

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen
2026.01.01

Merry Christmas! We finally get to say it with the full weight of its worth. The Christ child is born—Emmanuel! God is with us.

Turning from the end of a year to the newness of time before us, we are: one—gifted with possibilities of God's presence to work in us and around us; and two—blessed to dwell in the presence of God's ability. God's plan of salvation is unfolding, and we participate with it. Sometimes, this can leave us in unknowing discomfort, wondering what the "future" may hold. I imagine Mary herself knows this wonderment well.

So, as we move forward into 2026 and allow curiosity and exploration to propel us into deeper relationship with God, let the very words of Mary offer comfort, as it has for generations. Let these words from Luke chapter one inspire you to live in the midst of all God can and is able to do.

*My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,
and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.*

*For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant,
and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.*

*For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your Name.*

Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.

*You have shown strength with your arm,
you have scattered the proud in their conceit,
you have deposed the mighty from their thrones
and raised the lowly to high places.*

*You have filled the hungry with good things,
while you have sent the rich away empty.*

*You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy –
the promise you made to our ancestors –
to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.*

May your New Year be richly blessed, dwelling with the Christ child in all manner of your daily life. You are a descendent of the Good News made flesh for all. Let this goodness radiate through you this year. In the name of the Father, and Son + and Holy Spirit. Amen.

As you consider your calendar in the month to come, don't forget to mark in the annual meeting, January 25. It is time to celebrate the good of 2025 and set course for 2026. Come join the mission happening here at Zion.

Christmas blessings,
Pastor Martin

Happening This Month

ANNUAL MEETING & potluck

Zion's Annual Meeting

The annual congregational meeting for Zion Lutheran Church will be held on **Sunday, January 25** immediately following worship (around 10:15 AM) in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a potluck held in conjunction with the meeting, so please bring a dish to pass!

Faith Explorer (both elementary and middle school) youth will be included in the annual meeting, so we encourage them to stay with their families for the meeting.

Annual Meeting Report and Forums

There will be an annual meeting forum on Sunday, January 18 following worship (around 10:15 AM) in the fellowship hall. This will be a time where congregation members can ask any questions they may have ahead of the annual meeting the following week. The goal is to have annual reports printed and available by Sunday, January 11, so everyone has two weeks to review the information before the meeting.

Annual Meeting Forum

Zion Lutheran Church
Aberdeen, SD



Sunday,
January 18
10:15 AM

ANNUAL
REPORT
2025



Quilt Raffle
The Zion Lutheran Church Women will be selling raffle tickets in January for a Vikings-themed quilt. Tickets will be 1/\$3 or 2/\$5. The quilt will be displayed and tickets will be on sale on Sunday mornings in January (beginning the 4th) with the drawing to be held at the annual meeting. Be sure to stop by and get your tickets!

Christmas Decoration Take Down

Epiphany marks the end of the Christmas season at Zion. Following worship and fellowship on Sunday, January 4, decorations will need to be taken down and put away. Many hands make light work, so please plan to stay for the men's pancake breakfast and clean up following at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary.



Canned Food Drive

The Missional Life team is collecting canned food to make bagged meals for those in need. Ingredient cards can be found on the table in the narthex. Please return the canned food items to the kitchen by Sunday, January 11. Following worship on the 11th, Missional Life team members will be assembling the bagged meals and are looking for volunteers. Mark the date on your calendar!

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



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

LuMin

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

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

THANK YOU for your support!



Thursdays Together

Starting on January 8, the church will be open Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM for an opportunity for fellowship around board games. As this opportunity grows, we will be looking for other fellowship opportunities to occur in conjunction with the board game fellowship.



The first opportunity will be the Third Thursday of each month movie club where we promote a movie to watch prior to attending. January's movie will be K-Pop Demon Hunters on Netflix. We will then discuss faith-based topics found within the film. Other opportunities could be line dancing or an art project someone is willing to host.

This is meant to be an opportunity for people to share their passions with others inside our congregation and invite those outside our church walls to join in the fun!

Tree of Saints

Thank you to everyone who purchased a remembrance ornament for the Tree of Saints. Those who purchase ornaments are welcome to remove them from the tree and take them home at any time. Once the tree is taken down after Epiphany, ornaments can be picked up from the church office.



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
Esther Ottenbacher
Shirley Wagemann

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 all who helped set up for, clean up after, and participated in the breakfast potluck following the Faith Explorers program on December 21!

☺ Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped at the two Christmas Eve services and throughout the year! We couldn't host worship without you and the time you give each and every week!

Organ Donation Keys

In December, the organ rejuvenation donation boards, complete with engraved keys, got their permanent home at the bottom of the choir loft stairs.

Thank you to Art and Lenny Tietz for hanging the boards!



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.

Happenings at Zion

Faith through Fitness

Starting January 4, we have an opportunity to help you achieve your New Year's resolution!

Join Zach from 5:30-6:30 AM at Massenomics (209 Railroad Ave SE) in the basement gym for fellowship around resistance training.

There will be no costs to you if you come during this time and no experience is required with no age restrictions. If you are interested, Zach will help you find a workout routine that will work for you.

If you have any questions, let Zach Anderson know and he'd be happy to discuss with you.

Faith Explorers Christmas Program

The elementary Faith Explorers held their annual Christmas program on Sunday, December 21 during worship. This year's program was: The Gifts We Bring. Thank you to the Faith Explorer teachers, Stacy Geffre, and Kirsten Nash for all of your help putting the program together, and a special thank you to Cadynce German for participating in the program!



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



No Faith Explorers

There will be no Faith Explorers on **Sunday, January 18** for either elementary or middle and high school youth in observance of the holiday weekend. Faith Explorers will resume on Sunday, January 25 by participating in the annual meeting.

Faith Explorers and the Annual Meeting

During worship on January 25, our newly-confirmed youth will be celebrated as they get ready to vote in their first annual meeting. During the annual meeting, youth of all ages will have a chance to participate by voting on various questions and motions that pertain to them. To allow all youth to be present, there will be no separate Faith Explorer time for the day. We encourage our youth to attend the potluck and annual meeting with their family and take the opportunity to vote when the time comes.



NEW YEAR PARTY

SUNDAY, JAN. 11TH
11AM | GOOD SHEPHERD
YOUTH ROOM

Calling All Elementary-Aged Kids!
Celebrate the New Year with games,
treats, and tons of fun in the Youth Room!

Elementary New Year Party

We're kicking off 2026 with a celebration! Elementary and preschool families are invited to our joint New Year Party on January 11 with Good Shepherd. The event will be from 11:30-12:30 PM in the Good Shepherd youth room. Expect games, snacks, and a great time together! If your youth are in need of a ride, please visit with Ministry Coordinator Saundra. Hope to see you there!

Youth in the Night

Middle & high schoolers—mark those calendars! On Sunday, January 18, we're hosting Youth in the Night with Good Shepherd. We'll start with supper at 5:30 PM and then jump into some in-the-dark games like sardines and hide & seek. Invite a friend—it's going to be a blast!



Quilt Distribution

On December 15, the Zion Quilters took over fifty quilts to hand out to the preK-2 grade and middle school students at the Aberdeen Christian School. Dr. Sombke shared scripture with the students, and then Norma Miller wrapped each student in a quilt. The rest of the students at ACS will receive a quilt in the new year. What an incredible experience for all!

Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

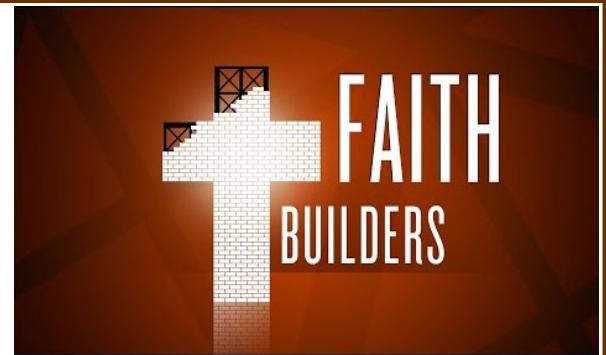
F
A
I
N
S
I
G
H
T
T
H

Faith Insight

On the second and fourth Sundays of the month throughout the year, there will be adult education classes called Faith Insight, which will meet in the Mission Room in the basement at 10:30 AM. These sessions will be focused on discussing current events through the lens of Lutheran living, as well as wholistic care for the self. As this is not a set study curriculum that requires constant attendance, please feel free to attend the weeks that your schedule allows.

Faith Builders

On the third Sunday of the month, there will be a time of faith and fellowship for our littlest ones and their parents. We will meet in the Mission Room in the basement at 10:30 AM. This time will include talking about faith with young children using the board book series Manna and Mercy from Daniel Erlander and a time for them to play, learn, and grow together.



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 will be held on **Friday, January 30 from 7:30-8:00 AM.** **Subject to weather! Be sure to check out Facebook for any event updates the morning of**

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, January 28 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!

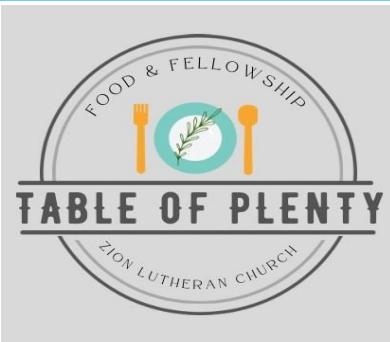


Table of Plenty

The January Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, January 26 from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion Lutheran fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for delicious food and fellowship!

We are looking ahead to 2026 and are in need of meal sponsors beginning in March. If you are interested in serving or sponsoring a meal, please contact the church office.

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

(Live radio broadcast on 930 AM/102.1 FM and livestream)

10:15 AM Fellowship time

10:15 AM Education time

(Faith Explorers, Faith Insights, Faith Builders)

Worship Schedule

We 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 education opportunities 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.

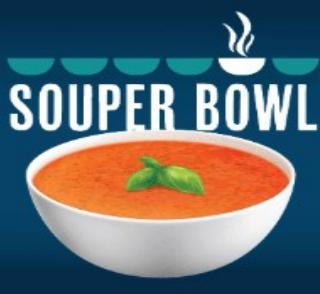
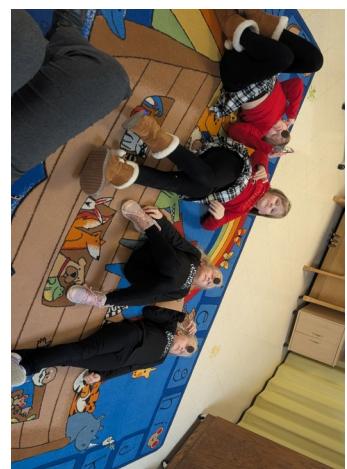
New Member Sunday

We will be hosting a New Member Sunday on January 18 for all who wish to officially become part of the Zion faith family. If you are planning to be a part of the installation service on that Sunday, please contact the church office. We are excited you are here!

**NEW MEMBERS
SUNDAY!**

Christmas Parties

In December, both elementary and middle and high school youth had Christmas celebrations. Each afternoon was full of games, laughs, and food. We had a great time together!



Souper Bowl Soup

The Zion Lutheran Church Women will be selling soup just in time for the Super Bowl! Orders can be placed at the table in the narthex throughout the month of January. Cost is \$10 a quart, and there will be chicken noodle and knoefla soups available for purchase. Pick up will be Friday, February 6 or Saturday, February 7 at the Vendor Fair.

Zion Lutheran Church
1732 South Main Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401
(605) 225-6755 zlcaberdeen@gmail.com
zionlutheranaberdeen.org

Staff

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor
Saundra Anderson..... Ministry Coordinator
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
Bob Seyer..... Finance & Stewardship
Andrea Morehouse..... Missional Life
Doug Wanttie..... Properties
Kathy Heffernan..... Worship Life
Carmel Heyd..... Member-at-large

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

Happy new year! If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday.

Upcoming dates:

January 11, 18, 25

February 1, 8, 15, 22

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half



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.

In Memory of:

Kent Edson

For:

Undesignated

From:

Lavina Nelson

Alfred Larson

Undesignated

Charles Jakober

IN LOVING 
Memory

JOIN US FOR OUR

*Winter Vendor
and
Craft Fair*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 AM-2:00 PM

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Winter Vendor Fair

Mark your calendar! Zion will be hosting the fifth annual Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 7, 2026 starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a variety of vendors and a lunch of BBQs and chips available for purchase. If you would like to have a booth in the event, please call the church office at 225-6755. Cost is \$30.

THankYou!



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH November 30, 2025

Budgeted November Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual November Income:	\$22,640.11
Actual November Expenses:	\$23,150.05
Total:	(-\$509.94)