make a good pioneer woman?

GREETERS

March 1 Phil & Rose
March 8 Nate & Lauren
March 15 Jeff & Shelly
March 22 Kellen & Megan
March 29 Michael & Tonya

FELLOWSHIP

March 1 Hosts are needed
March 8 Hosts are needed
March 15 Barkemas
March 22 Hosts are needed
March 29 Good Time Gang



Brass: Thank you to everyone for their thoughts and prayers while our daughter, Cathy, underwent breast cancer surgery at Mercy Hospital in Mason City on February 4. Cathy would like to thank the Zion Sewing Group for the beautiful heart pillow she received from the sewing group. –Francis and Linda

Koenen: Dear Zion Family, Thank you so much for all the phone calls, cards and prayers I received before and after my surgery. Your kindness and love have meant more to me and my family than words can express. Knowing our church family was standing with us gave us such comfort.

God Bless you all, Carol

Muhlenbruch: Thank you to everyone for your prayers, texts, calls, cards and visits. I am overwhelmed and so blessed to call you my church family. My surgery went well and no sign of cancer in the lymph nodes. I will begin radiation in a few weeks. Again, thank you for your continued prayers.
God Bless, Marsha



Let's celebrate Vernon VanHorn turning 80 on March 11!!! You may send him a birthday greeting to: Keystone Place, Apt. #1002; 1275 W. Forevergreen Rd, North Liberty, Iowa 52317

“Meet the Family” Merrill and Debra Meese



Merrill and Deb met at Kirkwood Community College and got married in August 1975. Deb studied Equestrian science, and Merrill studied production agriculture with a major interest in swine management. Merrill says it was love at first sight.

They have a son and daughter that was born 18 months apart in 1976 and 1978 respectively. Deb was born and grew up in Toledo, Ohio. She started horse riding lessons at 13 and bought her first horse at age 16 with money from her daily paper delivery job. Merrill grew up on a farm in Eastern Iowa near the town of LeClaire. He was active in FFA and Chorus. He worked for his neighbor helping with livestock production of both cattle and swine. He also had 10-12 sows of his own that were bred to produce and sell feeder pigs.

They live on an acreage near Alexander, IA where they've lived for the last 28 years, both retired now. Merrill retired after 22 years from

Iowa Dept of Public Health as coordinator in the Emergency Medical Services Bureau. Debra retired after 20 years from Farm and Home Publishing where she worked as a digitizer working on county plat maps from Iowa and several other states.

They really enjoy family vacations where their children and grandchildren can get together and hike, fish, bike, shop and have meals together. They had riding horses for 48 years and loved to camp and trail ride, but after lots of thinking and consideration, let their beloved horses go and found new homes for them this last spring. They now ride bicycles on local trails; they garden and Deb cans fruit and vegetables and Merrill is an avid pheasant hunter.

They like that Zion has always made them feel welcome, they both enjoy the sermons and feel they are meaningful. They also feel blessed to have found a church family that agrees the Holy Bible is the true and only rule of faith and is the Word of God. A favorite Bible verse is 2 Corinthians 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight”.



“Stop, look and listen”

Lent, the season of the church year that’s associated with repentance, began on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18). While some people deny themselves by giving up something for Lent, others prepare for Easter through special Bible studies or devotions.

Christians observe Lent for these reasons:

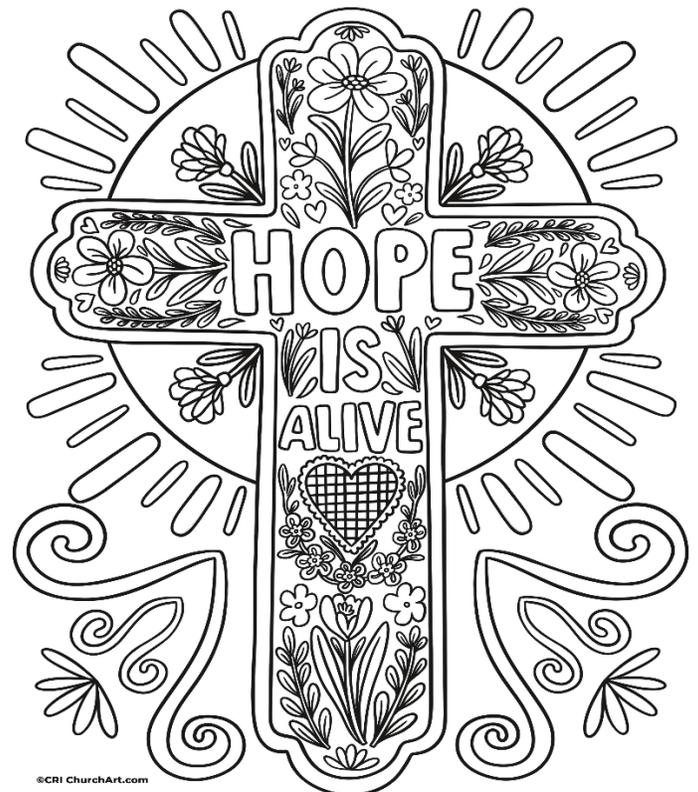
- It causes us to STOP. Lent says, “Stop and rest awhile,” as well as “Stop doing wrong.”
- It tells us to LOOK. Look inward for an honest self-examination. Look upward to see the cross of Christ offering healing and love. Look forward to the hope of the Resurrection.
- It tells us to LISTEN. Listen to the words of Christ. Listen to the voice of God. Listen to the winds of the Spirit of God.

Stop, look and listen. These three words aren’t only important for our safety in travel; they’re also helpful for our journey through the 40 days of Lent.



- 04 Chandler Koenen
- 05 Callum Sifert, Clementine Sifert
- 07 Dave Harms
- 09 Sydney Buseman, Lindsey Eberling
- 10 Jon Suntken
- 11 Vernon VanHorn, LaVonne Conlon
- 13 Chris Sheehan, Sue Smit
- 15 Diane Hughes
- 18 CoCo Koenen
- 19 Kaleb and Stephanie Kloetzer
- 21 Sara Stevenson, Deb Schroeder, Mark Lage
- 22 Ron Jurgens, Pierson Dirksen
- 23 Alexandra Bennett
- 27 Everette Kinseth
- 28 Kendal Koenen
- 29 Pastor van Rooyen
- 30 Jerry Stock, Kallie Smith

COLOR ME!!



Zion Reformed Church

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 641-579-6186 / www.zionreformed.com
 Pastor Petri van Rooven: 641-231-2361



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours: M/T/W 8am-Noon *Bad Weather: KL MJ*	* Every Sunday * 9:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School / Kids' Choir					
1 *Food Pantry* 8:30am Men's Bible Study 9:15am Worship 10:30am SS	2	3	4 7pm RCYF	5 7:00 pm Hope Circle	6	7 World Day of Prayer @ Zion – 10 am
8 *Clocks: Spring ahead 9:15am Worship 10:30am SS 7pm JOY Circle	9 1:30pm Vesper Circle	10	11 9:00 am Sunrise Circle 6:30pm Family Ministry	12 7pm Consistory	13	14
15 9:15am Worship Baptisms 10:30am SS	16	17	18 7:00pm RCYF	19	20 First day of Spring!	21
22 9:15am Worship – Welcome Kelly Bennett 10:30am SS	23	24	25 7:00pm RCYF	26 7pm Faith Circle	27	28 10 am Lenten Brunch 1pm Zion Outside Clean Up
29 Palm Sunday/Children Sing 9:15 am Worship 10:30am SS	30	31				