

APRIL 2026

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen

2026.04.01

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabchthani?" that is, "My god, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Matthew 27:46

In the devotional book "God is With You" author Max Lucado writes, "This is the moment in which 'God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong' (2 Corinthians 5:21). 'God... piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him. He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word.' (Isaiah 53:6-7) He was forsaken for you and for me."

Resurrection day is the day we proclaim with loud hallelujahs this is most certainly true.

It isn't a hope. It isn't a wish. It isn't a fairy tale of dreams written to increase sales or from a diluted state of mind. IT IS TRUTH. Jesus took on what we would never be able to take. Jesus took on the weight of all the sins we have committed; all the sins that we refuse to acknowledge because awareness of them would drive us to insanity. JESUS CARRIED IT ALL. HE DIED FOR IT ALL. HE ROSE FOR IT ALL. EACH AND EVERYONE.

What good news is this? The most perfect beloved news of all creation! Go into the world and tell anyone who will listen. The Savior reigns! Death is destroyed! Resurrection is restoration!

As we begin this Easter season together, let us take time to celebrate together the good news it is for each of us. Challenge yourself to be the living presence with those you care about more today than yesterday, and more tomorrow than today. Challenge yourself to live the resurrection of restoration in all circumstances, claiming your identity as disciples called to steward not just monies, but time and talents, and relationships.

Lord, support the good people of Zion Lutheran as they challenge themselves to live a resurrected life restoration. Amen.

Happy Easter!

Your Shepherd,
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 thrivent.com or contact MC Sandra for ideas on how your Action Team can help support our ministries here at Zion and beyond.

thrivent[®]

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

SD Synod Companion Synods

The SD Synod is in companionship with two churches in Cameroon and Nicaragua.

Cameroon

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon is a fast-growing church with 215,000 members in 1,350 congregations. The ELCC is served by 168 pastors, 375 evangelists, and 288 catechists among 27 ethnic groups. The ELCC's program ministries include seminary education, Bible schools, primary and secondary education, health care, rural development, women's and youth ministries, Bible translation and literacy, and a communication studio.

Nicaragua

The Faith and Hope Lutheran Church of Nicaragua is present in approximately 35 Nicaraguan communities and served by lay pastors who live in or near these communities. In its holistic model for mission, ILFE focuses on lay leadership development, specialized ministries for children, pre-teens and youth, preventive health care, HIV & AIDS awareness, sustainable agriculture and disaster prevention & response.



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)

April 9: Messy Canvases from 6:30-7:15 PM

April 16: 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: Sinners. 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. **Please note: there will be no Thursdays Together on April 2 due to Maundy Thursday worship and activities.

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

Bethesda Town Sq.

Viola Tetherow
Lorraine Kusler
Elsie Geffre

Meadowbrooke Ct

Frances Wolff

Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

California

Erna Schmierer

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen



Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to all who volunteered at our Midweek Lenten worships. We couldn't have held these special services without you!

☺ Thank you to everyone who prepared, cooked, served, and cleaned up after the Midweek Lenten service meals. A lot of work goes into planning and serving those two meals on Wednesdays, and your willingness to help provide a time of food and fellowship is most appreciated!



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

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 March 29 at 9:00 AM. The Maundy Thursday service on April 2 will also 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 on April 3 held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 12:00 PM. Holy Week concludes with a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at 9:00 AM on Easter Sunday (April 5).

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 @ Bethlehem

The poster features a silhouette of three crosses on a hill against a sunset sky.

Easter

AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1732 S Main St 225-6755
www.zionlutheranaberdeen.org

Join us for the greatest celebration of all!

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
9:00 AM Worship
with Holy Communion

The poster features a colorful, abstract background with green and blue splashes.

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 March 29-April 4 (through Good Friday) and place it in the Friendship Room upstairs. If you wish your plant to be in memory or in honor of someone, please attach a note. The flowers will be on display on Easter Sunday, April 5, and can be taken home following the service. (Please no lilies due to severe allergies in our congregation.) Thank you for your support!

-Altar Guild

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



Potluck

Join us for a potluck meal on Sunday, April 12, beginning at 11:00 AM. Please bring a dish to share if you're able. Whether it's a favorite family recipe or something simple, all contributions are welcome.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship as we gather together, share a meal, and spend time connecting with one another after worship. Make plans to stay and enjoy this time of community!

Lenten Donations

Throughout the season of Lent, our focus will be on our Living Legacy as the Image of God. One of the many ways to live out that legacy in the world is to support others as they find shelter under the love of God. For this season, we will be collecting food items to support Midwest Street Medicine and their Wednesday night outreach. Please return these items by Easter to the labeled box in the fellowship hall.

They have expressed a need for the following items:

- Lactose-free milk
- Bottled water
- Peanut butter cracker sandwiches
- Applesauce or yogurt pouches
- Fruit bars
- Beef jerky
- Protein bars



St Dymas Visit Meeting

There will be an informational meeting for anyone interested in worshipping with the St. Dymas prison ministry on Sunday, April 19 at 10:45 AM in Classrooms A & B. This opportunity is open to those 18 years and older. Each participant will need to complete a multi-page visitor packet prior to attending. Please note that only five visitors are permitted to worship with the congregation on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM.

If you're interested in attending worship with St. Dymas but are unable to make the meeting, please connect with Jane Albrecht for more information.



Chords of Joy

The third-annual Chords of Joy event will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 2:00 PM. This free event celebrates the gift of music and is open to the entire community. Mark your calendar and join us for an afternoon of beautiful music and fellowship!

If you or someone you know is interested in performing, please contact Zach Anderson. All genres of public-appropriate music are welcome.



Faith and Family

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE



Youth Rummage Sale

There will be a youth rummage sale held on **Saturday, April 25 from 8 AM—12 PM**. All proceeds benefit those attending the Nashville Mission Trip.

If you would like to bring items to donate to the rummage sale, items will be collected the week of April 19 and placed on the tables in the back of the fellowship hall. Please no electronics or adult clothing. As you are doing spring cleaning and organizing, keep us in mind!

An Afternoon of Service

Middle and high school youth are invited to a service opportunity at the Humane Society on Sunday, April 19! We'll be partnering with the youth from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for this event, making it a great opportunity to connect with others while serving our community. Pizza will be provided for lunch at 11:30 AM; then we'll load up and head to the Humane Society to volunteer from 1:00-2:30 PM. This is a meaningful way to care for animals in need, build friendships, and spend time together in fellowship. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar and join us for an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and giving back in our community!

AN AFTERNOON OF



LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
THE LIFE OF SHELTER PETS!

- Lunch provided @ 11:30 AM
- Games and activities from 11:30 AM-12:45 PM
- Volunteer from 1:00-2:30 PM



SUNDAY, APRIL 19 | 11:30 AM
LUNCH AND GAMES @ ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Open to middle and high school youth; bring a friend!

Joint event between Zion and Good Shepherd churches

Soul Shop Opportunities

We have been invited by Bethlehem Lutheran Church to join them for Soul Shop™. These workshops are designed to equip leaders, youth, and parents to respond with compassion and confidence to mental health struggles and suicide prevention.

Soul Shop™ for Parents (Zoom)

Sunday, April 12 | 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

A supportive online workshop helping parents confidently talk with their youth about emotional struggles, mental health, and suicide. To register, please contact MC Sandra for the link.

Soul Shop™ for High School Youth

Sunday, April 26 - 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Youth Center

Cost: Free

Pizza will be served!

An engaging, hope-centered workshop helping youth care for their mental health and support friends who may be struggling.

If you would like to participate in this event, please chat with MC Sandra by Sunday, April 19 so we can get the group registered. Rides will be available to and from the workshop; please let Sandra know if you'd like one!

soul  shop

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:

- There will be no Faith Explorers on Sunday, April 5 due to Easter.
- Our Easter program will be held during worship on Sunday, April 12.
- Our last day of Faith Explorers will be on Sunday, April 26. We will enjoy some fellowship time together before meeting in the basement at 10:30 AM for our Zion Olympics!

ZION OLYMPICS

Serving Fellowship

At the annual meeting in January, both the youth and the congregation agreed that the youth would take part in serving fellowship one Sunday morning in both the spring and fall. On March 22, the youth had the opportunity to prepare, serve, and clean up for fellowship. They did an excellent job and had a wonderful time!



First Communion

The celebration of First Communion will be during the Maundy Thursday service at 6:05 PM on Thursday, April 2nd. Class will be held on Wednesday, April 1st beginning at 6:00 PM, which will include supper, learning, and communion bread baking. A letter was mailed and emailed home with all of the details. If you have not confirmed your child's participation with MC Sandra, please do so as soon as possible. We are excited to celebrate this faith milestone with our youth!



Summer VBS

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 and on the website before the event. This year's theme is: Build. Final details will be available next month—stay tuned!



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 next month. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Ministry Coordinator Sandra by the end of May. Don't miss this fun and faith-filled event!

SD SYNOD YOUTH CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE

SIoux FALLS, SD

Confirmation Corner

- 6-7-8 grade confirmation classes will wrap up following Easter with four Wednesday evening times on April 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 6:30-7:45 PM. Confirmands are also invited to help prepare communion bread with the First Communion students on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00 PM.



ZION 2026-2027 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 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM or emailed to Ministry Coordinator Sandra at: zlcfaitlife@gmail.com

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 Sandra 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. MC Sandra and Pastor Nicole will be taking the kids and staying the day with them. This camp is open to current 1, 2, 3 grade youth. If your child(ren) is interested, please chat with Sandra as soon as possible so we can get the group registered!

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.

Taco John's Fundraiser

Mark your calendar to support the Nashville Mission Trip @ Taco John's on Wednesday, May 13 from 4-8 PM. The youth and adults heading to Nashville in June will receive 25% of all sales during this time, so let Taco John's take care of cooking for you that evening! Thanks for your support!



Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

F A I N S I G H T

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 holistic 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**
LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
7:30-8:00 AM
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
SOUTH PARKING LOT

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, April 24 from 7:30-8:00 AM**. This event is open to all.

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, April 29 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 April Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, April 27 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 second half of 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

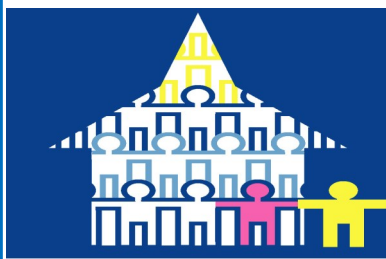
We have one service available on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Communion being served each week. Each service features a kids' time and is broadcast live on the radio on KSDN 930 AM and 102.1 FM. A time of fellowship and education opportunities follows worship, starting at 10:15 a.m.

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 repres., 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



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Cards for Every Occasion!

Did you know the church has cards for every occasion? Our talented cardmakers create beautiful, handmade cards for weddings, baptisms, birthdays, and all of life's special moments.

Best of all, each card and envelope set is just \$1.00!

The next time you need a greeting card, be sure to stop by the kiosk in the narthex. Looking for something specific but don't see it? Just ask—there's a good chance they have exactly what you're looking for!



Stay Connected with Zion

Stay up to date with everything happening at church! If you haven't already, we encourage you to complete a quick sign-up to receive text messages from Zion. This will allow you to get important alerts (such as weather-related closures) and meeting reminders without relying solely on email.

If you would like to receive texts, please stop by the church office for assistance, or scan the QR code using your phone's camera.

Additionally, sharing your email address with the office ensures you'll receive digital copies of the newsletter, along with updates on upcoming events and important announcements.

Feel free to call or stop by the office during the week to make sure your contact information is up to date.



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 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:

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

Council Representatives:

Becky Stanek.....Faith Formation
Bob Seyer..... Finance & Stewardship
Andrea Morehouse.....Missional Life
VACANT.....Properties
VACANT.....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:

April 12 May 10, 31 June 14, 21

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half



Envelope Wall Fundraiser

The mission trip participants are almost on their way to Nashville! Help them finalize their fundraising by participating in the envelope wall fundraiser!

Throughout the months of April and May, stop at the board in the narthex and pick an envelope off the wall to help offset an expense. Monetary donations in the envelopes can be left in the church office by Sunday, May 24. Thank you for your support!



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> |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Adeline Zelmer | Altar Guild | LaVern Albrecht |
| Colleen Jones | Youth | Loren & April Nehlich |

IN LOVING
Memory

THANK YOU!



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

MONTH-TO-DATE through February 28, 2026

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Budgeted February Expenses: | \$29,500.00 |
| Actual February Income: | \$26,281.14 |
| Actual February Expenses: | \$24,258.01 |
| Total: | \$2,023.13 |

YEAR-TO-DATE through February 28, 2026

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Actual YTD Income: | \$44,338.09 |
| Actual YTD Expenses: | \$49,782.22 |
| Total: | (\$5,444.13) |