

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Beloved People:

Don't you just love it? ...the lights adorning homes, parks, businesses, downtowns, living rooms, the traditions; also the homecomings, festive gatherings and family traditions, the music...oh the music....hymns, carols, concerts, stage shows....! That is probably my favorite part of this holiday season. The giving, receiving and sharing. We are in a weeks-long preparation and celebration of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! I'm totally good with increasingly singing carols and hymns during the season of Advent, as part of the preparation. Why not?

Let's enjoy all aspects of this most blessed seasons in all its fullness.

The Reason for the Season speaks for itself. I found this reading, from Frederic Buechner, reproduced here, in part, for your reflection during this month:

"The lovely old carols played and replayed till their effect is like a dentist's drill or a jackhammer, the bathetic banalities of the pulpit and the chilling commercialism of almost everything else, people spending money they can't afford on presents you neither need nor want, "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the plastic tree, the cornball creche, the Hallmark Virgin. Yet for all our efforts, we've never quite managed to ruin it. That in itself is part of the miracle, a part you can see. Most of the miracle you can't see, or don't.

The young clergyman and his wife do all the things you do on Christmas Eve. They string the lights and hang the ornaments. They supervise the hanging of the stockings. They tuck in the children. They lug the presents down out of hiding and pile them under the tree. Just as they're about to fall exhausted into bed, the husband remembers his neighbor's sheep. The man asked him to feed them for him while he was away, and in the press of other matters that night he forgot all about them. So down the hill he goes through knee-deep snow. He gets two bales of hay from the barn and carries them out to the shed. There's a forty-watt bulb hanging by its cord from the low roof, and he turns it on. The sheep huddle in a corner watching as he snaps the baling twine, shakes the squares of hay apart, and starts scattering it. Then they come stumbling and shoving to get at it with their foolish, mild faces, the puffs of their breath showing in the air. He is reaching to turn off the bulb and leave when suddenly he realizes where he is. The winter darkness. The glimmer of light. The smell of the hay and the sound of the animals eating. Where he is, of course, is the manger (and I, Pastor Mark, might add, mangers were, according to recent discoveries, e.g. by Dr. Ken Bailey, part of typical middle eastern homes in that part of the world, then and now.)

He only just saw it. He whose business it is above everything else to have an eye for such things is all but blind in that eye. He who on his best days believes that everything that is most precious anywhere comes from that manger might easily have gone home to bed never knowing that he had himself just been in the manger. The world is the manger. It is only by grace that he happens to see this other part of the miracle.

Christmas itself is by grace. It could never have survived our own blindness and depredations otherwise. It could never have happened otherwise. Perhaps it is the very wildness and strangeness of the grace that has led us to try to tame it. We have tried to make it habitable. We have roofed it in and furnished it. We have reduced it to an occasion we feel at home with, at best a touching and beautiful occasion, at worst a trite and cloying one....

~originally published in Whistling in the Dark and later in Beyond Words by Frederic Buechner

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Celebrate the Miracle of “Immanuel God-with-us”, as God’s final sign and act that God will never give up on our world and us. Go out into the world from your celebrations and be “God-with-us” for our neighbor and world that is desperately seeking transformation.

2022 shapes up to be an exciting year of discernment, prayer and conversation with God and each other, in ongoing ministry and discernment, identifying, and naming Spirit-led Mission Goals that will shape ZLC’s next chapter of mission and ministry.

Celebrate and embody “God-with-us” into the New Year, in worship, local and worldwide mission, service, fellowship, and learning. May the grace of God dwell in you this day, and shine forth forevermore
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Partners in Ministry! ☺

Mark P Galbraith, Intentional Interim Pastor

Council Update—Restructuring

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Prior to Covid, council had been discussing combining some of the committees to restructure the council. Currently council is set up with 11 committees equaling 14 voting members. One committee, youth, has remained unfilled for nearly two years (thank you to Nicole Kempf and Zach & Sandra Anderson for continuing to lead our youth activities). After prayerful consideration we completed our discussion at our meeting on Tuesday 11/16. Here is the recommendation we would like to vote on at the annual meeting. Bylaws would be updated accordingly, should the restructuring pass.

Our new model would decrease our committees to six and voting members to 9.

Executive Committee: no changes to be made, four council members represent this committee- President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

Worship & Music Committee: no changes to be made

Mission & Outreach Committee: Council moves to rename from Social Concerns

The following committees will include sub-committees, but only the council chair will be responsible for attending council:

Faith Formation Committee: Council moves to rename from Education. This committee would combine Education and Youth and will include Youth, Family, Adult and Christian education teams.

Welcome & Caring Committee: Council moves to rename from Welcome & Outreach. This committee would combine Welcome & Outreach, Fellowship and Visitation.

Finance & Stewardship Committee: Council moves to rename from Finance. This committee would combine Finance, Stewardship, and Properties.

The annual meeting is **Sunday, January 30th**. At this time we will recap our year, vote on the 2022 operating budget, and vote on these changes along with any other agenda items.

Please reach out to me at any time if you have questions, thoughts or concerns. As I have said before, we cannot do this alone, so any input you may have to add is valuable and appreciated. Executive Committee's phone numbers are listed in the weekly bulletin.

Thank you,
Jena German, Zion Council President

November 2021 Council Highlights

- Nominations were taken at the meeting for the upcoming Annual Meeting to be voted on by the congregation. They include:
 - Jena German to serve another term as President
 - Ed Suchomel to serve as Vice President
 - Sharon Paranto to serve on the Call Committee once formed
- A discussion was held about combining council positions and committees to restructure Zion's council. The changes would reduce voting chairs from 13 to 9. All changes will be published in the December newsletter so congregational members to see the proposed changes prior to the annual meeting.
- The Organ Restoration German Dinner fundraiser has been rescheduled to Sunday, December 12th, from 4-7 PM.

Special Offering for December is St. Dysmas

St. Dysmas is two congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Church in America) located behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield. We also support Sunday evening worship at the Yankton Minimum Unit in Yankton.

Your support is crucial to sustaining our strong and dynamic ministries. We welcome you to worship with us. When you worship with us you fulfill Christ's command and will be blessed by an hospitable welcome and a vibrant worship experience. We would not be here without your generous and faithful financial support.

Noah's Park Preschool

Hello from Noah's Park!! - This year for a Thanksgiving project we did one of my favorites!! We made harvest corn cobs with beautiful fall colors. The children painted sections of bubble wrap for this project and then pressed a sheet of paper on top and the paint transfer looked like little kernels of corn!! We wrapped the paper around craft tubes and twisted at the bottom and stuck gold tissue paper in the top for the husks. They turned out beautifully well and the children were super excited to take them



home along with their handprint turkey ornaments. Then we enjoyed mini pumpkin pudding pies before Thanksgiving break in our pajamas :-). After a relaxing Thanksgiving break, we are busy getting ready for Christmas!! ~Jami

Thank you for your continued giving!

Zion is active in ministry and mission, and the church's ministry depends on your support. Checks can be mailed to the church office: Zion Lutheran Church, 1732 S Main St, Aberdeen SD 57401.

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

You can also just scan this QR code with your smartphone, and it will take you to our giving page.



Zion's 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
Lorraine Kusler

Minnesota

LeRoy Buechler

California

Erna Schmierer

Colorado

Ella Aipperspach

Primrose Cottages

Frances Wolff

Groton Health Care

Leon Tobin
Joe & Ruth Bosmoe

Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie

Primrose

LaVon Elsen

Angelhaus

Harold Hoffman

Milbank

Marge Rhodes



"GRATEFUL FOR YOU"

☺ Thank you for all of those who provided a car for our Trunk or Treat. Thanks to the Education Committee for sponsoring the event and the Weisser family for serving the food.

☺ Thanks to Millie Suchomel for providing the cake for the congregation in celebration of Carmel Heyd's birthday.

☺ Thanks to Ed Suchomel & Millie Suchomel for their donation towards the extra shipping cost of the Divine Drama materials.

☺ A special thanks to all who helped decorate the church for the holidays.

☺ Thanks to all who purchased rolls for the Organ Restoration Fundraiser and to Millie Suchomel and Nicole Kempf for baking, packaging and getting them delivered.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Services

3:30 pm

5:00 pm

Both services will include Holy Communion and Candlelight



Advent Worship Services



Join us as we wait in anticipation of our Savior's birth! Midweek Advent worship services will be held at 6:05 PM; services will be livestreamed.

There will be freewill soup suppers before worship from 5:15-6:00 PM, and there will also be Advent crafts on a table in the Fellowship Hall for you to do.

Men's Pancake Breakfast

Join us Sunday, December 5th at 9:30 AM as the men of Zion prepare a breakfast of pancakes & French toast, sausage, Milk, coffee and water.

Come eat and enjoy some great food and fellowship.

Special thanks to the men of Zion for providing this meal!

The men serve breakfast the first Sunday of the month.



Freezer Meals

If you know of anyone in need of a meal, please stop in to the church office.

We will assist you in getting meals from the freezer to give out.



PASTOR MARK'S OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

***Monday-Thursday – office hours** are 9:30 AM – 4:00 PM. For all church business, emails, meetings, scheduling appts., etc., please call the church office or email me @ pastormark@nvc.net.

***Monday-Thursday outside office hours** for those "when-it-just-can't-wait moments, please email me at the above address or text./call my cell 360-325-2651.

*** Friday and Saturday – days off –** please reserve contacts for true emergencies only.

Advent and Christmas Season

Tree of Saints

This year, our youth will be putting up a Tree of Saints to remember all of our loved ones during this holiday season.

Ornaments are \$5 each and will be customized with your loved one's name; they then will be placed on the Tree of Saints at the back of the sanctuary and will be displayed through the Christmas season. You are welcome to take the ornaments home at any time, but we encourage you to leave them through the season.

Sales will continue through Sunday, December 19th. All proceeds from the ornament sales benefit the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering.



Christmas Cards for Shut Ins

We once again will be mailing Christmas cards to our members who are not able to join us in worship. Please stop at the table in the Fellowship Hall and share some holiday greetings! We will be mailing the cards on Monday, December 13th.

Christmas Cards Display

The holidays are upon us! Share some Christmas greetings with your Zion family by bringing a Christmas card to hang on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The display will remain through Epiphany in January—bring your cards anytime!



Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School children will be holding their annual Christmas program during the 10:45 AM worship service on Sunday, December 19th.

Practice for the program will be on Saturday, December 18th from 10-11 AM.

Faith and Family



Progressive Suppers

There will not be a progressive supper in December. We will resume again in January after the holiday season.

THANK YOU to those who have already opened their homes to our youth! Progressive suppers are held on the last Sunday of the month, and we are always in need of hosts for either appetizers, dinner, or dessert. If you would be interested or would like some more information, please contact Sandra at the church office (225-6755).

Trunk or Treat

We had a great turnout for Zion's Trunk or Treat that was held at noon on Halloween! Several hundred kids and families lined the parking lot and received candy and various treats from the cars that participated in the event. Congratulations to Stacy Geffre for winning the decorating contest with her M&M-themed car!



Bible Milestone

On Sunday, October 24th, our three-year-olds (Everett Anderson, Harrison Bretsch, & Laykin Olson) and third/fourth graders (Tehya Beusch, Ernie Dickey, & Chase Hawkinson) were presented with their very own Bibles! The older kids then participated in a Bible milestone with Pastoral Assistant Sandra, where they learned how to use their new Bibles to look up scripture and all the cool features that come with it. They also received My Bible books and highlighters from the church, along with Bible bookmarks from the Education Committee. Pictured below are some of the kiddos with their new Bibles.



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

Staff

Pastor Mark Galbraith.....	Interim Pastor
Sandra Anderson.....	Pastoral Assistant
Donna Steckler.....	Business Manager
Sonya Kempf.....	Director of Music
Sue Gates.....	Assistant Director of Music
Stephanie Hawkinson	Praise Band Director
Jami Ringgenberg.....	Preschool Director/Teacher
Art Ketterling.....	Maintenance

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, churchd and unchurchd, 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
Vacant.....	Finance
Shane Schauer.....	Properties
Nicole Schutter.....	Social Concerns
Mary Kost.....	Stewardship
Vacant.....	Visitation
Norma Nielsen.....	Welcome & Outreach
Kathy Heffernan.....	Worship & Music
Vacant.....	Youth



Happy birthday to Carmel Heyd!

The congregation got to share in celebrating with Carmel on Sunday, October 24th, with some delicious cake!

Thank you, Carmel, for all
you do for Zion, and
happy birthday!



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH October 31, 2021

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$33,000.00

Actual October income: \$24,395.42

Actual October expenses: \$31,852.00

ZION MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

Charles Gustafson
Marvin Bucholz
Marvin Bucholz
Tanya Rist
Lorraine Wasem
Lorraine Wasem
Lorraine Wasem

For:

Organ Fund
Radio Ministry
Organ Fund
Organ Fund
Organ Fund
Organ Fund
Organ Fund

From:

James Gustafson
John\Gau Ristau
Wilma Zimmerman
Fred Rist
Kent\Sue Edson
Doug\Ronda Smith
Carey Wasem,
Tracey Montgomery,
Rachel & Michael
Friends & Family
Janet Hilgemann
Darlene Schumacher
Dean\Tammy Wasem
Sue Gates
Karl\Sonya Kempf
Karl\Sonya Kempf
Del\Doram Griffin
Ray\Marcie Andersh
MaryJane Kabrud
Carmen Meyer
Barbara Newman
Wilma Zimmerman
Paul\Candance Hamik
Vivian Eske
Cathy Wasem

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

We have one opening for the remainder of the year: December 12. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday!

Thank you to those who have sponsored radio broadcasts this year!



RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half

Faith and Family



ELCA Bulletin Board

There is a bulletin board set up in the Narthex with envelopes you can use to help fund portions of the trip. There will also be a mileage container that you can donate dollars and loose change to help fund the gas cost to Minneapolis, as we have made the decision to take our church van for transportation purposes. Other fundraisers will be happening in the coming months, so keep your eyes peeled for those!

Cookbooks for Sale

Zion cookbooks are available! Cost for a cookbook is \$20, and all proceeds benefit Zion Youth programming. You can purchase your copies from the church office during the week or from the table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. We have a limited amount of gift kits available for the holiday season for \$30 each—be sure to stop by the table and pick yours up before supplies run out!



Angel Tree Shopping and Christmas Lights



Holiday Youth Event

On Saturday, December 11th, middle and high school youth are invited to shop for Angel Tree gifts at 5:00 PM. Supper will be served after shopping. Then, we will load up in the church van and drive around town to view the beautiful Christmas light displays and drink hot cocoa! Bring a friend.

Please let Sandra know if you are plan on attending the event (and if you're bringing a guest) so we know how much food to prepare.



Out of Office and Office Closures

Pastor Mark and Pastoral Assistant Sandra will be on vacation from Saturday, December 25th through Monday, January 3rd, returning to work on the 4th.

The office will be closed on Monday, December 27th in observance of Christmas and on Monday, January 3rd in observance of New Years.

Devotional Books

The Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home Devotionals are put out each quarter and are located on the backside of the card rack. Remember to get your copy today.

Suicide Support Group

A local suicide support group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fireside Room. Join us December 7th, 2021 at 6 PM. This is a non-denominational group and there is no charge. Just come and share.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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



CHURCH PHONE
225-6755

PASTOR MARK'S #
360-325-3227

Happenings at Zion

Youth Group

Join Pastoral Assistant Sandra for a time of fellowship, service, faith, and fun!

Both Middle School and High School students will meet together every Sunday from 9:45-10:30 AM in the Youth Room.



Winter Vendor Fair

Zion will be hosting a Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 5th, starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to have a booth in the event, please call the church office at 225-6755. Cost is \$30 per booth.



Blood Drive

Zion will be hosting the Lexy Becker Memorial Blood Drive on Saturday, December 18th from 11 AM – 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Lexy and her family were members at Zion when she passed away, and her family sponsors a blood drive in her memory every year. Please consider giving the gift of life this month!



End of Year Donations

Just a reminder that all end of the year donations you would like counted in the 2021 tax season need to be in the church office by 12:00 PM on Friday, December 31st.



Noisy Offering

We will collect noisy offering during the worship service during the offering time on the second Sunday of the month. Don't forget your coins!

A bucket will remain at the back of the sanctuary on the offering table for you to use to donate noisy (or quiet) offering on the other Sundays of the month.



Worship Schedule

8:30 AM	Traditional worship with radio broadcast
9:30 AM	Fellowship hour
9:40 AM	Sunday School
10:45 AM	Contemporary worship

We currently have two services available on Sunday mornings. Traditional worship will be held in the sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. and can be heard on the radio on KSDN 930 AM and 102.1 FM. Praise Band-led contemporary worship will be at 10:45 a.m. Both services will feature a kids' time during the service. Sunday School is held in the Education wing upstairs in between services, starting at 9:40 AM.

All services will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. Recordings of the broadcasts will also be available after to be viewed at any time on our Facebook page or our YouTube channel.

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 Mark or Pastoral Assistant Saundra know of your interest! We'd love to know if you're thinking about becoming a member. Or you can call the church at 225-6755 or by email: zion@nvc.net.

Lutheran World Relief Update

We will still take donations of sheets, hand soap & school supplies to be used for local charity and quilt making.

If you have questions about the LWR or quilting at Zion contact Norma Miller at 380-2599 or 605-439-3124. Thank you to all who have donated and helped in our efforts!

Common Grounds

Members of the Zion council will hold a monthly open forum called "**Common Grounds**" to encourage discussion of recent council items and how the congregation is carrying out our vision for mission. Our next Common Grounds will be **Sunday, December 5th at 9:45** in the fellowship hall.

Come spend some time with your leaders!



Christmas Poinsettias

Zion's Altar Guild invites members to purchase a poinsettia at a local business and bring it to church between December 19-22. Please put your name on a note with a message "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone, and attach the card to your plant. You may take your plant home on Christmas Eve.

You may also leave money and your note with Donna in the office if you do not have the opportunity to shop yourself. If you prefer to leave money, please do so by Wednesday, December 22 during office hours.



Organ Restoration Gifts

As you remember your loved ones this holiday season, please consider making a gift in their memory to our Organ Restoration fund. No gift is too small to help us complete the project, and it is a great way to honor their memory.

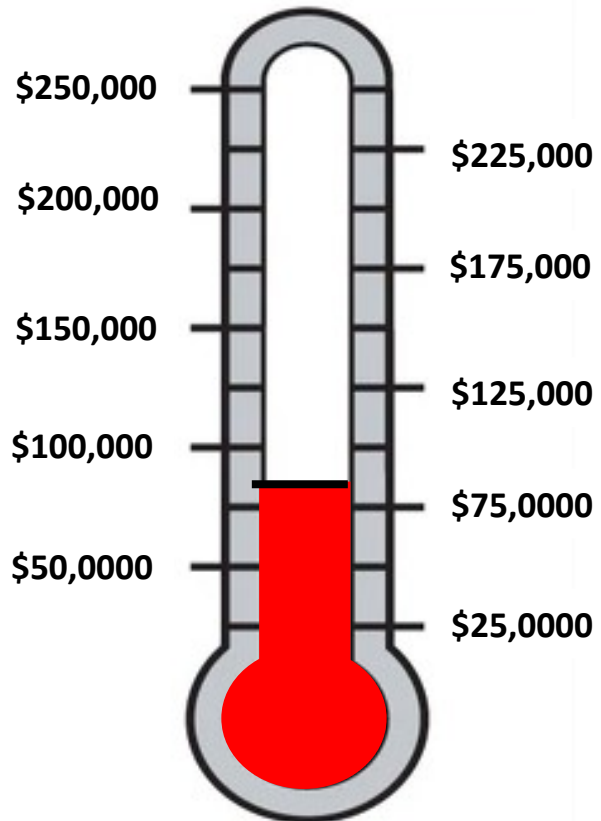
Organ Committee Members

Zachary Anderson:	252-1229
Sue Gates:	290-1684
Jena German:	216-3708
Nicole Kempf:	228-5218
Sonya Kempf:	228-2490
Sharon Stroschein:	228-1299
Ed Suchomel:	380-6375
Millie Suchomel:	380-6373

Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$65,422.15
Unpaid pledges - \$51,305.47
Total project funds - \$116,727.62

Our Goal: \$250,000



Remaining pledge amount needed
\$145,071.38



ORGAN RESTORATION GERMAN DINNER

Zion Lutheran Church
12.12.21 | 4-7 PM
To purchase tickets, call: 225-6755

Organ Restoration German Dinner

The German Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 12th from 4-7 PM. The menu is: sausage, sauerkraut, knoephla & potatoes, ice cream, Jell-o, coffee & water. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults (ages 15 +) and \$7.00 for kids (ages 14 and under).

To purchase tickets, stop at the table in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or call the church office during the week at 225-6755.

JF Nordlie, the company who holds the bid to do the work on the organ, are also planning to attend this event to answer any questions that congregational members may have!