

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADVENT Sunday worship theme: “OPEN”. I will be preaching on this word during three of the Sundays of Advent—December 18 will be the Sunday School Christmas program so there will be no sermon that day. This is a quote from a person who lived in the 4th century that was the inspiration for this series: *“Do not allow anything that might disturb—to enter upon our watch. Let the path of the ear be cleared; let the light of the eye be chastened; let the contemplation of the heart be sanctified; let the speech of the mouth be purified.”*

Sunday, November 27—Open our EYES. Focus verse: Luke 2:30 “My eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all people.”

Sunday, December 4—Open our EARS. Focus verse: Isaiah 55:3 “Incline your ear and come to me; listen, so that you might live.”

Sunday, December 11—Open our HEARTS. Focus verse: 2 Thessalonians 3:5 “May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God.”

Sunday, December 18—Sunday School Christmas program at **10:00 a.m.** and NO regular worship service at 9:00 a.m.

ADVENT mid-week worship “Reader’s Theater” on the meaning of Advent

Join us for supper starting Wednesday November 30 from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall and then be part of our mid-week worship starting at 6:05 p.m. We will worship on Wednesdays November 30 and December 7 and 14. We will NOT have midweek worship on December 21 to allow families to finish last-minute tasks so we have nothing scheduled at church for that night.

We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for our worship liturgy. Instead of sermons we will watch three people each week perform in a “Reader’s Theater” about the meaning of Advent, discussing Jesus as a babe born at Christmas, how Jesus comes to the poor and suffering in the present, and how Jesus will one day return as King. Each character will read a short Scripture and attempt to interpret it while the other two characters offer feedback and advice. Be prepared for puns!

Below are some helpful terms that you will hear throughout this upcoming Advent and Christmas season:

ADVENT TERMS

ADVENT is a Latin word meaning “a coming or arrival” and refers to the coming of the Lord. The Advent season begins the new liturgical church year on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.

IMMANUEL is a Hebrew word meaning “God is with us.” Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet, recorded the Lord’s promise that he would come to us to rule with peace and justice. In Jesus, God came to live with us.

REPENT! Is the cry of John the Baptizer and the Old Testament prophets that came before him, calling the Lord’s people, then and now, to change their hearts and live in preparation for meeting their God.

SON OF DAVID is the title for a long-awaited descendant of the great Old Testament Jewish king, David. This descendant would be chosen from King David’s family & town (Bethlehem) by the Lord God to lead his people.

MESSIAH is the Hebrew title meaning “anointed one” or “chosen one”, like the Greek word “Christ.”

MARANATHA is an Aramaic word (the language Jesus spoke) meaning “Come, Lord!” Early Christians included this exclamation in their worship, expressing their belief, and ours, that Jesus who came once as a child will return as Christ the King and Lord of the universe.

November 2022 Council Highlights

- Pauer Sound came and did a soundboard rework on Sunday, November 13th, which should help with sound quality both in-person and online/on the radio. A recommendation and bid was placed to add a double-ear microphone for the pastor for better audio quality. Council approved this bid.
- A motion was made and passed to present Ed Suchomel to be voted on as next Council President at the annual meeting in January. The role of Council Secretary will be given to the Nominating Committee to find a nominee to fill the vacancy.

Special Offering for December is St. Dysmas

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

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. You will be personally blessed by a 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!! Well November came and went in the blink of an eye!! I can't believe we are about a month away from Christmas. We are practicing our Christmas program songs and the children are doing a fabulous job. We also set up our gingerbread café today and have started decorating our Christmas tree with beaded wreaths. We couldn't let Thanksgiving go by without making mini pumpkin pies! It's one of my favorite recipes and I think most of the children agree :-). We also made harvest corn by painting on bubble wrap and transferring it to paper to wrap around craft tubes. These always turn out so cute and the children were so excited to take them home. ~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 scan this QR code with your smartphone and it will take you to our giving page.

ZION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Bethesda Home

Ben Schroeder
Carol Knispel
Jane Fischer
Janice Peterson
Esther Ottenbacher

Primrose Cottages

Frances Wolff

Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie
Joyce Mentzer

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen

Milbank

Marge Rhodes

Bethesda Town Sq.

Meta Vetter
Shirley Wagemann
Viola Tetherow
Gladys Voegelé
Lorraine Kusler

Groton Health Care

Leon Tobin
Joe & Ruth Bosmoe

Minnesota

LeRoy Buechler

California

Erna Schmierer

Colorado

Ella Aipperspach



"GRATEFUL FOR YOU"

☺ Thanks to Marie Bretsch for getting the 2023 offering envelopes prepared for members to pick up.

☺ Thanks to all who donated food for the Salvation Army's Snack Pack Program.

☺ Thank you to Mike Bretsch for moving snow in our parking lots!

☺ Thanks to Judy Albl and Joel Albrecht for hanging the banners at the front of the sanctuary.

☺ Thank you to the Sunday School children for decorating our space for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season! Special thank you to Brian, Isaac, and Noah VanderWeyst for putting up the big trees at the front of the sanctuary.

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 in the other Sundays of the month.

Christmas Poinsettias

Please bring a plant or a donation to the church office by Wednesday, December 21



Christmas Poinsettias

Zion's Altar Guild invites members to purchase a poinsettia at a local business and bring it to church between December 18-21. 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 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 21 during office hours. Your generosity in beautifying the sanctuary for Christmas Eve is greatly appreciated!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Call Committee Update

The Ministry Site Profile for calling a new pastor has been completed, approved by the church council and the synod. Our information is now available online throughout the ELCA for viewing by interested pastors. Continue to pray for our congregation and an answer to our call.

Freezer Meals

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

We will assist you in getting meals from the freezer to give to someone who is in need of one!



Rides Available

Sunday Van Rides Available!

Our van ride service is available on Sunday mornings for the 9:00 AM fall worship service. If you would like a ride to worship, or if you are willing to volunteer to drive the van, please call the church office at 225-6755 and talk to Donna.

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 typically 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).

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!



Youth Group

Join Pastoral Assistant Sandra for a time of fellowship, service, faith, and fun! **There will be a Christmas party on Sunday, December 18th at noon.** We'll play games and enjoy some delicious snacks. Mark the date on your calendar!

Confirmation

On Sunday, October 30th, nine Zion youth affirmed their baptisms at a special service held that morning. Students helped lead worship by reading prayers, reading scripture, and serving communion, while also reaffirming the promises made to them at baptism. The youth were presented with gifts from the congregation and the Women, along with beautiful prayer shawls from our prayer shawl ministry. Congratulations! We are very proud of you and excited to share in this important faith milestone!



Back row: Brendyn Weisser, Kyra Spitzer, Brandon Schwan, Raegan Kempf, Jack Dickey

Front row: Kaelyn Schutter, Zoe Kempf, Aubrey Jensen, Kaylee Efraimson

\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM	Worship with live radio broadcast, Holy Communion, and livestream
10:00 AM	Fellowship time
10:10 AM	Sunday School

Worship Schedule

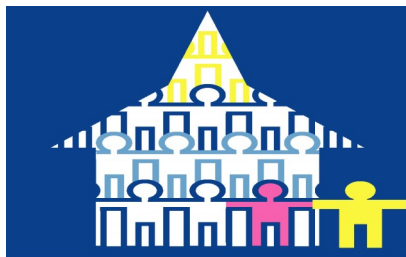
We currently have one service available on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion being served each week. Each service features a kids' time and is broadcast live on the radio on KSDN 930 AM and 102.1 FM. A time of fellowship and Sunday School follow worship, starting at 10:10 a.m.

All services are livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. Recordings of the broadcasts were also 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? Do you know someone who is, or are you wondering what it means to be a member of Zion?

Let Norma Nielsen, Welcome and Outreach chair, or Pastoral Assistant Sandra know of your interest! We'd love to know if you're thinking about becoming a member. You can also contact the church at 225-6755 or by email: zion@nvc.net.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Material Needed

The quilters are in need of children's themed material to make quilts for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace".

Please bring to the church if you have any or find any at the store. Thanks so much!



Out of Office and Office Closures

Pastoral Assistant Sandra will be on vacation from Sunday, December 25th through Monday, January 2nd, returning to work on the 3rd.

The office will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The office will also be closed on Friday, December 30th and Monday, January 2nd in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



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 on all the fundraisers. If you haven't yet, please pray about it and consider filling out your pledge card and returning it to the church office. Together we can do this.

Purse Winner

Congratulations to our Kate Spade purse winner:

Tamara Thomas!

Tamara's winning ticket was drawn from fifty tickets sold as part of a fundraiser for the Organ Restoration Fund.



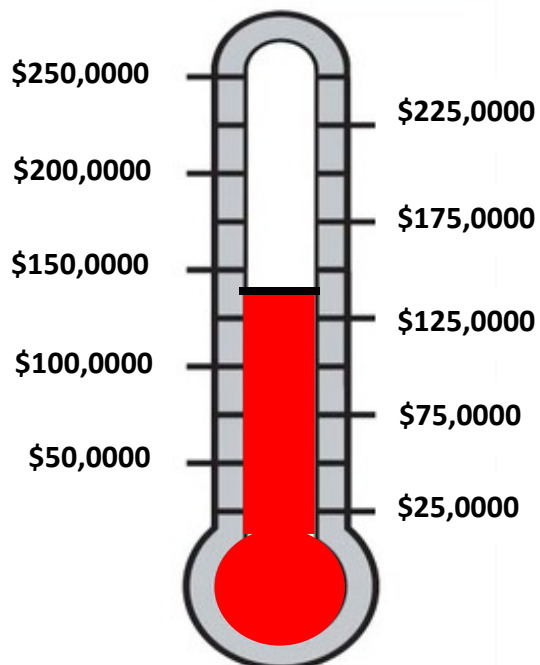
Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$100,658.08

Unpaid pledges - \$41,356.26

Total project funds - \$142,014.34

Our Goal: \$250,000



Remaining pledge amount needed
\$107,985.66

Organ Restoration Fundraiser



The Organ Restoration committee is selling squares for \$5 a square for the opportunity to win one of 9 gift cards in denominations from \$25 to \$100. Once all 150 squares are sold, winners will be randomly selected with the first person drawn getting a \$100 Ken's gift card then from highest value to lowest. Each square may only win once.

Thank you to Ken's Superfair Foods, CorTrust Bank, and Primerica for the donation of the gift cards. If you have any questions, reach out to any member of the Organ Committee.

Bedding Drive



Mission and Outreach is planning a bedding drive for Sleep in Heavenly Peace which will be held in January 2023.

We are collecting new or gently used kid themed twin-sized items. Please keep us in mind as you do your holiday shopping!

CHURCH PHONE
(605) 225-6755

PASTOR JIM'S #
(218) 760-2028

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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

Faith and Family

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 on November 30, December 7, and December 14; services will be livestreamed. There will be freewill 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.



Christmas Cards

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 Thursday, December 15.



Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School children will be holding their annual Christmas program during the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, December 18th.

Practice for the program will be on Saturday, December 17th from 10-11 AM.



Tree of Saints

This year, our youth will once again 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 Epiphany.

Sales will continue through Sunday, December 18th. All proceeds from the ornament sales benefit the youth attending the Denver service trip.



Holiday Youth Event with Lumin

There will be a service and fellowship event for our middle and high school youth on Sunday, December 4 starting at 4:00 PM. We will be making protein balls to deliver to our essential workers and enjoying supper and games with members of the college Lumin (campus ministry group). Join us for a night of faith and fun!

LUMIN & ZION YOUTH HOLIDAY SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY

DEC | 4 | 4 pm

Making protein balls to deliver to essential workers; supper and games after

Christmas Cards

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 Narthex. The display will remain through Epiphany in January—bring your cards anytime!





Service Time Change

The Zion Council voted at their November meeting to hold one worship service on Sunday, December 18th at 10:00 AM. This change is for one Sunday only and to allow all the opportunity to enjoy the Sunday School Christmas Program that will be held during worship on that day. Holy Communion will still be served, and the radio broadcast for that day will be pre-recorded.

End of Year Donations

Just a reminder that all end of the year donations you would like credited in the 2022 tax season need to be in the church office by **NOON on Thursday, December 29th**.



Winter Vendor Fair

Mark your calendar! Zion will be hosting the second annual Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 4th, starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On Wednesday, December 28th at 8:00 PM, there will be a men's meeting at The One Legged Pheasant for an opportunity for fellowship. This is intended to be extremely informal and an opportunity to get to know one another. Please feel free to invite a friend, and we will see you there!



Happenings at Zion

Trunk or Treat

We had a great turnout for Zion's Trunk or Treat that was held at Sunday, October 30. More than 400 kids, along with their families, lined the parking lot and received candy and various treats from the cars that participated in the event. Congratulations to Deb Hardy for winning the decorating contest with her pumpkin patch-themed car!



Table of Plenty Donation

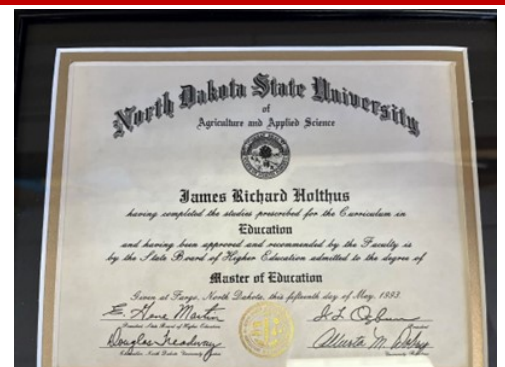
The Mike Miller Elementary School Student Leadership Team recently held a Cash War to raise money for Table of Plenty. In the end, their donation totaled \$1500 to help sponsor a meal.

Pictured is Mission and Outreach chair Nicole Schutter with the Student Leadership Team. THANK YOU for your donation to our ministry!



Grief Group

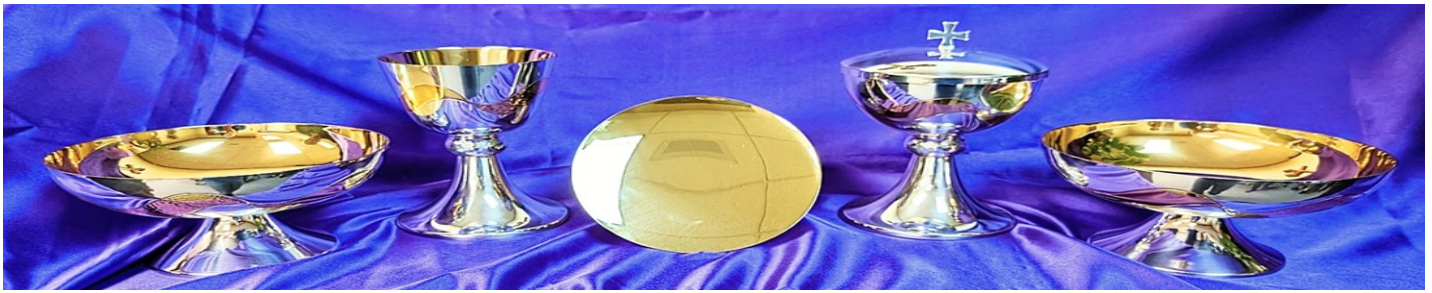
The holidays can be really difficult for people who have gone through the loss of someone close to them and are still grieving that loss. If you would like to talk over what you're going through with Pastor Jim, please call him. We are doing one more time together on December 13 for people who are all right with having others in the same situation know what they're going through. Pastor Jim has also been posting quite a few articles and other helpful resources on both the church website and on our church Facebook page. These are under the heading "Grief Resources".



Our in-person Grief Group will meet once in December and then go on hiatus through January as we ask for feedback regarding if and when we should continue to meet in person or allow people to find their own individual resources.

In addition to the basic clergy degree (called a Masters of Divinity), PJ also has a Masters of Education in Clinical Counseling from NDSU in Fargo in 1993 and worked as a counselor at LSS of Moorhead, MN in 1992-1994. Feel free to use him as a listening person who might be able to share insights and help.

Happenings at Zion



New Communion Elements

A new communion set was purchased through the generosity of an anonymous donor at the end of October. The new elements were blessed and used in worship for the first time on November 6. THANK YOU to our donor for your kind gift that will be used for many years to come!

Holiday Ditch

Do you have gifts to shop for? Errands you just have to get done? Baking to do? Presents to wrap? Do you just need a couple of hours to grab a cup of coffee with a friend or time to watch your favorite holiday movie? We've got you covered!

"Ditch" your kids with our top-notch preschool teacher and responsible helpers for a couple hours of free time on Sunday, December 11 from 2-4 PM! Kids will enjoy their time playing games, watching a short holiday movie, making crafts, coloring, and enjoying snacks while you get to do whatever you want!

Cost is a free-will offering (suggested minimum \$5/kid) and proceeds will benefit our Zion Preschool and Youth programs. This event is for children in grades PreK-5, and all children need to be potty trained.

Please call the church office (225-6755) to register your child(ren) by Wednesday, December 7. A limited number of walk-in spots will be available on the day of.

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL & YOUTH

HOLIDAY DITCH

Sunday, December 11 | 2-4 PM

Ditch your kids** with our Preschool teacher and helpers and go shopping, wrap gifts, bake, watch a movie, have some coffee--whatever you want!

**FREE WILL OFFERING
(SUGGESTED MINIMUM: \$5/KID)**

TO REGISTER FOR EVENT, PLEASE CALL CHURCH OFFICE AT 225-6755 BY DECEMBER 7 (LIMITED NUMBER OF WALK-INS AVAILABLE)

****KIDS: THOSE IN GRADES PREK--5 (MUST BE POTTY TRAINED)**

Freezer Meal Sales

The busy holiday season is quickly approaching—let us cook for you! The youth are selling homemade freezer meals of chicken alfredo and pizza bake for you to take home just in time for Christmas. Simply thaw and bake for an easy meal to feed a crowd! Sales run through Wednesday, December 7, and meals will be ready for pickup on Sunday, December 18 after worship. Cost is \$20 a pan, and each 9x13 pan also includes a side of garlic toast. To purchase, please stop at the table in the narthex or call the church office.

ZION YOUTH FREEZER MEAL SALES

\$20

Includes a 9x13 frozen meal and garlic bread



**CHICKEN
ALFREDO**

OR

**PIZZA
HOTDISH**

Let us help you take one thing off your plate the week of Christmas!