



FEBRUARY 2024

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our^[a] joy may be complete. (1 John 1:1-4)

Salutations dearest siblings in Christ,

In this month of February commercials will beckon to us, “Remember your loved one, buy diamonds, chocolate and flowers,” but at church we have the sweetest pleasure of remembering a different kind of love. What type of love is this? A love that is so profound of the Father would give up his greatest treasure, his son (a piece of himself) to enter into a sacred eternal covenant of care for creation and the people who occupy that creation.

In this year 2024, the two ideas of love will converge in a profound way as Valentines Day is Ash Wednesday or maybe it is more fitting to say, “Ash Wednesday is Valentines Day!” Yes, on Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate the greatest, biggest Valentine’s gift to ever exist, love and relationship with God.

As I consider this, I am left with a sense of awe. The story of God’s love cannot be erased or overshadowed by any form of commercialism. The truth of God’s love will stand the test of time as human developments ebb and flow. How do we share that truth on this February 14th?

I look at the language of 1 John and I am reminded that we are empowered with boldness to be like our biblical ancestors and say, “We declare the truth of God’s love *IS* from the beginning and will stand well past any end we can imagine.” I have confidence that we too can be as brave in our own uncertain times and speak, “We declare our fellowship with God, welcoming our neighbors both known and unknown.”

This is what Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent affords us, a unique opportunity to declare the truth the world often forgets, digging deep in knowing how much love cost God to secure relationship with us. How privileged we are to do this together as Zion Lutheran Church! From freezer meals to comforting quilts, both in worship, prayer, praise and fellowship, what privilege we have to let this love flow through our actions and words.

Let us pray: *Dear Creating God, as we contemplate your love this month, support us to declare it to others. Let this Valentines Day comfort those who have any need by revealing your compassionate care through Jesus. Let the whispers of the Holy Spirit speak to us and prompt us to grow closer in fellowship with you and others. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

Blessing to you this month.

May the love of God be your comfort and empowerment always.

Pastor Nicole

January 2024 Council Highlights

- A radiator leak occurred in a Sunday School classroom. Due to the age of the system, it cannot be fixed. Options are being discussed for a potential solution.
- Nominating Committee update: a potential candidate has been found for the position of council secretary; a committee chair for Welcome and Caring is still needed.
- Due to security, safety, and legal concerns, four office doors will have windows put in them.

Special Offering for February Habitat for Humanity!

We **build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter**. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. We believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities.

Our Mission:

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. For more information visit us at: www.hubhabitat.org/

Thank you for your donations!



LuMin Update



One month into the Spring semester and LuMin at NSU is centering on Colossians 1:17 "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" while thinking about our futures and turning attention to Vocational Wellness. The cost of post secondary education along with the idea that 30% of our waking hours is spent working encourages us to take our vocational wellness seriously. Understanding our individual core values, preferences, and interests increases our chances of finding a good career fit. I cannot imagine anything worse than spending 30% of my waking hours in a job that I hate. Pray for us this month as we prioritize and align.

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, February 28th 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!

ZION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Bethesda Home

Ben Schroeder
Carol Knispel
Jane Fischer
Esther Ottenbacher
Joyce Mentzer

Milbank-Avantara

Marge Rhodes

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen

Bethesda Town Sq.

Shirley Wagemann
Viola Tetherow
Lorraine Kusler

California

Erna Schmierer

Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie



Grateful For You

☺ Thank you to Mike Bretsch for doing the snow removal in the parking lots.

☺ Thanks to Tom & Marie Bretsch for helping take down the big Christmas trees and to all who helped with the take down of all the other Christmas decorations.

☺ Thank you Millie Suchomel and JoAnn Heiser for helping Donna assemble the annual reports.

☺ Thank you to the Men's Group for serving breakfast for Pastor Jim's farewell and Pastor Nicole's welcome.

☺ Thank you to LuMin for leading Sunday School on Annual Meeting Sunday!



Confirmation Corner

- 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes will take place every other Wednesday from January 31—April 10.
- 9th grade students should visit with Sandra once you have found a faith mentor. Be looking in next month's newsletter for the next date we'll meet to discuss our group confirmation project that will take place this summer.

Thank You

Thanks to all for your thoughts, notes, prayer shawl and prayers that I received throughout the time I was hospitalized.

-Leonard Berger

THANKYOU!

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.

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.

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 Saundra. 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!



YOUTH CRAFT NIGHT FUNDRAISER

February 8 | 6:00 PM
Zion Fellowship Hall

Cost: \$30 per kit
Take home kits
available

Craft Night Fundraiser

The Youth Committee will be hosting a craft night fundraiser on Thursday, February 8th from 6-8 PM. Cost is \$30.

The craft is a double-sided table decoration that says "Happy Spring" and "Hoppy Easter"; a picture of the craft can be found on the table in the narthex, along with a registration form for the event. Dinner will be available during the evening for a free will offering.

If you are not able to participate in person, take-home kits are available! All proceeds benefit Zion Youth programs.

No Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, February 18th in observance of the holiday weekend. Sunday School will resume on February 25th.



Winter Vendor and Craft Fair

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

Winter Vendor Fair

Zion will be hosting our third annual Winter Vendor and Craft Fair on Saturday, February 3rd, starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Breakfast and lunch will be available for purchase. Mark the date on your calendar, and be sure to swing by to see all the vendors and crafters have to offer!

Happenings at Zion

Table of Plenty

The Table of Plenty community meal continues to be enjoyed by our community. Thank you to all who continue to support our efforts by enjoying the meal, serving, sponsoring, or through prayer. If you know of anyone wishing to sponsor a meal, please have them contact the church office.

Table of Plenty meal will be served on Monday **February 26th from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion fellowship hall. We hope to see you there for some delicious food and fellowship together!



Freezer Meal Prep

On Wednesday, January 24, nine Mission and Outreach committee members and congregational volunteers gathered to make meals for Zion's Freezer Meal ministry. In all, twenty-five meals were prepared and assembled to stock the freezer. These meals are available for anyone to take to someone following surgery, welcoming a new baby, or who may be in need.

Thank you to all who donated ingredients, volunteered their time, or prayed for this ministry!

Midweek Lenten Services

Join us for midweek Lenten services that focus on "Gratitude".

Service times are 12:15 PM and 6:05 PM, with a meal served before each service (11:30 AM and 5:15 PM).

The season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday services**, which will be held on **Wednesday, February 14** and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

Midweek Lenten Worship

gratitude

Wednesdays at 12:15 & 6:05

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

Volunteers Needed

We are in need of individuals or groups to prepare and serve Lenten meals before the midweek worship services. Meals begin at 11:30 AM and 5:15 PM. If you are available to help with this fellowship opportunity, please contact 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

Our next progressive supper will be on **Sunday, February 25th**. 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.



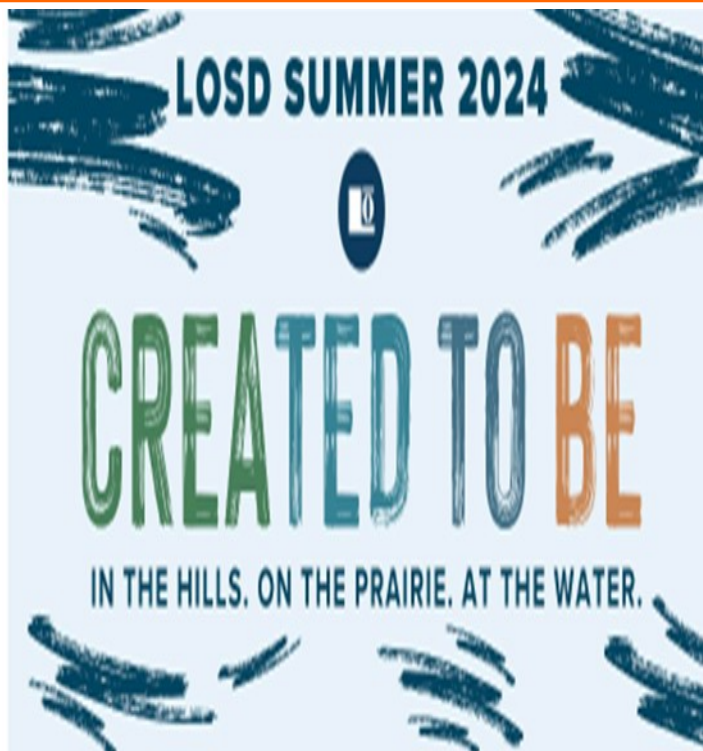
Summer Camp Registration

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 2024) is interested in going together, please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Sandra.

Prices will go up on April 15th.



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

Staff

Pastor Nicole Martin..... 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
April Nehlich..... Secretary

Council Representatives:

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



Thank You!

thank
YOU
SO MUCH

Thank you to those who were able to help Pastor Jim pack and move on January 2nd. He wouldn't have been able to do it without you and was grateful for so many helping hands!

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 Saundra for ideas on how your Action Team can help support our ministries here at Zion and beyond.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH January, 2024

Monthly budgeted expenses: \$30,000.00
Actual Jan. Income: \$24,315.22
Actual Jan. Expenses: \$27,639.36

THANK YOU!

ZION MEMORIALS

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Meta Vetter	Organ	Viola Tetherow
Meta Vetter	Organ	Ron Kaaz\family
Meta Vetter	Altar Guild	Rose Wiedrich
Meta Vetter	Quilters	Gary & Wanda Morehouse

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

In Loving Memory

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 10:10 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 Pastor Nicole 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

On the last Wednesday of the month, donuts and a devotion will be available for pickup at Zion and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches. Simply enter the south parking lot at either church, 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.

The next Drive Up Donuts event will be held on **Wednesday, February 28 from 7:30-8:00 AM.**

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 dates: February 25, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 24 (half), March 31

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
225-6755 to sign up

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



Scholarships

Scholarship Fund

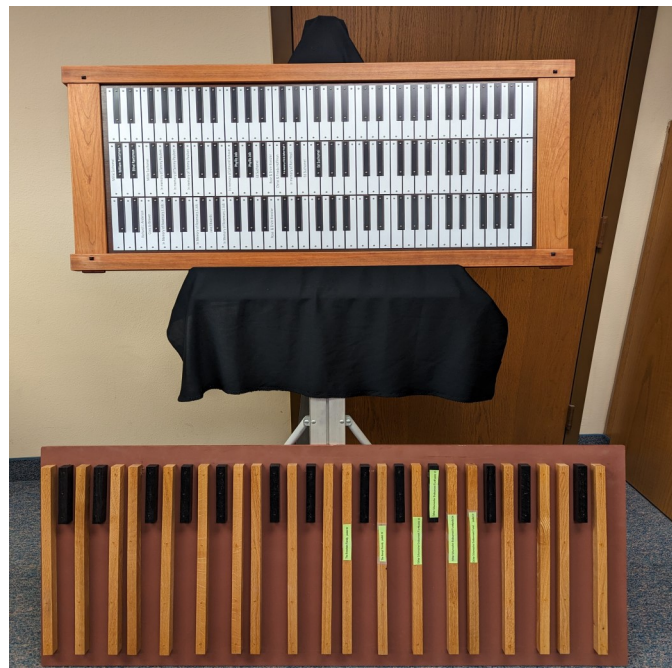
Each year, the Education committee awards two scholarships: one to a high school senior and one to a current college student.

Our funding for these scholarship awards is low. If you would like to make a donation to the scholarship fund, please do so in the church office.

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.

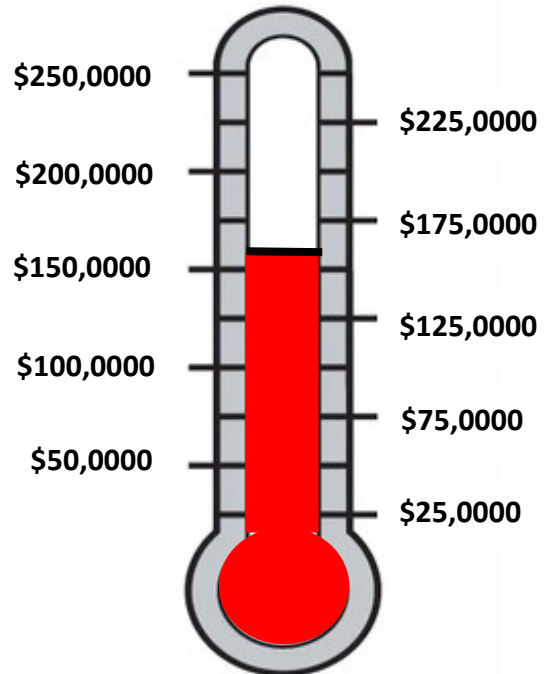
Take a minute to look at the board for updated names and fill out a sheet to get you or your loved ones name on the board.



Organ Restoration Fund

Cash on Hand - \$129,809.81
Unpaid pledges - \$21,837.50
Total project funds - \$151,647.31

Our Goal: \$250,000



Remaining pledge amount needed
\$98,352.69

Organ Committee

Zachary Anderson: 252-1229
Sue Gates: 290-1684
Nicole Kempf: 228-5218
Sonya Kempf: 228-2490
Sharon Stroschein: 228-1299

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.

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)

Pastor Nicole's Installation

On Sunday, January 21, Zion installed Reverend Nicole Martin as our next permanent pastor. Bishop Constanze Hagmaier joined worship for the festivities and performed the Rite of Installation, which included words spoken at the baptismal font, pulpit, and altar, along with the presentation of the call letter by Council President Ed Suchomel. Following worship, the men served a pancake breakfast as a time of fellowship and welcome.

Welcome, Pastor Nicole! We are excited to walk in ministry together with you!



LuMin Work with Sunday School Youth

On Sunday, January 28, Zion's annual meeting was held following worship. LuMin (Northern's Lutheran Campus Ministry) led the Sunday School youth in singing songs, playing games, and doing activities related to the parable The Sower. Thank you to Ann, Autumn, Ashlyn, and Angie for a fun and educational time!

