

MARCH 2025

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen  
2025.03.01

Welcome to the month of March, beloved children of God. In March, there are many events to keep our attention busy, such as Spring Break and St. Patrick's Day.

For us Lutheran-flavored Christians, our March will also be filled with the ritual of Lent. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 5<sup>th</sup>) our lives will carve out a 40 day experience of contemplation. Our contemplation will invite us to consider how we are tempted away from God and how we keep our focus on God when we are tempted. Jesus knows all too well what temptation is, and Jesus shows us in exemplary fashion what it means to stand firm in the face of temptation.

*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'<sup>5</sup> Then the devil<sup>[d]</sup> led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil<sup>[d]</sup> said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'<sup>9</sup> Then the devil<sup>[d]</sup> took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", <sup>11</sup> and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. (Luke 4:1-15)*

What do we glean when we read scriptures such as the one above? How does knowing this account help us stand firm when we are faced with temptations that pull us away from God? St. Paul in Ephesians 6 reminds us that the sword of the Spirit, is the word of God. How do we allow the word/Word to be a tool helping us navigate the very real temptations around us?

With these questions, we step boldly into the season, being diligent to our lived identity as children of God—heirs with Christ.

What will you do to make this season a profound moment of saying “no” to that which pulls you from God and “yes” to what brings you closer? How will you find shelter under the Savior, that is, the Word of God, to rise up new for the Easter Story to affect your life, your well-being, and your legacy?

As you contemplate dwelling in the season of Lent, you might consider joining me for “Ashes to Go” on March 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be available from 6:00 – 9:00 am in the South Parking Lot ready to pray and cross with ashes anyone who desires to begin their day marked with the strength of God to overcome the mortality of our flesh. This may be an exceptionally valuable experience for anyone who is unable to attend the traditional Ash Wed worship services at 12:15 PM and 6:05 PM.

You are also invited to support others find shelter under the love of God through this season's Expression of Faith Theme: Shelter under the Savior. Our special Love & Noisy offerings will go to the Journey Home and Lutheran Disaster Response, representing a local and a national organization that care for those during traumatic moments. As a special activity, we will be collecting tangible goods for the Salvation Army for the next six weeks.

(continued on next page)

# Happenings at Zion

(continued from front page)

Blessings on the season before you. May the love of the Father surround you; may the grace of the Son be in you; may the calling of the Spirit propel you; empowering you to stay focused on God and protected from temptations that tug at you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

- **March's Theme:** Shelter Under the Savior
- **Church Ministry Team Focus:** Zion Lutheran Church Women
- **Special & Noisy Offerings:** *Local:* Journey Home  
*World:* Lutheran Disaster Response
- **Special Activities:** Ashes to Go on March 5 from 6:00-9:00 AM  
Ash Wednesday Services on March 5 at 12:15 PM and 6:05 PM  
Lenten Bible Study at 10:15 AM on March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 2  
Collecting tangible goods for the Salvation Army (see below)

## Lenten Donations



Throughout the season of Lent, our focus will be on Living as Light. One of the many ways to live as light in the world is to support others as they find shelter under the love of God. Missional Life has set up a collection station in the narthex for food items to benefit the Salvation Army and all who use their services.

Salvation Army has expressed a need for the following items:

- Individually-packed servings for the Snack Pack Program—apple sauce, pudding, granola bars, similar items.
- General food items for the pantry—cereal, canned goods, other non perishable food items.

## Lenten Services

Join us for midweek Lenten services that focus on “Living as Light”. 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 noon service will be livestreamed on our Zion Facebook page and then uploaded to YouTube following worship.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services, which will be held on **Wednesday, March 5** and will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.



## Quilt Raffle Winner



Congratulations to Sharon Stroschein who was drawn as the winner of the quilt raffle at the annual meeting in January! All proceeds from the quilt raffle went to funding scholarships.

Thank you to Myron & Beth Walth's family for donating the king-sized quilt and for all who participated in the fundraiser.

## 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, March 26 at 8 PM**, there will be a men's meeting at The Circus (please note change in the location) 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

#### Local: Journey Home

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.

Journey Home aims to provide for the whole person...

- Intellectually
- Physically
- Socially
- Emotionally
- Financially
- Spiritually

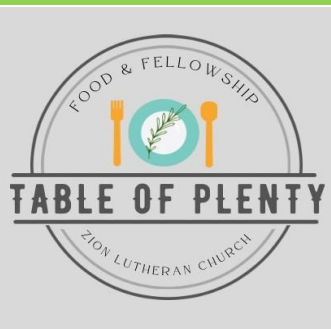
#### World: Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the US and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care
- Coordinating volunteers
- Assisting refugees
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction
- Providing long-term recovery efforts

**THANK YOU for your support!**



### Table of Plenty

The next Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, March 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

### Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

### Mother Joseph

Lois Sollie

### 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 Mike Bretsch, Mike German, Allen Nash, and Pastor Nicole for clearing the parking lots and sidewalks after the last snow!

### AED Training

At the end of 2024, Zion replaced the outdated AED machine. With the new equipment, we will offer AED training on Wednesday, March 19 at 4:00 PM in the fellowship hall. If you would like to participate in this training, please sign up on the discipleship kiosk in the narthex. This training is open to any Zion member who would like to learn how to use this machine.



### 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 month of March brings us into the season of Lent and Northern LuMin's engagement in our annual campaign of earthly stewardship: No Plastics for Lent.

Although single use plastic like straws, bags, cups and bottles are convenient in the moment and easy to throw away, it's often not recyclable or recycled and takes years to decompose. Single use plastic is contaminating our food, oceans and is a major contributor to global warming.

Join us this month in recognizing and reducing your household's use of single use plastic. Follow us on social media for weekly ideas as well as devotions on our call to be stewards of the earth!

## ZION 2025-2026 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

### Zion Scholarships

Zion will once again award two scholarships for the upcoming academic year. See the application for full instructions. Printed applications will be available starting **March 14** in the fellowship hall. Completed applications should be returned to the church no later than April 18, 2025 at 12:00 PM or emailed to Ministry Coordinator Sandra at: [Sandra.Anderson@nvc.net](mailto:Sandra.Anderson@nvc.net)

You will also be able to find the application on our website at: [zionlutheranaberdeen.org/signupcentral](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org/signupcentral)

### 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!

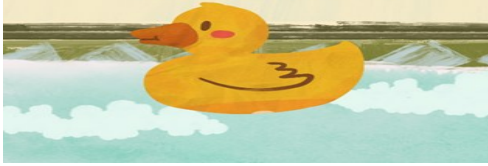
Our van ride service is available on Sunday mornings for the 9:00 AM worship service. If you would like a ride to worship, please call the church office at 225-6755.

## Faith and Family

### PLUCK a DUCK

It's simple--pick a duck.  
Pay the amount shown.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE MILWAUKEE  
MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS



### Pluck a Duck Fundraiser

Support the Milwaukee Mission Trip participants by playing Pluck a Duck! The idea is simple: simply pick a duck and pay the amount shown on the bottom. Possible amounts include \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20, or a free will offering. The booth will be set up in the narthex throughout the month of March on Sunday mornings, so be sure to stop by and try your luck!

### No Faith Explorers

There will be no Faith Explorers for elementary or middle/high school youth school youth on Sunday, March 23 in celebration of Spring Break. Faith Explorers will resume on Sunday, March 30 following worship.

**NO  
CLASS**

# FRIDAY FUNDAY

### Friday Fun Day

On Friday, March 14 from 1-4 PM, come enjoy an afternoon to relax and hang out on a no school day! There will be a variety of activities to suit your interests, including games, snacks, a movie, and more! Open to middle and high school youth—bring a friend! Rides are available to and from the event upon request; visit with Sandra if you need one!

### 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Milestone

There will be a joint fourth- and fifth-grade devotion and bible milestone on Sunday, March 30. Youth and a trusted adult will meet following worship at 10:15 AM in the faith formation center in the basement. A letter will be sent home later this month with all the details. Mark the date on your calendar!



### Mission Trip Participants & Men's Group **SHROVE SUNDAY PANCAKE BRUNCH**

March 2 | 10:15 AM  
Zion Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall

### Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch

Join the Milwaukee Mission Trip participants and the Men's Group for a pancake brunch on Sunday, March 2 during fellowship time in celebration of the kickoff of the season of Lent. All proceeds benefit the mission trip, which will be in June. Mark the date on the calendar, and plan to stay after worship for some delicious food and fellowship!



# Faith and Family



## Prayer Pillow Milestone

On Sunday, February 9, we celebrated with Bryan Stanek and Elliott Riss as they received a prayer pillow in worship. Following the service, they had a time of learning about prayer, which included ways to pray, what and whom to pray for, trouble bubbles, and of course, snacks! Thank you to Norma Miller for making the adorable pillow covers!



**YOUTH  
RUMMAGE  
SALE**  

## Youth Rummage Sale

Plans are in the works for a youth rummage sale to be held on **Saturday, April 5 from 8 AM—12 PM**. All proceeds benefit Zion youth attending the Milwaukee Mission Trip.

If you would like to bring items to donate to the rummage sale, you can start bringing items the week of March 30. Please no electronics or adult clothing. As you are doing spring cleaning and organizing, keep us in mind!

## 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 Ministry Coordinator 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, Missional Life 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

The middle and high youth conference that was being planned for March 8 has been postponed to summer. Once the date and details have been finalized, information will be sent to families. Stay tuned for more information!



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

## Drive Up Donuts



On the last Friday of the month, donuts and a devotion will be available for pickup at Zion. Simply 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. The next Drive Up Donuts event will be held on **Friday, March 28 from 7:30-8:00 AM**. This event is open to all.



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

**Staff**

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor  
 Saundra 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.

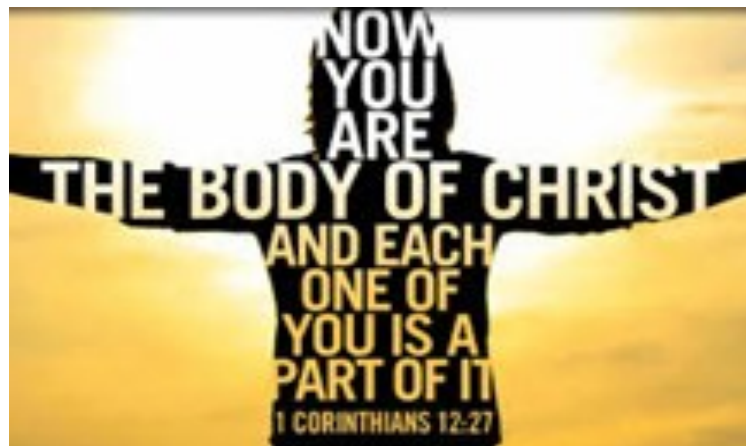
+ We see to cultivate these relationships by being rooted in faith, growing in spirit, reaching out to those in need; by being faithful stewards of creation, property and finances; and by valuing and empowering all individuals to be an active participant in our congregation and community.

**Executive Committee:**

Marje Kaiser.....President  
 Kirsten Nash.....Vice-President  
 Vicki Carlson..... Treasurer  
 Stacy Geffre.....Secretary

**Council Representatives:**

Jessica Moser.....Faith Formation  
 VACANT.....Finance & Stewardship  
 Andrea Morehouse.....Missional Life  
 Kathy Heffernan.....Worship Life  
 Carmel Heyd/ZLCW.....Member-at-large



**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>
Verna Kulm	Youth	Loren & April Nehlich
Cindy Haglund	Youth	Loren & April Nehlich
Don Paulson	Youth	Loren & April Nehlich
Jordan Heyd	General	Karl & Sonya Kempf

**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, 16, 23      April 20, 27      All of May

**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 January 31, 2025**

Budgeted January Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual January Income:	\$24,367.04
Actual January Expenses:	<u>\$26,536.00</u>
Total:	(\$2,168.96)



### From the President

At Zion's annual meeting in January, a temporary amendment was passed to allow two members outside the church council to fill the positions of president and vice-president in 2025. That will allow us to get back into a normal rotation of terms. I am grateful that the prior council members were willing to extend their terms through the calling of a new pastor. They provided outstanding leadership.

Those council members deserve our gratitude for the huge amount of work they accomplished, with the help of Rev. Martin, to update Zion's Constitution and By-Laws, develop a Policy Manual and job descriptions, and reorganized the financial records. The very detailed 2024 annual report was full of information about Zion's ministry, goals for 2025, financial, and congregational demographics.

As we commit to being rooted in the faith, growing in spirit and reaching out to those in need, I encourage each of you to share your unique gifts with Zion. We need your talents and your time to support each other in our faith journey, fine tune our internal processes, strengthen communication and expand our service to others.

I am excited about the opportunity to work with Rev. Martin, the Church Council members and all of you during this next year.

Marje Kaiser  
Council President



### Organ Rejuvenation Update

For those of you who were unable to attend Zion's recent annual meeting, we want to share an update with you on the progress of the organ rejuvenation capital campaign:

At a special congregational meeting held in June of 2021, the congregation approved the formation of the Organ Rejuvenation Committee with the authority to raise the funds necessary to complete the repairs set forth by the JF Nordlie company. In the time since, our committee worked diligently to try to raise the \$250,000 goal set during that meeting. After years of obtaining pledges and holding fundraisers, we were still nowhere near the \$250,000 anticipated project cost.

In late fall 2023, our committee then determined we needed to adjust our goal to a less elaborate renovation, which we estimated would be about \$180,000. When we received the bid for the less extensive renovation, it was \$200,000. Just a few months later, that bid was amended to be \$240,000. We sought outside assistance regarding this bid to try to understand the drastic increase in costs in such a short timeframe. It was then that we learned the original bids we received were not all inclusive. The original figures we had did not include sales tax and some other ancillary costs. When those additional costs are added in, the project cost for the original proposal we received should have been closer to \$300,000—\$325,000.

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# ORGAN REJUVENATION FEEDBACK

(continued from last page)

With this knowledge, Sonya, myself, and Pastor Nicole scheduled a meeting with the JF Nordlie company to better understand our options. During the Zoom call this past summer, we learned costs associated with our restoration are primarily for removing the pipes safely and replacing the pipes appropriately. They explained that the organ restoration is like heart surgery. You must break open the ribs, complete the necessary repairs, and put the ribs back. No restoration can happen without this procedure. They also reiterated the most recent bid we had was only good through the end of 2024. Due to scheduling, even if we had all of the funds raised and were ready to start, they wouldn't get to our project until at least mid-2026, which could again alter the costs. The committee feels like it is chasing a moving target.

When the committee reviewed the 2021 special meeting minutes where this organ project had been approved, the scope of the motion was very narrow. To abide by the scope of that motion, the committee recommended leaving the funds raised to date in the fund for organ repair until the funds are depleted, or until the repairs needed exceed the funds available.

During our 2025 annual meeting in January, our committee was granted authority to expand our scope, which allows us to research other potential repair options, instrument replacement alternatives, or alternative repairs to keep the organ working as long as possible. Our committee is ready to begin this research and bring our findings back to the congregation within the six-month time frame allotted at the meeting, but we need your feedback.

Our committee needs to understand where our congregation stands on the organ project. The committee will bring alternatives back to the congregation, and we are committed to hearing any and all ideas on this project. We urge you to please respond to the survey. Additionally, you can also reach out to the committee or send an email with your thoughts or questions. We would prefer this not to be anonymous because we need to know what each of you are thinking. If you feel our music has moved away from this instrument, concerned with the organ staying in its current state could be a potential fire hazard, concerned with the future of organ staff, do not care what instrument music comes from as long as we can praise Him together—we need to hear it all. This feedback is vital so we can move forward with what a majority of the congregation desires.

We ask that you remove the bottom portion of this paper, fill it out, and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings by **Monday, March 31** so we have ample time to research all options.

Our committee wants to thank everyone who donated their time, talents, or funds to this project. It is because of those generous gifts that we, as a committee, want to see this project reflect our music ministry here at Zion, along with the desires of those who gave while working to understand how we can achieve that with the funds we have.

We hope to hear from you soon so we can move forward with your input.

God Bless!

Zach Anderson  
Organ Rejuvenation Committee Chair  
zrandersonsd@gmail.com

Please remove and return to the church by **March 31**. Please check all that apply:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- This project is not important to me.
- I gave to this project based on the initial plan but remain hesitant to change the current direction.
- I have given all I can/am willing to.
- I am excited to see this project take a new direction. Any specific options you think we should consider:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_