

Dear Pastoral Candidate,

As we have recently chosen to leave the ELCA and become affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, we find ourselves reaching out to prospective pastoral candidates. We do not know who God has intended for us, nor do we know the path the Holy Spirit has for you. As not to hinder His work, we would like to introduce ourselves to everyone currently seeking a call through LCMC.

We are a rural congregation devoted to our church, congregation, and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Since our affiliation with the LCMC, we are growing stronger as a congregation and currently seeking strong leadership. Zion Lutheran Church Trego Center is located in the middle of Trego County, Kansas, 10 minutes south of the city of WaKeeney. Our location places us along Kansas I-70 halfway between Denver and Kansas City.

Expectations of Our New Pastor –

The following is a summarized list of expectations, but is not to be considered all-encompassing and is listed in no particular order. Expectations are, but not limited to:

Preach and Lead Services –

- Preach and teach the Word of God from the Holy Bible
- Deliver sermons that are relatable to our daily lives
- Teach and explain the intricacies and details of scripture in a way we can understand them
- Avoid social and political perils of today's world
- Participate in the Christian education of all ages
 - May delegate responsibilities to volunteers in the church
- Work with the Council's worship and music committees to prepare appropriate worship services

Pastoral Care –

- Perform weddings, baptisms, and funerals as needed
- Provide short-term pastoral counseling upon request
- Be available and responsive to crisis situations

- Provide pastoral care through the most effective means possible
- Visit and minister to members and prospective members in homes, nursing care facilities, and hospitals
- Implement ministries that reach the “unchurched”, inactive members and new area residents of our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
- Have character that exhibits the qualities outlined in the LCMC code of ethics
- Have the ability to relate to individuals with compassion, sensitivity, honesty, candor, and confidence

Administration –

- Ensure clear communication between the council, staff, and congregation
- Maintain accurate parochial records
- Perform office duties
- Take pride in the church building, parsonage, and surrounding grounds

Youth –

- Provide leadership to build and grow a youth program
- Lead and support confirmation classes

The Church –

Zion Lutheran Church Trego Center, previously known by other forms of the name, was founded in 1905 by the Volga Germans of this area. The current church building was built in 1920 and is located at the approximate geographic center of Trego County, Kansas, which is 9 miles south of the city of WaKeeney.

Our church property includes the church itself, a nearby parsonage, and a church cemetery that is located about ½ mile south of the parsonage on US Highway 283. Inside the church building, we have a traditional sanctuary with a beautiful altar, stained glass windows, choir loft, piano, and organ. The basement is fully finished and includes a full kitchen which is used for serving a variety of events. The ground level consists of restrooms and the pastor’s office. An elevator was installed in 2012 to provide full access to members not wishing or able to use the stairs.

The well-maintained parsonage, built in 1954, is located across the yard from the church. The parsonage is approximately 1600 square feet on the main level and features two bedrooms, den, one full bath, stove, refrigerator, and is currently being updated, with fresh paint, new carpet, etc. The home has a partially unfinished basement with one bedroom, one full bath, large open room, and a separate storage room. There is also an attached one car garage.

One-half mile south of the parsonage is the church cemetery; A well-groomed final resting place for Zion members and their families.

Six congregation members, elected to 3-year terms, represent members on the church council. The council meets routinely once per month, more frequently as needed, and has a member representative on the ministerial alliance committee that represents the various churches in Trego County. Zion has an active women's group which meets monthly. Our ladies enjoy Christian fellowship, work together on church events, and complete numerous service projects each year.

Our congregation recently, in 2023, chose to leave our relationship with Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and have become affiliated with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. Our current weekly service is on Sunday mornings, with an average attendance of 32-34 people, which is an increase over that of recent years. Communion is served on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, if applicable, of each month. Zion has a membership of 167 members, with about 2/3 of them living outside of Trego County. We are looking forward to building our church membership and reestablishing some programs.

We take great pride in being a friendly, welcoming church family for our members and guests. We are located in the middle of the county with open prairie all around. This is the perfect, peaceful setting on the High Plains of Western Kansas to enjoy the magnificent sunrises and sunsets, as easily as looking out your window.

The Area -

WaKeeney is the county seat of Trego County, Kansas, with a countywide population of approximately 2,100 residents. The city of WaKeeney has a population of about 1,750 people. WaKeeney is located halfway between Kansas City and Denver along I-70, where it intersects with US Highway 283.

Trego County is the home of the Trego Community Golden Eagles. The school system consists of two modern school buildings, which serve approximately 400 students. The elementary and middle school classes are contained in one spacious building, with grades K-5 housed in one wing, and grades 6-8 in a separate wing. The large playground provides a variety of activities for all levels of students. Class sizes are between 15 and 20 students, which allows the classroom teachers and staff to spend more time with students on an individual basis.

Trego Community High School is a modern building composed of grades 9-12, with a current enrollment of around 110 students. With smaller class sizes, students have the opportunity to interact with teachers on a more personal level and receive extra attention when needed. With smaller numbers, students are also provided the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Friday night football and basketball games are a community event. In addition to those sports, there is a wide variety of other athletic teams, some of which are wrestling, golf, tennis, volleyball, cross country, track, and trap shooting. Students can also participate in organizations such as Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Future Farmers of America (FFA), Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), National Honor Society, Forensics, Band, Dance, Cheer, Science Club and numerous other organizations and activities.

Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital, their mission is "Touching lives with compassion and commitment to excellence." The hospital is a 25-bed critical access health care facility and provides outstanding emergency services, as well as inpatient and outpatient services. The south wing of the hospital building includes a 37-bed long term care unit and a 6-unit assisted living quarters complex. The hospital dietary department has the capability to deliver meals to home bound individuals requiring special dietary needs. The hospital is currently undergoing an extensive remodeling and expansion project. The WaKeeney Family Care Center, located on the north end of the hospital, is fully staffed with physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, etc. The clinical services are aimed to fulfill all of your family's medical needs. One important service provided by the clinic is the convenient, walk-in hours each week day morning.

WaKeeney is home to a great Recreation Center, which includes many exercise machines and a full program of free weights. There is a full-sized tennis court, with pickle ball nets and a basketball goal available. The Recreation Center organizes numerous athletic opportunities for our youth. It is really a state of the art, full-service center, which enhances our small community.

We are a rural community full of heart and community pride, also known throughout Kansas as “Christmas City of the High Plains.” For over 70 years, every Christmas season, city workers assemble a 35-foot Christmas tree in the main intersection of the down town area, with additional lights and garlands covering a 4-block area. People drive to WaKeeney from all over to enjoy the annual tree lighting ceremony held on the Saturday evening of Thanksgiving weekend. WaKeeney offers an outstanding nine-hole golf course, library, and well provided Trego County Historical Society Museum.

Some of our most popular assets are our city parks. There are 4 municipal parks located throughout the community, in addition to 4 baseball and softball diamonds, and a wide variety of children’s playground equipment. Perhaps the number one attraction is our water park, which includes a water slide, diving board, basketball goal, and large overhead sprinkler. Lap swimming and water aerobics are offered as alternative swimming activities for the older generation! The WaKeeney Tornado Swim Team has over 40 participants, currently.

Trego County also includes Cedar Bluff Reservoir/State Park, located along the Smoky Valley Scenic Byway. Anyone interested in camping, hiking, fishing, bird watching, boating, and generally enjoying the outdoor experience, can find plenty to do at Cedar Bluff any time of the year. There are many camping spots with both water and electrical hookups, plenty of space to dry camp, and 3 cabins available for those who enjoy the outdoors from inside, with some of the comforts of home.

About a 15-minute drive to the west of WaKeeney, is Shiloh Vineyard and Winery, offering a lovely view of the prairie. The vineyard/winery also serves a variety of Kansas cheeses to go with their locally created wines. It is a really nice way to spend an afternoon or evening. If you travel a bit further to the west, along this great drive, you will find Castle Rock, Monument Rocks National Landmark, and Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park. Many enjoy these 2 attractions for hiking, hunting shark’s teeth - that were left long ago, watching wildlife, and simply being outside.

If you are up for an adventure that takes you an hour or so from town, there are many things to be found in all directions. If you take fishing and/or hunting seriously, you are in the right place in Northwest Kansas. The nearest, larger town, Hays, is about a 30- minute drive from WaKeeney. Hays has a population of approximately 21,100 residents and is home of Fort Hays State University. Due to their larger population and

city size, you will find more shopping and dining options available. Hays also is home to the world-famous Sternberg Museum of Natural History and the Fort Hays State Historical Site.

For those that are a little curious and like a little adventure, Northwest Kansas has a lot to offer that is off the beaten path. Find out more about our area through any of the links below.

[Castle Rock](#)

[Northwest Kansas Travel](#)

[Cedar Bluff State Park](#)

[Smoky Hill Scenic Byway](#)

[Get WaKeeney](#)

[Trego Community Schools; USD 208](#)

[Little Jerusalem State Park](#)

[Trego County Lemke Memorial Hospital](#)

[Monument Rocks National Landmark](#)

[Trego County, Kansas](#)

[Visit Kansas I-70 Association](#)

The Zion Lutheran Church Trego Center Call Committee would welcome an opportunity to discuss further the strengths of our church, our community, and to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for considering this opportunity and Zion Lutheran Church Trego Center! *Note – Our vetting process will include several background checks, to include, but not limited to: criminal, employment, and references.* Please send your cover letter and resume to:

Mailing –

Zion Lutheran Church Trego Center

27001 US Hwy 283

WaKeeney, Ks 67672

Email –

Ziontrego283@outlook.com