

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Good news! Our Mission Study Small Groups are launched and ready for sign-up.

The sign-up sheets are available in the narthex, so you can sign-up when you are at the church, or call the church office to register your interest.

As February is the month we celebrate love in all its manifestations, I commend to you an article, for our edification and perspective, an informative and though-provoking article as to the historical roots of this holiday named after St. Valentine. It speaks for itself and give us much food for thought as we celebrate Valentine's Day:

### St. Valentine, the Real Story By David Kithcart The 700 Club

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's Day is all about, right? Maybe not. The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all -- at least not in the traditional sense. **Father Frank O'Gara of Whitefriars Street Church in Dublin, Ireland**, tells the real story of the man behind the holiday -- St. Valentine.

*"He was a Roman Priest at a time when there was an emperor called Claudias who persecuted the church at that particular time," Father O'Gara explains. "He also had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died."*

*"I think we must bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father O'Gara. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately presented the problem to the Christian church of what to do about this."*

*"The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict." Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.*

*"One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. He was supposed to have prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."*

In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

*"What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that -- even to the point of death."*

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## January 2022 Council Highlights

- Council held discussion and made final changes to bylaw changes that will be presented at the annual meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Installation of 2022 council members is scheduled at both services on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Council voted and approved holding an evening meal for the Germans from Russia Heritage Society as a fundraiser on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. This meal will also be open to the public and is a fundraiser for the church's general fund.
- Staff job descriptions and reviews will be held for all Zion staff members the week of Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Council voted and approved a motion from the Worship and Music Committee that the Council, ministry team and support staff continue with current, established Covid measures by providing posted recommendations upon entering the church, sanitizing stations, offering masks and encouraging worshippers to social distance as they feel necessary.

## Special Offering for February is Habitat For Humanity!

Please see the bulletin board for more information.



## Noah's Park Preschool

### Hello from Noah's Park!!

We hope you have been staying warm in this freezing cold weather!! We took advantage of some of the nicer days and played out on our snow hill!! What a blast :-)  
It was a race of epic proportions to get snow gear on but was totally worth it when we finally got outside. I only had to climb up the hill once to get one kiddo down when the bell rang so all in all it wasn't too bad! We were bummed with the cold spell but have been doing some indoor recess activities instead including a snowball (pompoms) relay race. We made penguin headbands and did several penguin activities. This week we are reading The Mitten which is a favorite as I build a "mitten fort" and let all the children climb in as we read the book. Just like at the end they all pop out a collapse on the rug. It's awesome to see them have so much fun with such a wonderful book! We're trying a new recipe out for cooking day so I'll let you know if it's a keeper! ~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.

Or give online today (multiple ways) by going to [zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving](http://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  
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"

☺ Thanks to our 2022 nominating committee for all the time they spent finding our council members for this year.

☺ Thanks to all the 2021 Auditors: Joel Albrecht, Marcie Andersh, Scott Geffre, Brian VanderWeyst, Kent Edson & Mae Click. Also, thanks to all who got their reports in and anyone who had a hand in helping put the annual report book together. You are all greatly appreciated.

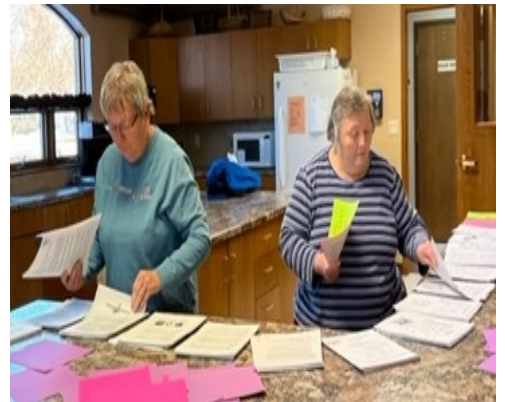
☺ Thanks to Shane Shauer, Mike Bretsch, Millie Suchomel, Sandra Anderson & Donna Steckler for taking down the Christmas decorations.

☺ Thanks to all who help with our worship services when asked. We couldn't do it without you.



### Out of the Office

- Pastor Mark is on vacation from February 4-11. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office, and we will help make arrangements for you.
- Pastoral Assistant Sandra is attending a youth leader conference in Minneapolis for continuing ed from February 11-14. You can text or email her during this time if you need assistance.



Thank you to Mary Kost, Carmel Heyd, Pastor Mark, Norma Miller, and JoAnn Heiser, Donna, and Sandra for your time and help in assembling the annual reports!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would be willing to help with ushering, sound, or PowerPoint for either Wednesday or Sunday services, please call the church office at 225-6755



### 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 Contact Information and Office Hours

**\*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](mailto: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 360-325-3227.

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



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Valentine's martyrdom has not gone unnoticed by the general public. In fact, Whitefriars Street Church is one of three churches that claim to house the remains of Valentine. Today, many people make the pilgrimage to the church to honor the courage and memory of this Christian saint.

*"Valentine has come to be known as the patron saint of lovers. Before you enter into a Christian marriage you want some sense of God in your life -- some great need of God in your life. And we know, particularly in the modern world, many people are meeting God through his Son, Jesus Christ."*

*"If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the 'gushing' love that you have for someone changes to something less 'gushing' but maybe much more mature. And the question is, is that young person ready for that?"*

*"So on the day of the marriage they have to take that into context," Father O'Gara says. "Love -- human love and sexuality is wonderful, and blessed by God -- but also the shadow of the cross. That's what Valentine means to me."*

May this month and Valentine's Day, mean such to us as well!

In Partnership,

Pastor Mark Galbraith



## Faith and Family



### Progressive Suppers

Our next progressive supper will be on **Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**. Open to middle and high school youth. **Bring a friend!** We will meet at Zion at 4:30 pm, and we will take the church van to our different locations. Kids will be returned for pick-up or can be dropped off at home after the event upon request.

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).

### Youth Group

Join Pastoral Assistant Sandra for a time of fellowship, service, faith, and fun! This time is spent exploring God at work in our lives through scripture, discussion, games, and more.

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





# Zion Happenings

God's Beloved People:

I am excited to announce that 11 Mission Study Small Groups are on the books, and ready for sign-up. A handful of groups will meet in group facilitators homes or in a restaurant, otherwise they will meet at Zion.

**The dates and times are:**

- February 3            2:00-3:30 PM
- February 7            6:30-8:00 PM
- February 9            2:00-3:30 PM
- February 16           6:15-7:45 PM
- February 17           7:30-9:00 PM
- February 27           5:30-7:00 PM
  
- March 8                7:30-9:00 PM
- March 12               10:00-11:30 AM
- March 13               12:00-1:30 PM
- March 20               12:00-1:30 PM
- March 20               5:30-7:00 PM



The purpose of these Mission Study Small Groups is to come together on the **"Holy Ground"** (Exodus 3:4-5) of each others hearts, and in the presence of God, to converse and listen to each other and God in order to discern Mission Goals that will define Zion's next chapter of ministry, including who to call as next Lead Pastor.

This is your opportunity ,Great and Holy People of God of Zion Lutheran Church, to give voice to the shape of Zion's next chapter of ministry.

Sign up sheets are on a table (with the green tablecloth) in the narthex. You may sign-up there or call the church office to register your attendance.

**You only need to come to one group meeting.**

Please take full advantage of this opportunity to help shape the next chapter of Zion's ministry via Spirit-led and Word-filled Mission Goals.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Mark

**MISSION**  
*Zion Lutheran Church*  
**GOALS**

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

### Staff

Pastor Mark Galbraith.....Interim Pastor  
 Saundra 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, church and unchurched, welcoming all into the family of God.

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

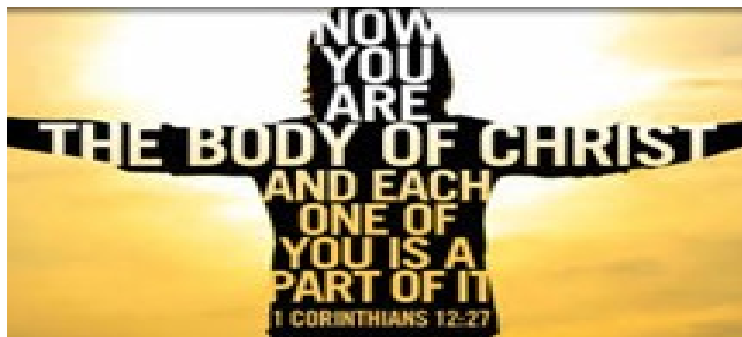
(pending election at annual meeting)

### **Officers / Executive Committee:**

Jena German .....President  
 Ed Suchomel .....Vice President  
 Joel Albrecht .....Treasurer  
 Nancy Schmidt.....Secretary

### **Council Representatives:**

Jessica Moser.....Faith Formation  
 Ryan Bretsch .....Finance & Stewardship  
 Nicole Schutter.....Mission & Outreach  
 Kathy Heffernan.....Worship & Music  
 Norma Nielsen.....Welcome & Caring



### **STEWARDSHIP**

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT**

#### **THROUGH December 31, 2021**

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$33,000.00

Actual December income: \$39,654.11 ~ includes

(Fund 2 transfer to cover deficit) - 10,200.00

Actual December expenses: 34,000.00

Ended 2021 - ~ 457.58 in General Fund

### **ZION MEMORIALS**

#### **In Memory of:**

Stella Merkel Youth Mission  
 Stella Merkel Organ Fund  
 Gina Schwartzbauer Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Beth Anne Carson Organ Fund  
 Marvin Bucholz Organ Fund  
 Esther Thistle Organ Fund

#### **For:**

Youth Mission  
 Organ Fund  
 Organ Fund  
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 Organ Fund  
 Organ Fund  
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 Organ Fund  
 Organ Fund  
 Organ Fund  
 Organ Fund  
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 Organ Fund  
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 Organ Fund

#### **From:**

Family & Friends  
 Family & Friends  
 Joel/Jane Albrecht  
 Sue Gates  
 Karl/Sonya Kempf  
 Jeanette Scherr  
 George/Nyla Stewart  
 Kent/Susan Edson  
 Del/Carol Lowe  
 Lynae Poel  
 Loren/April Nehlich  
 Vivian Eske  
 Ray/Marcie Andersh  
 Loren/April Nehlich  
 Gwen Carson

### **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!

### **Radio Broadcast Sponsorships**

We have several openings for this new year! 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 in 2021!

### **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED**

Call the office at  
 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast  
 \$55 for half

# Faith and Family



## 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.

## Basket Silent Auction

The youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering are putting together a silent basket auction for March and need your help! If you would be willing to put together a basket to be auctioned off, please bring the basket to the church by Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. More information on the actual basket silent auction can be found in February bulletins and in the March newsletter.



## Book of Mark Faith Milestone

For this family Faith milestone, we explore how you can use your Bible to discover who Jesus is through the Gospel of Mark. This milestone will be held between services on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 AM in Classrooms A&B for **fourth graders and an adult**. More information will be sent to families closer to the date.



## Life Line Screening

Take a step toward staying healthy and active. Life Line screen goes beyond regular checkups to provide a more thorough look at your health. Life Line will be holding a screening day at Zion on Friday, February 11, 2022. See the kiosk for more information, or grab a pink flyer by the main church entrance. Zion has been given a couple of coupons for hosting the event. If you are interested in using one of these coupons, please contact the church office.

**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** meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fireside Room. Join us February 1st, 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](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org)  
YouTube: [bit.ly/ZLCYouTube](https://bit.ly/ZLCYouTube)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ZionAberdeen](https://facebook.com/ZionAberdeen)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/zlcaberdeenyouth](https://facebook.com/zlcaberdeenyouth)  
Instagram: [@zlcaberdeensd](https://www.instagram.com/zlcaberdeensd)

**CHURCH PHONE**  
225-6755

**PASTOR MARK'S #**  
360-325-3227



# Happenings at Zion

## Organ Restoration Super Bowl Soup

Orders are being taken for Knoephla and Turkey Noodle soup for Super Bowl Sunday. Soup is \$7.00 per quart. Place your orders on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Orders will be taken through Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Soup can be picked up on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> (calls will be made if soup is ready earlier). All proceeds will go to the Organ Restoration Fund. Get your orders in today!



## Winter Vendor Fair

Zion will be hosting a Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase on the day of the event. For full details and list of vendors, please see the Facebook event on the Zion Facebook page.

## Spring Bazaar

Mark your calendar. The ZLCW are making plans for the Bazaar which is scheduled for Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Be thinking of how you can be involved, and get those crafts finished!

Kuchen baking will be the day before on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, we are looking to add a Kid's Corner this year, so if you have any toys to donate, you have time to check the kids' closets.



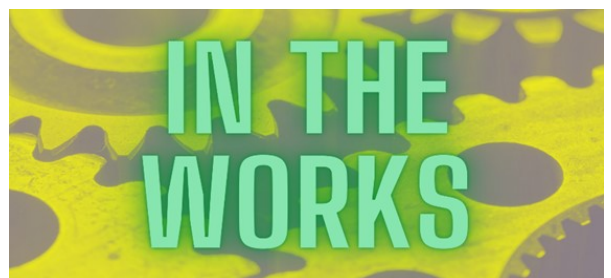
## Noisy Offering

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.

## In the Works

The Worship and Music Committee is working on service times for the season of Lent. Stay tuned to bulletins this month and the March newsletter for final details!



# 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 a.m.

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 Sandra 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](mailto:zion@nvc.net).

## Happy Birthday!

Happy birthday to Pastoral Assistant Sandra Anderson! She celebrated her thirty-second birthday working away on Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you to Jena and the council for sharing cake for fellowship time.



## Join the Council for 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, February 6th at 9:45** in the fellowship hall.

Bring your coffee and snacks, and spend some time with your leaders!







Ed Suchomel and Millie Suchomel hanging the sign that the organ committee got for advertising their soup sales. Don't forget to get your soup ordered!

### Organ Committee

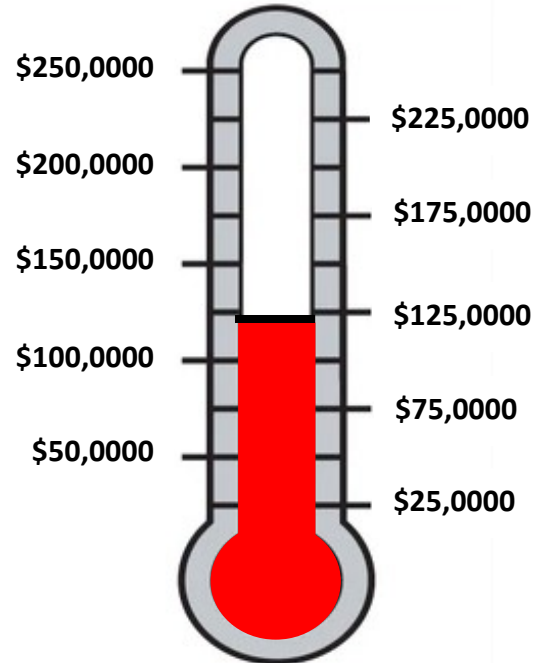
Zachary Anderson: 252-1229; Sue Gates: 290-1684; Nicole Kempf: 228-5218; Sonya Kempf: 228-2490; Sharon Stroschein: 228-1299; Ed Suchomel: 380-6375; Millie Suchomel: 380-6373

Special thanks to all the organ committee members. They have been working hard planning and carrying out fundraisers, along with raising pledges for the project. If you haven't yet, please prayerfully consider your donation or pledge to the project. Together we can do this!

## Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$74,732.60  
Unpaid pledges - \$48,914.70  
Total project funds - \$123,364.73

Our Goal: \$250,000



Remaining pledge amount needed:  
\$126,352.70

### From the SD Synod: ELCA Youth Gathering

Winter blessings, South Dakota Congregations! I am writing today to you, and it is -2 degrees outside. Brrrr...I am SO looking forward to the Gathering this summer in sunny downtown Minneapolis! The countdown is on and kids all across the South Dakota Synod are preparing and getting excited for their trip this summer.

And a word of encouragement for you all: whether you are a teen looking forward to the Gathering, a parent wondering how to support your kids growing in their faith, a volunteer who works with kids in your congregation, or someone who is just watching in wonder (and sometimes confusion) as kids and parents navigate, well, everything! I encourage you to pray for one another. Pray for those planning activities that support and encourage the kids in your congregation to grow in their faith. Pray for parents, pray for volunteers, pray for teachers, and anyone who has the extraordinary responsibility and privilege of encountering the kids in our congregations as they explore, question, and seek God, growing daily in their relationship with our Savior.

*"Join in helping us with your prayers, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many." 2 Corinthians 1:11*

May God's love warm your hearts,  
Tami Steffensen  
SD Synod Gathering Coordinator

