

MARCH 2023

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Greetings my Zion friends:

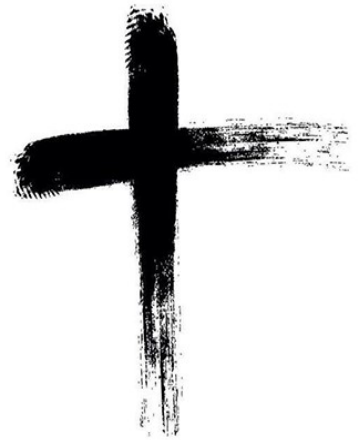
First of all, I want to thank you for the faith and trust you have placed in me. I will continue to strive to fulfill my responsibilities to you, the congregation.

As I start 2023 as your council President, I want to share some priorities I have for moving our congregation forward as we grow and prepare for a new full-time called pastor. I am so privileged to be working with such a talented council. Each member is so talented and has a great vision for the committees they are involved with. However, the council needs your help and is asking you to offer your time and talents to help the committees achieve their goals. We have so much talent in our congregation, and I ask that you pray about how you can use your gifts to help meet Zion's mission.

Priority 1 - Help the committees grow with our talented congregation volunteering their time to help the mission.

Priority 2-- Help the congregation grow our membership by reaching out and inviting new people to visit our church if they do not have a church home.

Priority 3-- Help our congregation come together to pray and discern how we can use our time, talent and assets to help bring the church to a strong spiritual and financial foundation as we prepare to call our next full- time pastor. This is probably the hardest as we all have different abilities to help; but remember, no matter how large or small, every gift is appreciated. The congregation grows from the core mission with our help.



In closing, I ask that we understand that PJ is our part-time interim pastor. He cannot be in all places as we would like. Please extend to him your courtesy and ask him if you need his help for a project or event. I know that if he can, he will. But sometimes we take it for granted since "this is always the way it has been at Zion". But, we had two full-time pastors in the past. Now, we have one exceptional part-time pastor that is trying whole-heartedly to fulfill all our needs; however, he is only one person, after all.

I ask you this with all sincerity. What would a full-time pastor be doing for us that PJ is not? I think when we stop to think, we will realize how fortunate we are.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Ed Suchomel
Zion Council President

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.

Noah's Park Preschool

Hello from Noah's Park!! In between snow days and late starts, we had a great month of February and are looking ahead to March for some leprechaun fun!! February brought Valentine's Day and some super fun Valentine's Day parties! The kiddos decorated Valentine bags and collected treats and snacks and cards. We also made one of our most simple cooking day recipes – strawberry jelly sandwiches – but it is always a favorite. They spread the jelly and then we use a cookie cutter to cut out a heart shape. Several kiddos ate two and have requested we make them for all the remaining cooking days! ☺ Simple but delicious! The older children were able to practice putting on snow gear to play outside a couple of the nicer days. Hopefully we'll get another nice warm up soon!!

~Jami



Special Offering for March is SDSU Campus Ministry

Campus Ministry is both faithful to a rich theological tradition and driven by the challenges of the contemporary university.

Drawing on the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, Campus Ministry bears witness to God's amazing grace within the context of higher education. Sensitive to the pastoral needs of those on campus and engaged in the intellectual discourse of the university, Campus Ministry strives to communicate the Gospel in fresh ways.

Through worship, study, fellowship, and service, members of the academic community taste the fullness of God's grace. As expansive as Christ's love, Campus Ministry reaches out to all who teach and learn, inviting them to experience the challenge of following Jesus on the Way.

Website: www.sdsulutheran.org

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 helped set up and tear down for the Vendor Fair. Also, thank you to the preschool committee and the women's group for serving food for the event.

☺ Thanks to the Mission and Outreach Committee and the congregational volunteers for making freezer meals to stock the freezer.

☺ Thank you to all who help with worship each and every week. We couldn't do it without you!

Preschool Openings

Registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year, and spots are filling up!

If you have a 3-5 year old and are looking for preschool for the fall, be sure to get them registered today! There are classes available on MWF AM & PM for 4-5 year olds and TTH AM for 3-4 year olds.

For all the details or to register, please stop in the church office or visit our website:

zionlutheranaberdeen.org/preschool



For Your Information

The Worship and Music Committee is working on service times for Holy Week and Easter. Stay tuned to bulletins this month and the April newsletter for final details!



Zion Scholarships

Zion will once again award two \$350 scholarships for the coming academic year. One will go to a 2023 high school graduate and one to a continuing college student. See the application for full instructions. Printed applications are now available in the fellowship hall. Completed applications should be returned to the church no later than April 14, 2023 at 12:00 PM or emailed to Pastoral Assistant Sandra at: Sandra.Anderson@nvc.net You can also find the application on our website at: zionlutheranaberdeen.org/signupcentral

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 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 **Sunday, March 26th**. 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.

We have had an incredible time visiting and building relationships through these meals. If you would be willing to host portion of a progressive supper (appetizers, dinner, dessert), please contact Sandra—even if you've hosted before and are willing to do it again! If you do not want to host in your home, you are more than welcome to at the church.

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.



First Sundays

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

We will have a consistent time for middle and high school youth to get together during the spring (Feb-May): the first Sunday of the month at 3:00 PM. We'll meet in the youth room upstairs; each day will have a different theme/topic, and activities will vary from time to time.

Stockholder Fundraiser

The youth attending the Denver service trip in June are selling stock in their trip! Each \$25 donated will give you 1 stock in the youth and a seat at our Stockholders Dinner that will be held after the end of our trip.

To purchase stock, please see a youth on Sunday morning or talk to Sandra. Cash, check, and Venmo accepted!

Donations of other amounts gladly accepted; however, no stock will be issued (which means no seat at the dinner). Please consider a donation to support our youth and their mission work!

DENVER SERVICE TRIP YOUTH

STOCKHOLDER FUNDRAISER

NOW THROUGH THE END OF THE MARCH 2023

PURCHASE STOCK IN OUR YOUTH. EVERY \$25 GETS YOU 1 STOCK IN THE YOUTH AND A SEAT AT OUR STOCKHOLDERS DINNER THAT WILL BE HELD ONCE WE RETURN FROM OUR TRIP

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

Ed Suchomel.....President
 Chastity Madsen.....Vice-President
 Joel AlbrechtTreasurer
 Brent Stanek.....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 February 2023

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$29,000.00

Actual Feb. Income: \$26,810.97
 (as of Feb. 27th)

Actual Feb. Expenses: \$28,337.10
 (as of Feb. 27th)

*We still have outstanding bills for several furnace repairs and snow removal.

Thanks for your generous donations to Zion.

ZION MEMORIALS

In Honor of:

Mary Jane's January
 Birthday

For:

Advocacy

From:

Mary Jane Kabrud

& her twins February
 21st Birthdays

Advocacy

Mary Jane Kabrud

In Memory of:

Jeffery Leo Smith

For:

General

From:

Jerry Smith



No Sunday School

Just a reminder that there will be no Sunday School on March 12 or March 19 for Spring Break.



Valentine's Fun

Somehow the Valentine balloons migrated to Saundra's office!

She was so happy to have them :)



RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
 \$55 for half

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!

The following Sundays are available to be sponsored:
 March 5, March 12, March 26, April 2, April 23, April 30

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

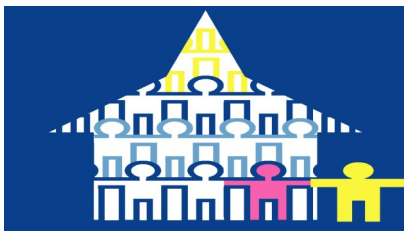
We currently have one service available on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion being served each week. Each service features a kids' time and is broadcast live on the radio on KSDN 930 AM and 102.1 FM. A time of fellowship and Sunday School follow worship, starting at 10:10 a.m.

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!



Prayer Pillow Milestone

All children born in 2019 and their parents are invited to join Pastoral Assistant Sandra for a Prayer Pillow Faith Milestone event on Sunday, March 19th.

We will present Prayer Pillows to our 3- and 4-year-olds at the 9:00 service; then, these children and their parents are invited to a special event at 10:15 AM that day in the Playground area at the back of the sanctuary. We'll have a lot of fun learning about prayer together!



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.

Organ Square Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following people who won gift cards from the organ square raffle held last month:

Shane Schauer, Connor Bockorny, Mike German, Deb Hardy, Kathy Heffernan, Mike Bretsch, Janice Grieben, Gladys Melcher, and Larry Stroschein

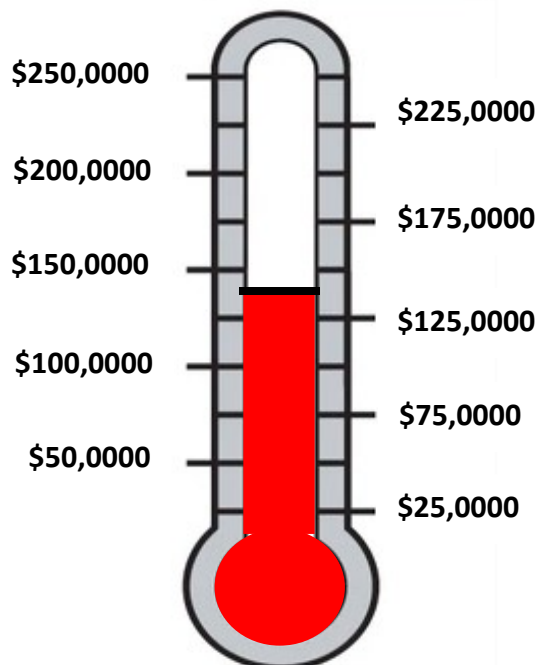


Thank you to all who purchased squares to support the Organ Restoration project!

Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$109,546.58
Unpaid pledges - \$35,028.65
Total project funds - \$144,575.23

Our Goal: **\$250,000**



Remaining pledge amount needed
\$105,424.77

Easter Flowers

Easter is Sunday, April 9th and our sanctuary always looks so beautiful filled with spring flowers! Please consider purchasing a spring flower during the week of April 3-7, and bring it to the church anytime that week for display on Easter Sunday. You can take it home with you after Easter worship if you wish. (Please no lilies due to severe allergies in our congregation,) If you wish your plant to be in memory or in honor of someone please attach a note to your plant. Let's celebrate Christ's resurrection by beautifying our sanctuary!



Puzzle Checkout

Puzzles are back! In Classroom C, there is a table with puzzles available for checkout. Simply write your name, phone number, puzzle title, and checkout date on the sheet. When you return the puzzle, please put the check in date.

If you have any new or gently used puzzles of 500 pieces or more (with all pieces) that you would like to donate, please bring them to the office.

CHURCH PHONE
(605) 225-6755

PASTOR JIM'S #
(218) 760-2028

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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

Happenings at Zion

First Communion

We are making some changes to our faith milestones for grades 3, 4, 5 to better align with the faith goals for our youth at Zion. Going forward, First Communion will be offered starting in 3rd grade with Bible milestones and faith practices being moved to the 4th and 5th grade years. First Communion class will be held on Sunday, March 26th at 10:15 AM, and First Communion will be taken during worship on Maundy Thursday (April 6). For all the details, be sure to look for the letter coming soon to your mailbox!



Thrivent Action Team Grants



Are you a Thrivent member? You can organize a Thrivent Action Team to help Zion! Action Teams are small groups (including at least one Thrivent member) organized for service projects or fundraisers.

Thrivent provides a \$250 debit card as seed money for supplies and other project needs. Learn more at thrivent.com or contact Pastoral Assistant Sandra for ideas on how your Action Team can help support our ministries here at Zion and beyond.

Summer Camp Registration

If you have a 3rd grade student or older, it's time to start thinking about summer options for camp! Lutheran Outdoors in South Dakota offers three different locations with options to suit whatever interests you have!

If you are interested in applying for camp, please speak with Sandra as soon as possible so we can get you registered and discuss fundraising options. There are some scholarship funds available, as well!

If we have enough kids interested, we will attend the Explorers Camp at NeSoDak August 9-11 as a Zion group. If your 3rd-6th grade child (as of Fall 2023) is interested in going together, please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Sandra.

Prices will go up on April 15th.

SUMMER 2023
WONDER
LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN
SOUTH DAKOTA



"AND AMAZEMENT SEIZED THEM ALL, AND THEY
GLORIFIED GOD AND WERE FILLED WITH AWE
SAYING, 'WE HAVE SEEN EXTRAORDINARY THINGS
TODAY.'" LUKE 5:26

Midweek Lenten Services

Join us for midweek Lenten services that focus on "Luther's Smaller Catechism". Service times are 12:15 PM and 6:05 PM, with a meal served before each service (11:30 AM and 5:30 PM).

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services, which will be held on **Wednesday, March 1** (postponed one week due to the snow storm) and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

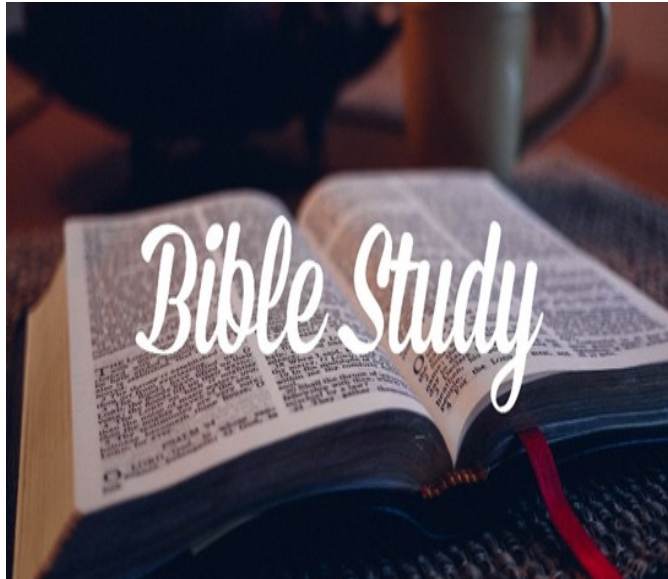
The food will be great and the worship will be short but meaningful. We will be focusing on a short review of Luther's Small Catechism and Pastor Jim will be sharing thoughts on the Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism, and Holy Communion.

Looking Ahead...

Midweek Lenten services will be every Wednesday during the month of March. (March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) As we look ahead to the end of the season, here are some important dates to put on your calendar:

- Palm Sunday: April 2
- Maundy Thursday: April 6
- Good Friday: April 7
- Easter Sunday: April 9

Happenings at Zion



Bible Study during Lent

All through the month of March, Pastor Jim will be offering a short Bible study! This will be held in the room next to the kitchen from 12:00 – 1:00 on Thursdays, starting March 2. The participants will get to select the topic to study for the upcoming weeks so Pastor Jim will be working on Scriptures that are important to everyone. If you have a lunch hour at work, come on down and bring your lunch; feel free to come late and leave early to get back to work. Topics could include Angels, anxiety, growing as a Christian, faithfulness, forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, Law and Gospel, and St. Patrick's "Breastplate Prayer". We'll have both handouts for these studies and possibly a PowerPoint to go with the study. If you're hoping to be part of this, please let Pastor Jim know.

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On Wednesdays, March 1st & March 29th 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!



Thankoffering Update

In November of 2022 the ZLCW held their Thankoffering service. Thanks to the members of Zion, we collected \$540 dollars. In February, several members of the ZLCW Executive Board purchased \$302.62 of items needed for Lincoln school. We also gave them a check for \$237.38 to use for other items the school could use or needed. Thanks to all of you we were able to help out the school.

The ZLCW Executive Board

Progressive Lock-In

Join us for a Night of Parables as we travel from Good Shepherd to Zion to St. John's in Warner for a progressive lock-in! The event will be held on Friday, March 3rd; we will meet at Zion at 5:30 PM and take the church van to the different locations for the evening. We will return to Zion for pickup by midnight. Supper, dessert, and snacks will be served, and the night will include activities, service projects, games, and much more to do! Open to youth in grades 6-9; bring a friend! If you plan to attend, please let Sandra know ASAP.

PROGRESSIVE LOCK-IN

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
6 PM-MIDNIGHT

- Open to youth currently in grades 6-9
- Theme: A Night of Parables
- Cost: FREE
- Food, games, activities and more!

Joint event between Zion, Good Shepherd, and St. John's Lutheran churches

Updates from Pastor Jim

Our Stewardship Experiment is Ongoing

Our 4 “out-of-the-box” stewardship ideas list is elsewhere in this newsletter, and we hope you review it. Our goal is to have a majority of the congregation select one of these ideas and try it for a month and see how it has impacted you and your family. You can then continue with that same idea for an additional month or perhaps try a different idea. Pastor Jim would love to hear from people who are doing one of these ideas.



Just so everyone knows, Pastor Jim is also involved in this experiment. He has decided to keep track of how many hours he procrastinates when he is at home instead of doing constructive things. He is “charging” himself \$5 per hour for the time spent in his recliner playing video games or watching TV when he could be doing positive things on the laptop. For the month of February that means he put an

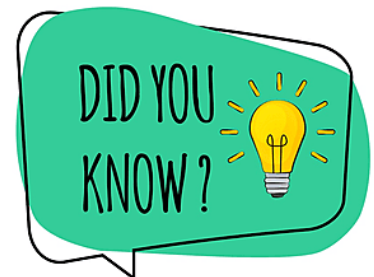
additional \$100 into the offering plate. Another person from church (who shall remain nameless) is keeping track of miles driven in the car, and for every mile driven, will be donating 1 cent to the church. If you travel a lot of miles, this could also really add up.

We want to hear your story about your experience with stewardship and how you feel about it after doing it for a month. Our real hope is that this will help us generate enough \$ by the end of the year to have made a significant impact on our budget!

Tidbits and Highlights

Kathy Heffernan and Pastor Jim attended the Northern Plains Conference assembly at Miller on Sunday afternoon, February 26. Kathy attended in person and PJ was one of a dozen people attending on Zoom.

At the annual meeting held January 29, all attendees were given the opportunity to fill out a “Feedback Form” and rate their experience with the congregation having only one service on Sunday mornings rather than two as has been done in the past. The overwhelming response was favorable, with two primary responses highlighted often: 1) People love seeing a church that is full of more people than open spaces now, and 2) we don’t wear volunteers out as we’d have to double the number of worship volunteers we’d need on Sunday mornings.



Easter is April 9 this year. Pastor Jim is tentatively planning on taking a few days off after that and may be out of town from Wednesday, April 12 until Sunday evening April 16, so the congregation would need to find a supply pastor to lead worship on April 16.

Sunday, January 29 was the 5th Sunday of that month and Zion is committed to making every 5th Sunday worship service a “Healing Service”. People who took part in this January 29 said it was very meaningful. We will be continuing this tradition with our next 5th Sunday Healing Service on April 30.

Visitation

Pastor Jim and the regular visitors from the congregation continue to make home visits to senior shut-ins and bring them Holy Communion. Lent gets fairly busy, so we will try to continue with our regular visitations but be patient with us during this season.



stewardship ideas

IDEA #1

One Sunday a month, double your usual offering as additional offering.

IDEA #2

Pick one or two of your extras per week (fun events or treats) that cost money and add that amount to your regular church offering that week.

IDEA #3

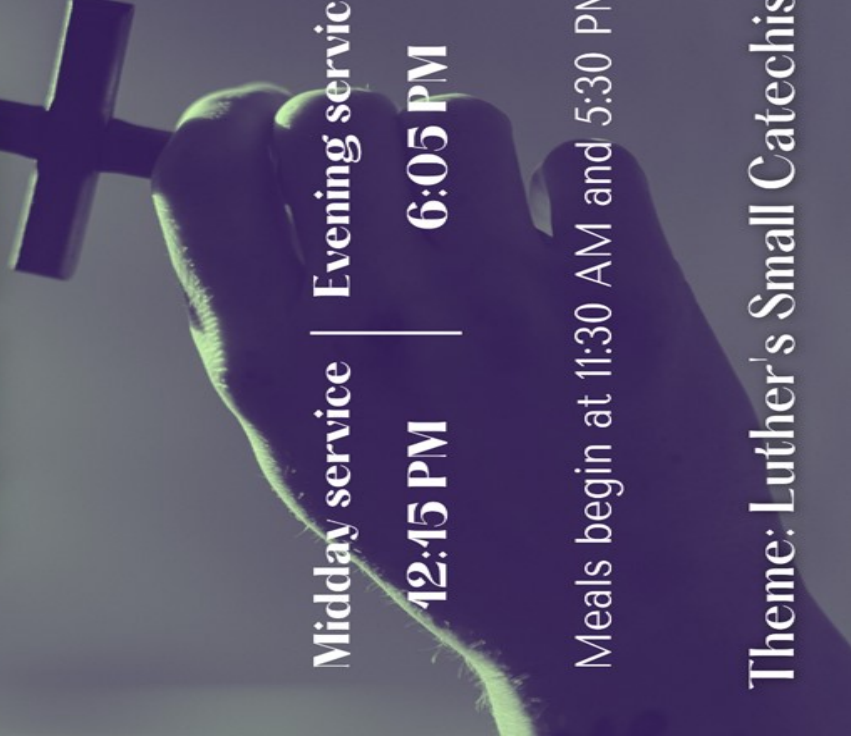
Change for Change! Have a habit you need to break? Maybe you bite your nails, spend too much time on social media/video games/TV, or swear? Pick your habit and set your penalty. Put a quarter in your "change" jar each time you don't comply and see if you can "change" your habit! Use the money as additional offering at the end of the week.

IDEA #4

If you have no habits you're trying to change, consider collecting and donating your spare change every week.

ZION LUTHERAN

Wednesdays in Lent Schedule



Midday service | Evening service
12:15 PM | 6:05 PM

Meals begin at 11:30 AM and 5:30 PM

Theme: Luther's Small Catechism