

APRIL 2025

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen
2025.04.01

Consider the seasons like an ocean wave, ebbing and flowing as highs and lows both to our individual lives and as a community.

Lent is a pull upon us—the valley we must navigate with our eyes looking to the sky with hope for what comes. We hike through that valley with the shadows of Jesus and with poignant words echoing in our ears: “Repent. The kingdom of God comes near.”



Will we turn? When will we turn? How will we turn? Do we dare turn to see the glory of the mountaintop that is waiting for us? Do we dare to trudge through the dense forest, leaning into strength and reliance on Christ suffering for our sake? Will we understand suffering as a form of dwelling more intimately with God, preparing the soul to shout praise with joy?

Easter is the mountaintop where we cheer, for the suffering in the valley did not break us—did not break Christ. Easter is the glory of ascending into places that can only be for us: through the blood of the one who dared to walk the valley with us, the one who dared to be pulled in the ebbs down under to death for us. Easter is the praise that death did not win—that suffering does not get the last laugh, that life is ours, that joy is ours.

Christ will make his way to Jerusalem, knowing it is the deepest darkest valley anyone will ever need to cross, ever again. Come join us to celebrate his rise to glory and our thankfulness that he did.

Until that day when we can all say, “Allelu _____, He is _____!” may you be blessed.

Jesus came and told the disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)

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 be Resurrection Radiance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Your Sister in Christ,
Rev. Nicole Martin

To help us sing praise for the month of April, you are invited to live in Resurrection Radiance. You are people that know what it means to stand on the mountaintop. By way of baptism, you were called to live as resurrection radiance—to be a city on a hill, a light for all to know God. By virtue of the name Zion, this congregation is bound to be Resurrection Radiance for southwest Aberdeen. By the name of Christ, we are subject to live as Resurrection Radiance to all serving those in need, speaking the Good News, living as hope of what God does for people. To live as Resurrection Radiance through this month, we invite you into stewardship in the following ways:

(continued on next page)

Happenings at Zion

(continued from front page)

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

- **April's Theme:** Resurrection Radiance
- **Church Ministry Team Focus:** Zion Youth
- **Special & Noisy Offerings:** *Local:* NeSoDak
World: ELCA Global Missions
- **Special Activities:** Faith Explorer Program: "Easter Joy and the Road to Emmaus" on April 27
Breakfast potluck following worship on April 27



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 live into the resurrection radiance. Missional Life has set up a collection station in the narthex and fellowship hall 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.

Wednesday worship dates for April include April 2 & 9. There will be no Wednesday evening worship during Holy Week.



Holy Week Services

PALM SUNDAY	9:00 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY	6:05 PM
GOOD FRIDAY**	6:05 PM
EASTER SUNDAY	9:00 AM

**ELCA Community Good Friday Service: 12 PM @ Zion

Holy Week & Easter Services

Join us for services during Holy Week as we walk through the betrayal, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Holy Weeks starts with the Palm Sunday service on April 13 at 9:00 AM. The Maundy Thursday service on April 17 will include First Communion for our students. There will also be a meal served on Maundy Thursday beginning at 5:15 PM with educational elements about the Passover tradition.

In addition to our Good Friday evening service, there will be an ELCA Community Good Friday service held at Zion Lutheran Church at noon. Holy Week concludes with a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at 9:00 AM on Easter Sunday (April 20th).

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: NeSoDak

NeSoDak in SD is a Lutherans Outdoors camp and a place where youth connect, create, and explore. Nestled in the heart of nature, our camp offers unforgettable experiences, fostering teamwork, exploring faith and personal growth. Campers form lasting bonds, and through activities like swimming and boating, they connect with the beauty of God's creation. Join us for a transformative youth camp experience that encourages creativity, fosters connection, and sends campers into the world to share the love of Christ.

World: ELCA Global Missions

Mission rooted in relationship means mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, sustainability and empowerment. Mostly it means growth – for everyone involved.

Together we listen, learn and deepen our understanding of one another. As we recognize and affirm one another's gifts, we become invested. These investments are the center of global mission.

The ELCA has organized its global engagement around the theology and practice of accompaniment, walking together with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith sisters and brothers around the world. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, April 30 at 8 PM**, there will be a men's meeting at The Circus 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, April 28 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

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



Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to all of the various ministry teams and volunteers who hosted midweek meals throughout the season of Lent. They were delicious!

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

thrivent

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.

LuMin Update



Although the onset of spring and new life, the month of April on campus brings about the end of the school year. Students are focused on the chaos of completing projects and cramming for finals. The blessing from Numbers 6:24-26 seems fitting for the month of April on campus: "May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." As students wrap up their final semester on campus planning, preparing, and packing, please keep them in your prayers.

As we wrap up our 2024-2025 school year, we thank you, Zion Lutheran, for your support and want you to know that we appreciate the home you have provided this outreach ministry. Having a home and a sense of belonging makes a difference. Thank you for being that safe space and connection. Peace be with you.

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 are available 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

You will also be able to find the application on our website at: 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



Confirmation Corner

- 6-7-8 grade confirmation classes will wrap up following Easter with two Wednesday evening times on April 23 and April 30 at 6:05 PM. Supper will be served both evenings. Confirmands are also invited to help prepare communion bread with the First Communion students on Wednesday, April 16 at 6:00 PM.
- 9th grade students: we will be meeting in April to talk about your group service project and mentor meetings before summer. Be looking for communication from Ministry Coordinator Sandra as to a specific time and date!

First Communion

The celebration of the Rite of First Communion will be during the Maundy Thursday service at 6:05 PM on Thursday, April 17th. Class will be held on Wednesday, April 16th at 6:00 PM, which will include communion bread baking. Be looking for the letter that will be sent home with all the details. We are excited to celebrate this faith milestone with our youth!



Summer Faith Explorers

IN THE
WORKS

Plans are in the works for Summer Faith Explorers! Mark the dates on your calendar, and make plans to join us for a time where youth can explore their faith through fun and interactive stories, games, crafts, snacks, and more! **Summer dates are May 26-28, beginning at 5:30 PM.** Registration forms will be sent home before the last day of Faith Explorers and will be available in the office before the event. More details will be available next month—stay tuned!

Visit from Lutherans Outdoors

On Sunday, March 2, we welcomed Kaycee Cronin from Lutherans Outdoors to Zion! Kaycee visited with the kids and gave a temple talk to the congregation during worship and did a camp activity and songs with the youth during the Faith Explorers time. Thanks for sharing your time and talents with us and for getting us excited about summer camp!



Faith and Family

Faith Explorers Update

The end of our Faith Explorers year is quickly approaching! Here are some important notes as we close out the final month:

- Faith Explorer youth will participate in the yearly palm procession on Palm Sunday (April 13). Please meet in the fellowship hall around 8:50 AM to organize kids for the procession.
- There will be no Faith Explorers on Sunday, April 20 in observance of the Easter holiday. If youth would like participate in the Easter procession at the beginning of worship, please meet Ministry Coordinator Saundra in the narthex by 8:55 AM. Kids will return to their families after the opening hymn.
- The last day of Faith Explorers will be Sunday, April 27. Kids will help lead worship with a short program featuring the Road to Emmaus story. Following the service, there will be an all-church breakfast potluck in the fellowship hall. Once youth have finished eating, we will wrap up the year with a couple activities! Thank you for another incredible year of ministry together!



**YOUTH
RUMMAGE
SALE**  

Youth Rummage Sale

There will be a youth rummage sale held on **Saturday, April 5 from 8 AM—12 PM**. All proceeds benefit those attending the Milwaukee Mission Trip.

There will also be a limited amount of kuchen available to purchase by the slice or whole on the morning of the event. No pre-sale orders will be accepted.

If you would like to bring items to donate to the rummage sale, items are now being collected and placed in Classroom C. 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 Saundra as soon as possible so we can get you registered and discuss fundraising options. There are some campships 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 Saundra.

Prices will go up on April 15.

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.

Living Out Loud

There will be two more sessions of Living Out Loud on Wednesdays, April 23 and 30 in the fellowship hall. Supper will be served at 6:05 PM with a study on the scriptures beginning at 6:20 PM. Living Out Loud will then take a hiatus for the summer.



LIVING
OUT
LOUD

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
6:05 PM



**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, April 25 from 7:30-8:00 AM**. This event is open to all.



DRIVE UP
DONUTS

LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7:30-8:00 AM

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
SOUTH PARKING LOT

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.....MC: Worship & Faith Life
 Mike German.....MC: Missional Life
 Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music
 Sue Gates..... Accompanist & Music Support
 Stephanie HawkinsonPraise Band Director
 Art Ketterling.....Maintenance Coordinator
 Deb Larson.....Bookkeeper

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
 April Nehlich.....Properties
 Kathy Heffernan.....Worship Life
 Carmel Heyd.....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>
Jordan Heyd	Undesig.	Michelle Heyd
Lois Sollie	Youth	Ray & Marcie Andersh
Lois Sollie	Undesig.	Tom & Marie Bretsch
Lois Sollie	Altar Guild	Joel & Jane Albrecht
Lois Sollie	Altar Guild	Trudy Anderson
Lois Sollie	Fellowship	Loren & April Nehlich
Alvin Preszler	Sun School	Loren & April Nehlich
Dr. Mark Harlow	Trust Fund	Gladys Melcher
Milliscent Harris	Trust Fund	Gladys Melcher
Lori Hernick	Radio	Terri Holmes
Lois Sollie	Undesig.	Kathleen Getty
Lois Sollie	Cards	Gwen Carson
Lois Sollie	Cards	Delores Anderson
Lois Sollie	Undesig.	Phillip & DeAnn Kaup
Lois Sollie	Undesig.	Doug & Valerie Roethler
Lois Sollie	Undesig.	Lavina Nelson
Lois Sollie	Altar Guild	Sharon Paranto
Lois Sollie	Trust Fund	Sharon Stroschein
Lois Sollie	General	Lori Lumsden
Lois Sollie	General	Michael Bush
Lois Sollie	General	Jeanette Seeman
Lois Sollie	General	Allan Thoreson
Lois Sollie	Spec. Off	Gary & Wanda Morehouse

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

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

We have several openings in the months ahead! If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday.

Upcoming dates:

April 20, 27 May 11, 18 June 1, 15, 22, 29

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 February 28, 2025

Budgeted February Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual February Income:	\$19,041.65
Actual February Expenses:	<u>\$26,327.37</u>
Total:	<u>(\$7,285.72)</u>

Happenings at Zion

Easter Flowers



Easter Flowers

If you would like to help beautify our sanctuary for Easter, please consider purchasing a spring flower and bringing it to the church during the week of April 14 - 19. The flowers will be on display on Easter Sunday, April 20, and can be taken home following the service. (Please no lilies due to severe allergies in our congregation.) If you wish your plant to be in memory or in honor of someone, please attach a note to your plant. You may also donate money toward the purchase of a plant; please bring your money to the church office by Wednesday, April 16.

Breakfast Potluck

Please join in the celebration of the children of Faith Formation following their Easter program on April 27! The potluck will be held after the service and 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.



Baptism

On Wednesday, March 19, we welcomed Daniel David into the family of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. Daniel was baptized at the 6:05 PM service by Pastor Nicole Martin, surrounded by his siblings, mom, great-grandma, and Zion faith family.



Greeting Cards

Are you in need of a greeting card? If so, check the card rack in the narthex and get a card. The cost is only \$1.00. If you need a card for a special occasion, they may have one in the supply of cards already made. Be sure to check with one of the card members if you do not see what you need! In order to make these greeting cards, the group takes donations of used cards to recycle and make new again. Donations can be left in the box under the card rack. When you are in need of a card or are doing spring cleaning, remember the card ladies!

Members of the card group are Maxine Lammle, Norma Nielsen, Pam Seyer, Pat Ackerson, Delores Anderson, and Lavonne Merkel.



Trust Fund Update

Good People of Zion,

There are many working parts to the healthy function of a church. While Worship, Faith Formation, Fellowship and Outreach are usually the first ministries that people think of, those ministries are possible because of the ministries we don't typically think about, like Properties and Finance & Stewardship. These "out of site, out of mind" ministry teams do a large portion of work and set up policies that give foundational support to the church. We on the Trust Fund committee believe we are part of this foundational support.

If you're not familiar with the Trust Fund, it was established in the late 1980s for the purpose of enhancing the work of the church by establishing new ministries and stewardship opportunities additional to and apart from the general operation of the congregation. (C5.05 Zion Constitution)

A Trust Fund creates space for investments from estates, properties, and sometimes individual check donations. Each donation supports the legacy endurance of Zion Lutheran Church. Biblically, think Joseph in Egypt collecting agricultural goods to be distributed for the well-being of the people. Not like Joseph, a Trust Fund is bound to certain laws in the United States in that donors contribute to the principal balance of the trust, and the Trust Fund team, with feedback from the congregation, may use the earned interest to support "new ministries and stewardship opportunities additional to and apart from the general operation."



Continuing the Joseph metaphor, if Joseph had taken the crops donated to the Pharaoh's storehouses and grown more crops, Joseph could have used the new crops harvest for special purposes to enhance the kingdom, while the older crops were in reserve for emergencies only. (Note: Only the congregation at a congregational meeting has the authority to spend the principal balance "reserve" and only within the boundaries of why the funds were donated.)

In these ways, as members of Zion, when you contribute to the Trust Fund, you are investing in working ministries of the church, for the missions now and in the future, additional to and apart from general operating expenses.

This year's Trust Fund team is thankful for the opportunity to serve you, as together we discuss supporting the legacy of Zion and how we are each called to be part of the legacy.

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to ask one on your Trust Fund committee members: Ed Suchomel, Joel Albrecht, Sharon Stroschein, Loren Nelich, and Shelly Fischbach. Have a joyful Easter.

Ed Suchomel, Trust Fund President

Chords of Joy



The second annual Chords of Joy: Hymn Sing event will be held on **Sunday, May 4 at 2:00 PM in the Zion sanctuary.** This free music event is open to the public and is a celebration concert to share the gift of music.

3-4 songs will be selected at random from the tickets turned in to be played at the event. If you have a song you would like to hear played on the organ, be sure to fill out the yellow ticket found in your weekly bulletin with the title and artist, and return the ticket in the offering plate or to the office by Sunday, April 6.