

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen
2025.01.01

It is official, and I can finally say it. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Quirky I know, but Christmas is the 12 days starting December 24 and it does not stop until January 6. So, wherever you are today, remember it is still a Merry Christmas for you because the story of the Emmanuel lives well beyond one day. It is the story of our God's love unfolding for all of us each day and in all our days to come.

What a great blessing to know that as we enter January 2025, and share the jolly melodies of "Happy New Year", we can be confident in the presence of God with us in our adventures ahead. We can be confident that God dares to touch our hearts with God's very presence. Umm, the story of Christ-mass lives.

For theologian Howard Thurman, the Christmas experience is a place for us to begin, not a place to end. The beginning of the new year is where the work of Christmas starts.

How do we do this? What does it mean for us to roll up our sleeves and be the presence of God? It might feel a bit overwhelming, or impossible; it might even feel a bit uncomfortable, but January is a time for resolutions and new beginnings. What resolution can you establish to be and do the world of Christmas?

As a congregation we can do the work of Christmas by re-committing ourselves to our values.

Rooted in Faith, as a people of God, we will do the work of Christmas by proclaiming the good news of Christ's birth.

Growing in Spirit, as people of God, we will do the work of Christmas, by developing our prayer, study, and fellowship lives immersed in God's love being God's love for others.

Reaching Out to Those in Need, as people of God, we will do the work of Christmas by being active in the community, welcoming the stranger and the friend alike.

To do the work of Christmas is a bold choice for each of us as we support the church, the world, and all in need. It can express itself in the sharing of food or by accepting leadership positions guiding the church to serve the Aberdeen area.

May you be blessed as you do the work of Christmas in the coming year. May you be blessed with a strong voice to speak the good news of love for all, with feet willing to take you to new places to proclaim, and strength for the journey.

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

Joyfully, your sister in Christ,
Pastor Martin

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,

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 others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman, Theologian

(continued on next page)

Happenings at Zion

(continued from front page)

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

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

- January Theme: The Work of Christmas: Baptismal Blessings
- Church Ministry Team Focus: Youth and Adult Faith Formation
- Change for our Community & Change for the World: LuMin campus ministry
- *Special activities:* Stockholders Fundraiser for Milwaukee mission trip
Quilt raffle for Scholarship fund
Baptismal recognition of one year olds on January 12
First time voting of recently confirmed on January 26

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26th | 10:15 AM

Meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall



Annual Meeting

The annual congregation meeting for Zion will be held on Sunday, January 26th immediately following worship (around 10:15 AM) in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck held in conjunction with the meeting, so please bring a dish to pass!

Annual Meeting Forums

There will be two annual meeting forums held on Sundays, January 12 and 19 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 19th 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 be sure to look over the proposed constitution and bylaw changes that were handed out at the special congregational meeting in December. If you need a copy of these, please contact the church office. Both forums will be a time for you to ask questions over these proposed changes, as well.

Annual Meeting Forum

Zion Lutheran Church
Aberdeen, SD

Held in the
Fellowship Hall

Sundays,
January 12 & 19
10:15 AM

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2024**



LIVING OUT LOUD

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
6:05 PM

Living Out Loud

Join us every Wednesday evening to learn about living our faith out loud. Each week will begin with a meal and fellowship at 6:05 PM; we will then begin a deeper dive into the Sunday morning scripture readings at 6:20 PM, with opportunities for discussion and reflection on being Lutherans in smaller groups after the opening. We invite all to the Living Out Loud evenings!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON INSTAGRAM

Follow us:
@zlcaberdeensd

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

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.

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

Local: LuMin

The mission of LuMin across the ELCA is to inspire, connect, and equip campus ministry practitioners to transform the world through God's abundant grace.

As the local Lutheran Campus Ministry here in Aberdeen, we are grounded in Christ, living into our identity as children of God through hospitality, service, justice, integrity, and curiosity. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to walk with us.

THANK YOU for your support!

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, January 29 at 8 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!



Table of Plenty

The next Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, January 27 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.



Office Hours

The office will be open from 9 AM—12PM on Tuesday, December 31 and closed all day on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of the holiday. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of the 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

Bethesda Town Sq.

Viola Tetherow
Lorraine Kusler
Elsie Geffre

California

Erna Schmierer

Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen

Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie



Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to Trudy Anderson who helped clean out sheet music in the basement.

☺ Thank you to all who helped organize, set up, and clean up after the Christmas potluck held after the youth Christmas program. It was such a fun and successful event thanks to all who attended and assisted!

☺ Thank you to all who volunteered at our Christmas Eve worship services. We couldn't have services for so many people without you!

SAVE THE DATE!

On the Horizon

Ash Wednesday: March 5

Easter: April 20



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



The Epiphany of Our Lord is typically celebrated on January 6th and offers an opportunity for the home or place you are staying to be blessed. This blessing is done as a reminder of the hospitality towards the magi and as a reminder that Christ dwells within us and within our homes. With this blessing, we also ask for God's protection over this place and all who will enter it.

As we return for the Spring semester, students will be invited to bless the place they will be staying and learning. We invite you to join us.

Begin by reading this silently or aloud: ***In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home, faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.***

Then, using chalk, write on the outside of the place you stay or inside above the main entrance/door to your room:

+ 20 CMB 21 +

The numbers change with each new year. The three letters stand for *Christe Mansionem Benedicat*, which is Latin for "Christ, bless this house,"

May everyone who comes to our home this year be blessed and find Christ living among us. May we love our neighbors as ourselves and see God in everyone we meet. Amen.

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

Youth New Year's Party

Youth of all ages: Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 12th at 1pm! We will be having a New Year's Party with games, snacks & prizes in the youth room! We'll be playing games with our friends from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and you are welcome to invite friends, too!



Confirmation Corner

- 6-7-8 confirmation small group meetings will resume on Wednesday, January 8. A meal will be served at 6:05 PM with class beginning at 6:20 PM.
- 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, January 19 at 11:00 AM**. If you are unable to make the meeting, please visit with Sandra.

If you are planning to sell stocks this month, please stop and see Sandra by Thursday, January 2 to pick up your envelope!



Stockholders Fundraiser

The youth attending the Milwaukee Mission Trip are selling stock in their trip! Each \$25 donated will give you 1 stock in a youth and a seat at our Stockholders Dinner that will be held after the end of the 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 our youth and their mission work and faith formation!



Alleivity Fun Night

Mark the date on your calendar—on **Monday, January 6 from 6-9 PM**, Zion will be having a night out at Alleivity 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 Alleivity Entertainment on Monday, January 6 from 6-9 PM and 10% of sales will go directly to

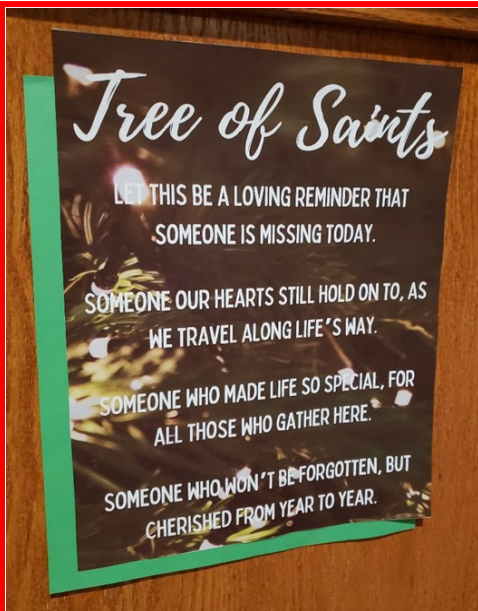
Zion Lutheran Church!

Happenings at Zion



Youth Christmas Program

On Sunday, December 15, our elementary Faith Explorer youth held their annual Christmas program. They explored the season being about the “presence” (of God) and not the “presents”. They finished worship by singing “Go Tell It on the Mountain” and then enjoyed some food and fellowship with their Zion faith family during the breakfast potluck. Great job kids!



Tree of Saints

Thank you to everyone who purchased a remembrance ornament for the Tree of Saints. We sold over 25 total! Those who purchase 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. Special thank you to Kathy Brumbaugh for hand-lettering the beautiful ceramic star ornaments with loved one's names.



Women's Update

Zion Lutheran Church Thankoffering was held on Sunday, November 24. The amount collected was \$546; this will be given to WELCA. Last year's Thankoffering was \$800 and given to the Salvation Army's Snack Pack program.

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.

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.

Winter Vendor and Craft Fair

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

Winter Vendor Fair

Zion will be hosting our fourth annual Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 1st, 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.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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 5th, 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 Lutheran Church
 1732 South Main Street
 Aberdeen, SD 57401
 (605) 225-6755 zion@nvc.net
 zionlutheranaberdeem.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>
Linda Marks	Organ	Gladys Melcher
Cathy Conroy Douglas	General	Gladys Melcher

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



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:

January 26	February 23
February 9	March 2

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 November 30, 2024

Budgeted November Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual November Income:	\$18,754.16
Actual November Expenses:	<u>\$22,670.53</u>
Total:	(\$3,916.37)