

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen  
2025.02.01

In my office, at eye level to my work station, sits a precious gift—the gift of God's love come to life. When the need for a pause arises, I simply look to my right, and there it is: the expression of God's love for the world.

In the month of February, many people look for love, celebrate love, and remember love that was, but that love, while it certainly makes our time in the flesh more dynamic, it is not the same as the love from heaven that appeared in the sounds a gurgling baby. Nor is it the same sound that cried from the cross. That love is a sacrificial love that moves beyond the traditional tribes and groups and infuses itself into all people and nations.

I think this is one reason I like this sweet simple nativity—because there is no face detail. I am free to imagine the face of God's love in a variety of expressions, as we are all called to love children who are not biologically ours, like Joseph, and we are all called to bear the love of God, like Mary. The radiance of the Bethlehem Star shown for all and affects all to live under its light. From the Ivory Coast to the tundra of Alaska, God's love is for all.



This is the profound glory of living during the season of Epiphany, which we are now in. In Epiphany, we live under the radiant light that exposes injustice and policies that harm the world and the people. Epiphany is the time of walking in love as Christ's love, God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace made flesh.

So when the world is celebrating Valentine sweethearts, we will be celebrating the expressions of God's love through the multitude and varied expressions of faith around our community, the synod, and the world.

### A Celtic Blessing

(a modified adaptation from Prayers for Everyday Life by Ray Simpson)

*God, bless us to be infused with your love which speaks like lightning and burns like fire.  
Bless us with love that radiates the inside of our life like the first moment of the cosmos.  
In this awakening love of God's tender touch upon the cosmos and our life,  
may there always be courtesy and respect,  
trust and courage, tenderness and truth.  
Lord, take from us all that destroys and is willful.  
Give to us that which lasts and is selfless,  
so the pain we cause will wither and the goodness we share grow strong and shine forever.*

*God, the one whom loves so much, bless us that quests to love.  
May we never cheapen this love.  
May we never abuse this love to gratify personal appetites.  
May we always be present to  
receive love from the grand Creator,  
give love as the passionate healer,  
and dwell in advocating love for others.*

*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

# Happenings at Zion

(continued from front page)

To support our quest to share the love of God through our stewardship gifts, this month our focus is around the following areas:

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

- February Theme: Expressions of Faith
  - Church Ministry Team Focus: Outreach and Social Concerns; Table of Plenty
  - Change for our Community & Change for the World: SD Synod Multicultural Ministries
- Special activities:* Stockholders Fundraiser for Milwaukee mission trip  
Prayer Pillow milestone on February 9

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be over twenty vendors present, with lunch available for purchase. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and stop by to enjoy your favorite vendors, homemade goods, and delicious food!

## Poinsettia Donations

Thank you to those who donated poinsettia plants for Christmas Eve services!

Poinsettia plants were given by the following:

- Ray & Marcie Andersh
- Marje Kaiser
- The Nash Family
- Trudy Anderson
- In memory of Jordan Daniel Heyd from his family
- In loving memory of Michael Luitjens from his family
- In memory of Ronnie Loggins

## Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services!

# 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 through the end of February!



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON INSTAGRAM

Follow us:  
@zlcaberdeensd

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

### Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, February 26 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!



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

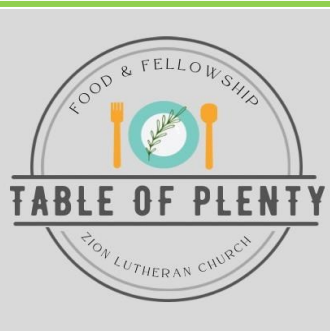
#### SD Synod Multicultural Ministries

The mission of the South Dakota Synod Multicultural Committee is to respond to God's call to share the reconciling gospel of Jesus Christ with all nations by partnering in ministry with the diverse ethnic communities within our state.

#### 5 CORE FUNCTIONS:

1. **Strategize:** Develop strategies to help us become a more multicultural church.
2. **Advocate:** Advocate with and for ethnic communities at every level of ministry and leadership in our Synod, and stand in solidarity with people who experience injustice.
3. **Teach:** Teach the people of our Synod how to listen and interact with different cultures, so that there may be a mutual blessing.
4. **Establish:** Establish new ministries among culturally diverse populations within our Synod.
5. **Encourage:** Encourage congregations and leaders who are involved in multicultural ministry.

**THANK YOU for your support!**



### Table of Plenty

The next Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, February 24 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.

### Sheets Needed

Zion's quilters are looking for sheets of any size to help finish their current projects. If you have any sheets to donate, please bring them to the church office.



### 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](http://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 all who helped to take down the Christmas decorations after Epiphany. Special thank you to Stacy Geffre for reorganizing the decoration storage in the basement!

☺ Thank you to everyone who had a hand in putting together the annual report: writing reports, auditing, printing and stapling, etc. It is a large project every year, and we couldn't do it without you!

☺ Thank you to this year's outgoing council members. We appreciate all of your hard work and leadership for Zion!

# 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



February is a short month, commonly known for Valentine's Day and President's Day, but did you know Random Acts of Kindness Day is February 17? As we study the miracles and acts of Jesus from the book of Luke, join us in expanding Random Acts of Kindness from one day to the entire month. Each Tuesday in February, Northern LuMin will incorporate Random Acts of Kindness into our Tuesday Tabling. Students will be given a simple prompt/idea of a Random Act of Kindness to share on campus or wherever they go. Follow us on Social Media to see our simple prompt/idea, and join us each week.

As always, if you would like to further partner with Northern LuMin on an activity, have an idea or question about this outreach ministry, please contact us at [northernlumin@gmail.com](mailto:northernlumin@gmail.com). Blessings to all!



### 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](http://www.thrivent.com) or contact Ministry Coordinator Sandra for ideas on how your Team can help support our ministries here at Zion and beyond.

### 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!

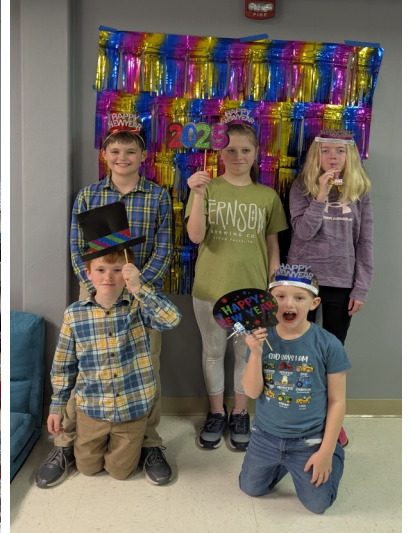
Our van ride service is available on Sunday mornings for the 9:00 AM worship service. If you would like a ride to worship, please call the church office at 225-6755.



# Faith and Family

## New Years Party

On Sunday, January 12, Good Shepherd and Zion youth teamed up to host a New Years party in Zion's youth room. Kids of all ages participated in Minute to Win It games and enjoyed taking themed photos to kick off the new year together!



## No Faith Explorers

There will be no Faith Explorers for elementary or middle/high school youth on Sunday, February 16 in observance of the holiday weekend. Faith Explorers will resume on Sunday, February 23 following worship.

**NO  
CLASS**

## 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!

MILWAUKEE MISSION TRIP

**STOCKHOLDER  
FUNDRAISER**

## Youth in the Night

On Sunday, February 2, youth will meet at Zion for supper at 5:30 pm. Then, we'll play games in the dark: Hide & Seek, Sardines & more! Open to middle and high school youth; bring a friend! This is a joint event with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

## **Youth in the Night**

**Sunday, February 2nd**

**5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Middle & High School Youth event**

Supper served at 5:30pm, then we'll play games in the dark: Hide & Seek, Sardines & more!

**Bring your friends!**

This is a joint event between Zion and Good Shepherd Lutheran Churches

# Faith and Family



## Baptism Recognitions

On January 12, in celebration of Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, we recognized our children who were baptized this past year. The sermon of the day focused on living out your baptismal promise in the world, and at the end of the sermon, families were invited forward for a blessing. Eloise Anderson and Logan Riss each received a Hug-a-Bible in recognition of this faith milestone!



## Prayer Pillow Milestone

All children born in 2021 and their parents are invited to join Pastor Nicole and Ministry Coordinator Sandra for a Prayer Pillow Faith Milestone event on Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. We will present Prayer Pillows to our 3- and 4-year-olds at the 9:00 service; then, these children and their parents are invited to a special event at 10:15 AM that day in faith formation center in the basement. We'll have a lot of fun learning about prayer together!

## Summer Camp Registration

If you have a 1st 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 camperships available, as well!

If we have enough kids interested, we will attend the Explorers Camps at NeSoDak in July/August as a Zion group. If your 1st-5th grade child (2024-2025 school year) is interested in going together, please reach out to Pastoral Assistant Sandra.

1-2-3 Camp	July 27-29
2-3 Junior Explorers	July 29-31
3-5 Explorers	July 29-Aug 1

## **LOSD SUMMER 2025 GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR**

In the Hills. On the Prairie. At the Water.

“God's Word is near you, on your lips  
and in your heart” - Romans 10:8



# 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](mailto:zion@nvc.net).

## Youth Conference

Plans are in the works for a Northern Plains Conference youth workshop on Saturday, March 8. This conference will feature Dr. Michael Chan, a keynote speaker from the ELCA Youth Gathering. Plans are being made, and details will be shared as soon as they are finalized. Mark the date on your calendar, and make plans to join us!



**Become  
Part of  
*Our*  
Church  
Family**



## Upcoming Important Dates



- The office will be closed on Monday, February 17 in observance of the President's Day holiday.
- Pastor Nicole will be on vacation February 12-18. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call the church office.
- **Ash Wednesday is on March 5. Plans are in the works for Lenten noon and evening worship services, with meals to be held before each service.**

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

**Staff**

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor  
 Saura Anderson.....Ministry Coordinator  
 Mike German.....Ministry Coordinator  
 Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music  
 Sue Gates..... Accompanist & Music Support  
 Stephanie Hawkinson .....Praise 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.

**At the time of printing, the annual meeting has not been held. An updated listed of executive committee members and council representatives will appear in next month's newsletter.**



**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>
Eldora Junkert	General	Gladys Melcher
Lorraine Gehring	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:*

March 2, 9, 16, 23      All of April      All of May

Thank you to those who have sponsored a broadcast and those who are signed up to do so. Your generosity is appreciated by those who are unable to join us in person for worship.

**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 December 31, 2024**

Budgeted December Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual December Income:	\$55,389.73
Actual December Expenses:	<u>\$29,152.91</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$26,236.82</b>