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**GOOD THINGS FROM ZION**

July 2023



**July helpers**

Cleaner—TJ and Lacey

Usher—Charlie/Gail

Lector—Charlie/Diane

Communion Asst.—Carol

Acolyte—open

Zion Lutheran Church  
589 County Rd. 13  
Ithaca, NE 68033

**Navi-**

**Go and...**

At the Nebraska Synod Assembly in June, a theme for the year was introduced...Go and...

It comes from the gospels where Jesus repeatedly tells his disciples “go and...” In the great commission, he tells them to go and make disciples, teach, and baptize. Here is a graphic with each month’s focus:



We’ll be a month off since I didn’t get us started in June, but that’s OK. They’re really things we can do any time anyway. For the rest of July we will focus on Go and pray. Prayer is at the heart of Christian mission. Everything we do arises from our prayer. There are some prayer suggestions on the insert of this newsletter...some from the Synod resources and some I’ve used. Please take time this month to especially focus on your prayer life.

Christ’s Peace,

*Pastor Kris*

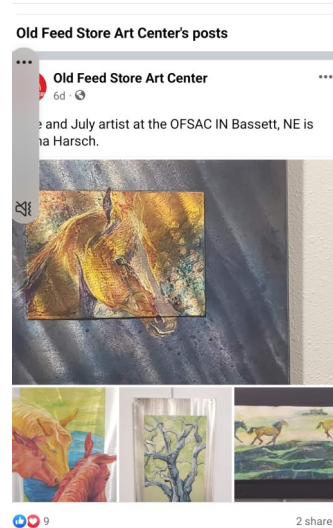
## ***Bethlehem/Zion Travels***

### **Janna Harsh—Bethlehem**

**Basset**—Traveled to Bassett, NE and back in one day to hang an art show at The Old Feed Store Gallery. Almost 50 pieces which will be there through July. Closing reception is Friday July 28 from 5 to 7 pm. If you're looking for a cool trip, there's an option.

By the way (Pr. Kris here) you can find the Old Feed Store Gallery on Facebook to see Janna's show and an interview with her. <https://www.facebook.com/oldfeedstore>

To the right is a screenshot of one of their posts:



### **Theresa Lackey—Bethlehem**

#### **St. Joseph, MO**

Visited St. Jo, Missouri and learned about the outlaws, Frank and Jesse James. Their house is still standing and has been turned into a museum.

### **Virg Unverferth—Bethlehem**

#### **June Travels**

In June, I have made numerous trips up to my family farm and local community of Hooper. It's always nice to return to the places we grew up in to see what things are the same and what has changed. Some of the places will never feel the same without my dad in them, but my memories of dad in those spots, do warm my heart. He is now buried in the Danish cemetery that his mom and dad helped to clean up in 1948 when they had their first of 2 stillbirth sons. They used hand shears to cut the grass then and up until the end, my dad was mowing it with his Zero turn mower. It's a beautiful spot on a hill with farmland surrounding it and my brother and nephew will continue to maintain it.

I also traveled to Hebron, Grand Island, Nebraska City, Cozad, North Platte, Columbus, and York for my work. I always enjoy seeing the people from in and around these small communities. They take me back to my roots and ground me as farm and small town people just have special qualities that I relate to. Unfortunately, not all crops have looked to be thriving, but we will continue to pray for God's sweet rains. One of the things I have done for my mom is emptying the stainless steel bowls she uses to collect rainwater from the gutters. I'm now collecting rainwater in an ice cream bucket and have almost 10 gallons to use on my plants and vegetables. Anybody else do that??

## ***Calendar***

### ***Calendar***

**Worship is livestreamed to the church YouTube channel. You can find the link to that and the bulletin on our website: [Online Worship](#)**

<b>July 2</b>	9:00 am—Worship with Holy Communion
<b>July 9</b>	9:00 am—Worship
<b>July 16</b>	9:00 am—Worship
<b>July 23</b>	9:00 am—Worship
<b>July 30</b>	9:00 am—Worship

### ***Travels—continued***

#### **Cathy Hartshorn—Zion**

Dave and I, Rick and Rhonda and mom went to Rockford Illinois for a family reunion. We met up with my cousin who lives there and his family. My cousin and his wife from Texas came and my aunt and cousin from Lincoln were there. We have tried to get together for the last couple of years but Covid put a stop to it. I guess God's presence would be we finally made it happen and we all had safe travels.

#### **Carol Mintzmeyer—Zion**

**Oklahoma**—This is the only good picture I took when we were in Oklahoma. We were enjoying an evening at Thunderbird Lake which is outside of Norman. Oklahoma has a really beautiful and diverse landscape. I always pictured Oklahoma as dust bowl, but in fact, the vegetation was so lush and green there that as we drove home it made it really obvious that Nebraska is in a drought. Lots of dead trees, brown grass, short crops. It was night and day.



#### **Pastor Kris**

**Sweden**—besides Stockholm, we visited the part of Sweden my dad's ancestors are from. It was cool looking at all the farms and imagining what those immigrants were thinking when they settled in Kearney County Nebraska and the hopes and dreams they must have had. And they brought their Lutheran faith with them, which we inherited.

The Swedes were very friendly and helpful...a good reminder that no matter where they live, people mostly want to be helpful and welcoming. One friendly Swede in particular helped us when we were panicking over how to find our bus to Linköping.

## ***Go and...pray***

Some prayer ideas:

- ⇒ What is happening in your neighborhood? Your community? How can you pray for the people in your neighborhoods and communities?
- ⇒ What's going on in the news? When you read something upsetting, stop, breathe, and ask God to help you stay grounded...to know what you can do to help and how you can pray for the situation whether you can do anything else or not
- ⇒ When you read something joyful in the news, pause to say a prayer of thanks.
- ⇒ Pray for the congregation and its people—if you don't have a directory or contact list, we'll get you one
- ⇒ Pray for elected leaders. Pray for guidance as you vote and interact with your elected leaders
- ⇒ Advocacy is a form of prayer—write a letter to an elected leader about something you care about. They do read them
- ⇒ Go for a walk on a country road, a park, a nature preserve or hiking trail. Notice all the sensations—the breeze, the ground beneath your feet, smells, sounds. Just noticing is a prayerful activity—no words necessary. But you can also offer a prayer for the well-being of creation

### **Footprint prayer**

Go for a walk anywhere and notice any footprints, human or animal—pray for the owner of the footprints



or