MARCH 2021

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Jena German
President

Sharon Paranto
Vice President

Ed Suchomel
Treasurer

Nancy Schmidt
Secretary

Kelly VanderWeyst
Education

Kathy Johnson
Fellowship

Rod Wiedrich
Finance

Shane Schauer
Properties

Nicole Schutter
Social Concerns

Mary Kost
Stewardship

Virginia Tobin
Visitation

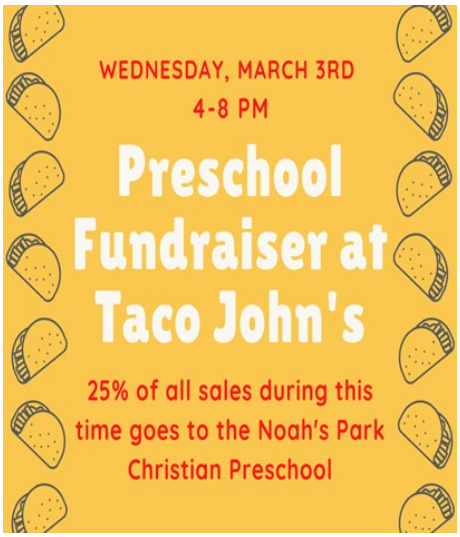
Norma Nielsen
Welcome and Outreach

Kathy Heffernan
Worship and Music

2021 Council Members

SPRING FORWARD - On Sunday March 14th is when Daylight Saving Time begins for 2021 so we will "spring forward" one hour at 2 a.m.

Be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday night!

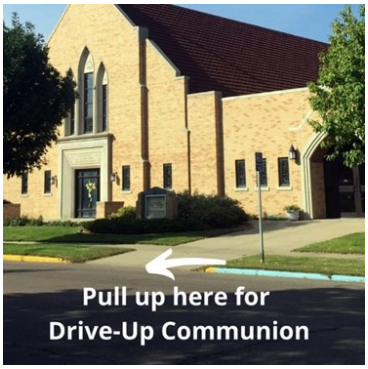


Special Offering for the

Month of March
is
CICS
NSU Campus Minsistry

Please see the bulletin board for more information.

Campus MINISTRY



NEW DRIVE-UP COMMUNION

MARCH 7 & 21 + 9:30-10:15 AM

Our Come-and-Go Communion option is shifting into a slightly different approach this month, but we will still provide an option for those who are not yet ready to worship or take Communion in the building.

Beginning in March, we will offer Drive-Up Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month from 9:30-10:15 a.m.
No reservations needed.

To receive Communion this way, please attend our 8:30 worship service from home first, either by listening to the radio broadcast or by tuning in online to our livestream. Then, just pull up to the front of the church anytime between 9:30-10:15 a.m., and Pastor Erin will bring Communion to you. We'll have proper protocols in place to administer Communion to you while you remain safely in your vehicle.

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

Primrose Cottages
Charleen Hargens
Frances Wolff

Bethesda Town Sq.
Meta Vetter
Shirley Wagemann
Viola Tetherow
Gladys Voegele

Groton Health Care
Leon Tobin
Marge Rhodes
Joe & Ruth Bosmoe

Idaho
Marvin Bucholz

Minnesota
LeRoy Buechler

California
Erna Schmierer

Colorado
Ella Aipperspach

Arizona
Hazel Martell

Our Shut-ins

"GRATEFUL FOR YOU"

☺ Thanks to Ed Suchomel and Millie Suchomel for bringing snacks for the preschoolers.
☺ Thanks to Mary Kost for her donation of freezer meals and for delivering some to a few Zion members.
☺ Thanks to Carmel Heyd, Norma Miller, Elaine Schumacher, Lyle & Lois Chapin for preparing our Wednesday Lenten Meals.
☺ Thanks to Saundra Anderson & Donna Steckler for cooking freezer meals to fill Zion's freezer. And to all who brought ingredients.

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!! Spring fever has hit early down in preschool and I'm trying something new with my newsletter spot!! We LOVE puzzles in preschool so I have created a "fill in the blank" word puzzle for you!! Complete it with your kiddos, family, friends, neighbor, by yourself or with help from Google J However you complete it – have fun… and in case you get stuck I included a word bank to help you! This puzzle is based on some of my preschoolers FAVORITE children's books!!!

Go Away, Big _____ Monster!

Pete the Cat and His Four _____ Buttons

_____ Dust Bunnies

The Book With No _____

Don't Let the _____ Drive the Bus!

Big _____ Lollipop

The _____ Under the Stairs

_____ and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

Dragons Love _____

One fish two fish red fish _____ fish

Word Bank:

Tacos	Pictures	Red	Groovy	Alexander
Rhyming	Pigeon	Bear	Blue	Green

**Answers will be posted on the Kiosk!!

THANKS FOR THE SNACKS! Noah's Park Preschool

Pictures to the left:

The preschoolers were very excited to receive and help carry the gift of snacks they received.

Picture to the right:

Zion's freezer now full of meals for our freezer meal ministry.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Web: zionlutheranaberdeen.org
YouTube: bit.ly/ZLCYouTube
Facebook: facebook.com/ZionAberdeen
Instagram: @zlcaberdeensd

PASTOR'S CONTACT #'s
Pastor Erin - 605-252-0320
Pastor Tim - 605-290-6297

LET US HELP YOU DECORATE! - ORDER YOURS TODAY!

The Zion Youth committee is putting together Easter wreaths and crosses to sell as a fundraiser for youth events and ministry needs. See samples and place your orders at the table in the Narthex.

Orders will be taken through March 19th, and all orders will be ready the following week, just in time to display for Easter!

FAITH & FAMILY

Sunday School Update

In person: Our next in-person Sunday School time will be Sunday, March 7th 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 March. 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 March 14th and March 28th . https://bit.ly/zionyouthFBpage

Council Highlights
February 2021

Zion received a gift from the estate of Alegra Fischer. This gift will go into the general fund for now, and 10% will be tithed (to where is yet to be determined).

The freezer is now stocked with freezer meals for those in need.

The Social Concerns committee plans to create a "Giving Table" in the narthex for collection items, information sharing, etc.

Worship and Music committee has been working on scheduling volunteers for our midweek Lenten and Sunday services. Confirmation Sunday has been scheduled for June 6th.

Easter Sunday services have been set for 7:15, 8:30,

ZION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Zion will once again award two $350 scholarships for the coming academic year. One will go to a 2021 high school graduate and one to a continuing college student.

See the application for full instructions. Printed applications are now available in the narthexl. **Completed applications should be returned to the church no later than April 1, 2021.** You can also find the application on our website at zionlutheranaberdeen.org/signupcentral

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.

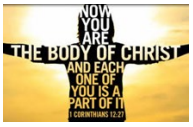
taking faith home

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

Staff

Rev. Erin Heidelberger……Pastor
Rev. Tim Sersen……Visitation Pastor
Saundra 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, churched and unchurched, welcoming all into the family of God.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers / Executive Committee:

Jena German ……President
Sharon Paranto……Vice President
Ed Suchomel……Treasurer
Nancy Schmidt……Secretary

Council Representatives:

Kelly VanderWeyst……Education
Kathy Johnson…… Fellowship
Rod Wiedrich……Finance
Shane Schauer……Properties
Nicole Schutter……Social Concerns
Mary Kost……Stewardship
Virginia Tobin……Visitation
Norma Nielsen……Welcome & Outreach
Kathy Heffernan……Worship & Music
Vacant……Youth

ZION MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	For:	From:
Glenna Fouberg	General	Loren\April Nehlich
Jordan Heyd	Organ Fund	Dean\Mae Click & Sonya Kempf

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

Through January 31, 2021

Monthly Budgeted expenses: $31,010
Actual January income: $29,616
Actual January expenses: $32,816

YTD budgeted expenses: $31,010
Actual YTD income: $29,616
Actual YTD expenses: $32,816

Holy Week at Zion

Palm/Passion Sunday
Sunday, March 28 at 8:30 a.m. + livestream
Our worship will draw us into the story of Jesus' last days.
To-Go Caramel Rolls youth fundraiser

Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion (Fifth-Grade First Communion)
Thursday, April 1 at 6:00 PM + livestream

Good Friday Worship
Friday, April 2 at 6:00 PM + livestream

Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of Our Lord
Sunday, April 4
7:15, 8:30 & 9:45 AM (8:30 service will be livestreamed)
Reservations will be required for each of these services.

VIRTUAL COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR AT 11 ON THE 11TH!

MARCH 11 AT 11 AM

Brew your own coffee, pull up a comfy chair, and check in with Pastor Erin and your Zion family in our Zoom "living room"!

Just go to this link and follow the prompts:
bit.ly/ZionCoffeeHour

FAITH & FAMILY

PRAYER PILLOW MILESTONE - All 4-year-olds and their parents are invited to join us for a Prayer Pillow Faith Milestone event on Sunday, March 28th. We will present Prayer Pillows to our 4-year-olds at the 8:30 service; then, these children and their parents are invited to a special event at 9:30 AM that day in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have a lot of fun learning about prayer together!

Summer 2021 Registration Now Open!

Hooray! Summer Camp registration is now open! We are so excited to welcome you back to the camps of Lutherans Outdoors for summer camp in 2021. Remember to visit losd.org to register for a wonderful faith-filled experience at a Lutherans Outdoors camp for the summer of 2021. All registrations are done online at **losd.org**. Register now!

Zion parents, if your child(ren) is currently in third grade or older, talk to Saundra if you'd like to get signed up for camp and be a part of our fundraising this spring and summer.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING - If you missed our informational meetings last month, please let Pastor Erin or Saundra know, and they will get you a copy of the material that was discussed at these meetings. Reminder: kids that are eligible to attend are this year's 7th-11th graders.

CAN YOU DO IT?—Open to middle school and high school youth; invite a friend! Your friend, Chad, has been having a rough year, and he is definitely on Santa's naughty list. Your plan is to travel to the North Pole, break into Santa's Workshop, SAVE Chad's Christmas, and escape without getting caught! Join us via Zoom to see if you can escape from the North Pole:

Saturday, March 20th @ 7:00 PM
Meeting ID: 834 4253 9702
Passcode: ESCAPE

CAFÉ GROUP FOR ZION WOMEN

Our new Café Group for Zion Women is on hold until it's safe for us to meet in person in local restaurants and coffee shops.

Stay tuned for news of these meetings later this year!

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

Are you interested in becoming a member of our faith family? Or do you know someone who is? Or are you wondering what it means to be a member of Zion? Let Pastor Erin know of your interest! We'll be deciding soon how to hold our New Member Welcome sessions in the months to come (possibly over Zoom), so we'd love to know if you're thinking about becoming a member. You can reach Pastor Erin at the church at 225-6755 or by email at pastorerin@nvc.net

TEXAS STORM RELIEF

Beginning Feb. 14, a polar vortex descended over the United States. Subfreezing temperatures and heavy snow swept across the country, impacting millions of people. The harsh conditions severely impacted Southern states, such as Texas, which lack the infrastructure to handle the freezing temperatures and record-setting snow and ice. This has led to power, food and water shortages throughout the region. At its peak, 4.5 million homes and businesses in Texas were without power. With bursting pipes and broken water systems, around 10 million Texans are facing water disruptions. As temperatures rise, melting ice and snow is expected to cause more water damage.

Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, the Southwestern Texas Synod, the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, and Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response. Congregations are already conducting relief efforts such as supplying water, food and generators to those in need and opening their doors to serve as shelters. Long-term recovery may include repairing water-damaged homes, disaster case management and supporting vulnerable populations.

* To give online: go to **bit.ly/TexasStormRelief**

* To give by mail: Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response,

Write "U.S. Severe Storms" on your check's memo line and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA Gift Processing Center ~ P.O. Box 1809 ~ Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

- Join us for Lenten Worship March 3, 10, 17 & 24th at 12:15 or 6 PM.
* After each Lenten service to go meals will be available. (free will offering)
- For kids time - join in anytime you arrive!
- All services are live-streamed and available anytime after worship concludes.

FAITH & FAMILY

CONFIRMATION CORNER

Families, you can access the most updated info for all Confirmation youth 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: zionluther-anaberdeen.org and clicking on the "Faith Formation" tab, then clicking on "Confirmation 2020-21".

7th & 8th Graders: WORSHIP NOTES

7th & 8th Graders should plan to attend or watch and complete notes for FOUR midweek (Wednesdays, Maundy Thursday, and/or Good Friday) services during the season of Lent (Wednesdays starting with Feb. 17 at 6:00 PM, Maundy Thursday on Apr. 1 at 6:00 PM, and Good Friday on Apr. 2 at 6:00 PM). In addition, you should plan to attend or watch and complete notes for TWO services in April starting with Easter Sunday (April 4). There will be a traditional service on Sundays at 8:30 AM and a praise band-led service on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. All of these will be livestreamed and can also be watched on demand after the service.

You can watch our livestreamed services on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ZionAberdeen

NOTE: If you attend any worship services in person, you can find blank copies of Worship Notes at the usher's counter when you come into the sanctuary.

To access the link to the Online Worship Notes, go to our Confirmation website: bit.ly/ZionConfirmation2020

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BLAST! - Join Saundra for a story and activity from 5:30-5:50 PM in the Fellowship Hall. We'll read a story and do an activity related to Lent/Easter before each Wednesday evening Lenten service, and we'll finish in time for the service (and send the kids with an activity sheet to work on). Can't make it by 5:30? No problem! Join us when you can. Open to pre-K – 5th grade kids.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

Pastor Erin will meet with fifth-graders and their parents on Sundays during March for First Communion classes. The tentative plan is to hold classes online over Zoom. We'll gather together on **March 7, 14, 21, and 28** at 10:30 am.

To join our Zoom meetings, go to this link:

bit.ly/ZionFirstCommunion

Fifth-graders will receive their First Communion at the Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 1.

COVID RESPONSE UPDATE
from Pastor Erin

In just a couple of weeks, it will be one year since you received a letter from me outlining our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It's hard to believe that we have been dealing with this for that long.

You might be wondering where we're at with our Covid response at this point. So, I wanted to update you on what things look like right now at Zion. We are still operating with all due caution and care. We're grateful that the vaccines are here and that many of you have already received your first and even second doses. We want to remain careful, though, as many of you—and all of our staff—wait to receive the vaccine. We also have an eye on the news of Covid variants. The CDC reports that Covid variant viruses have not yet appeared in South Dakota, but *have* been detected in North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa and could become predominant across the country this month.

Here's what our different areas of ministry look like right now at Zion:

Worship
Worship is a central part of who we are at Zion, and we will continue providing options for both in-person and online worship.

Thanks to generous donors in our congregation, we have purchased a new video camera that helps us to livestream all of our worship services. This means that those who prefer to worship from home can continue to do so while joining in to live services. Those services are also recorded so that we can provide on-demand access for those who can't join us at our regular worship times.

Sunday School
We are continuing with one in-person Sunday School (all ages together) each month in the fellowship hall. On other Sundays, the education committee provides take-out packets plus online videos that are available on Sunday mornings at 9:45. Each week's video is always available here: zionlutheranaberdeen.org/faith-formation/youth-family/elementary/

Fellowship Groups
A few of Zion's fellowship groups have been meeting at the church, following our Covid protocols. If your group would like to meet, be sure to contact the church office to get your meeting on the church calendar, so we can make sure we have space reserved for you.

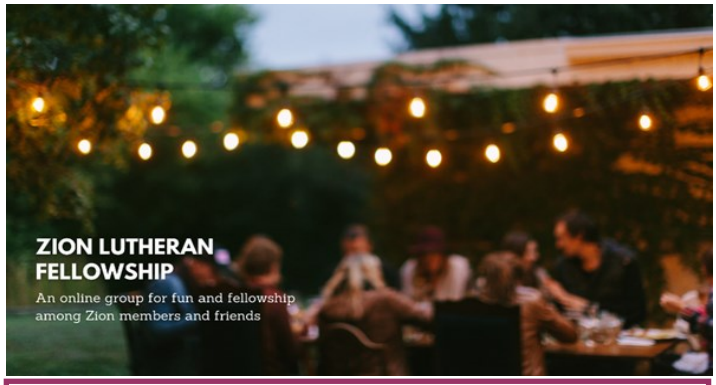
Youth
Youth at Zion continue to hold events either in small groups indoors or outdoors when the weather cooperates. Confirmation classes took place this year entirely online.

AA, GA, and Girls Scouts
These groups may meet in the building at their discretion while following our Covid protocols.

Pastoral Visits
If you would like a pastoral visit, please contact us at the church at 225-6755, and we will evaluate the safest thing for you and for us. Neither Pastor Erin nor Pastor Tim has received Covid vaccines yet. Clergy under 65 are eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1E, so Pastor Erin won't receive hers until mid- to late April at the earliest. At this time, hospitals are still limiting in-person visits from clergy to end-of-life care. Clergy are not yet allowed to visit nursing homes/assisted living facilities. Our Visitation Committee has been in regular contact with our homebound/nursing home members through mail, phone calls, and delivering packages.

Table of Plenty
Our Table of Plenty ministry remains on hold until we are able to safely gather in larger groups and serve food.

Staff
Staff are currently working primarily in the church building, but it may be necessary for staff to shift to working from home (for those who can) if we begin to see another surge in cases or Covid variant viruses become dominant in South Dakota.



JOIN THE ZION LUTHERAN FELLOWSHIP FACEBOOK GROUP

We have a new way of connecting with one another! All are invited to join our new Facebook group that's designed to let us interact with one another throughout the week online. This private Facebook group will be for members and friends of our congregation.

Our Zion Facebook page is a great "bulletin board" but this new group will be more of a virtual "living room". Join us to get to know one another better, engage with each other in some fun ways, and share prayer requests. Go to this link to join: **bit.ly/ZionFBFellowship**

Online Greeters Needed

Do you worship online with us?

We are looking for people to greet other viewers of our livestreamed services in the chat while watching worship. If you're interested, contact the church office for more details!

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! - As you read these lines, you are already deep into the wilderness of Lent. I hope you took advantage of our joint Lenten journey "40 Days with our Neighbors in Solidarity." It's never too late to join the journey. Details are available through the synod's website (sdsynod.org).

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the 2021 Synod Assembly, which will be held on June 4-5. Usually we gather in person, but this year we will gather from across the synod virtually. "Oh, no!" you may cry out. "We have never done that before. How will that work?" I am writing to you to assure you that your synod council, synod staff, synod assembly planning team, production company and a host of others are already working feverishly on creating an event where every participant will arrive confident and feeling well equipped to fully participate in the assembly.

Please, do not let the new format scare you away, but know that we are already working on paving the path for you to show up confident and with good courage to be in ministry together. In order for every participant to be well equipped we must adhere to firm deadlines, please be diligent in your registration and participation. While we are all about that grace, when it comes to registration deadlines this year the law prevails. It prevails, because we want to have enough time to equip and educate our voting members well. Watch for communication to come from your synod office soon and choose to participate, either as a voting member from your congregation or as a visitor in the first ever virtual South Dakota Synod Assembly. Let's journey together in Christ and make some history.

Journeying in Christ with you,

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA