

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen  
2026.02.01

Christmas is over; the work of living the incarnation experience is upon us. What does this mean? In one way, it means to live as the hands and feet of Jesus in this world, proclaiming the good news and helping our neighbor. In another expression it could be defined as being/living as the image of God.

Way back in the story of creation, scripture says, "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image according to our likeness.'"

This passage both affirms us as created and worthy because God creates, but it also acknowledges God as a relational being. That relational being is part of us, and we are most fully like God when we are in relationship. We might be one person in the flesh, but it is all of humankind that reflects the image of God most fully—not just men or women, but also those that are sunkissed by age and those with fresh baby-soft skin, those who love what we love and those who don't.

To live as the incarnational experience, to live as the image of God, is to then to see each neighbor as an expression of God's love, just as you are an expression of God, working together here and now for the proclaiming of good news.

It is through this manner, you have come to know the saving power of Christ, and it is through this manner others will come to know Christ. This is the legacy we stand on, and it is the legacy we are called to share.

To help us celebrate this great gift, during the season of Lent, we will crack open the idea of living legacy as the image of God. Yes, Lent is coming. Ash Wednesday is February 18. Mark it on your calendar!

Also, we will have two guests during Lent:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> will be Kathy McHenry from Lutheran Planned Generosity, who will come help us celebrate the renewal of the endowment/trust fund, for the legacy work of Zion. In the past, this fund has been used as a long-term savings. After reviewing the bylaws, leadership saw fit to use this fund as originally established—for the purpose of perpetuity. Donations given to the endowment/trust fund will stay invested as principle funds. At the end of each year, the interest on the fund will be distributed into the church to support mission work. The more funds that can be gifted to the trust through estate or individual gifts, the more interest gained, the more will come back for the work of living as the image of God in Aberdeen. It would be amazing to see members of Zion commit to supporting Zion through estate gifts, in addition to the abundant generosity you will each show to the general fund. Remember, we are only limited by our imaginations, and inversely, we are raised up and grow by the expression of our imaginations.
- On March 8<sup>th</sup>, worship will welcome Food for the Poor as an opportunity for us to live out serving those in need.

Lord, bless these members of Zion as they take prayerful moments wondering how they live in the legacy of being the image of God in this world. Amen.

Blessings on the month ahead,  
Pastor Martin

## 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 [thrive.com](http://thrive.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

### Lutherans Outdoors in SD

At LOSD, our mission is simple and powerful. Every program, every retreat, and every campfire moment is rooted in our deep desire to share Christ's love with all people, no matter who you are or where you come from.

We live out our mission through four guiding values that shape everything we do:

- Explore Faith – We create safe spaces to ask questions, wrestle with big ideas, and grow spiritually.
- Welcome All – We practice radical hospitality, embracing diversity in every form.
- Build Leaders – We empower individuals to lead with courage, compassion, and faith.
- Care for Creation – We honor God's creation through stewardship, sustainability, and awe.

**THANK YOU for your support!**



## Thursdays Together



Continuing this spring, the church will be open Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM for fellowship time together. Each evening will include board and card games. We continue to look for groups or individuals who would be interested in sharing their passions or talents with others. You can choose a one-time event or host on a recurring basis. Hosts are also needed for each Thursday evening, which would require setting out and cleaning up the games and locking the door after the event. If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact the church office.

### Current Schedule (each night includes board/card games)

February 5: Word and Water Color (letting the language of God fill us in mind, body, and spirit)

February 19: Faith and Films\*\*

Every Thursday: Learn to Line Dance from 7:15-8:00 PM

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!

\*\*This month's Faith and Films: *Wake Up Dead Man*. This movie is currently on Netflix; if you need help accessing the film, please contact the church office. However, since the discussion is around faith ideas found in the film, you are welcome to join discussion even if you have not viewed the movie in advance.

## 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  
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 to take down the Christmas decorations after Epiphany. Special thank you to Stacy Geffre for all of the work in organizing and storing the décor!

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

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

### On the Horizon

Visit from LPG: March 1

Easter: April 5

Last Day of FE: April 26

## 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.

## Happenings at Zion

### Faith through Fitness

Continuing on Sunday mornings, 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.

### New Member Sunday

On Sunday, January 18, we joyfully welcomed six new members into our Zion faith family. Pictured below are Jason, Andrea, Elliott, and Logan Riss; Noelle Martin; and Jeff Anderson who affirmed their baptism during worship. Welcome to Zion!



### 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.

# Coming Up at Zion

## Shrove Pancake Fundraiser

Celebrate the start of Lent with pancakes and fellowship! Join the Nashville Mission Trip participants and the Men's Group on Sunday, February 15, during fellowship time for a pancake brunch. All proceeds support the June mission trip. Stay after worship and enjoy some delicious food and community!



## Organ Rejuvenation Update

At the beginning of January, Popplers Music delivered and installed our new organ! As seen in the picture, moving the old organ out of the balcony and getting the new one in was quite the feat—but the team did it with ease. Final work on the pipes was completed at the end of last month.

To celebrate the completion of this project, there will be an Organ Blessing and Celebration on Sunday, February 15. Make plans to join us as we give thanks and mark this exciting milestone!

## Ash Wednesday and Lenten Worship

Join us for midweek Lenten services focusing on Living Legacy as the Image of God. Services will be held at 12:15 p.m. and 6:05 p.m., with a meal served prior to each service at 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. The noon service will be livestreamed on Zion's Facebook page and uploaded to YouTube following worship.

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, February 18. Worship will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

## Ash Wednesday FEBRUARY 18



12:15 PM & 6:05 PM

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION



## Nashville Mission Trip Fish Bowl Fundraiser Coming in March!

Our Nashville mission trip participants are hosting a Fish Bowl fundraiser, giving you the chance to win a fish bowl full of gift cards, along with other great raffle prizes!

To help them plan, donations of any amount are welcome to purchase gift cards to use for the fundraiser. You can leave your contribution in the offering plate marked "Nashville Fundraiser" or drop it off in the church office during the week.

Don't miss your chance to win when the fundraiser kicks off next month! Stay tuned for more details.

## Happening at Zion



### Bagged Food Meal Prep

Thank you to everyone who donated ingredients and gave their time to help prepare bagged meals for our food outreach ministry. Together, we assembled 35 meals-in-a-bag to stock our shelves and share with neighbors in need. Your generosity truly makes a difference!

### Choir Concert and Hosting Opportunity

Zion is excited to host the USD Chamber Singers for a community concert on Sunday, March 15 at 7:00 PM, and we are looking for hosts to welcome the singers after the concert.

Hosting involves:

- Providing overnight accommodations for at least two singers
- Offering a simple breakfast (cereal, granola bars, etc.)
- Giving transportation back to their group on Monday morning

If you are interested in helping, please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex or talk with Carmel Heyd. Thank you for supporting this special visit!



### Poinsettia Thank You

Thank you to the following who provided flowers to decorate Zion Lutheran for Christmas Eve services:

Lavina Nelson

Aileen Kolb

Marje Kaiser

Nash Family in memory of Lana Kay Nash

Heyd-Click Families in memory of Jordan Daniel Heyd

Anderson Family in memory of Richard Anderson

# Faith and Family



## No Faith Explorers

There will be no Faith Explorers on **Sunday, February 15** for either elementary or middle and high school youth in observance of the holiday weekend. Faith Explorers will resume on Sunday, February 22 for all ages.

## Voting Milestone

On Sunday, January 25, our recently confirmed youth were welcomed as official voting members of the congregation. During worship, they received a blessing from the entire congregation and were gifted plaques bearing Romans 12:10, reminding them—and all of us—to work together in honor and love.

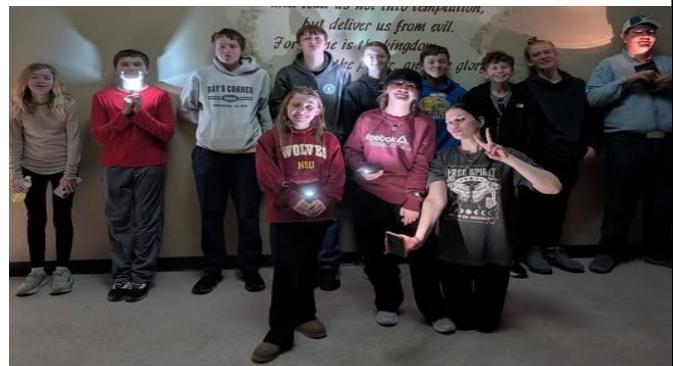


## Elementary New Year Party

Our elementary youth joined with Good Shepherd on Sunday, January 11 for a party to ring in the new year! The event featured a scavenger hunt, cookies to color, Bingo, lots of snacks, and even a toast of what we're thankful for and looking forward to in the year ahead.

## Youth in the Night

Our annual Youth in the Night event was a hit! On January 18, our middle and high school youth enjoyed dinner and flashlight games of hide-and-seek and sardines with our friends from Good Shepherd.



## Prayer Pillow Milestone

All children born in 2022 and their parents are invited to join Pastor Nicole and Ministry Coordinator Saundra for a Prayer Pillow Faith Milestone on **Sunday, February 8**. Prayer Pillows will be presented to our 3- and 4-year-olds during the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Following worship, children and their parents are invited to a special event at 10:30 a.m. in the Faith Formation Center in the basement. We'll have lots of fun learning about prayer together!

# Faith and Family



## Youth Conference Save the Date

Mark your calendars for July 31–August 1, 2026 in Sioux Falls! Our synod youth gathering will include speakers, breakout sessions, worship, games, fellowship, and plenty of food.

More details will be shared this spring. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Ministry Coordinator Saundra. Don't miss this fun and faith-filled event!

## Free Play Afternoon

Zion is teaming up with Bethlehem and Good Shepherd Lutheran churches for an afternoon of fun for our middle and high school youth.

When: Sunday, February 22 from 2–4 p.m.

Where: Converging at Bethlehem to play games of your choice—active games in the gym, video game tournament, card and board games, and more!

Carpool: Meet at Zion at 1:45 p.m. to ride together

Extras: Snacks will be provided, and friends are welcome!

Don't miss this chance to connect, play, and have fun with friends from all three congregations!



## 4th & 5th Grade Milestones

There will be a joint fourth- and fifth-grade Devotion and Bible Milestone on Sunday, February 22. Youth and a trusted adult will meet following worship at 10:30 AM in the Faith Formation Center in the basement. Full details will be emailed home later this month.

## Summer Camp Registration

If your child is in 1st grade or older, it's time to start thinking about summer camp options! Lutheran Outdoors in South Dakota offers three different locations with programs to suit a wide range of interests.

If you would like to register your child, please contact Ministry Coordinator Saundra as soon as possible so we can get them signed up. Camperships are available for families who need assistance.

This year, NeSoDak is offering a one-day camp for grades 1–3 on Thursday, July 9. The cost is \$100 per youth. We plan to take a group from Zion—if your child is interested, please reach out to Saundra. Don't miss out on a fun and faith-filled summer experience!

One-Day Day Camp

GRADES 1-3

JULY 9

\$ 100

REGISTER FOR CAMP

A Full Day Of Faith, Fun, And Camp Adventure!

Experience the joy of camp—all in one exciting day! The One-Day Day Camp at NeSoDak is the perfect opportunity for kids to get a taste of camp life without staying overnight. Set along the stunning shores of Lake Enemy Swim, campers will spend the day exploring, playing, and growing in faith through fun, hands-on activities led by NeSoDak's caring summer staff.

Parents can rest easy knowing their campers are in a safe, welcoming environment where every child is encouraged to learn, laugh, and build friendships.

# Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

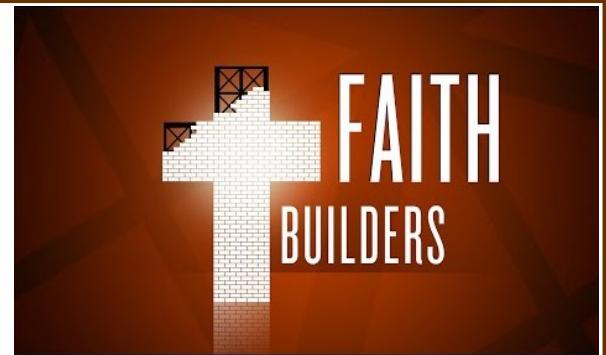
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## Faith Insight

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.

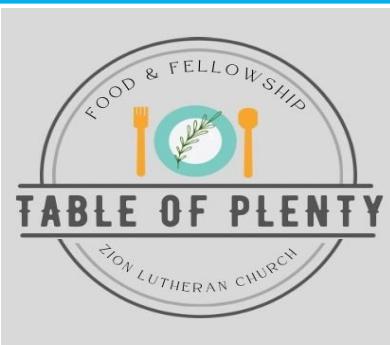


## Drive Up Donuts

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, February 27 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, February 25 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 February Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, February 23 from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion Lutheran fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for delicious food and fellowship!

We are continuing to fill our calendar and are in need of more meal sponsors and volunteers for the year. 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.

### 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 representative, 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: [zlcaberdeen@gmail.com](mailto:zlcaberdeen@gmail.com)



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### Altar Guild Meeting

All current Altar Guild members—and anyone curious about joining this important ministry—are invited to a meeting on Sunday, February 1, at 10:30 a.m. in Classrooms A & B. Come learn more about how you can help care for the worship space and be part of this dedicated team!



### 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 through Sunday, February 1. Cost is \$10 a quart, and there will be turkey noodle and knoefla soups available for purchase. Pick up will be Friday, February 6 throughout the day in the kitchen or Saturday, February 7 at the Vendor Fair from the kitchen.

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
1732 South Main Street  
Aberdeen, SD 57401  
(605) 225-6755   [zlcaberdeen@gmail.com](mailto:zlcaberdeen@gmail.com)  
[zionlutheranaberdeen.org](http://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:**

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

## **Council Representatives:**

Board Representative	Committee
Becky Stanek	Faith Formation
Bob Seyer	Finance & Stewardship
Andrea Morehouse	Missional Life
VACANT	Properties
Kathy Heffernan	Worship Life
Carmel Heyd	Member-at-large
Braden Refsland	Member-at-large

## **Radio Broadcast Sponsorships**

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday. We are appreciative of your support of this ministry!

### **Upcoming dates:**

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

April 5, 12, 26

## RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at  
225-6755 to sign up

**\$110 for whole broadcast  
\$55 for half**



## **Winter Vendor and Craft Fair**

Zion will be hosting our fifth annual Winter Vendor Fair on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be over twenty vendors present, with a lunch of BBQs and chips available for purchase. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and stop by to enjoy your favorite vendors, homemade goods, and delicious food!



# THANK YOU!



## STEWARDSHIP

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

**THROUGH December 31, 2025**

Budgeted December Expenses:	\$30,000.00
Actual December Income:	\$60,417.21
Actual December Expenses:	<u>\$24,597.26</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$35,819.95</b>