



JUNE & JULY 2025

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen  
2025.06.01

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Memorial Day has been celebrated, and summer activities have been planned. Each of us will go new directions, explore new places, and encounter these months with the summer breeze to our back and anticipation for fun. As you encounter these summer months, the opportunity to explore and live as a child of God will be ever before you. As you go out, I invite you to let the words of ELW 546 empower you.

To be your presence is our mission here,  
to show compassion's face and listening ear,  
to be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!

To be your presence is our mission bold,  
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!

To be your presence is our mission blest,  
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!

We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
to serve your people is our call and choice,  
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!

These words push us to remember what it is we are called to do. It is not a new call but an ancient call that has been echoing through the generations: to be God's presence is our mission! Alleluia! At Zion, we are committed to live that mission by "Cultivating Communities of Caring and Belonging as Champions of the Gospel."

While summer play will occupy our extra curriculars, at church we are going to jump right into living our mission first, by engaging a three week sermon series called Dangerous Prayers. We will be challenged to ask God to search us, use us, and send us. We will be challenged to ask God to show us, Zion Lutheran, how to best love our neighbors. Then, starting on July 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be boldly pull up a metaphorical chair and sit at the table with Jesus. Through shared meals, Jesus displayed grace, developed companionship, and shared the promise of salvation. What will Jesus teach us as we sit at the table with him? How will this empower us to be God's presence?

Of course, we will partner all of this goodness with a variety of missional action:

- June 8<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>: a small collective of us will be traveling to Milwaukee to practice being God's presence in the world. Prayers are appreciated!
- June 22<sup>nd</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>: I will be away at a chaplain training.
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Table of Plenty will be serving once again. Come join the fun!
- We are also excited for the work of the properties team as the new Missional Life corner will begin to take shape. What is the Missional Life corner? It will be a central location for Zion members to donate identified goods that will be available to support the needs of our parish area.
- Oh, and don't forget to check out all Ministry Coordinator Saundra will be doing with the youth this summer!

*(continued on next page)*

# Happenings at Zion

We, the good people of Zion, have been given the gift by God a wonderful facility to be a beacon of hope and light to many. This is the meaning of Zion, the holy city, a beacon of light to shed light. How profound a gift we have been given to steward, to support, and develop as a community of caring. Thanks be to God for this gift!

And if all of that was not enough, this summer' monthly love/special offering will go to supporting the South Dakota Companion Synods of Nicaragua and Cameroon in June and St. Dysmas prison ministry in July. In these ways, you will support the call to ensure God's presence is lifted up to those in need. Alleluia!

Let us pray. Father of Creation, who built the stars and established the seasons, as we enter summer days and warmer nights, please keep the people of Zion safe from all harm. Lift them up to be your presence in all that they do, being bold witnesses to your love. Make them profound storytellers of how you save not just them, but the whole world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

**June's Theme:** Dangerous Prayers

**Special & Noisy Offerings:** SD Companion Synods

**Special Activities:** Pentecost Sunday June 8  
Milwaukee Mission Trip June 8-14

**July's Theme:** The Welcome Table: Eating with Jesus

**Special & Noisy Offerings:** St. Dysmas

**Special Activities:** Lutherans at the Pool July 16 @ 1:30 PM  
Summer Youth Group Wednesdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30 @ 3:00 PM

## **Last Day of Faith Explorers**

The Zion youth rounded out their last day of Faith Explorers on Sunday, April 27 with a program sharing the Road to Emmaus story. During their skit, they shared eggs which contained crosses and "Jesus is Risen!" with the congregation before returning up front to help lead the Apostles' Creed with actions. Following worship, there was a congregational potluck with lots of delicious food and a scavenger hunt for the kids.

During worship, we also recognized the Faith Explorers teachers who helped prepare and lead lessons throughout the year. Thank you for your dedication to the youth!



**Hello  
SUMMER**

## **Last Day of School Youth Event**

We had a great last day of school youth event on Tuesday, May 20! Six middle and high school youth enjoyed lunch together and played games around the church. We had so much fun we forgot to take any pictures!

## 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

#### SD Companion Synods

Our mission is to develop strong relationships between the SD Synod and the church body in Cameroon and in Nicaragua. Members of this committee are volunteers with a passion to walk with our brothers and sisters in Cameroon and Nicaragua to bring the Gospel to all and to alleviate injustice. We have missionaries in both congregations, and we invite you to support them.

#### St. Dysmas

St. Dysmas is an ELCA congregation located behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD and Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD. We also support a Sunday evening worship at the Yankton Minimum Unit in Yankton, SD.

Your support is crucial to sustaining our strong and dynamic ministries. We welcome you to worship with us. When you worship with us you fulfill Christ's command. You will be personally blessed by a hospitable welcome and a vibrant worship experience.

We would not be here without your generous and faithful financial support.

### Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesdays, June 25th and July 30th at 8:00 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!**

**MEN'S**  
**FELLOWSHIP**



### Table of Plenty

The summer Table of Plenty meals will be **Mondays, June 23rd and July 28th 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.

### Directory Pictures

Save the date! We will be taking pictures for a new directory on **August 12 and 13 from 2:00-8:30 PM.**

More information will be shared on how to sign up for a time slot in August's newsletter and future bulletins.

### 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](https://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  
Esther Ottenbacher  
Shirley Wagemann  
Joyce Mentzer

### Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

### California

Erna Schmierer

### Bethesda Town Sq.

Viola Tetherow  
Lorraine Kusler  
Elsie Geffre

### Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

### Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen





## Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to the Properties team for all of your hard work on various projects around the church building and grounds!

☺ Thank you to Millie Suchomel, Andrea Morehouse, April Nehlich, Marie Bretsch, Carmel Heyd and Deb Hardy for your work on cleaning, organizing, and labeling the kitchen.

### Easter Flower Thank You

Thank you to the following who donated plants to decorate the church during the Easter season:

- Marje Kaiser
- Kelli Bretsch
- The Nash family (2 plants)
- The Heyd family in loving memory of Jordan Daniel Heyd
- 2 plants given anonymously

**THANK YOU!**

**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.

## Coming Up in May



### Chords of Joy

Zion held its second annual Chords of Joy event on Sunday, May 4. Thank you to all who came and allowed us to share the gift of music with you! Special thanks to all of the musicians who performed at the event and those who served during the fellowship time; and thank you to Sonya Kempf, Zach Anderson, and Pastor Nicole for organizing.

### Trust in Zion Moment

Relationship investment scams are called various names. These scams involve a "long con" where scammers build trust through friendship or romance over time.

Ignore messages from anyone you don't know and consider deleting or blocking them. Be wary of unsolicited investment opportunities no matter how much you trust the person.

If you suspect you may be caught up in one of these scams, stop communicating with the individuals immediately, and do not give them any more money.

-A message from your Zion Trust Fund Committee



### 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](http://thrivent.com) or contact Ministry Coordinator Saundra for ideas on how your Action 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

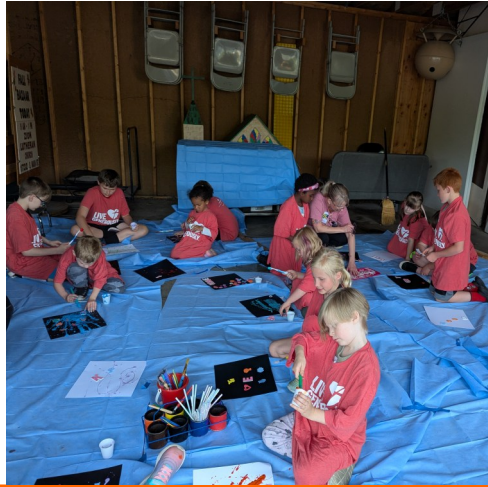
### Sunday Van Rides Available!

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

## What a Mess VBS

The youth had such a great time at summer VBS, which was held May 26, 27, 28! Each evening featured a skit, music, lessons with discussion, and of course, messy activities to help them remember that God loves everyone through, and in spite of, their messes. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the evenings run smooth: Carmel Heyd, Norma Miller, Trudy Anderson, LaVern Albrecht, Lenny Tietz, Stacy Geffre, Jessica Moser, Carter Moser, Kelly VanderWeyst, Allen Nash, Kirsten Nash, Chase Hawkinson, Becky Stanek, Judy Albl, Nancy Schmidt, Sharlene Wanttie, and Monica Tietz.



## Graduate Recognition Sunday

We were honored to celebrate the class of 2025 on Sunday, May 11. Graduates received a blessing and a gift from the congregation, which featured "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" book and devotional. Cake was also served during the fellowship time. During worship, we also recognized our scholarship recipients. Zoe Kempf and Kaelyn Schutter received the graduate scholarships, and Chastity Madsen received the continuing education scholarship. Congratulations and God's grace and blessings on this next chapter in your lives!



Pictured (left): Kyra Spitzer, Brendyn Weisser, Zoe Kempf, Kaelyn Schutter, Aubrey Jensen, and Kaylee Efraimson

Pictured (right): scholarship recipients Zoe Kempf & Kaelyn Schutter



## Lutherans at the Pool

On Wednesday, July 16th, we will be joining with our area ELCA congregations for an afternoon at the pool. Come anytime between 1:30-4:30 PM for the event; you can let them know at the door which church you are with.

Cost is \$5 or free if you bring your family pass. Check in with us at the covered picnic shelter before you head off to swim, and join us during breaks for snacks, drinks, and a couple activities! This event is open to middle and high school youth.





## Faith and Family



### Summer Youth Group

There will be summer youth group on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 PM beginning on June 18 and ending on August 13 (there will be no youth group the week of July 4). Activities will vary each week but will include service, faith-building, fellowship, and field trip events.

Open to middle and high school youth--bring a friend! Van rides are available to and from the event. Let Sandra know ahead of time if you need one.

### Adopt-a-Grad Sponsors

As our high school graduates prepare to set out on their next chapter—whether heading to college, joining the workforce, or exploring other post-secondary paths—we invite you to become a part of their journey.

We're looking for congregation members to "adopt" a graduate and serve as a source of encouragement and care over the coming year. From a distance, you will be able to connect through simple gestures like notes, small care packages, texts, or prayers. Your support can be a steady reminder that their church family is cheering them on.

If you're willing to walk alongside one of our grads during this exciting transition, please contact the church office. Let's show our young adults how deeply they are loved!



### Summer Youth Conference

We have an exciting opportunity to share with the middle and high school youth! A group of ELCA youth directors and pastors are organizing a summer youth conference on **Saturday, August 2 from 10 AM—4 PM** at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church here in Aberdeen. The event will feature Dr. Michael Chan, a keynote speaker from the ELCA Youth Gathering, along with breakout sessions full of faith and fun, worship, and music provided by Tangled Blue. Food will be provided, and the cost is **free!**

If you are interested in attending this event, please connect with MC Sandra by Monday, June 9.

**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL  
SUMMER  
YOUTH**  
*Conference*

*Featuring.*

**DR. MICHAEL CHAN**, KEYNOTE FROM  
THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

MUSIC FROM **TANGLED BLUE**

**2 AUG**  
SATURDAY  
**10 - 04**  
AM PM

**GOOD SHEPHERD**  
ABERDEEN, SD

# Worship Schedule

## S U M M E R 2 0 2 5

9:00 AM      Worship service with Holy Communion  
(livestreamed and live radio broadcast)

10:15 AM      Fellowship time

### 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 follows worship, starting at 10:15 a.m.

All services are livestreamed on our Facebook page and website. Recordings of the broadcasts are 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).



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### Did You Know?

The stage in the fellowship was taken out in May to make space for a Missional Life corner. There will now be squares to make a movable stage as needed. Thank you to Mike Brumbaugh, Loren Nehlich, Scott Geffre, and Lenny Tietz for your efforts on the project!



### Bible Presentations

On Sunday, May 25, we recognized our youth who are beginning their mentor year of confirmation. Each was presented with a new bible and blessed as they start this next step ahead of Confirmation Sunday, which will be on Reformation Sunday in October. Congratulations, Noah, Braden, and Sienna (not pictured)!





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

### Staff

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor  
 Saura Anderson.....MC: Worship & Faith Life  
 Mike German.....MC: Missional Life  
 Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music  
 Sue Gates.....Accompanist & Music Support  
 Stephanie Hawkinson.....Praise 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  
 Doug Wanttie.....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>
Vi Reder	Undesignated	Dean & Mae Click
Carol Knispel	Youth	Ray & Marcie Andersh

*In Loving Memory*



**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:*

June 29      July 13      August 10, 17, 24, 31

### **RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED**

Call the office at 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast  
 \$55 for half

**THANK YOU!**



**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT**

#### **THROUGH April 30, 2025**

Budgeted April Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual April Income:	\$29,403.65
Actual April Expenses:	\$31,333.42
<b>Total:</b>	<b>-\$1,929.77</b>



# June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Altar Guild meeting	<b>2</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life meeting 7:00 PM GA meeting	<b>3</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting	<b>4</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	<b>5</b> 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Altar Guild meeting	<b>9</b> 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting 11:30 AM Book club	<b>11</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	<b>12</b> 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>16</b> 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Worship Life meeting	<b>18</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 3:00 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM AA meeting	<b>19 Office Closed</b> 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:10 AM Fellowship Time	<b>23</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting 6:00 PM Properties mtg	<b>25</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 3:00 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's fellowship	<b>26</b> 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	<b>30</b> 1:00 PM Quilters		<b>Mission Trip</b> <b>June 8-14</b>			

# July 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Staff meeting	2 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	3 1:00 PM Quilters	4 Office Closed	5
6 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	7 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life meeting 7:00 PM GA meeting	8 10:00 AM Staff meeting 11:30 AM Book club	9 1:00 PM Cardmakers 3:00 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM AA meeting	10 1:00 PM Quilters	11	12
13 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Education meeting	14 8:30 AM Lifetime Screening 1:00 PM Quilters	15 10:00 AM Staff meeting 5:30 PM Worship Life meeting	16 1:00 PM Cardmakers 1:30 PM Lutherans at the Pool 8:00 PM AA meeting	17 1:00 PM Quilters	18	19 10 AM Fellowship hall in use
20 Newsletter Deadline	21 1:00 PM Quilters	22 10:00 AM Staff meeting	23 1:00 PM Cardmakers 3:00 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM AA meeting	24 1:00 PM Quilters	25	26
27 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Church council	28 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	29 10:00 AM Staff meeting	30 1:00 PM Cardmakers 3:00 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's fellowship	31 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters		