

DECEMBER 2023

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Pastor Jim's News

I have mixed emotions as I write this final article for Zion's newsletter. I am officially resigning as the interim pastor for Zion Lutheran effective January 1, 2024; my final Sunday leading worship will be December 31.

I am relocating back to Nebraska - where I first retired in January 2015. I will be serving in the Wayne, NE area - doing a part-time interim at Wayne State as the LuMin campus pastor and serving as a part-time interim pastor in two smaller churches in Emerson - about 15 miles east of Wayne.

Since I want to be on-site and prepared for the spring semester at Wayne State, I need to be down there as quickly as possible, so I hope to have a U-Haul rented before New Years' Day. I also intend to have everything put away and be ready to be packed into the truck the morning of Monday, January 1.

If I can get a good crew of people on Monday morning and we can get everything packed and the CRV on the trailer, I'd like to leave Aberdeen around noon so I can drive the 300+ miles to Wayne in the afternoon and get there before it gets dark. Then the folks there can unpack the truck for me as I settle back into being a Nebraskan.

Let me tell you how thankful I am that Pastor Nicole will be my successor here at Zion! She brings with her wisdom, perspective, maturity, and a willingness to learn who you all are and how you do ministry together. I know you will allow her (just as you allowed me) to learn these things when I arrived here September 1, 2022 as I began our shared journey. She and Richard will be blessed by your companionship just as you will be blessed by theirs.

This is a gifted congregation composed of active, committed volunteers serving in many areas. To me, it is functioning in several positive ways, willing to experiment to see what might work a bit better (in programming, events, and organization), and willing to take an honest look at Zion's past, present, and future.

It has been a blessing for me to have served you for 16 months as your interim pastor, and I will leave you with a favorite section of Scripture. Saint Paul writes to the church he started and shares with them his feelings in Philippians 1:3-11. Please take the time to read this and continue to lift one another up in prayer.

Pastor Jim Holthus



## November 2023 Council Highlights

- Council reviewed price bids from a sign vendor to replace our Melgaard kiosk with a digital display. Additional bids from other vendors will also be collected for a comparison.

## Men's Fellowship

On Wednesday, December 27 at 8:00 PM, there will be a men's meeting at Dempsey's 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!

## **Special Offering for December is St. Dysmas**

St. Dysmas is an ELCA 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.

**Thank you for your donations!**

## LuMin Update



Campus Ministry celebrates the month of December with planning and preparation for finals week, December 7-14.

Please pray for students to have peace, clarity of thought, and confidence that their efforts have been enough.

Although the semester end is only the middle of the school year and most of us will return in January, one of us will not.

Pastor Jim, we thank you for your commitment, partnership, and constant support. Thank you for the community, conversation, and, of course, the cough drops. We wish you the best!

*End of Year Donations*

Be sure to bring your final offerings for the year to the office by **1:00 PM** on December 28th

## End of Year Donations

Just a reminder that all end of the year donations you would like counted in the 2023 tax season need to be in the church office by 1:00 PM on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

## ZION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

### Bethesda Home

Ben Schroeder  
Carol Knispel  
Jane Fischer  
Esther Ottenbacher  
Joyce Mentzer

### Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

### Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie

### Milbank-Avantara

Marge Rhodes

### Bethesda Town Sq.

Meta Vetter  
Shirley Wagemann  
Viola Tetherow  
Lorraine Kusler

### Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

### Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen

### California

Erna Schmierer



## Grateful For You

☺ Thank you to all who helped decorate the church for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season!

☺ Thank you to all who donated candy or bars or hosted a car for the Trunk or Treat event held on October 29th. We couldn't hold such a successful event year after year without your support!

☺ Thank you to the Weisser family for serving the desserts and drinks at the Trunk or Treat event.

### Meeting Change

The December Altar Guild Meeting was scheduled on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:15, which is the same time as the Children's Christmas program.

**Altar Guild will now meet on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 10:15 AM.**

# NOISY OFFERING

### 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.



### Christmas Luncheon

The ZLCW are hosting a Christmas Luncheon (in honor of the SS children) following the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 17<sup>th</sup> at about 10:45 AM. Everyone is invited, as well as any guests.

We are asking everyone to bring a plate of Christmas goodies for dessert. There will be a free will offering collected and given to the Sunday School. Please come and enjoy the Christmas Fellowship!

### Make a Wish Fundraiser

Make plans now to attend the Holiday Jam with the Hegg Brothers on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM @ the Capitol Theatre. Presale tickets are available through December 8<sup>th</sup> at QQP, Dacotah Bank & Riddles Jewelry. Cash or check only. Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information contact Nancy Jark at 216-6638.

### 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.



### 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!



## 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.



# Happenings at Zion

## Stewardship Update

As I started to write this piece, I realized that I needed a refresher on what exactly "Stewardship" includes. Stewardship is more than just finances.

Wikipedia defines stewardship as a "theological belief that humans are responsible for the world, humanity and the gifts and resources that have been entrusted to us. Believers in stewardship are usually people who believe in one God who created the universe and all that is within it, also believing that they must take care of this creation and look after it."

All we have to do most days is watch or read the news to realize how blessed we are by a merciful and loving God. We should never take these blessings for granted. As Christians we should be good stewards of the things God has entrusted to us including TIME, TALENTS, and FINANCES. As the Bible reminds us: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."

May God Bless You,  
Joel Albrecht



## Allevery Fun Night

Mark the date on your calendar—on **Wednesday, December 27 from 6-9 PM**, Zion will be having a night out at Allevery Entertainment! 10% of all sales during this time will be given to the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer. The event is open to all! Grab some friends and family, and stop down to have some fun while supporting our youth programming!

## Help us raise money!

### Visit Allevery Entertainment on

Wednesday, Dec 27 from 6-9pm

### and 10% of sales will go directly to

Zion Lutheran Church!

## Winter Vendor and Craft Fair

Saturday, February 3rd  
9 AM -- 2 PM  
Zion Lutheran Church

## Winter Vendor Fair

Mark your calendar! Zion will be hosting the third annual Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

## Card Shower

There will be a basket out on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> following the 9:00 AM service. The men will also be serving breakfast, so during this time, you may bring a card for PJ in appreciation for his service at Zion. The basket will then be placed in the church office for cards brought in during the week through the month of December. PJ's last day with us is December 31<sup>st</sup>. We hope you can there be to wish him well in his new endeavor!



# Happenings at Zion

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Christmas Eve Services

9:00 am

4:00 pm

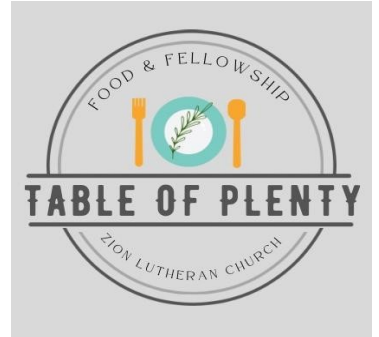
Both services will include Holy Communion and Candlelight



### Table of Plenty

The Table of Plenty community meal had another great turn out in November! Thank you to all who continue to support our efforts by enjoying the meal, serving, sponsoring, or through prayer.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** the December Table of Plenty meal will be served on **Thursday, December 21 from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion fellowship hall. We hope to see you there for some delicious food and fellowship together!



### Christmas Poinsettias

Please bring a plant or a donation to the church office by Thursday, 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 20 during office hours.

Your generosity in beautifying the sanctuary for Christmas Eve is greatly appreciated!

### Confirmation Service

On Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, three Zion youth affirmed their baptisms during worship on Reformation Sunday. Students helped lead worship by reading prayers 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!



L to R: Isaac VanderWeyst, Kailey Jensen, Michael Bjorgaard



# Faith and Family



## Giving Thanks event

During this holiday season, our middle and high school youth took some time to say thank you to our first responders. On Sunday, November 19, they made popcorn balls and delivered them to Brown County dispatch and the Aberdeen Police Department.

We are grateful for all you do for our community!

## 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 14.



## Sunday School Christmas Program

The Sunday School children will be holding their annual Christmas program during the 9:00 AM worship service on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Following the program, there will be a meal hosted by the Zion Women with free will offering benefitting Sunday School programming. **Practice for the program will be on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 1-2 PM.**

## Tree of Saints

This year, our youth will 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 17<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds from the ornament sales benefit the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans.



## First Sundays

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

There will be a Christmas party on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 PM as part of our First Sundays programming. We'll play games and enjoy some delicious snacks together as we talk about the birth of Jesus. Mark the date on your calendar!

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
 1732 South Main Street  
 Aberdeen, SD 57401  
 (605) 225-6755 [zion@nvc.net](mailto:zion@nvc.net)  
[zionlutheranaberndeen.org](http://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 Hawkinson .....Praise Band Director  
 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.

### **Executive Committee:**

Ed Suchomel.....President  
 Chastity Madsen.....Vice-President  
 Joel Albrecht .....Treasurer  
 Brent Stanek.....Secretary

### **Council Representatives:**

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

### Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

We have filled all of our broadcast sponsorships for 2023 and are now looking ahead to 2024. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday or check out the board when you are at the church!

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

**Become A Sponsor!**



**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT**

#### **THROUGH November, 28 2023**

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$27,500.00  
 Actual Nov. Income: \$20,622.46  
 Actual Nov. Expenses: \$26,861.16

### **ZION MEMORIALS**

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Myron Walth	General	Doug\Ronda Smith
Myron Walth	Organ	Dwight Walth
Milbert Dais	Altar Guild	Carmel Heyd
Myron Walth	Organ	Gladys Melcher
LeRoy Buechler	Organ	Karl\Sonya Kempf
Milbert Dais	Organ	Karl\Sonya Kempf
Myron Walth	Sunday School	Loren\April Nehlich
Verneda Wolff	Altar Guild	Kathy Franz



### **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 only three left, so be sure to stop and purchase one before they're all gone!





# Worship Schedule

9:00 AM	Worship with live radio broadcast, Holy Communion, and livestream
10:00 AM	Fellowship time
10:15 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 10:15 a.m.

All services are livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. Recordings of the broadcasts are 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](mailto:zion@nvc.net)



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

## Quilt Winner

For Veteran's Day, a quilt winner was drawn from veterans who were present during worship. Congratulations to Allen Gearey for being chosen as the recipient. Thank you to Millie Suchomel for donating the quilt, and thank you to all who have served!



## 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 December 6, 13, and 20; services will be livestreamed. Each service will feature music from Holden Evening Prayer, and the message each week will be centered around time.

There will be suppers available before worship from 5:15-6:00 PM for a freewill donation.





### Update on Pastoral Candidate

In October, the Call Committee met with the Zion Council to recommend taking the next step with Pastoral Candidate Nicole Martin. At the beginning of November, Pastor Nicole and her husband, Richard, made a trip to Aberdeen to visit with the Zion congregation and various committees.

On November 12, Zion held a special congregational meeting to vote on extending a full-time call to Pastor Nicole. The motion passed with over two-thirds majority voting yes.

It was announced during worship on November 26 that Pastor Nicole has officially accepted the call to become Zion's next permanent pastor!

We are currently unsure of her exact start date at this time, but more information will be shared in the January newsletter as it becomes available.

# UPDATE

### Organ Key Sales

The Organ Committee is proud to display our "The Key to our Restoration" display. Each key can be purchased for \$50 or a pedal for \$250. This display will eventually hang at the bottom of the stairs leading to the choir loft, but for the time being will be on display for people to see and purchase keys. These keys can be in memory of, in honor of, or even with a recent graduate's name. Please consider purchasing a key to help us get to our goal.

**Take a minute to look at the board for updated names!**



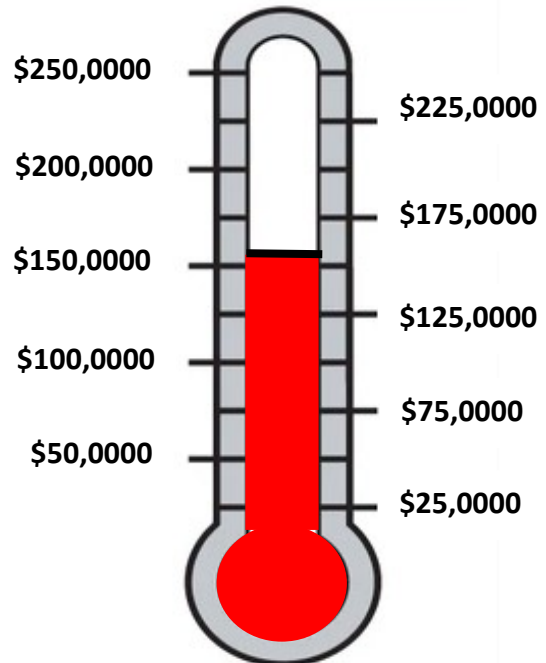
### Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$122,582.23

Unpaid pledges - \$27,901.89

Total project funds - \$150,484.12

Our Goal: \$250,000



Remaining pledge amount needed  
\$99,515.88

### Drive Up Donuts

This fall, we partnered with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to offer drive up donuts once a month on Wednesday mornings. Anyone could stop and pick up a donut and devotion on their way to school or work. Thank you to all who stopped by and saw us!

Drive Up Donuts will be on hiatus for December and January, but we will be back on **February 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 AM.



### STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Web: [zionlutheranaberdeensd.org](http://zionlutheranaberdeensd.org)

YouTube: [bit.ly/ZLCYouTube](https://bit.ly/ZLCYouTube)

Facebook: [facebook.com/ZionAberdeen](https://facebook.com/ZionAberdeen)

Facebook: [facebook.com/zlcaberdeensd](https://facebook.com/zlcaberdeensd)

Instagram: [@zlcaberdeensd](https://instagram.com/zlcaberdeensd)

# Happenings at Zion



## Organ Restoration Quilt Raffle

Special thanks to Julie Beusch for the donation of a beautiful quilt to be raffled off with proceeds to go towards the Organ Restoration.

Tickets will be on sale beginning December 3rd and all during December. Tickets can be purchased during the week in the church office. The quilt will be raffled off on Sunday, December 31st during the coffee hour.

Tickets will be 1 for \$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00. Grab your tickets soon for a chance to win this beautiful quilt!

## Out of Office and Closures

- Pastoral Assistant Sandra will be on maternity leave from Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, returning to work on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. If you need assistance during this time, please check with the church office first. You can also call, text, or email her, but note response times will be longer than usual.
- Pastor Jim's last day will be Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are in need of pastoral care after this date, please contact the church office.
- The office will be closed on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The office will also be closed on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.



## Trunk or Treat

We had a great turnout for Zion's Trunk or Treat that was held on Sunday, October 29. More than 500 kids, along with their families, braved the cold and received candy and various treats from the cars that participated in the event. Following their trip through the line, several came indoors to warm up and enjoy desserts and warm drinks. Congratulations to Deb Hardy and Norma Nielsen for winning the decorating contest with their "Fall for Jesus"-themed car! The Bretsch family won second place for their inflatable costumes and trunk decorations, and the Moser girls placed third with their spooky set-up. Thank you to all who participated and those who donated candy to make this event a success!

