

JANUARY 2023

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023 STEWARDSHIP IDEAS for ZION LUTHERAN (from Ryan Bretsch "Finance & Stewardship Committee" & PJ)

Like almost every congregation, Zion struggles to find a balance between income and expenses. Income sometimes remains stagnant or even declines if one or more of Zion's older members who has been a significant donor passes away. Expenses, on the other hand, continue to grow. Fuel costs, maintenance, repairs, salaries, insurance and pension costs in staffs' financial packages, electricity and other utilities and unexpected bills can play havoc with our spreadsheets.

Sometimes churches ask members to look at their families' potential income and expenses and make a pledge to show their estimated giving to the church. This is a hopeful estimate to start from but the two rarely match up at the end of the year.

What if we got "creative" with our financial stewardship ideas in 2023? Our "hope" is that all members of Zion and attendees can make some kind of offering weekly IF POSSIBLE. What churches struggle with is that people often give the same amount they gave ten or twenty years ago, while church expenses have skyrocketed. Most churches would love to give their staff raises, pay off the mortgages on special projects, and put money away for a "rainy day." But unless income increases they simply are unable to do this. What if.....

- A: One Sunday a month you double your usual offering.
(This doesn't mean that on the other Sundays you can cut back.....)**
- B: Pick one or two things a week that cost money that you do for fun that you don't need to do—eat out, go to a movie, go to a sports event—and give that amount added on to your regular church offering that week. Include what you spend on coffee or pop one day a week.**
- C: Swear jar. Put a quarter in it every time you swear at home and donate the change to the church every week. Keep track of how much your mouth is costing you. Add this amount to your normal weekly offering. If you DON'T swear, consider how much time you spend in front of the TV or playing video games when there are more "constructive" activities you could be doing; donate 50 cents into the jar for every hour you intentionally "waste" around the house.**
- D. If you currently are in a difficult financial situation, try something like putting out a jar at home and tossing all your spare change into it everyday and donating that amount to the church every week. Keep track of how much this amount is! Maybe the entire family could join in doing this.**

These are four "out of the box" ideas we would like to present as OPTIONS for people who attend Zion to consider. Yes, these are not the normal ways that churches talk about money, but we needed to get creative.

Talk about these options with your family; pray about them; hopefully choose one option and follow it for a month to see how the amount you find yourself donating changes! Continue to use this option if you want to. You might also try a different option for a month to see what that experience is like for your family and how your giving at the end of that month compares to your giving from your earlier option.

Our hope is that Zion Lutheran can experience all (or most) of its members and attendees being part of this experiment for 2023 to see how it affects our income totals. Each family may also experience some new insights as they choose to give in different ways from how they gave previously. The Church Council is curious to see how monthly income from these new stewardship ideas would affect our 2023 totals as we compare them to the 2022 totals.

We sincerely hope that the Holy Spirit will be present in this experiment to add some excitement to all who participate in this adventure. We are open to any feedback you have about other options that might be helpful to us to add to our income as well. We continue to pray that 2023 might be a year for Zion to improve its financial position and ask that you consider being a part of this adventure with us.

December 2022 Council Highlights

- A concern was shared about how warm the sanctuary is during worship. With boiler heat and the size of the building, this has been an ongoing concern. There is no easy or cost-effective solution. The feedback is appreciated; for now, please dress appropriately, knowing it may be a bit warm in the sanctuary.
- There are two families who will be making Zion their church home on New Member Sunday (January 15).
- The Zion Council voted to hold the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29 at 10:15 AM with a meal to be served by Council.

Special Offering for January is Journey Home

The Journey Home is focused on individuals who are committed to changing their life.

Our goal is to provide struggling people in our community with a hand up, not a hand out.

We provide for the whole person:

- **Intellectually** by helping people who have a desire for learning in order to achieve more.
- **Physically** by providing housing, food, and support towards appropriate health care.
- **Socially** by encouraging people to work together to develop a sense of belonging and security.
- **Emotionally** by supporting people to develop a sense of self-worth through love and caring.
- **Financially** by helping develop employment-related skills and providing interactive budgeting.
- **Spiritually** by developing an awareness of God's love and his presence in our daily lives.

Noah's Park Preschool

Hello from Noah's Park!! We hope you are all staying warm and cozy. I feel like December always goes by so fast, but it went even faster with all the snow days!! Our Christmas programs for the MWF classes went fabulously well!! I was so impressed with how well they did coming back from several days off due to the snow days. The TTH class wasn't able to have their program due to the weather, but we had a lot of fun with a pajama day and cooking day before Christmas break. I also set up the Gingerbread Café and ordered a new set of wooden Christmas cookies. I also ordered a new magnetic dot art set which has been super popular!! Snowflake Milkshake (our Elf on the Shelf) made an appearance this year. and luckily, he was pretty well behaved. He only made one small mess when he tried to make some snow angels out of flour!! Happy New Year!! ~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-Avantara

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

Aberdeen Health & Rehab

Milbert Dais



"GRATEFUL FOR YOU"

☺ Thanks to all who worked the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services.

☺ Thanks to all who helped with the Sunday School Christmas program and to all the children.

☺ Thanks to all the musicians and all who provided special music for our December and Christmas Services.

☺ Thank you to Kathy Brumbaugh, Stephanie Hawkinson, and Sonya Kempf for sharing your musical talents during our Midweek Advent worship services.

☺ Thanks to everyone for another faith filled year at Zion! We are so excited to start 2023 in ministry and mission together!

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!



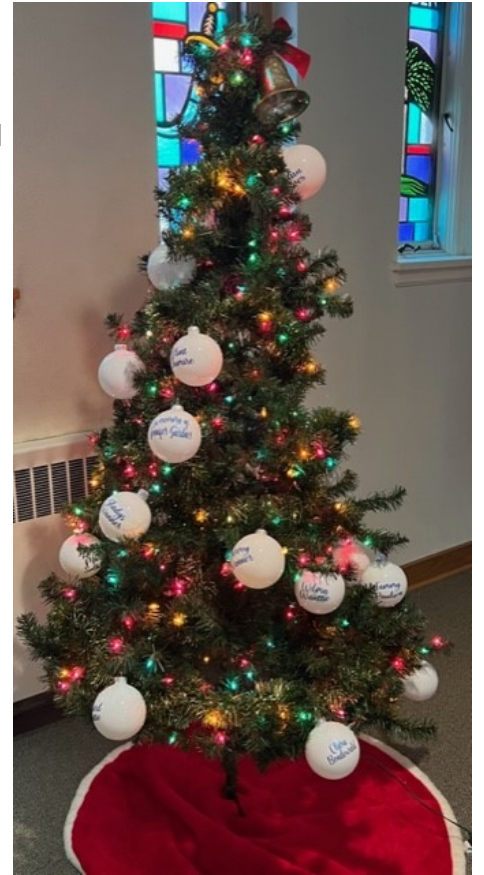
A bucket will remain at the back of the sanctuary on the offering table for you to use to donate noisy (or quiet) offering in the other Sundays of the month.

Tree of Saints

Thank you to everyone who purchased a remembrance ornament for the Tree of Saints. We sold over 35 total!

Those who purchased ornaments are welcome to remove them from the tree and take them home at any time.

Once the tree is taken down after Epiphany, ornaments can be picked up from Sandra.



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 worship service. If you would like a ride to worship, please call the church office at 225-6755 and talk to Donna.

Faith and Family



Progressive Supper

Our next progressive supper will be on **Saturday, January 28th**. Open to middle and high school youth. **Bring a friend!** For this month, we'll be having our meal in conjunction with an Aberdeen Wings game! We will meet at Zion at 5:00 PM, and we will take the church van to supper, and then we will head to the Odde Arena for the Wings game, which begins at 7:15 PM. Kids will be returned for pick-up or can be dropped off at home after the event upon request. If you plan to attend, please let Sandra know by Wednesday, January 25th.



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.



Youth Group



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

We are in the process of finalizing details on a service project this month to benefit a local group. Meet in the youth room on Sunday, January 15th at 3:00 PM!

Confirmation and Wednesday Bible Study



Pastor Jim will be continuing his Bible study for congregational members and confirmation students and their parents starting Wednesday, January 4 @ 6:30 PM, and continuing through January.

We will be reviewing Holy Baptism and Holy Communion and then having a summary of Martin Luther's Small Catechism. (There are no tests; just show up with your questions.)



If you will be absent for any of the classes, please visit with either Pastor Jim or Sandra.

Sunday School

Just a reminder that there will be no Sunday School on January 1st. We will resume our time together on Sunday the 8th at 10:10 AM. Happy New Year!

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Staff

Pastor Jim Holthus.....Interim Pastor
 Saundra Anderson.....Pastoral Assistant
 Donna Steckler.....Business Manager
 Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music
 Sue Gates.....Assistant Director of Music
 Stephanie HawkinsonPraise 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, churched and unchurched, welcoming all into the family of God.

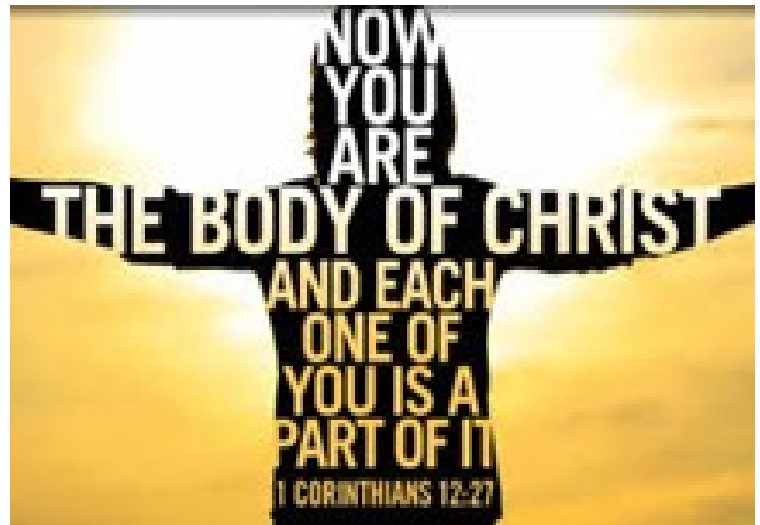
CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers / Executive Committee:

Jena GermanPresident
 Ed SuchomelVice President
 Joel AlbrechtTreasurer
 Nancy Schmidt.....Secretary

Council Representatives:

Jessica Moser.....Faith Formation
 Ryan BretschFinance & 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 2022

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$30,000.00
 Actual Dec. Income: \$30,878.98
 Actual Dec. Expenses: \$28,505.08

*Thank you for your generous support of Zion Lutheran Church this past year with your gifts of time, talent and offerings. We look forward to your continued support of the ministries in the year ahead.

ZION MEMORIALS

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Don Perrion	Organ	Ray\Marcie Andersh
Pius Vetter	General	Meta Vetter
Beth Anne Carson	Sunday School	ZLCW
Richard Anderson	Sunday School	ZLCW
Rosemary Job	Sunday School	ZLCW
Arthur Heinrich	Sunday School	ZLCW
Martha Zimmerman	Sunday School	ZLCW
Rodney Wiedrich	Sunday School	ZLCW
Harold Hoffman	Sunday School	ZLCW
Beth Rietz-Walth	Sunday School	ZLCW

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



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! Upcoming open dates are January 8 & 15 and several Sundays after.

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
 225-6755 to sign up

\$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!



Worship Volunteers

For those who are currently helping during our 9:00 AM worship services, we are planning to keep the current rotation of volunteers through the annual meeting at the end of the month. After the meeting, we will adjust our volunteer schedules, if necessary. Thank you for all you do for Zion!



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.

Lifeline Screening

Lifeline Screening will be held at Zion on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Take a step toward staying Healthy & Active.

To register for your appointment and to receive a special discount, please call 1-800-640-6307 or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HC.

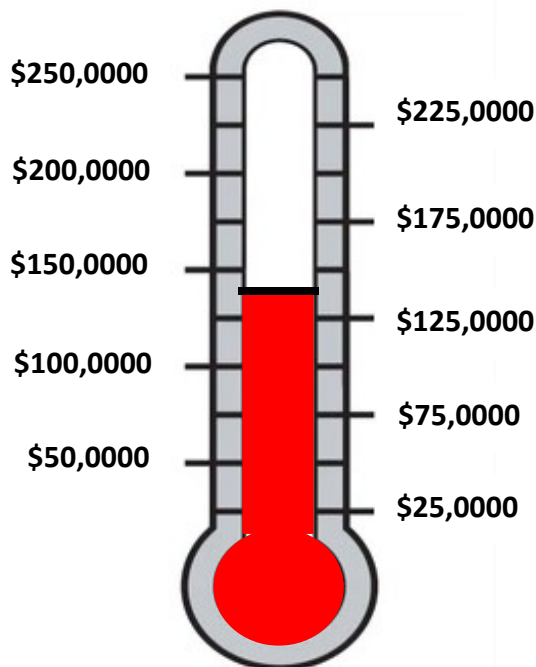
Grab a pink flyer in the Narthex for more information.



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 this month.

We are collecting new or gently used kid themed twin-sized items. Please bring any donations to the table in the narthex throughout the month.

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

Visitation to Shut-Ins

Pastor Jim is attempting to figure out which Zion members are continuing to visit or telephone which shut-ins. Can you help him out? If you regularly attempt (or succeed) in contacting one or more Zion shut-ins, please let him know as he's trying to update his records.



NEW MEMBERS
SUNDAY!

New Member Sunday

We will be welcoming new members to our Zion faith family on Sunday, January 15. Help us welcome these fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to our congregation during the 9:00 AM worship service!

If you know of other people from our community who are also interested in joining, please have them call the church and we'll visit with them.

Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to those who brought Christmas Poinsettias to beautify our church sanctuary for the Christmas services.

From:

Deb Graves

Kathy & Kevin Franz

Family of Jordan Heyd

Delila Norton

Ray\Marcie Andersh

In Memory Of:

Jordan Graves &
Terry Thoreson

Marvin Franz

Jordan Heyd

Alma Wagemann &
Leland Norton

"To the Glory of the
Newborn King"



Christmas Eve Services

We had over two hundred twenty-five people worship at Zion during our two Christmas Eve services. Thank you to all the musicians and volunteers who made these services possible!



Happenings at Zion



Annual Meeting

The annual congregation meeting for Zion will be held on **Sunday, January 29th** immediately following **worship (around 10:15 AM) in the Fellowship Hall.** There will be a meal served by the Zion Council followed by the meeting. Please see the bulletins and MailChimp emails in the coming month for more information.

Winter Vendor Fair

Zion will be hosting a Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 4th, 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.



Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On Wednesday, January 25th 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!

Annual Meeting Forum

There will be two annual meeting forums held on Sundays, January 15 and 22 following worship in the Fellowship Hall (around 10:15 AM). The first forum will be focused on budget questions and comments, and the forum on the 22nd will allow congregational members to view the full annual report and ask any questions they may have ahead of the annual meeting the following week. Please see the bulletins and MailChimp emails in the coming month for more information.

A graphic for the Annual Meeting Forum. It has a dark blue background on the left and a green background on the right. The text "Annual Meeting Forum" is in a large white sans-serif font. Below it, in a smaller white sans-serif font, is "Zion Lutheran Church" and "Aberdeen, SD". On the right, in white sans-serif font, is "Sundays, January 15 & 22" and "10:15 AM". At the bottom right, in a black box with white text, is "ANNUAL REPORT 2022". There is also a photograph of a stained glass window with a colorful cross design.

In-person in the Fellowship Hall

Happenings at Zion

Sunday School Christmas Program

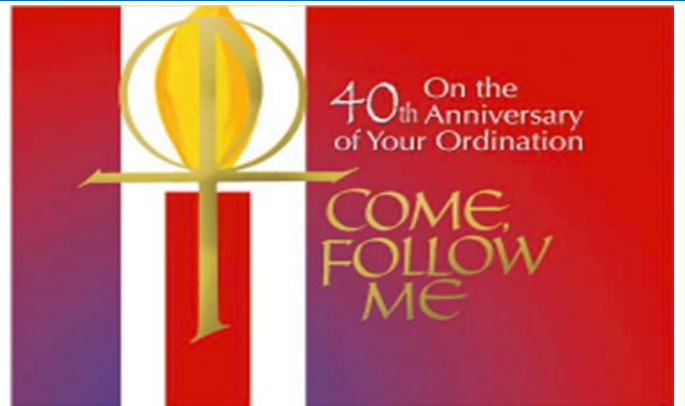
The Sunday School held their annual Christmas program during a special 10:00 service on Sunday, December 18th. They performed a Sounds of Christmas program, complete with a message, sound effects, and the retelling of the Christmas story. **Thank you** to the Education Committee and all the volunteers who made this event possible!



Pastor Jim's Ordination Anniversary

Pastor Jim will celebrate his 40th anniversary as an ordained minister on Monday, January 16th. On Sunday the 15th, we will hold a celebration to honor this momentous occasion! We are planning a recognition during worship and a brunch potluck starting at 10:30 AM (following the annual meeting forum).

Cake will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass!



Pastor Jim Holthus Celebrates 40 Years as an Ordained Minister

Pastor Jim Holthus was ordained January 16, 1983, at St John Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa.

He served 4 full-time calls before retiring January 1, 2015: Hawley Lutheran Church in Hawley, MN, Lutheran Campus Pastor at UW-Oshkosh, Perley Lutheran Parish (Kirkebo and Nora churches), and Lutheran Campus Pastor at Bemidji State University. He has served quite a few part-time interim pastorates at many churches.

This picture is from his ordination and is photographic proof of his first words as a pastor: "You may all be seated."