

JANUARY 2024

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Salutations brothers and sisters in Christ,

It seems the new calendar year is upon us and with that New Year comes new possibilities. That is what resolutions are about right? Rediscovering what new life and new hope is possible? Fitting then that the new calendar year should fall so close behind the Christmas season. God ushered in new life and hope for all humanity in the Emmanuel, and now we, the church, step boldly into that experience.

Theologian Howard Thurman expresses it most eloquently in the following poem.

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*



The work of Christmas is at hand for each of us and I am privileged to come and join you in that work. Together we get the honor of sharing the best news ever. Together we get to stand in gratitude for all God has done and build on it for the well being of the body of Christ and our community.

As Jesus himself said according to John 14:12

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even grater thing than these."

We are blessed by the Lord himself to do the work of Christmas and I am thankful I will get to do it with you all. So until we meet in in person, and my feet are firmly planted on the ground in Aberdeen, what work of Christmas are you most excited to be engaged in?

A blessing for you: Creator father, wrap around the good people of Zion Lutheran the fragrance of the gospel, allowing its aroma to bring delight to all that occupies their heart, empowering them to be about the work of Christmas. In the name of the Father + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Happy New Year to you all. Looking forward to our life and ministry together.

Your Servant in Christ,
Rev. Nicole Martin

December 2023 Council Highlights

- The Council discussed open seats and the 2024 budget ahead of the annual meeting in January.
- Time and talent sheets were discussed and will be made available in the near future for committees to utilize in the coming year.
- Mission and Outreach asked for donations and put together care packs at the end of November to mail to Zion's currently college freshmen ahead of finals week; it was a great success!

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. At Journey Home, we believe that everyone deserves to feel the comfort and safety of home.

There are three main ways you can support Journey Home: giving financially, giving physical donations, or giving of your time.

Go to Journeyhomesd.org to learn more.

Thank you for your donations!



LuMin Update



Happy New Year! As we transition from semester break back into spring schedules, Lumin at NSU is back without monthly wellness series. Through January we will focus on Financial Wellness. As we check and balance our habits, culture, and feelings about money, we will explore what Jesus meant when he said "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom".

If you find yourself wondering what is happening with campus ministry, follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on our weekly devotions and events! If you happen to be a Thrivent member with action team dollars, or are interested in partnering with Northern LuMin on one of our specific activities, please contact us at northernlumin@gmail.com.



Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On Wednesday, January 31st 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 invite a friend, and we will see you there!

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.

Shirley Wagemann
Viola Tetherow
Lorraine Kusler

Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen

California

Erna Schmierer



Grateful For You

☺ Thank you to ZLCW, The German family and Zion Altar Guild for providing meals for Advent.

☺ Thanks to all who brought bars for the dinner on Sunday & for Table of Plenty.

☺ Thanks to all the children and their parents and anyone who helped with the Sunday School program.

☺ Thanks Carmel Heyd & Gary Job for helping with the sale of the organ quilt tickets.

☺ Thanks to Millie Suchomel for all of Fellowship hours she hosted.

Thank You!

Special thanks to all of you who remembered the staff this Christmas. We appreciate all the cards and goodies!



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 DECORATION TAKE DOWN



Christmas Decoration Take Down

Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season at Zion.

Following worship and fellowship on Sunday, January 7th, decorations will need to be taken down and put away. Many

hands make light work, so please plan to stay for the men's pancake breakfast and clean up following at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary.

Zion Quilter's Update

The Zion Quilters made and donated around 150 quilts to local schools. We are so appreciative of all the donations that you have brought in for us to be able to make the quilts!

We continue to need your donations of mattress pads, quilt filler, colored fleece, and we always need sheets. Thank you!

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

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

Stockholder Fundraiser

Cadynce German, who is attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in July, is selling stock in her trip! Each \$25 donated will give you 1 stock in Cadynce and a seat at our Stockholders Dinner that will be held after the end of our trip. To purchase stock, please stop at the table in the narthex 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 Cadynce and her mission work and faith formation!

ELCA GATHERING YOUTH

STOCKHOLDER FUNDRAISER

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.

CASH, CHECK, VENMO ACCEPTED

ANY AMOUNTS WELCOME!

Annual Meeting Forum

Zion Lutheran Church
Aberdeen, SD



In-person in the
Fellowship Hall

Sundays,
January 14 & 21
10:15 AM

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023

Annual Meeting Forums

There will be two annual meeting forums held on Sundays, January 14 and 21 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 21st 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.

Annual Meeting

The annual congregation meeting for Zion will be held on Sunday, January 28th immediately following worship (around 10:15 AM) in the Fellowship Hall.

Please see the bulletins and MailChimp emails in the coming month for more information.



Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28th | 10:15 AM
Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall

Winter Vendor and Craft Fair

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

Winter Vendor Fair

Zion will be hosting a Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 3rd, 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.

Happenings at Zion

Table of Plenty

The Table of Plenty community meal had another great turn out in December! Thank you to all who continue to support our efforts by enjoying the meal, serving, sponsoring, or through prayer. A special thank you to all who donated desserts for the meal last month.

Table of Plenty meal will be served on Monday **January 22 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 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!

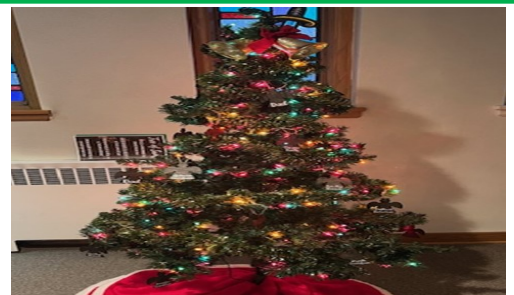
Sunday School Christmas Program and Meal

The Sunday School held their annual Christmas program during worship on Sunday, December 17th. They performed a Christmas Gifts program, complete with a message, a retelling of the Christmas story, and the singing of familiar Christmas hymns. Following the program, the Zion Women served a free will offering meal benefiting the Sunday School. **Thank you** to the Education Committee, the Women, and all the volunteers who made this day possible!



Tree of Saints

Thank you to everyone who purchase a remembrance ornament for the Tree of Saints. We sold over 25 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 the church office.



Faith and Family

First Sundays



Join us for a time of fellowship, service, faith, and fun! Come as you are, and join in when you can!

Winter/Spring dates for First Sundays are:

- February 4
- March 3
- April 7
- May 5

Meet in the youth room at 3:00 PM. Open to middle and high school youth—bring a friend!

Progressive Supper

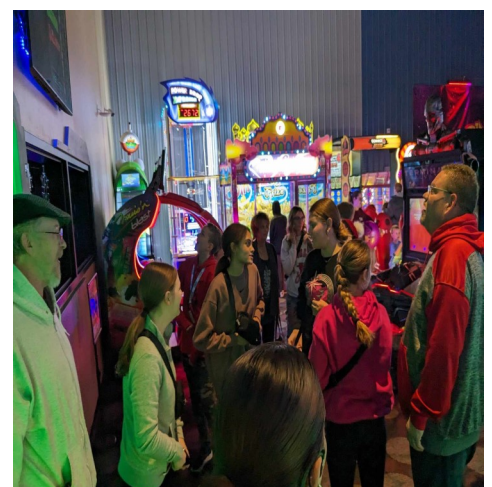
Progressive suppers are back! Our next progressive supper will be on **Sunday, January 28th**. Open to middle and high school youth. **Bring a friend!** We will meet at Zion at 4:30 pm, and we will take the church van to our different locations. Kids will be returned for pick-up or can be dropped off 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.



Night Out at Allevity

On Wednesday, December 27th, members of Zion enjoyed some fellowship time together at Allevity Entertainment. 10% of all sales from the evening benefitted Zion Youth programming. Thank you to all who came and participated or who stopped by and purchased an Allevity card to support our efforts!



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

Staff

Pastor Nicole Martin..... Pastor
 Saura 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



ZION MEMORIALS

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Duane Wagemann	Organ	Delila Norton
Duane Wagemann	Altar Guild	LaVina Nelson
Duane Wagemann	Altar Guild	Aileen Kolb
Duane Wagemann	Altar Guild	Wilma Zimmerman
Meta Vetter	Quilters	Wilma Zimmerman
Duane Wagemann	Organ	Ray\Marcie Andersh
Larry\Mary Woodman	Organ	John Woodman
Marvin Franz	Altar Guild	Kathy Franz
Verneda Wolff	Cardmakers	Delores Anderson
Verneda Wolff	Altar Guild	Kathy Franz
Verneda Wolff	Organ	Dean\Mae Click
Verneda Wolff	Youth Gathering	Joel\Jane Albrecht
Verneda Wolff	Altar Guild	Bob\Joan Haak
Verneda Wolff	Organ	Karl\Sonya Kempf
Duane Wagemann	Organ	Karl\Sonya Kempf
Meta Vetter	Organ	Karl\Sonya Kempf
Duane Wagemann	Organ	Gladys Melcher
Verneda Wolff	Organ	Gladys Melcher
Meta Vetter	Landscaping	Carmel Heyd
Freida Heiser	Landscaping	Carmel Heyd
Meta Vetter	Altar Guild	Trudy Anderson
Duane Wagemann	Altar Guild	Trudy Anderson
Duane Wagemann	SS	Loren\April Nehlich
Meta Vetter	SS	Loren\April Nehlich
Meta Vetter	Radio	LaVern Albrecht
Meta Vetter	Organ	Vetter Family
Donna Ticki	Organ	Gladys Melcher
Carol Sukut	Organ	Gladys Melcher
Meta Vetter	Organ	Gladys Melcher

In Loving Memory



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH December 27, 2023

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$27,500.00
 Actual Dec. Income: \$28,177.37
 Actual Dec. Expenses: \$25,661.00

THANK YOU!

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



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Drive Up Donuts

Drive Up Donuts is on break for the month of January. The next Drive Up Donuts event will be on **Wednesday, February 28 from 7:30-8:00 AM.**

On the last Wednesday of the month, donuts and a devotion will be available for pickup at Zion and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches. Enter the south parking lot, drive up to the table, and a helper will hand you donuts and a devotion that you can enjoy on your way to school or work. This event is open to all!



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 Available dates:
February ~ 11 & 25
March ~ 10 & 17

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
225-6755 to sign up

—————
\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half

For Your Information

- Pastoral Assistant Sandra will be on maternity leave through the end of the month. 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 31st. If you are in need of pastoral care after this date until Pastor Nicole arrives, please contact the church office.
- The office will be closed Monday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.
- Plans are in the works for midweek Lenten services that will begin in February. Stay tuned to bulletins later this month and the February newsletter for more information.



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.

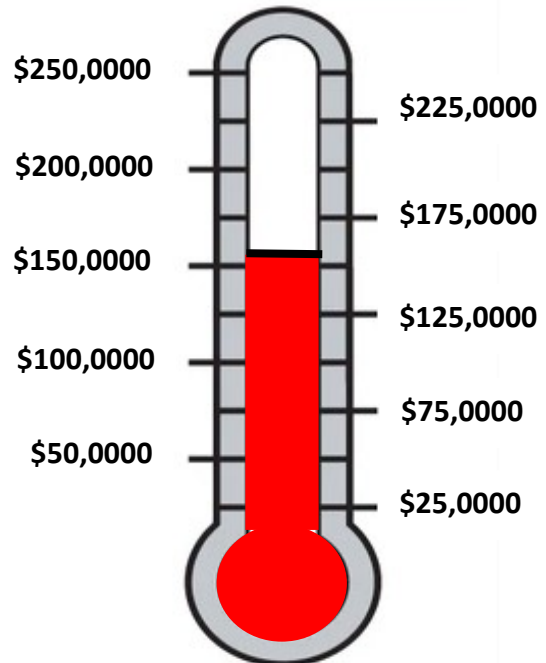
Take a minute to look at the board for updated names and fill out a sheet to get you or your loved ones name on the board.



Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$128,947.38
Unpaid pledges - \$22,138.96
Total project funds - \$151,086.62

Our Goal: \$250,000



Remaining pledge amount needed
\$98,913.38

Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory of:

- * Richard Anderson
- * Jordan Daniel Heyd
- * All our family members

From:

Grandchildren
His Family
Glen, Michelle &
Gladys Melcher
Ray & Marcie Andersh
Wilma Zimmerman

- * Family & Friends
- * All Loved Ones
- * In loving memory of George
& Wilma Wiedrich and my
husband Rodney

Rose Wiedrich

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)

THANK YOU from Pastor Jim!

Thanks so much for all the cards, great messages and gifts you have blessed me with as I prepare to leave Zion and the ministry we've done together. If I were asked to describe Zion now, the words I would use could be "stable" and "hopeful". This church puts its money, its time, and its many gifts and talents to work in lots of different areas with a great number of volunteers stepping up and getting involved. No matter your age or your abilities, if you are willing to help, you will be welcomed and put to work!

This has been a Spirit-filled, positive time for me these past 16 months here at Zion. I wondered what it would be like returning to my college town where I lived from the fall of 1968 through the fall of 1972; the residential areas of town haven't changed much, but there are a lot more coffee shops, casinos, and car washes!

Here are the ideas I'd suggest focusing on for the next year as Pastor Nicole transitions into her role as Pastor. 1) Re-start the "ambassadors/mentors/contact" people program that Zion had before Covid. When people express a desire to join the church, ask them if they already know a family or two here and if they do, then someone from church should ask the people they know if they would take on the role of "ambassadors/welcomers" for that first year of the new people joining the church! One idea would be that once a month the newcomer and their welcomer family would agree to attend church on the same Sunday, and then sit together during coffee and catch up—with the welcomer family also introducing them to others in the church that might like to get to know the newcomers also.

2) Take some time to now go through the "Time & Talent Questionnaires" and sort them in some way so that each committee gets the names of the people who either said they might have that gift or who want to learn more about that area. Then the council members will have the responsibility to reach out to these people who have expressed interest in their area of ministry and start a conversation with them. I don't think committee members need to commit for more than one initial year to see if they are a fit for what is being done there. The people who are reaching out to these potential new committee members need to talk about what their committee does, mention the Time & Talent sheets, and then give them some time to think about trying a committee for a while before deciding.

Please don't guilt people into agreeing to come onto a committee because we're desperate—that just doesn't work. Focus more on Informing them first, Inviting them to consider taking part second, and Including them in the group third as they are shown and guided by the veterans on the committee and shown what this group does.

That's basically my main idea for Zion for the next year. If I were still here for one more year, that's what I'd consider having us focus on, so perhaps you can just discuss this idea and see if it is something workable.

I will be picking up the U-Haul truck on Saturday, December 30 and need all the help I can get to load and pack the truck on Monday, January 1 starting about 3:00 in the afternoon. If we can get everything loaded, the kitties and I will spend one final night in the house sleeping on the carpet, and then Tuesday morning, January 2, I will drive my car to the U-Haul place, catch a ride back to my house, and then put the cats into the cab with me, and drive the truck to the U-Haul place to get the car trailer attached and the car secured on it, and then head south to Wayne around 9:00 a.m. If the roads and weather cooperate I hope to arrive in Wayne, NE (about an hour SE of Yankton, SD) around 3:00 where a group from the next churches I'll be serving will help me unload. I'll have the same phone # and email and will be renting a place at 1022 Douglas in Wayne.

Thanks again for all you've done for me this last year to help support me as your pastor!

Pastor Jim Holthus

