

DECEMBER 2024

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen
2024.12.01

Grace and Glory of God be to you all,

Happy Advent!

What a wonderful time we are entering, with eyes and ears waiting in hopeful anticipation to see and hear God's presence among us.

How will he come? When will he come? How will we receive and welcome his coming?

These are large questions, but the answer to them all is most easily found in the beautiful lyrics of one advent hymn: "Joy to the world, The Lord is come." This song reflects that Christ's birth is a truth that grounds us in the now, and lays the foundation of a return. It is a song about God's second coming, not the first (that happened two thousand years ago). And as God's people, we eagerly anticipate when He will come again.

Advent helps us do this--wait for Christ's return.

Here at Zion, we will wait this advent season with the theme: Advent Anticipations: Presents or Presence?

Rooted in Faith, as a people of God, we will quest to see God's presence in all of the presents/ blessings we have received.

Growing in Spirit, as people of God, we will quest to see God's presence as an essential element in nourishing all of who we are.

Reaching Out to Those in Need, as people of God, we will quest ways to be God's presence as we support missional opportunities to share God's love.

That's the funny thing about God's presence—it can manifest in the most wonderful presents around: blessings that sustain us for a lifetime, encouraging us to live as the presence of God's love for others.

Looking forward to waiting in hopeful anticipation of God's presence with you.

Joyfully, your sister in Christ,
Pastor Martin

(continued on next page)

Happenings at Zion

(continued from front page)

To support God's presence radiating out of Zion, this month our Advent stewardship focus is around the following areas:

Love Offerings: Compassion from the Heart, Change for the World

- December Theme: Presence Manifesting in the Present
- Church Ministry Team Focus: Mission & Outreach/Faith Formation
- Tangible donations: Mission & Outreach book drive for laundromats
Special activities: Advent Worship @ 6:05 PM (December 4, 11, 18)
Congregational Meeting (December 8 following worship)
Youth Christmas Program (December 15) followed by the breakfast potluck (don't forget to bring a dish!)
- Change for our community & Change for the world: Mission Trip to Milwaukee where we will live as God's presence to those in need.

Special Congregational Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the congregation held on Sunday, December 8 immediately following worship. The reason for the meeting is to present proposed constitution and bylaw changes that will be voted on at the annual meeting. You'll have an opportunity to review the proposed changes and ask questions at the annual meeting forums held in January. Please plan to attend!

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

Tree of Saints

\$5 PER ORNAMENT

ORNAMENTS WILL BE
CUSTOMIZED WITH YOUR
LOVED ONE'S NAME

Tree of Saints

This year, our youth will once 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 any time after Christmas Eve worship, but we encourage you to leave them through Epiphany.

Sales will be Sunday, December 1—
Wednesday, December 18. All proceeds from the ornament sales benefit the group attending the Milwaukee Mission Trip in June.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON INSTAGRAM

Follow us:
@zlcaberdeensd

TAG US IN YOUR PICTURES FROM WORSHIP, CHURCH EVENTS, AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Love Offerings:

Compassion from the Heart, Change for the World

Local: Milwaukee Mission Trip

In June 2025, a group of youth and adults will be taking an intergenerational mission trip to Milwaukee for a week. Although the city of Milwaukee is vibrant and historical on the shores of Lake Michigan, this is an area that struggles with homelessness as well "food deserts" where people in Milwaukee don't always have access to food that will nourish their bodies.

During our time there, we will be fortunate to be God's presence in the world by serving in one of the various food banks around Milwaukee; working in a community garden to cultivate, prepare, and preserve food; working to support congregations in the city of Milwaukee who serve those who need a place to worship; reading to kids during the summer in order to support the education growth of Milwaukee's students; working to serve meals to those who are experiencing homelessness; helping to preserve the beautiful rivers in the area in order to revitalize surrounding areas, as well as improve water quality in the Milwaukee area; working to support an organization which provides personal items and haircuts to women who have been affected by sex trafficking; and working to improve the houses of those who cannot afford traditional home improvements.

THANK YOU for your support!

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On Wednesday, December 18, 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!

****Please note the change in date due to the Christmas holiday!****

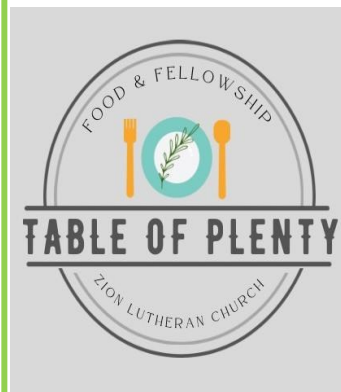


Table of Plenty

The next Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, December 16 from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for delicious food and fellowship!

If you know of anyone wishing to sponsor a meal for 2025, please have them contact the church office.

****Please note the change in date due to the Christmas holiday!****



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 also give online today (multiple ways) by going to zionlutheranaberdeen.org/giving

You can simply scan this QR code with your smartphone and it will take you to our giving page.



ZION HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Bethesda Home

Norman Denning
Carol Knispel
Esther Ottenbacher
Shirley Wagemann
Joyce Mentzer

Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie

Milbank-Avantara

Marge Rhodes

Bethesda Town Sq.

Viola Tetherow
Lorraine Kusler
Elsie Geffre

Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen

California

Erna Schmierer



Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to all who helped decorate the building for the Advent and Christmas seasons!

☺ Thank you to everyone who is part of team Zion. We couldn't worship and be church together without each of you!

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 www.thrivent.com or contact Ministry Coordinator Sandra for ideas on how your Team can help support our ministries here at Zion and beyond.



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.

LuMin Update



December 1st marks the beginning of Advent, and for college students, 12 days 'til finals. December 3rd we will host worship on campus with hot chocolate and cookies. December 11, the day before finals begin, Pastor Nicole will lead laughter yoga on campus!

As we wrap up the end of the year, and prepare for what is next, may we take a moment and pause to let go what is done and be in the present. Join us this month on Instagram or Facebook as we use Kate Bowler's "The Weary World Rejoices" advent devotion.

Thank you for your partnership and prayers this year.

Holiday Vendor Fair

Need to do some Christmas shopping? Want to take some free pictures with Santa? Stop at the Holiday Vendor Fair in the Central Labor Union Building (north of the old Perkins on the same block) from 5-8 PM on Tuesday, December 10. While you're there, enjoy some delicious supper and support our group that is attending the Milwaukee Mission Trip in June 2025. Supper for purchase will be sandwiches and soup for the adults and hotdogs and chips for the kids. Make sure to mark the date on your calendar, and stop by to see us (and Santa)!



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.

Faith and Family

Middle and High School Faith Explorers Christmas Party

There will be a Christmas party on Sunday, December 8th following worship at 10:30 AM in the youth room. We'll enjoy some delicious snacks together as you try to escape the Nativity escape room! Mark the date on your calendar!



Confirmation Corner

- There will be no 6-7-8 confirmation small group meetings during December. Small group will resume in January.
- Reminder to 6-7-8 grade confirmation students to get signed up for your six worship experiences as soon as possible!

Milwaukee Mission Trip Meeting

There will be a meeting for those participating in the Milwaukee Mission Trip on **Sunday, December 1 at 10:30 AM**. If you are unable to make the meeting, please visit with Sandra.

If you haven't signed up for the trip but would still like to attend, come to the meeting, and we'll get you registered!



Faith Explorers Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th
during the 9:00 AM
worship service

Faith Explorers Christmas Program

The Faith Explorers children will be holding their annual Christmas program during the 9:00 AM worship service on Sunday, December 15th. Following the program, there will be a church-wide breakfast potluck in the fellowship hall.

Practice for the program will be on Saturday, December 14th from 10:00-11:30 AM.

Allevery Fun Night

Mark the date on your calendar—on **Monday, January 6 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 Milwaukee Mission Trip in June. The event is open to all! Grab some friends and family, and stop down to have some fun while supporting our mission trip!

Help us raise money!

**Visit Allevery Entertainment on
Monday, January 6 from 6-9 PM
and 10% of sales will go directly to**

Zion Lutheran Church!

Advent and Christmas at Zion



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 4, 11, and 18; services will be livestreamed. Each service will feature music from Holden Evening Prayer and a message. There will be suppers available before worship from 5:30-6:00 PM for a freewill donation.

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 by Sunday, December 15! We will be mailing the cards on Monday the 16th.



Christmas Poinsettias



Zion's Altar Guild invites members to purchase a poinsettia at a local business and bring it to the Friendship Room in the church by Monday, December 23. 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 Friday, December 20 by 12 PM. Your generosity in beautifying the sanctuary for Christmas Eve is greatly appreciated!

Christmas Eve Worship

Zion will be hosting two Christmas Eve worship services on **Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM**. Both services will be livestreamed and will include Holy Communion and candlelight.



Breakfast Potluck

Please join in the celebration of the children of Faith Formation following their Christmas program on December 15! The potluck will be held after the service and Christmas program. Please bring breakfast items to share, such as egg bake, French toast bake, sausage, bacon, biscuits and gravy, rolls, donuts, hard-boiled eggs, fruit, etc.

Happenings at Zion

Kindergarten Faith Milestone

On Sunday, November 10, a group of Zion youth completed their kindergarten faith milestone. During worship, they talked about how as a Child of God, we are blessed to be a blessing to others. They were then given a blessing bowl and received a blessing. Following worship, children and a trusted adult met together and talked about how to offer blessings to others and how to do Faith Five as a family. Congratulations to Finley, Lillian, Bennett, and Carson—may you always remember you are a beloved and blessed Child of God!



Office Closures

The office hours for the end of December will be as follows:

- Monday, December 23—Open 9 AM-3 PM
- Tuesday, December 24—Open 9 AM-12 PM
- Wednesday, December 25—Closed
- Thursday, December 26—Closed
- Friday, December 27—Closed
- Monday, December 30—Open 9 AM-3 PM
- Tuesday, December 31—Open 9 AM-12 PM
- Wednesday, January 1—Closed



Women's Update

On Monday, November 11, the Women from Zion took a check for \$4500 to the Aberdeen School District office to be used toward lunches for children whose families who cannot afford them. This donation was part of the profits from the Fall Bazaar that was held in September. It was a great feeling to be able to help out in the community!

The Women of Zion will be selling raffle tickets in January for a quilt that belonged to Myron and Beth Walth. The quilt is king-sized and white in color. Tickets will be 1/\$3 or 2/\$5. The quilt will be displayed and tickets will be on sale on Sundays, January 12, 19, and 26 with the drawing to be held at the annual meeting. All proceeds will be given to the Zion scholarship fund.



Quilt
Raffle

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

Staff

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor
 Sandra Anderson.....Ministry Coordinator
 Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music
 Sue Gates.....Assistant Director of Music
 Stephanie HawkinsonPraise Band Director
 Art Ketterling.....Maintenance Coordinator

ZION'S KEY MISSION

Cultivating communities of caring and belonging as champions of the gospel

ZION'S MOTIVATING MISSION

+ We seek to honor relationships with God, others, and self through expressions of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

+ We see to cultivate these relationships by being rooted in faith, growing in spirit, reaching out to those in need; by being faithful stewards of creation, property and finances; and by valuing and empowering all individuals to be an active participant in our congregation and community.

Executive Committee:

Ed Suchomel.....President
 Chastity Madsen.....Vice-President
 Joel Albrecht Treasurer
 April Nehlich.....Secretary

Council Representatives:

Jessica Moser.....Faith Formation
 Ryan BretschFinance & Stewardship
 Nicole Schutter.....Mission & Outreach
 Andrea Morehouse.....Welcome & Caring
 Kathy Heffernan.....Worship & Music



ZION MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts are a meaningful way to honor friends and loved ones who have passed. If you would like to make a donation to one of our ministries in their memory, please contact the church office.

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>For:</u>	<u>From:</u>
Vivian Eske	Various	Family & Friends of Vivian
Jane Fischer	Mem. Fund	Jonathan & Gay Ristau
Vivian Eske	Mem. Fund	Gwen Carson
Vivian Eske	Mem. Fund	Wendy Frank
Bob Mentzer	Youth	Ray & Marcie Andersh

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



Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

We have **no radio broadcast sponsors for the month of December and into 2025.** If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
 \$55 for half



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH October 31, 2024

Budgeted October Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual October Income:	\$24,356.28
Actual October Expenses:	<u>\$22,833.99</u>
Total:	\$1,522.29

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM	Worship with live radio broadcast, Holy Communion, and livestream
10:00 AM	Fellowship time
10:15 AM	Faith Explorers

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 elementary and middle/high school Faith Explorers follows worship, starting at 10:15 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 Andrea Morehouse, Welcome and Outreach chair, or Pastor Nicole 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**

Winter Vendor and Craft Fair

Saturday, February 1st
9 AM -- 2 PM
Zion Lutheran Church

Winter Vendor Fair

Mark your calendar! Zion will be hosting the fourth annual Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 1st, 2025 from 9 AM—2PM in the Fellowship Hall.

End of Year Donations

Be sure to bring your final offerings for the year to the office by **3:00 PM** on December 30th

End of Year Donations

Just a reminder that all end of the year donations you would like counted in the 2024 tax season need to be in the church office by 3:00 PM on Monday, December 30.

December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Time/ Men's breakfast 10:30 AM Milwaukee trip meeting	2 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach/ Welcome & Caring mtg 7:00 PM GA meeting	3 10:00 AM Staff meeting	4 1:00 PM Cardmakers 5:30 PM Advent supper 6:05 PM Advent worship 8:00 PM AA meeting	5 8:00 AM Dial Screening 1:00 PM Quilters 3:00 PM Women's meeting	6 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	7
8 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Time 10:00 AM Congregational meeting 10:30 AM Faith Explorers 11:00 AM Education meeting 11:00 AM Altar Guild meeting	9 1:00 PM Quilters	10 10:00 AM Staff meeting 11:30 AM Zion book club 5:30 PM Worship and Music mtg 5-8 PM Fundraiser at Vendor Fair	11 1:00 PM Cardmakers 5:30 PM Advent supper 6:05 PM Advent worship 8:00 PM AA meeting	12 1:00 PM Quilters	13	14 10:00 AM Program practice
15 Christmas Program 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Time 10:15 AM Breakfast potluck 10:30 AM Council meeting	16 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	17 Newsletter Deadline	18 1:00 PM Cardmakers 5:30 PM Advent supper 6:05 PM Advent worship 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's Fellowship	19 1:00 PM Quilters	20 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	21
22 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Time	23 1:00 PM Quilters	24 Office open 9 AM-12 PM 10:00 AM Staff meeting 4:00 PM Cmas Eve worship 7:00 PM Cmas Eve worship	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas! 8:00 PM AA meeting	26 Office Closed 1:00 PM Quilters	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship Time	30 1:00 PM Quilters	31 Office open 9 AM-12 PM 10:00 AM Staff meeting				