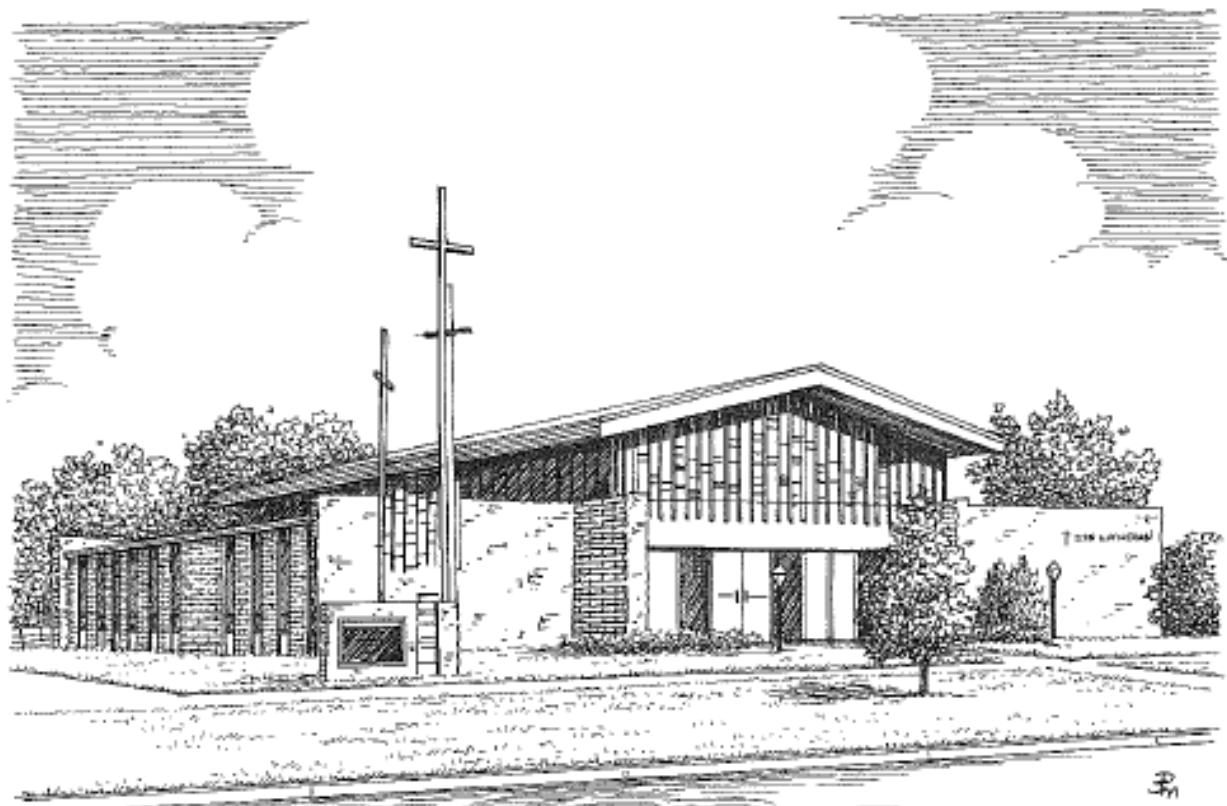


Zion Lutheran Church

Phillipsburg, Kansas

Annual Report 2025



Zion Lutheran Church

Phillipsburg, Kansas

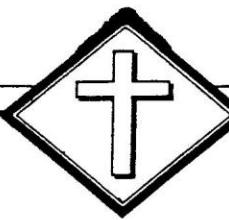
2025 Annual Report

January 18, 2026

Zion Lutheran Church
Phillipsburg, Kansas

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MISSION STATEMENT (Revised 10/20/01)

Zion Lutheran Church is a community of faith where God's grace, shared through Word and Sacrament, is the foundation of all we do.

Guided by the will of God,
we welcome all people to a positive
and caring environment.

We encourage spiritual, personal and educational growth to strengthen our faith and commitment to God. Called by God's grace to serve, we bear witness to our faith by sharing our resources with our local and global community.



2026 Zion Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda

January 18. 2026

I. Gathering		
a. Call to Order		
b. Devotions		
c. Minutes of Previous Meetings		Page 5
II. Reports		
a. Pastor Report		
i. Year End Ministry Report		Page 7
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iv. Message from Bishop Donna Simon		Page 17
b. PMA Andrea Keesee		Page 14
c. Congregation Council		Page 12
d. Disciples of the Plains Council		Page 11
e. Treasurer		Page 18
i. Income – All Accounts		Page 19
ii. Now Account Totals		Page 20
III. Teams / Committees		
a. Congregational Ministry		Verbal
b. Property		Page 21
c. Zion Trust Fund		Page 22
d. Worship and Music		Page 23
IV. Zion Women of the ELCA		
a. Ministry Report		Page 24
b. Financial Report		Page 25
V. Old Business		
a. Cemetery Mowing		
b. Chancel Alteration (Handrails near altar)		
c. Stewardship Volunteers		
d.		
VI. New Business		
a. Elections / Appointments		
i. Zion Council Members		
ii. Parish Council Member		
iii. Synod Assembly Delegates (June 6 ,2026 -Online)		
b. Resolutions		
i. Resolution One – 2026 Financial Goals		Pages 26-29
ii. Resolution Two – Thanksgiving for Service		Page 29
iii. Resolution Three – Thanksgiving for the Departed		Page 30
VII. Sending		
a. Prayer / Lord's Prayer		
b. Benediction		

Zion Lutheran Church

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2025

The Annual Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church was called to order by Council Representative Steven Rust at 12:30 pm on January 19, 2025. A total of 24 members signed the attendance roster, which was certified as a quorum. Andrea Keesee gave the liturgy.

Dennis Keesee made a motion to add items to the New Business section of the agenda. These items included voting for 2 congregation members to attend Synod Assembly, altar railing setup and stewardship volunteer discussion. Shellie Lare seconded the motion, and it carried. The minutes from the prior year's meeting were reviewed. Andrea Keesee moved to approve the prior year's minutes. Marci Rust seconded the motion, and it carried.

The Parochial Report was prepared by Cesha Rust in the absence of Pastor Lee. Shellie Lare made a motion to accept the report as presented. Sue Kipp seconded the motion, and it carried.

Steven Rust presented the report from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, as well as the report for the congregational council. Dennis Keesee, treasurer, presented the treasurer's report for 2024.

Committee reports were given for Education Ministry, Property, Trust Fund and Worship & Music. Melvin Grau indicated that he intends to retire from mowing the cemetery starting this year. Jeff Griffey stated he would continue to mow at the church and that Ricky and Sheila Solida had mentioned in the past that they would be willing to mow the cemetery. Christina Driggs also suggested her boys might be willing to do it. Jeff agreed to ask Ricky and Christina would ask her boys and then they would discuss and decide while keeping Melvin in the loop so he knew it would be taken care of.

Reports were reviewed from WELCA including their financial report.

Shellie Lare made a motion to approve all reports that had been presented. Nathaniel Grote seconded the motion, and it carried.

Reports regarding the Disciples of the Plains, including the council report, 2024 treasurer's report and 2025 budget were reviewed. Currently, the Parish budget is based on the presence of Pastor Lee since there are no other known alternatives at this time.

New Business

Doug Zillinger made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1 outlining the 2025 financial goals of the church. Sue Kipp provided the second and the motion carried.

2025 Mission focus was discussed briefly, but further discussion or any suggestions were tabled based on the congregation's unknowns at this time.

Sue Kipp made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2 which gives thanks for all who served and remembrance for those who have gone before. Doug Zillinger seconded the motion, and it carried.

Benny Bennight made a motion to accept the amendments to the Zion Constitution & Bylaws. Karin Patton seconded the motion. All voting members present at the meeting voted to accept the motion, providing more than the 2/3 needed.

Sue Kipp made a motion to nominate Andrea and Dennis Keesee to serve as Zion's representatives to the Synod Assembly in June. Nathaniel seconded the motion, and it carried.

Benny Bennight made a motion to leave the altar railings as they were set for this morning's worship, which was full fails on the north and west sides, but no rail on the south side of the altar. Marci Rust provided the second, and the motion was approved. In addition, Andrea Keesee asked if stair rails could be attached to the east wall behind the altar on both sides to assist in navigating the two tiers of the altar. Howard agreed to look in to this and get it done.

Dennis Keesee and Shellie Lare discussed the need to revisit stewardship volunteers, especially in light of the need to rely on lay persons while the congregation is without a dedicated pastor. They asked for two volunteers to head up new committees which would oversee doing and/or finding volunteers to do jobs associated with Worship, Visitation, Education, and Media. Shellie also put a call out to the congregation to think about being willing to serve in needed capacities for the congregation or being a liaison with other programs needing help that called upon the church to provide. Dennis Keesee and Christina Driggs agreed to lead the Worship committee, Nathaniel Grote and Benny Bennight agreed to lead the Education committee while Shellie Lare and Karin Patton agreed to lead the Visitation committee and Cesha Rust and Andrea Keesee agreed to lead the Media committee.

Shellie Lare nominated Marci Rust to take the spot being vacated by Steven Rust on council, while Dennis Keesee agreed to fulfill another term. Christina Driggs seconded the nomination, and it was approved.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Driggs
Secretary

DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS LUTHERAN MINISTRY

2025 Year End Pastor Report

Rev. Robert Lee Bennight

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners of Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry,

I am grateful that we have resumed ministry together. To all who supported the ministry of this parish and its congregations, my family, and my continuing recovery during my leave, I thank you. My health remains stable, and I continue maintenance therapies to help keep it that way. The opportunity to participate in a research study at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland early in 2025 has also been a key part in my recovery. In addition, I have rekindled running, which has always been an exercise that I have enjoyed, although a bit slower now. Our family has also discovered disc golf, which I really enjoy.

2025 was a challenging year. Pastor Kathy, PMA Andrea, and many parish members worked hard so that ministry in Christ's name continued in our communities. I know that it was also a challenging year financially for many of you given the uncertain future of the agricultural industry that is the backbone of our communities. This uncertainty, added to other challenges that is life in the Twenty-First Century, is the reality of our mission field in this time and place.

Because I was absent for much of 2025, I am focusing more on our future ministry together by structuring this report as a commentary on the responsibilities of a Word and Sacrament minister detailed in a pastoral letter of call in the ELCA. You extended a call to me over ten years ago, and because of medical leave requirements, extended one to me again in October. As I resume our ministry together, I am trying to prioritize duties to which you have called me and Pastor Kathy as defined in a letter of call. The letter of call begins:

We call you to exercise among us the ministry of Word and Sacrament which God has established and which the Holy Spirit empowers: To preach and teach the Word of God in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions...

Preaching is always both an honor and a challenge. The goal of preaching is to point to Christ who the Bible reveals, while also interpreting the Bible through the lenses of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. This is my goal in preaching, which I pray I succeed more times than I fail. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to continuing working towards this goal as we worship and look for Jesus revealed together.

PMA Andrea has done much work in the area of preaching and teaching during my leave. While she has not been in the pulpit since I have returned, she will resume preaching occasionally as she finishes her studies. The parents did a wonderful job in leading our confirmation class while I was on leave. I resumed preparing and leading confirmation classes as of mid-October. This year's class consists of seven students from Emmanuel and two from Zion. The students are a wonderful, eager, attentive, and faithful group.

PMA Andrea Keesee led a Bible study during Advent that replaced our Advent midweek services. The classes were well attended by members and others from the community. The classes met at the same time as confirmation classes during Advent. It was helpful not to have confirmation classes and midweek services right after each other as we have done in the past. We were neither rushed through our lesson plans nor scrambling to begin worship on time. For this upcoming Lent, we are considering something similar to what was done during Advent or moving midweek services to a different evening.

...to administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead us in worship...

I have resumed being the presiding minister at the Sunday services for Zion and Emmanuel, along with attempting to switch with Pastor Kathy on the second Sunday of every month in leading Saint John and American. Holy Communion is celebrated weekly at Zion and Emmanuel, which reflects the normative practice expressed in the Lutheran Confessions along with the congregation constitutions of both Zion and Emmanuel. The worship committees at both Zion and Emmanuel are faithful partners in worship preparation. While Zion and Emmanuel use different hymnals and may have different hymns each Sunday, we do plan in such a way that Zion and Emmanuel use the same liturgy settings each week. This helps not only with planning but with making bulletins. Liturgy settings are usually changed with each new season in the liturgical calendar.

I will resume leading worship services at Phillips County Retirement Center in January 2026. I will lead Holy Communion services with them when I am assigned to lead their Sunday services.

...to proclaim the forgiveness of sins...

This can be a challenge, too. Often, we only think about confession and forgiveness as the words we say before Sunday worship. And “sin” is a word that is sometimes poorly defined. We usually think of sins as specific actions we do or fail to do that go against what God has commanded. This definition is true, mostly, but sin is also more subtle and insidious than that.

Sin is also defined as a broken relationship between us and God and us with each other. This reality about sin in this way is harder to confess because it does not reflect direct sinful actions on our part but sinful relationships that keep us from a full relationship with God and each other. Sin is not simply an individual act but a communal responsibility.

When I run on Osage Road in Stuttgart, I see beer cans and litter all up and down it much of the time. I am not responsible for putting this litter there, so why should I confess or be penitent in picking it up? Because if we leave it there and fail to address it as a community, the litter will accumulate to the point that weeds will not be able to be mowed, and grass will overtake the road. And at some point, our relationship with that road will end because it will not be passable. This is a crude example of what it means to live in a state of sin even if our direct actions have not been sinful. The concept of rugged individualism valued in our American culture sometimes grates against this communal responsibility, but we cannot escape it. The Bible is filled with it. Even the Apostle Paul often used the plural of “you” when addressing his readers, which in English is easy to mistranslate and assume the singular.

So, in sin and forgiveness, we are in this together, but Jesus is also. Part of proclaiming the forgiveness of sins is to proclaim forgiveness that is ongoing as we live each day in repentance and renewal, confident in the future of a restored relationship with God and each other. And we have been freed by Christ to live in this restored relationship now, in this moment. A challenge for me and I hope for all of us is discerning how we are being called today to live in the forgiveness Christ’s brings that is continually renewing our relationships with God and each other in this time and place.

...to provide pastoral care...

So many of you stepped up to ensure that the sick and those unable to attend worship were visited and received Holy Communion regularly. This is such important work in two ways. First, it is a comfort for those being visited. Second, it is a reminder to us that our church life is not limited to inside four walls and one hour each week. And although I have resumed visitations, I hope that we will continue lay visitation in the future as part of our regular and continuing ministry, and not just something we do when the pastor cannot.

My goal is to bring Holy Communion to each shut-in at least once every month. This varies according to the number of unscheduled hospital visits or funerals that must occur, as well as the time of year. I also try to reach out to those who have not been in worship for a while. If there is someone you feel needs a pastoral visit, please contact me. With current laws that hospitals and care facilities must follow, I may not even be aware that someone has been hospitalized unless you tell me.

...to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed...

In these politically toxic times, it is easy to neglect this responsibility because simple acts of living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ are often judged only in partisan terms. We want to avoid the conflict that speaking and acting in this area will ignite, so we are tempted to avoid addressing controversial issues. Our generation is neither alone nor unique in these challenges.

The origins of the Bible and Jesus' entire ministry were shaped by political and social realities. But the Jesus that the Bible reveals to us is clear that being claimed as a follower of Christ means speaking for, and working on behalf of, those most vulnerable among us. How this mission is perceived in the fickle political labels of our day is neither anything we can change nor something that should blunt our zeal for Christ's work.

But what is especially challenging is when people of faith have conflicting perspectives about what "speaking" on behalf of the poor and oppressed as commanded by Jesus entails. Saying and doing what we think is right is much easier when we all have similar experiences and perspectives. But when those of us inside the four walls of the church building are in conflict, this is where it becomes difficult and potentially destructive to the grace-filled relationships God calls us to have for each other.

I feel we need to train ourselves so that when conflicts arise, we respond more with curiosity than judgment. In the Small Catechism, Martin Luther explains the commandment about bearing false witness against our neighbor (lying) to mean that we should always assume the best motives possible of others. And to assume the best motives possible of others, we must be curious and listen to what motivates them. The goal of this listening is to understand how another's perception was formed and to understand what has formed ours. We may still disagree, even strongly, but we will still honor the common humanity of each one of us who needs the grace of a loving God. Curiosity in the face of disagreement is a sharp departure from the values being encouraged today where hatred is the response to diverse perspectives and where we are goaded to reject the humanity of an entire people based on a few worst examples.

Tangible ways that this parish works on behalf of the most vulnerable are many. Zion and Emmanuel volunteers are vital to the work of the Phillips County Food Pantry. Zion, St. John, and American Women of the ELCA continue their ministry with care kits that go to those in need around the world and right here in the United States. The Phillipsburg Summer Lunch Program is made possible by community volunteer organizations who use Zion's kitchen. Our congregations also donate to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. I know St John does work with veterans, and that there are other ministries at St. John and American of which I am not fully aware.

We do not do this work perfectly or always agree with each other, but good news coming to the poor, sick, and oppressed is a sign Jesus specifically highlighted of the kingdom of God breaking into this time and place. It will not be stopped by our timidity, fear, or indifference. The Holy Spirit is calling us to bring good news in Christ's name to the most vulnerable among us. And if we do not do so because of whatever excuses, the Holy Spirit will not be timid in calling others who will.

...to encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel...

Our parish is blessed to have Ryan Bose from American who is answering the call to Word and Sacrament ministry and is currently studying at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. We are also blessed as Andrea Keesee from Zion is answering the call as a pastoral ministry associate and is currently completing her studies.

But the responsibility to prepare people for the ministry of the Gospel in the letter of call for a Word and Sacrament minister is not only, or even primarily, referencing recruitment of professional clergy. It is primarily

referencing you. Our Lutheran Confessions are clear that all are called to the ministry of the Gospel in a multitude of ways. Wherever you are – at the office, in the field, in the hospital room, in the school, in any labor – there the church is and there we bring Christ with us by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And although I was on leave for a good part of the year, it was wonderful to see how many of you stepped up so that the ministry of our parish continued. I encourage us now to build on that by helping each other see that God is calling each of us in unique ways that maybe you did not realize was ministry. And to see that the ministries outside the church walls are just as vital as those on the inside. You all are ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Wherever you go, the church is.

...to impart knowledge of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its wider ministry; to endeavor to increase support given to our congregation to the work of our whole church; to equip us for witness and service; and guide us in proclaiming God's love through word and deed.

We are Christ's Church in this place and this time, but we are not an isolated or private spiritual social club. Our roots in the Lutheran movement are 500 years old and our ministry as part of the church catholic (universal) has roots that extend to a time before even most countries and languages in Europe existed. And our roots extend throughout our country as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and across the seas as members of the Lutheran World Federation. And while disputes, challenges, and even schisms may arise, we are called to support and be accountable to one another.

We also need to acknowledge the help that the Central States Synod staff has given to support our ministry. I hear a common perception that the synod is some out-of-touch entity in the big city, an organization to work around instead of with. In my experience, both Bishop Emeritus Candea and now Bishop Simon deeply cares for and respect our ministry together.

The Central States Synod staff has an ongoing challenge of encompassing a large geographic area with very limited resources compared to other synods. Some synods have the benefit of twice as many staff with smaller geographic responsibilities. And even with these limitations and numerous congregations scattered across two states, our last two parish mission festivals were attended by synodical bishops. The synod staff guided us through my medical leave. Bishop Simon is also trying to find concrete ways the synod can assist with difficulties facing our farming communities and the mental health crisis these difficulties are fueling. Our congregations, parish, and synod are stronger supporting and being accountable to each other.

Therefore, be diligent in the study of Holy Scripture, in use of the means of grace, in prayer, in faithful service and in holy living.

A challenge for me and many pastors is in prioritizing time for studying the Bible, receiving the means of grace in the sacraments, and praying in ways that are not connected to pastoral duties. The temptation is to prioritize ministry and personal demands over these vital needs for all people of faith. But as it is for all God's people, we ignore these needs to our detriment. My goal in recovery and the future is to continue prioritizing these foundational Christian practices not because it is my "job", but it is what I, and everyone, need like air to breathe.

Being diligent in faithful service and holy living requires continual discernment about what is faithful and holy, two words that hold a variety of meanings in our society. My understanding is that faithful service and holy living are rooted in God's unmerited love in Christ, which is gifted to us in baptism and that challenges us to make the good news of God's love a reality to the most vulnerable among us. And like everyone, when I fail in always making Christ's call my reality, I rely on the unmerited grace of God embodied in the crucified and resurrected Christ and inspired by the gift of the Holy Spirit to restore faith and holy living to us all.

With this call, we pledge our prayers, love, esteem, and personal support for the sake of the ministry entrusted to you by God and for our ministry together in Christ's name.

By the grace of God, may we remain faithful to the ministry to which we have been mutually called as members of Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry congregations. May people in our communities know us because in us, and through us, Christ was made real for them.

Your Friend in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Lee Bennight". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "R" and "L".

Rev. Robert Lee Bennight, Co-pastor
Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry

DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS COUNCIL REPORT

2025 was a year of adapting and overcoming. The congregations did well to fill in during Pastor Lee's absence; stepping up to do their parts to keep church going. During our meetings, there was outstanding discussion among the Parish board about the matters at hand. Looking forward to 2026 and plan to handle all matters accordingly as we did last year.

Sincerely,
Brock Johnson
(Parish Council President)

2025 Congregational Council Report

The Zion Lutheran Church Council met monthly through 2025. Members included Nathaniel Grote, Shellie Lare, Dennis Keesee, Christina Driggs, Howard King and Pastor Lee.

Thank you to all who serve in our congregation.

To Pastor Kathy: Thank you for getting us through a trying time of unknown at the beginning of the year and then through the transition of calling Pastor Lee back to our congregation.

To Pastor Lee: We offer our prayers during this difficult time, and we offer continued prayers while you come back to our congregation. Thank you for your past and future contributions to the success of our church.

To Andrea Keesee: Thank you for your leadership and ministry during the time of unknown throughout this last year. We commend you for your continued studies in the Pastoral Ministry Associate Program.

To Marci Rust, WELCA President, and the women of Zion: Thank you for your efforts in organizing events, preparing meals and engaging in mission work.

To Melvin Grau, Jeff Griffey and Sheila Solida: we appreciate your ongoing commitment to maintaining the church lawn and cemetery.

To Jeff Griffey: Thank you for your service as chair of the Zion Trust Fund.

To Jean Ann Wagner: We are grateful for your continued dedication to providing music to our congregation.

To the Altar Guild, Ushers, Lay Led Leaders, Acolytes, Media Team and all other volunteers: We appreciate your invaluable contributions.

To Benny Bennight and other Volunteers: Thank you for your service at the Phillips County Food Pantry.

To Dennis and Andrea Keesee: Thank you for your dedicated service as Janitors.

To Karin Patton, Cheryl Keesee, Andrea Keesee and all other Volunteers: Thank you for going to PCRC and to see shut-ins and giving the sacrament on a consistent basis.

To all members of our congregation: Your spirit of generosity, support, and faithfulness continues to be the foundation of our church community. We deeply appreciate every act of kindness and service, both seen and unseen, that helps our church flourish year after year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathaniel Grote

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Phillipsburg, KS

2025 Parochial Report

	BAPTIZED	CONFIRMED
Membership as of 01/01/2025	143	115
Accessions:		
<i>Baptisms:</i>	0	0
<i>By Affirmation of Faith / Confirmation:</i>	0	2
• Drayden Simpson (05/04/2025)		
• Emerson Grote (05/04/2025)		
Discharges:		
<i>By Death:</i>	< 3 >	< 3 >
• Dean Dillion (01/03/2025) Bapt & Conf.		
• Charles Kearns (04/02/2025) Bapt & Conf.		
• Ivan Wagner (10/12/2025) Bapt & Conf.		
Statistical Adjustment: *	<1>	1
Membership as of 12/31/2025	139	115
Inactive Baptized / Confirmed Members:		<47>
TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTING MEMBERS		68
QUORUM NEEDED FOR ANNUAL MEETING:		7

First Communion: None

Marriages:

- Jordan King & Vanessa Mora (02/07/2025)

MEMBERSHIP TREND

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	2024	2025
Baptized	209	211	211	222	219	218	219	220	149	143	139
Confirmed	171	174	175	179	178	179	178	179	118	115	115

*Membership records were updated and entered into new software.

2025 Report in Ministry

Zion Lutheran Church & Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry

Andrea Keesee, PMA Candidate

Summary

As I reflect on the 2025 ministry year, I do so with deep gratitude and humility. This year was shaped by shared ministry, faithful presence, and a growing awareness of how God works most powerfully in ordinary, sometimes demanding, circumstances. Alongside my role as a PMA candidate, I continued to work a full-time, demanding job, serve as a wife and mother, and provide care for my aging mother. In the midst of these responsibilities, I witnessed again and again that God does not wait for perfect conditions to do holy work.

Throughout the year, worship, pastoral care, education, and outreach continued through collaboration between clergy, lay leaders, volunteers, and congregations. I had the privilege of serving in worship leadership, pastoral care, preaching, and teaching while continuing my theological formation through the PMA program. I remain deeply thankful for the congregations' support—financially, prayerfully, and through encouragement—which made this season of formation and ministry possible.

A Year Guided by Reverence

My guiding word for 2025 was Reverence. I chose this word as a way to stay grounded—filtering decisions, commitments, and daily ministry through attentiveness to God's presence. Reverence became a posture rather than a concept: slowing down enough to notice where God was already at work, especially in the midst of full schedules, caregiving responsibilities, and moments of fatigue. This grounding allowed me to carry what was asked of me not by striving, but by relying on the Holy Spirit.

Worship Life

Worship remained the heart of ministry this year. From January through September, I provided pulpit supply twice monthly and also led worship for Ash Wednesday, throughout Lent, and during Holy Week. Preaching in these seasons often drew from lived experience—speaking honestly about weariness, hope, repentance, endurance, and resurrection—because those themes were not abstract, but real for both the congregations and for me.

There were moments in preaching when the room felt particularly still—not because the words were polished, but because the Spirit was clearly present. Whether proclaiming Christ's transfiguration, walking with the congregation through Lent, or proclaiming resurrection hope, I was reminded that sermons are not performances; they are offerings. God met us there.

Joint parish worship, fifth-Sunday services, the Mission Festival, and live-streamed services for those unable to attend in person reinforced again and again that the church is not confined to a building, but lives wherever God's people gather around Word and Sacrament.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care was some of the most sacred work of the year. Many members faced illness, advanced age, hospitalization, or limited mobility. Visits to homes, hospitals, and nursing facilities became holy ground. In these quiet spaces—often without many words—God was deeply present through prayer, listening, anointing, Holy Communion, and simple companionship.

As a PMA candidate, I stepped into these moments alongside clergy and volunteers to ensure continuity of care. These encounters strengthened my sense of call to caregiving ministry and affirmed that faith is often most visible not in large gatherings, but in small rooms, whispered prayers, and faithful presence.

Education and Discipleship

Education and discipleship continued in both congregational life and in my own formation. Confirmation ministry resumed with the support of parents and volunteers, and youth at Emmanuel participated in Sunday education. In December, I facilitated an Advent Bible study, creating space for reflection, waiting, and hope during a season that mirrors much of our lived experience.

In 2025, I completed three PMA courses—Introduction to the Old Testament, The American Religious Experience, and Introduction to the New Testament. Studying scripture and theology while actively serving in ministry allowed learning and practice to inform one another in meaningful ways.

Outreach and Community Presence

Outreach this year often looked like steady faithfulness rather than large programs. Support for the Phillips County Food Pantry, Lutheran World Relief kits, disaster response, and local mission partners continued through the quiet dedication of many volunteers. These ministries reflect a congregation that understands compassion not as an event, but as a way of life.

Stewardship and Support

I am deeply grateful to the congregations and to the many brothers and sisters in Christ who supported my education through prayer, encouragement, and financial gifts. Balancing coursework, ministry, full-time employment, and caregiving would not have been possible without this shared support. I receive this generosity with humility and gratitude, recognizing it as an investment in the care of God's people.

Leadership and Lay Involvement

This year reinforced that ministry is always shared. Congregational councils, parish council members, committee leaders, and volunteers offered leadership marked by patience, adaptability, and faithfulness. Trust and collaboration sustained ministry during a season that required flexibility and grace.

Challenges and Transitions

The year was not without challenge. Health concerns for pastoral leaders, financial pressures, and questions about sustainability required careful discernment and honest communication. I witnessed the parish's commitment to transparency and prayerful decision-making, even when clear answers were slow to come. These moments invited deeper trust—in God and in one another.

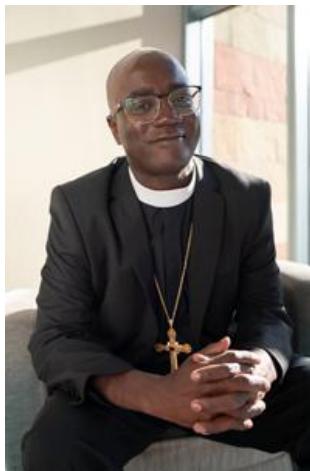
Looking Ahead: Hope and Vision

As I look ahead, I do so with hope rooted not in certainty, but in faith. Beginning in January, I will enter PMA Independent Study for Pastoral Care and Christian Caregiving, with Pastor Lee serving as facilitator and mentor. Additional coursework planned through 2026—Faith Formation and Lutheran Confessions/Theology—continues this path of preparation.

My vision moving forward remains shaped by reverence, faithful presence, and compassionate care. I trust that the God who met us in sermons, hospital rooms, kitchen tables, and quiet prayers this past year will continue to guide what comes next—for me, for this parish, and for the church we share.

CURRENT SYNOD, CHURCHWIDE, AND INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN LEADERS

About The Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA



The Rev. Yehiel Curry is the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Elected at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Ariz., on July 30, 2025, Presiding Bishop Curry began this role on Oct. 1, 2025.

Previously, he served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod, where he led a synod staff and 160 congregations by providing pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administering sacraments, and overseeing ordinations and installations. He was elected synod bishop in 2019 and reelected in spring 2025. During that time, he chaired the ELCA Conference of Bishops, fostering ecumenical relationships and theological engagement across the Lutheran communion.

Prior to his role as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Presiding Bishop Curry served as the mission developer (2007–2012) and pastor (2013–2019) of Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Riverdale, Ill. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He and his wife, LaShonda, are the proud parents of three daughters.

Presiding Bishop Curry is the successor to the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton who served two six year terms as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.



About The Rev. Donna Simon, Bishop of the Central States Synod

The Rev. Donna Simon was elected bishop of the Central States Synod at its assembly on June 7, 2025. Bishop Simon, served as pastor of St. Mark Hope and Peace Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Mo., since 2000 and as director for evangelical mission with the Central States Synod since 2016. Originally from California, she graduated from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkley, California.

Bishop Simon is the successor to the Rev. Susan Candea, who served one six-year term as bishop of the Central States Synod.

About Bishop Henrik Stubkjær, President of the Lutheran World Federation.



Bishop Henrik Stubkjær is the President of the LWF. He was elected at the Thirteenth Assembly in September 2023, in Kraków, Poland. He is the fourteenth person to serve in the position of president.

The President is the presiding officer of the Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee. He or she oversees LWF's life and work in consultation with the General Secretary. The Assembly elects the President to serve until the next Assembly.

President Stubkjær is an ordained pastor from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark where he serves as Bishop of the Viborg Diocese.

Stubkjær and his wife Karen Neergaard Stubkjær, a parish pastor, have four adult children.



FROM CENTRAL STATES SYNOD BISHOP DONNA SIMON

We are the Central States Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. What does it mean to be a synod of the ELCA? What does it mean to be the Central States Synod?

A synod is a geographical region within the larger denomination of the ELCA. There are 65 synods in the ELCA and we are the region that includes the entire states of Kansas and Missouri. That is a large geographic area that covers a diversity of landscapes from the plains of western Kansas to the rolling hills of mid-Missouri and Lake of the Ozarks, large urban areas in St. Louis and Kansas City, and again two very different states.

But more than geography, being a synod means that we walk together, not in spite of our diversity and large geography, but because together we give a stronger witness to the gospel and together we do the ministry of being the church, followers of Christ who love and serve God's world. Just as it is not really possible to be an individual Christian because being a follower of Christ means we are part of the body of Christ and therefore always part of a community, so it is not really possible to be individual congregations or ministries. We are in this, (being the church), together.

As the bishop of this synod, I invite us to be together focusing on two primary things, two emphases that are part of our whole culture of being together as the ELCA, Congregational Vitality, and leadership.

Congregational vitality (which applies to all our ministries, not just our "congregations") is about being followers of Jesus who are transformed by our relationship to God, our relationship to one another, and our relationship to the world. That is what it means to be church. It is not about protecting an institution or being part of a social club or hanging on to traditions to try and keep the chaos of the world from overwhelming us. It is about God and relationships. It is about the world that desperately needs to hear and experience gospel and grace. It is about being transformed and participating in God's transformation of the world. It is about purpose and mission. And it is challenging work in the midst of diminishing resources and a changing culture which is why we are in this together.

To do this challenging work of being the church together, of being synod and walking together, we need leaders, both rostered and lay, who can challenge and comfort us, who are courageous and compassionate, who are discerning and open to the ways in which the Spirit continues to work in and through us. In the midst of anxious systems, we need leaders who rely on the Spirit, not fear, to help us be the church today. As a synod we provide support and learning opportunities not just for rostered ministers but lay leaders as well, recognizing that leadership is not a role to which one is appointed, but the using of our gifts to equip and empower all the baptized.

As your Bishop I am committed to challenging each congregation and ministry to get clarity about their purpose and mission, to keep the central things central - our connection with God, each other and the world - and to challenge leaders to breath more deeply into their own spiritual wellspring, grow in their own discipleship so that we can walk together as God's people in this place and time. What a gift to be given this challenge, this opportunity, to participate in what the Spirit is up to in this time and this place. So let's keep walking together and see what adventures await!

The Rev. Donna Simon, Bishop
Central States Synod, ELCA

Zion Lutheran Treasurer's Report 2025

Dear Members of Zion:

At the beginning of 2025, the account balances in the Zion Lutheran Church Accounts were as follows.

Date:	January 1, 2025
General Fund Checking	\$8,632.98
Now Account Checking	\$44,350.97
Zion Trust Fund Checking	\$5,719.47
Luther League	\$1,004.84
Pack 3231	\$2070.11
Certificate # 40145 HV	\$3,000.00
Certificate #40524 LM	\$7,070.63
Certificate #16078 KL	\$12,984.27
Total:	\$169,416.18

The year-end totals for 2025 are as follows.

Date:	December 31, 2025
General Fund Checking	\$16,215.05
Now Account Checking	\$49,568.53
Zion Trust Fund Checking	\$7,507.17
Luther League	\$859.84
Pack 3231	\$2070.11
Certificate # 40145 HV	\$3,000.00
Certificate #40524 LM	\$7,070.63
Certificate #16078 KL	\$13,252.85
Parsonage Certificate #21124	\$87,784.50
Total:	\$187,328.68

Expenditures of \$59,348.49 were distributed from the General Fund Checking account. Of this amount, we had expenditures of \$1007.40 through the pre-paid expense accounts.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Keesee, Treasurer

2025 INCOME REPORT

Current	\$65,109.38
Lent	\$105.00
Ash Wednesday	\$205.00
Easter	\$400.00
Christmas	\$505.00
Advent	\$100.00
Initial	\$135.00
2025 Total Income	\$66,559.38

Notes:

*We had \$1007.40 of Prepaid Income also run through the general checking account. Zion had a NET Revenue \$8218.29 run through the general checking account. *- There is also \$10000 in the NOW Account for excess current to use in 2026 if needed.*

Zion Lutheran Church
NOW ACCOUNT TOTALS
2025

DATE	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1028	Undesignated Gifts	\$3,032.52	
1029	Library	\$601.58	
1051	Armstrong Foundation Gift	\$6,145.67	
1081	Special Maintenance	\$1,613.51	
1083	Money Market Interest	\$1,012.64	
1098	Cemetery Maintenance	\$3,609.60	
1116	Lizzie Miller 40524	\$496.17	
1137	Harold Beckman Memorial	\$1,695.52	
1138	Howard & Marie Vogel	\$3,335.11	
1141	Bob Lamp Sr. Memorial	\$863.00	
1193	Kinter Land Sale	\$2,878.72	
1208	- Thrivent Funds	\$636.74	
1209	- Excess Current	\$10,000.00	
1211	- Andy Zillinger Memorial	\$1,350.00	
1217	- Midweek Zion Meal	\$342.75	
1224	- Laverne Merklein Memorial	\$1,470.00	
1225	- Burnell Goll Memorial	\$1,850.00	
1226	- Larry Ott Memorial	\$485.00	
1227	- Dettmer Memorial	\$300.00	
1228	- Charitable Gifts	\$6,050.00	
1229	- Ivan Wagner Memorial	\$1,800.00	
TOTAL		\$49,568.53	

Property Team Report 2025

The water line on 7th Street has left a mark upon our Church property. Time will tell how it heals up. The water crew severed the cables controlling the sprinkler system on the west side of the sidewalk. The straw covering and the rocks will be a problem until the grass gets a new stand so if anyone needs something to do, bring a bucket and pick-up rocks from the yard. I already have a couple of piles started! Thanks to Tamera and Jeff for all the work they put into the church yard. Sheila and Ricky, along with Melvin took care of the cemetery mowing and weed eating. Melvin could really use some help with the weed eating in the future. Many thanks to whoever moves the snow at the church. I know that Pat, Jerry and Ricky are a few of those that are responsible.

The carpet was replaced around the altar and the kneeling rail was changed to make more room getting around the lectern and the pulpit. It also allowed the piano to be relocated to the south side of the pulpit. The Formica on the altar has been glued back down. The NE door knob on the sacristy was also replaced after many years of not working very well. A handrail was installed behind the altar.

We still have plenty of projects to work on around our church home: bell tower, electricity to the sign, finish painting the windows behind the sacristy and the two panels on the south side of the church along with some plaster and paint on the west side of the staircase going upstairs. Midwest Energy wants to get rid of the ladder we us to change the light bulbs in the chapel so Jerry K. is going to store it in his shop. I believe we are the only group who have used the ladder in the past 15 years!

We needed to repair some of the lights on the Nativity scene so we went with LED. Only problem was they were very bright compared to the older more yellow bulbs. All of them have been converted to LED so there will be no yellow bulbs in the star.

I am completing my 6 year on council and I must step down as per the rules. I will continue to help whomever takes over the Property Committee. It is not my intention to forget to mention anyone who has helped with taking care of the church over the past years so here is a THANK YOU to those who are not mentioned above!

Sincerely,
Howard D. King

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH TRUST FUND 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Members of Zion,

I am pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report for the Zion Lutheran Church Trust Fund. The past year has been a successful one for trust, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the committee alongside Dennis Deschner, Christina Dettmer, and Dennis Keesee. We also appreciated the guidance and support of Pastor Lee, who served as a non-voting member and trusted advisor

Throughout the year, the committee met regularly to review grant applications and monitor the financial health of the trust. I am pleased to report that the Trust Fund achieved a positive return of 8.24%, reflecting the effective stewardship and investment management provided by First National Bank and Trust, particularly amid a challenging economic environment.

In terms of financial performance, the Trust Fund had a carryover balance of \$7451 from 2025 and distributed a substantial \$10,875 in 2026, leaving the Trust Fund with \$18,326 to allocate towards 2026 projects.

In 2025, the committee approved the following grants:

- Zion College scholarships 2 students) - \$4,000
- Lutheran Disaster Response (Texas flood) - \$2,000-
- Sanctuary Carpet (\$2,322)

Total: \$8,822

We are proud to have supported these worthy causes and extend our sincere thanks to the members of Zion for their continued generosity and support.

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to faithful stewardship and service, and we are optimistic about the future of the Trust Fund. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to the trust's success over the past year and look forward to another year of meaningful impact and service to our mission.

Sincerely,
Jeff Griffey

2025 Worship and Music Committee Report

Zion's Worship and Music Committee members are Jean Ann Wagner, Marci Rust, Janet McCall, Andrea Keesee, and Pastor Lee. The committee meets to choose the hymns for each worship service and to evaluate different liturgies.

Our worship services are enriched with the music provided by Jean Ann Wagner and we would like to thank her for sharing her musical gifts with us. We would also like to thank those who have provided special music this past year.

We continue to stream our worship services. We know some of our members who aren't able to join us in person rely on this ministry.

On 5th Sundays we have joint services with Emmanuel, alternating locations.

The parish Mission Festival service with potluck was hosted at Zion. Bishop Donna Simon joined us for the day. Pastor Kathy and Bishop Simon attended seminary together and we celebrated the 25th anniversary of their ordination.

Andrea Keesee lead Wednesday evening Advent devotions with attendees from Zion and Emmanuel.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the worship life of Zion.

Marci Rust, Council Rep

Zion Lutheran Church 2025 WELCA Report

The women of Zion decided to once again work to assemble baby layette kits, personal care kits, and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Many items were donated, baby quilts made, and other items purchased to complete the kits. We completed 50 school kits, 40 personal kits, and 16 baby layettes. A lot of effort went into kits. A big thank you to Janet McCall for the time she spent organizing all the items donated and to be purchased.

We donated a \$200 assortment of pork and beef to the Hospice Auction.

In May we hosted a confirmation reception for Emerson Grote and Drayden Simpson.

We decided not to hold a fundraiser this year due to conflicts in schedules.

In December we met to make decisions about our Christmas gifts. We gave to Oaks Indian Mission, Phillips County Food Pantry, Lutheran World Relief, Foundation, and Pastor Lee.

Marci Rust, President

2025 WELCA Financial Report

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

Checking Account

Beginning Balance		\$856.18
Deposits		
"Thank you" Deposits	400.00	
LWR Donations	627	
Welca Thank Offering	80.00	
Transfer from Savings	750.00	
Total Deposits:		\$1,857.00
Disbursements:		
Whites Foodliner	82.60	
Hospice Meat Donation	200.00	
HELP Foundation (2024)	330.00	
Confirmation Cakes	53.99	
LWR Kit Items	248.07	
HELP Foundation (2025)	330.00	
Gifts to others	400.00	
Oaks Indian Mission	200.00	
LWR Donation	200.00	
Central States WELCA	200.00	
Thank Offering	80.00	
Total Disbursements:		2,324.66
Balance as of 01/07/2026		\$338.52
Saving Account		
Beginning Balance:		\$1,595.99
Deposits:	Interest	\$1.59
Disbursements:	Transfer to Checking	\$750.00
Balance as of 01/07/2026		\$847.58

Report by Ceshalyn Rust

Zion 2026 Financial Goal

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
CHURCH & HOME			
5551-Church Water	\$1,050.00	\$1,038.14	\$1,100.00
5552-Telephone	\$550.00	\$531.12	\$550.00
5553-Church Gas	\$1,500.00	\$1,903.00	\$2,000.00
5554-Church Electric	\$1,800.00	\$1,658.45	\$1,800.00
5555-Custodian	\$5,700.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,700.00
5556-Custodial Supplies	\$300.00	\$211.39	\$300.00
5557-Church Insurance	\$6,500.00	\$6,475.75	\$7,000.00
5567-Church Pest Control	\$800.00	\$730.00	\$800.00
5558-Church Maintenance	\$500.00	\$378.62	\$500.00
5568-Internet	\$900.00	\$924.00	\$950.00
5569-Website	\$205.00	\$204.00	\$205.00
5570-Lawn	\$750.00	\$131.25	\$750.00
5571-Surveillance	\$1,218.00	\$1,218.00	\$1,218.00
CHURCH TOTAL	\$21,773.00	\$20,403.72	\$22,873.00
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE			
5231-Lutheran Publications	\$300.00	\$288.00	\$300.00
5234-Congregational Life	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
5275-Fellowship Meals	\$100.00	\$166.31	\$100.00
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TOTAL	\$500.00	\$454.31	\$500.00
MISC EXPENSES			
5331-Synod Assembly Expense	\$825.00	\$831.94	\$300.00
5332-Synod Assembly Offering	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
5335-Safety Deposit Box Rent	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$12.50
5337-Miscellaneous Expense	\$100.00	\$66.95	\$100.00
MISC EXPENSES TOTAL	\$1,012.50	\$986.39	\$487.50
OFFICE EXPENSE			
5251-Secretary	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
5252-Office Equip Purchase	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
5253-Office Supplies	\$750.00	\$322.97	\$500.00
5254-Postage	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
5255-Computer Software	\$420.00	\$546.99	\$600.00
5256- Maintenance (Copier)	\$500.00	\$481.51	\$500.00
OFFICE EXPENSE TOTAL	\$2,620.00	\$1,351.47	\$2,550.00
OUR MISSION TO OTHERS			
5276- Compassion International	\$516.00	\$473.00	\$516.00
5011-Central States Benevolence	\$8,100.00	\$4,745.84	\$8,100.00
5237-Emergency Outreach	\$500.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
5236-Missions & Memberships	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
OUR MISSION TO OTHERS TOTAL	\$9,316.00	\$5,468.84	\$9,316.00
PARISH EDUCATION			
5272-Vacation Bible School	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
5273-Confirmation & First Communion	\$250.00	\$157.71	\$200.00
5274-Adult Education	\$200.00	\$201.92	\$200.00
PARISH EDUCATION TOTAL	\$750.00	\$359.63	\$700.00
STEWARSHIP			
5311-Offering Envelopes	\$150.00	\$145.23	\$100.00

Zion 2026 Financial Goal

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
5312 - Membership Software	\$432.00	\$0.00	\$-00
STEWARDSHIP TOTAL	\$582.00	\$145.23	\$100.00
WORSHIP AND MUSIC			
5210-Worship Materials	\$500.00	\$226.75	\$500.00
5212-Festival & Religious Occasions	\$100.00	\$135.73	\$150.00
5214-Piano And Organ Maint.	\$300.00	\$180.00	\$300.00
5215- Organist	\$650.00	\$215.00	\$650.00
WORSHIP AND MUSIC TOTAL	\$1,550.00	\$757.48	\$1,600.00
DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS			
5000-Disciples of the Plains	\$36,057.60	\$28,414.02	\$38,031.12
DISCIPLES OF THE PLAINS TOTAL	\$36,057.60	\$28,414.02	\$38,031.12
Total Expenses	\$74,161.10	\$58,341.09	\$76,157.62

Disciples of the Plains

2026 Proposed Budget

	Pastor Lee	Pastor Kathy	Total
Pastor Salary	\$ 51,556.00	\$ 46,778.00	\$ 98,334.00
FICA	\$ 4,704.75	\$ 4,311.27	\$ 9,016.02
Pension	\$ 8,776.68	\$ 7,969.92	\$ 16,746.60
Health	\$ 19,109.04	\$ 19,750.84	\$ 38,859.88
Continuing Ed	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 3,200.00
Phone	\$ 480.00	\$ 480.00	\$ 960.00
 Utilities			\$ 4,800.00
Mileage			\$ 18,000.00
Synod Assembly			\$ 1,000.00
Bishop Convocation			\$ 1,000.00
Pulpit Supply			\$ 3,000.00
Insurance			\$ 1,900.00
Youth Events			\$ 400.00
Gen. Operations			\$ 3,000.00
 Total			\$ 200,216.50
1/2 of total			\$ 100,108.25

	American	Emmanuel	St. John	Zion	Total
Avg. attendance	44	42	68	23	177
% of total attend.	24.86%	23.73%	38.42%	12.99%	

	American	Emmanuel	St. John	Zion
Monthly Pmt	\$ 4,159.50	\$ 4,065.23	\$ 5,290.72	\$ 3,169.26

To figure monthly payment: Half of the total budget is shared equally, and the other half is figured based on the percentage of total attendance.

2026 Resolutions

Resolution No. 1 **Adoption of Proposed Financial Goal**

Whereas, the proposed financial goal for Zion Lutheran Church for 2026 has been assembled by the Congregational Council, taking into account all the pertinent and available data and information, and

Whereas, the proposed financial goal for 2026 is an accurate representation of the funds deemed necessary to adequately carry out the mission of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church and to provide for the care and upkeep for the buildings and grounds of the congregation during the coming year, and

Whereas, the proposed financial goal has been made available to the membership of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church for review and study through publication in the 2025 Annual Report booklet; therefore,

Be It Resolved, that the voting membership of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, assembled in the regular 2026 Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026, adopts the proposed financial goal for 2026 as it is printed.

Resolution No. 2 **Thanksgiving**

Whereas, so many members and friends of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Phillipsburg, Kansas have labored with great dedication to fulfill the mission and ministry of this congregation during the past year by serving in many capacities, and

Whereas, Nathaneil Grote and Howard King have served faithfully on the Congregational Council;

Be It Resolved, that we give all those who have served in any capacity a tremendous vote of thanks and gratefully acknowledge that every contribution of time, talent, or treasure, whether large or small, is important to the life of this congregation, and

Be It Further Resolved, that those forgotten be assured that this seeming neglect is unintentional. Although human eyes and memories are imperfect, God knows the service you have rendered in God's name and will bless your efforts on behalf of the Kingdom of God.

"And whatever you do in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him"

Colossians 3:17

Resolution No. 3

Faith and Hope

Whereas, the lives of Dean Dillion, Charles Kearns, Ivan Wagner, were part of the life and ministry of Zion Lutheran Church, and

Whereas, Dean, Charles, and Ivan died in the year 2025, and

Whereas, we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection;

Be It Resolved, that we give thanks to God for the lives of Dean, Charles, and Ivan, and entrust them to the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and

Be It Further Resolved, that we will strive to remember, pray, and support the families of Dean, Charles, and Ivan as the Holy Spirit guides, and

Be It Further Resolved, that if any person who should have been mentioned in this resolution and was not, or others who have died that are family of Zion members, we also entrust to Christ and will strive to remember, pray, and support their families.

This resolution is adopted as the 2026 Congregation Meeting sings:

Baptized in Water



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust-ing his
tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Saward, b. 1932
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
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