

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH TAKING FAITH HOME

A time for new beginnings....

NEW YEAR'S BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your New Year's celebration.

Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 Psalm 8	A time for everything Divine majesty and human dignity
Friday	Revelation 21:1-6a Matthew 25:31-46	A new heaven and earth Parable of final judgment

JANUARY 1, 2021
NEW YEAR'S EVE,
NEW YEAR'S DAY



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

What are some of your mountain highs and valley lows from 2020?

What are some of your hopes and dreams for 2021?

Our future is in God's hands. How does this affect your thoughts about the future?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-6a.

The new year is a time for reflection. It can also be a time of panic, both personal and global. Remember the potential chaos around the year 2000 A.D. and Y2K, the fear that computers around the globe would stop working on December 31, 1999? Concerns about personal health, relationships, and lifestyle as well as global concerns lead to those deeper reflections. The Book of Revelation was written at a time of grave concerns about the hostilities of the Roman

government toward Christians as an expression of Satan's control of the earth. Instead of a message of escape from this earth, John the Seer, the author, gives us a vision of God's future that promises a new heaven and a new earth. God will not abandon God's creation but renew it, however Satan will not. God wins by making a home with us. God will dwell with us. It will be a time when suffering, grief, and worries will be no more. Therefore, be of good courage. Our future is well established and in God's hands. Yes, even as you begin 2021! How does faith in Christ, the Lamb who was slain and begins his reign, give you comfort today?

Pray: God of the ages, through Christ Jesus our Lord you promise a future filled with light and life; give us a vision of your presence in our lives as we move into a new year. Amen.

SERVICE

Choose an organization or a charity that helps and serves those in need. How will you support them during the coming year? Discuss ways in which you can set aside or raise money to support the cause.

What plan of action will you take?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Write on a piece of paper one experience of joy from 2020, one of sadness, and one worry you may have for 2021. Make a cross out of two sticks or use a cross from your home and tape your paper on the cross. Then pray the following prayer.

Pray: Almighty God, you who promise a new heaven and a new earth filled with your holy presence, bless us as we enter this new year. As we place our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, free us from the sadness of the past and worries for the future. Amen.

THANK YOU - Thank you pastor for the beautiful sermon for Howard. Sue Gates for playing the piano and Zach & Saundra Anderson for their beautiful singing and stepping in as ushers. We thank the people of Zion for your kind thoughts and donations made to Zion.

God Bless you all,
LaVina Nelson & family

THANK YOU

Thank you for all the birthday cards that I received on my Thanksgiving birthday, November 26th.

I enjoyed each one of them.

Lois Sollie

THANK YOU for all the prayers, cards, and donations I have received during my illness. Your prayers are what's helping me get thru this. Tim and I will never forget it. God bless you all.

Tammy Paulsen

**Special Offering for the
Month of January
is
Journey Home!**

Please see the bulletin board for more information.



ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for our Annual Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 31 at 9:45 a.m.**

Although this is a fifth Sunday, we WILL hold in-person worship that morning at 8:30, since the annual meeting will be held shortly following worship.

Thanks to the congregational meeting vote in October, we will be able to include members in this meeting remotely, by both phone and online through the Zoom platform. We are still finalizing plans and details for making this happen, so stay tuned for that information to come to you by mail and through church announcements. We are also working out a way to hold our usual forum prior to the annual meeting, but, again, we will need to work out the logistics for that. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued giving!

Zion remains active in ministry and mission, and the church's ministry will depend on your support. Please mail in checks (rather than dropping them off) to the church office: Zion Lutheran Church, 1732 S Main St, Aberdeen SD 57401.

Or give online today (multiple ways) by going to zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving.

Or just scan this QR code with your smartphone and it will take you to our giving page.



ZION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Bethesda Home

Martha Zimmerman
Ben Schroeder
Carol Knispel
Jane Fischer
Janice Peterson

Bethesda Town Sq.

Meta Vetter
Shirley Wagemann
Viola Tetherow
Gladys Voegelé

Minnesota

LeRoy Buechler

California

Erna Schmierer

Groton Health Care

Leon Tobin
Marge Rhodes
Joe & Ruth Bosmoe

Colorado

Ella Aipperspach

Arizona

Hazel Martell

Idaho

Marvin Bucholz



"GRATEFUL FOR YOU"

- ☺ Judy Albl for putting up Advent Banners.
- ☺ All outgoing council members.
- ☺ A special thank you To Shelley Fischbach, Wanda Wagemann, Judy Albl, Zach\Saundra Anderson, Kathy Heffernan, Deb & Harvey Hardy, VanderWeyst Family, Zoe Kempf, Ed Suchomel, Jeremy\Nicole Schutter, Monica Tietz, Sam Schauer, Phyllis Gab, Norma Miller, Sonya Kempf & Sue Gates for helping with the Christmas Eve Services.
- ☺ Mike Bretsch & Shane Schauer for putting up our Christmas trees in the Sanctuary.
- ☺ Mike\Kathy Brumbaugh, Steph Hawkinson for recording Holden Evening Prayer.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Monthly budgeted expenses:
\$32,731

Actual November income:
\$30,454

Actual November expenses:
\$31,854

YTD budgeted expenses:
\$360,041

Actual YTD income: \$353,858
(includes \$57,900 in Payroll
Protection Program funds)

Actual YTD expenses: \$342,149

Actual YTD income without
Payroll Protection Program funds:
\$295,958

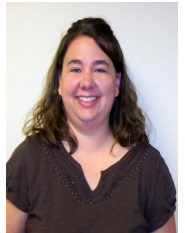
SUNDAY RADIO BROADCASTS

Will you consider sponsoring a Sunday Radio broadcast?
Radio sponsorships are \$110.00 and we have several openings. (You may also sign up for half a broadcast and share with someone for \$55.00).

Please call Donna in the office @ 225-6755 to sign up and let her know what you would like it to be in honor or memory of. Thanks for your continued support of this important ministry.

Noah's Park Preschool

Hello from Noah's Park Preschool! We have been so excited to welcome the Christmas season in preschool!! We were able to put out our Gingerbread Café in early December and the children had a blast "baking" gingerbread cookies and stirring up hot cocoa. We spent a couple weeks reading different gingerbread stories, having a gingerbread cookie taste test and finding runaway gingerbread letters. We also decided to get out our little penguins and mix up a batch of arctic slime for them!! This is really the only slime recipe that I have good luck with in preschool so I thought I would share the recipe with you! It is sure to be a hit with any little kiddos you might know – and who knows... you might like it, too!



We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! ~Jami

Arctic Slime: You will need clear glue, liquid starch, water and blue food coloring. Glitter and confetti is optional (we added glitter of course and also some confetti snowflakes and swirls!)

Slowly mix together ½ cup water and ½ cup clear glue. Next, add your blue food coloring and glitter/confetti if desired. Stir well. Then, slowly add in ¼ cup liquid starch and stir. You will notice the slime start to form immediately. Continue adding liquid starch until it is not too sticky and not too runny. We usually add ½ cup liquid starch total for a great consistency. I usually stir the slime well and then coat my hands in liquid starch and knead it for a couple minutes. Then it should be ready for the kiddos to explore. If you are worried about it sticking to their hands coat their hands in liquid starch too – and this will help until they work with it a while!!! Have fun!!



STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Web: zionlutheranaberdeen.org
YouTube: bit.ly/ZLCYouTube
Facebook: facebook.com/ZionAberdeen
Instagram: [@zlcaberdeensd](https://www.instagram.com/zlcaberdeensd)



Zoom Coffee Fellowship is back! Brew your own coffee and join us for fellowship hour over Zoom! We meet on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays of the month (the Sundays when we *don't* have in-person worship) using the Zoom online meeting platform.

Upcoming Zoom Fellowship dates:

- + January 10
- + January 24
- + NO Zoom fellowship on January 31 (Annual Meeting date)

Just go to this web link and follow the prompts:

bit.ly/ZionZoomFellowship
Meeting ID: 849 1376 4393
Password: FELLOWSHIP

If you've never used Zoom, you'll need to download the application to your computer or smartphone, which only takes a minute. You can sign up for a free account and download the app here: <https://zoom.us/>

What if you don't have internet access? You can still join us by phone! Just dial 1-312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID # 849 1376 4393 and Passcode 2985907374 if asked.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A huge THANK YOU to all who have generously given during this past year and have committed to support Zion Lutheran in 2021! As of December 15, we have received 85 commitment cards totaling \$217,451 in financial commitments for the coming year. Your generous support of our ministries is greatly appreciated and a blessing to many!



It's not too late to submit your commitment of giving card or submit one online (bit.ly/Stewardship2021). Give the church office a call at 225-6755 if you need assistance with your pledge card.

PASTOR'S CONTACT #'s

Pastor Erin - 605-252-0320
Pastor Tim - 605-290-6297

COME AND GO COMMUNION SERVICE

JANUARY 14
NOON-1:00 PM
5:00-6:00 PM

NO RESERVATIONS
REQUIRED

COME AND GO COMMUNION ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

Starting in January, we will offer two different times on the same day for Come-and-Go Communion. Stop in anytime noon-1:00 PM and 5:00-6:00 PM, and you will be able to partake of the Lord's Supper individually or with your family group in a brief service (about 5 minutes). Come join in the feast!

FAITH & FAMILY

Sunday School Update

In person: Our next in-person Sunday School time will be Sunday, January 3rd at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Masks will be required for all over the age of two, and physical distancing will be practiced between family groups.

Packets: There will be two packets available for at home Sunday School in January. These packets will be available at the in-person date or in the church office throughout the month. These packets are available to all kids, whether they were officially registered for this Sunday School year or not. Please feel free to pick up packets to take home to your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, etc. Materials, along with a video of the story and musical selections for each packet will be available on the Zion Youth Facebook page on January 10th and January 24th. <https://bit.ly/zionyouthFBpage>



Christmas Program: In case you missed it, our 2020 Sunday School Christmas Program was aired during our Christmas Eve services both in-person and online. If you would like to view the program, or would like to share it with family and friends, please use the following link: <http://bit.ly/2020ssprogram>

December 2020 Council Highlights

- * Pastor Erin will be on vacation from December 26th-January 3rd. Pastor Tim will be covering the January 3rd service.
- * The Social Concerns committee is moving forward with either a monetary or local gift card drive to restock the freezer in the coming month.
- * 85 commitment cards have been received so far for the 2021 fiscal year.
- * The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st. 30 people are needed for a quorum to be met (5% of the congregational voting members).

SAVE THE DATE IN 2021!

***Lay Leader Kick-Off Night:**

February 2 at 7:00 PM CT

Evening of learning, connecting, and resource sharing from the synod office. This invitation is open to all newly elected lay leaders in congregations such as presidents, treasurers, secretaries, and council members.

***Synod Assembly**

June 4-5, 2021

Scheduled to take place at Our Savior's Lutheran in Sioux Falls. A final determination on whether or not assembly will be online will be voted on at the March synod council meeting.



***Are you signed up for the weekly synod news?**

Head over to sdsynod.org and click the sign-up on the homepage to be included on the weekly synod news email. Each week you will find updates and news happening across the South Dakota Synod and in the ELCA.

TAKING FAITH HOME

The *Taking Faith Home* sheets will now be available each week inside the front entryway of the church. You can pick up a copy if you attend Sunday worship or anytime during the week. We'll also include these with Sunday School packets that families will be receiving.



Zion Lutheran Church
 1732 South Main Street
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 (605) 225-6755 zion@nvc.net
 zionlutheranaberdeeen.org

Staff

Rev. Erin Heidelberger.....Pastor
 Rev. Tim Sersen.....Visitation Pastor
 Saura Anderson.....Pastoral Assistant
 Donna Steckler.....Office Manager
 Jami Ringgenberg.....Preschool Director/Teacher

ZION'S KEY MISSION

Rooted in faith + Growing in Spirit +
 Reaching out to those in need



ZION'S MOTIVATING MISSION

+ Centered in prayer, nourished through the Sacraments, empowered by God's Holy Spirit, Zion is spreading the Good News through new and innovative ministries.

+ Rooted in a strong heritage, Zion focuses on developing ministries of caring to help those in need.

+ Zion opens her doors to singles, families, special needs, young and old, church and unchurched, welcoming all into the family of God.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers / Executive Committee:

Mike Bretsch.....President
 Jena German.....Vice President
 Ed Suchomel.....Treasurer
 Lisa Lambrechts.....Secretary

Council Representatives:

Kelly VanderWeyst.....Education
 Kathy Johnson.....Fellowship
 Rod Wiedrich.....Finance
 Shane Schauer.....Properties
 Nicole Schutter.....Social Concerns
 Chastity Madsen.....Stewardship
 Sharon Paranto.....Visitation
 Phyllis Gab.....Welcome & Outreach
 Monica Tietz.....Worship & Music
 Jennifer Wagemann.....Youth

1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS

8:30 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP IN THE
 SANCTUARY WITH HOLY COMMUNION
 (AND LIVE RADIO BROADCAST)

11:00 CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ONLINE

2ND, 4TH, AND 5TH SUNDAYS

8:30 RADIO BROADCAST AND
 TRADITIONAL WORSHIP ONLINE

10:00 FELLOWSHIP TIME OVER ZOOM

11:00 CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ONLINE

ZION MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

For:

From:

Allen Gates	General	Andrea\Alecia Morehouse
Allen Gates	General	Sharon Paranto
Allen Gates	General	Eldean\Lynae Poel
Allen Gates	General	Mary Jane Kabrud
Allen Gates	General	Lavina Nelson
Ida Fauth	ZLCW	Lyle\Lois Chapin
Ida Fauth	Quilter's	Lois Sollie
Gene Reich	General	Doug\Ronda Smith
Ida Fauth	General	Doug\Ronda Smith
LaVonne Peterson	General	Elsie Geffre
Allen Gates	General	Elsie Geffre
Hilda Hoffman	ZLCW	Wilma Zimmerman
Esther Gienger	ZLCW	LaVern Albrecht
Howard Nelson	General	Pierson Ford
Howard Nelson	Preschool	Ray\Marcie Andersh
Howard Nelson	General	Kathy Heffernan
Howard Nelson	General	Larry\Sharon Stroschein
Howard Nelson	General	Rod\Rose Wiedrich
Howard Nelson	General	Kent\Susan Edson
Howard Nelson	General	Dal\Dar Golz
Howard Nelson	General	Sue Gates
Howard Nelson	General	Steven\Delilah Norton
Ed Ackerson	Advocacy	Family & Friends
Ed Ackerson	Radio Broadcast	Family & Friends
Ed Ackerson	General	Loren\April Nehlich
Dorothy Hoffman	General	Loren\April Nehlich
Rosie Knoll	General	Loren\April Nehlich
Esther Gienger	General	Lois Sollie
Ed Ackerson	Advocacy	Dale\Joan Forde
Ed Ackerson	General	Lois Sollie
Ed Ackerson	General	Vivian Eske
Curt Suedmeier	General	Vivian Eske
LaVonne Peterson	General	Vivian Eske
Allen Gates	General	Vivian Eske
Dr. T.J. Johnson	General	Michelle Heyd
Leonard Wanttie	General	Michelle Heyd
Hilda Hoffman	General	Gary\Wanda Morehouse
David Jorgenson	- Alegria Fischer - Keith Larson	
Velma Scheid	- Milbert Albrecht - Bill Pesicka	
Milbert Schaffer	- Gene Reich - Curtis Suedmeier	
LaVonne Peterson	- Allen Gates - Gloria Lauinger	
Ida Fauth	- Howard Nelson - Hilda Hoffman	
Esther Gienger & Ed Ackerson		

To Building From ZLCW

From Karl\Sonya Kempf for Organ Upgrade\Maint.

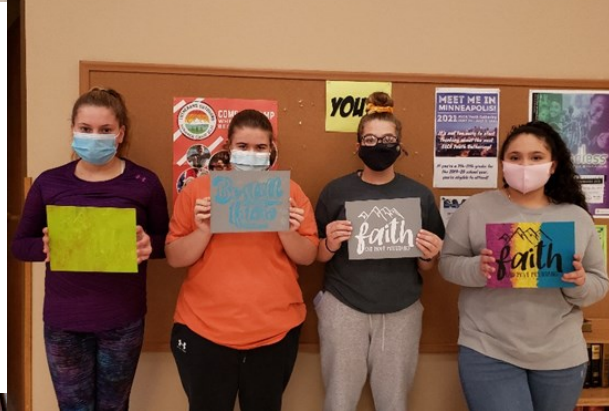
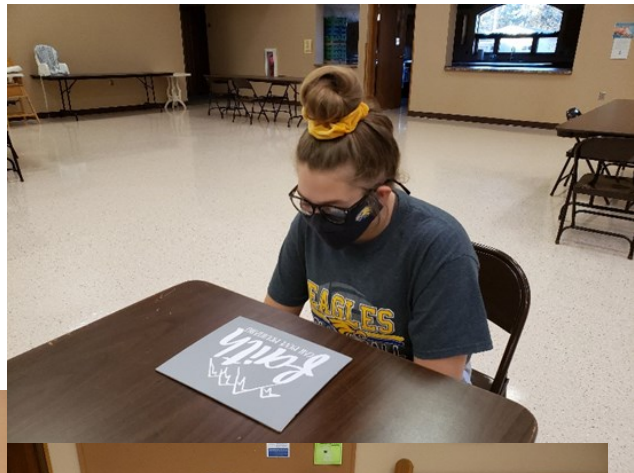
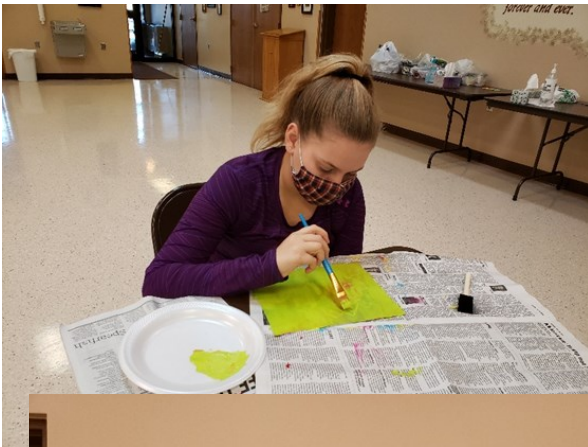
**Thank you for your ongoing gifts in memory
 of loved ones.**

With so many memorials please accept our apologies if something is accidentally listed incorrectly or has been missed in the newsletter.

FAITH & FAMILY

Messy Canvases

On Sunday, November 29th, four middle school youth gathered to make messy canvases in the Fellowship Hall. Each youth got to choose their design and paint their canvas with the colors and patterns they liked. The canvases turned out amazing, and we had a blast making them and socializing! While the paint was drying, these kids also put together M&M treats for our Aberdeen Police Department to say thank you for all they do to keep our community safe.





WE NEED YOUR RECIPIES

Last call for recipes for the Zion Cookbook! They can be dropped off at the church during the week, placed in the offering plate on Sundays, mailed, or emailed.

Please consider sharing your favorite recipes for all occasions with us! Recipes will be put into a Zion Cookbook and sold as a fundraiser for the youth attending the National Youth Gathering next summer.



NEW YEAR = NEW FELLOWSHIP GROUP!

A new women's faith & fellowship group is kicking off this month! Women of all ages are invited to join Pastor Erin for *Café* Group.

Café groups are one way that women across the ELCA have created community within their congregations. They meet to discuss the topics in every monthly issue of *Café*, (boldcafe.org).

Café is an on-line magazine that shares stories written by young women who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with a group. Although many women in their 20s and 30s contribute in every issue, *Café* can be used and shared by women of all ages.

Because of our current pandemic concerns, the Zion *Café* group will start online over Zoom. But we hope to move to local restaurants and/or coffee shops in future months.

Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 PM

BYOD (Bring Your Own Dessert!)

Just go to this web link and follow the prompts:

bit.ly/ZionCafe

Meeting ID: 873 2618 2589

Passcode: BOLDCAFE





FAITH & FAMILY

CONFIRMATION CORNER Happy New Year, Confirmation families!



Remember that you can access the most updated info on our **Confirmation Central** page on our website by going to this link:

bit.ly/ZionConfirmation2020

You can also get to this page by going to our website: zionlutheranaberdeen.org and clicking on the "Faith Formation" tab, then clicking on "Confirmation 2020-21".

7TH & 8TH GRADERS

We'll pick back up with our Wednesday night Confirmation sessions on Zoom starting January 13 at 6:30 PM. We'll finish up our study of the Lord's Prayer before heading into the Apostles' Creed.

9th and 10TH GRADERS

Remember to start meeting with your faith mentors, get signed up for a Sunday to help with Sunday School (either in-person or on video) and get started on your Credo Project. Aim to have a rough draft of your Credo Project outline to Pastor Erin by Feb. 1 (pastorerin@nvc.net).

Either Sandra or Pastor Erin will be contacting you this month about the other piece of your service component, the Zion Pen Pals.

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD CONNECTIONS

Return to camp at Lutherans Outdoors in 2021!

It is with great excitement we say to you "Return to summer camp at Lutherans Outdoors in 2021!"

We can't wait to hear the sounds of campers playing games, swimming in a lake, paddling on the water, sharing in a Bible study, chatting during a meal, and singing at a campfire. And, we bet you are ready to see our beautiful sites again as well.



We are busy putting together the final program schedule for the summer. We are also working on new protocols needed to gather safely following CDC guidelines. Things may look a little different but the life-giving, faith-growing camp experience will prevail.

Thank you for your patience as we roll out future experiences for all ages. And for understanding why we did not have camp last summer. Watch for all camp schedules to be announced by December 1. Registration will open in January 2021. Once again, get ready to return to camp at the sites of Lutherans Outdoors in the summer of 2021!

With hope and excitement,
Lutherans Outdoors Year-round Staff ~ www.losd.org

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD CONNECTIONS



Virtual 2021 ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering

Dates: January 20-23, 2021

Theme: "And All Were Satisfied" John 6:11-12

You're invited! This signature event gathers ELCA World Hunger's leaders for a time of networking, idea sharing, learning and planning for our common ministry to address hunger and its root causes. We know that our future church will be younger and more diverse — whom do you want to invite to join the conversation and our ministry together? To register, please visit bit.ly/2021WHLG. The event fee is \$20, with sponsorship opportunities available to those for whom the cost would be a barrier to attending. Once you register, you will receive the information needed to join in the event.

For questions, please contact hunger@elca.org or 773-380-1749.

Seeds for Nicaragua

The South Dakota Synod Companion Synod ministry helps us to better know our siblings in Christ from around the world—especially in our companion synods in Nicaragua and Cameroon.

The Lutheran Church, Faith & Hope of Nicaragua is one of our companions in faith and service. This year, the people of Nicaragua endured two large hurricanes which devastated over 44,000 homes and drowned the crops of the subsistence farmers in the region. These people are in desperate need of help.

Sixty to eighty percent of the farmers in the region are women and children. Programs from the ELCA have helped these farmers learn how to better tend their land, what to plant and how to use best farming practices like use of irrigation. The small family farms joined into cooperatives to help work and tend their crops together. There are currently 15 cooperatives going in the area. The hurricane totally destroyed the crops and houses of 9 of the cooperatives. That's a couple hundred families' resources wiped out. This catastrophe comes on top of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic hit the area hard and caused many to miss one of the two harvests this year because of sickness. People were already desperate when the final blows of 2 hurricanes hit.

Our missionary, Rev. Dr. Soliette Lopez Ortega, shared that hunger has already become a problem and a true famine in the area could occur if something is not done to help. They hope to be able to replant this fall when the water recedes or barring that possibility, plant another crop in the spring. But...

THEY HAVE NO MONEY FOR SEED!

As people of the land, we understand the need for seed and soil to harvest. We know the hardship of no harvests. In the United States, we have insurance and farm plans from our government to fall back on. The people of Nicaragua have nothing to help them out of this disaster.

They have nothing but us...their partners in prayer and faith.

We are asking the people of the South Dakota Synod to step up and help our companion synod siblings from Nicaragua as we journey together in Christ to raise money to buy seeds for the future and hope in Nicaragua.

Each cooperative's seed will cost them \$1,445.00. We are setting a goal of raising \$14,000.00 for the farmers in Nicaragua.

Donations can be sent directly to the South Dakota Synod. You can donate online (sdsynod.org/donate) or mail a check made payable to the South Dakota Synod, ELCA (2001 S. Summit Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57197). Please mark your donation to be used for "Seeds of Hope for Nicaragua."

Thank you for your financial support and prayers for Nicaragua.