

MARCH 2026

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen
2026.03.01

Being part of the story of God always affords us deep opportunities to worship in a variety of seasons. This year, at this time, we hold the Lenten season and the remembrance of the great evangelist, St. Patrick. His work was masterful, bringing the truth of God into the language of everyday so the Irish people could understand and come to believe. This rich tradition through Celtic language speaks to us even now, helping us to grow deeper into divine encounter. The following is a Lenten prayer from this flavor of faith.

A Celtic Prayer for Lent

*"The Old Sod!"
The precious land!
The sacred earth!*

*Ash Wednesday's smudge
Remember we are earth
And we shall return*

*Jesus is of earth
Every bone and sinew
The Word enfleshed.*

*His beginning sacred
A holy earth birthing
A heavenly ending.*

*Our Lenten journey
Wednesday's blest earth
To Easter's blest water!*

*And we are more than
"Dust in the wind."
We are bound for glory!*

*O God, bless my Lenten journey.
Let me walk the blessing path of Jesus.
Blessed be the path of giving.
Blessed by the path of discipling.
Blessed be the garden of grieving.
Blessed be the mountain of the cross.
Blessed be these forty days.*

*My I be more loving, more generous,
More forgiving, more grateful,
As I trod the desert path
Leading to Easter's water –
A fountain spring up
Toward eternal life!*

Our legacy as Children of God is the deep connection found in the earth and in the heavens brought together by the one Jesus Christ. Our legacy of being from the ash reminds us of the human fragility and pain of brokenness, as well as all which God gives for our sustainability. Our legacy of being with the heavens is the blessing of what is good and eternal, being created in the image of God. The legacy of Christ is binding those two places together so we can live with joy and celebration—so we can live not a life of scarcity, but a life of abundance.

Thanks be to God for the both/and places we walk each day. Lord, help us to move through them with grace and dignity.

Blessings, Your Shepherd,
Pr. Nicole 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

Food for the Poor

At Food For The Poor, feeding the hungry is at the heart of our mission. We prioritize the preservation of human dignity and compassionate care for those in need. Our approach to poverty is rooted in sustainable, community-driven solutions that empower long-term change.

From 2019 to 2023, we provided 943 million meals and delivered \$3.2 billion in aid to communities across Latin America and the Caribbean. Our growing network of donors and volunteers shares our belief that poverty is not inevitable—it is solvable. Join us in the fight: spread the word, shop from our Humanitarian Gift Catalog, or become a donor today.

THANK YOU for your support!

FFTP FOOD FOR THE POOR



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)

March 12: Messy Canvases from 6:30-7:15 PM

March 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: Nimona. 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

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 Sharlene Wanttie for updating and rotating the library book table!

☺ Thank you to Noelle Martin for changing out the bulletin boards in the narthex area and updating them each month!

Visit from Food for the Poor

Pastor Darrell Golnitz from Food for the Poor will be visiting and preaching at Zion on Sunday, March 8. A special offering will be taken, and the noisy offering for the month will support their humanitarian efforts.

SAVE THE DATE!

On the Horizon

Easter: April 5

Last Day of FE: April 26

Graduate Recognition: May 10

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

Trust Fund

Greetings from the Trust Fund! We are diligently continuing our policy updates and planning for the future. We are excited to host Kathy McHenry from Lutheran Planned Generosity during fellowship on March 1. See details on her visit below, and make plans to join us!

Together, We Create a Legacy

Did you know that writing a check might be the most expensive way for you to make a gift? Or how to avoid leaving a large inheritance to the government? Would you like to learn simple, no-cost ways to create or update your will, revocable trust, or powers of attorney?

On Sunday, March 1, we welcome Kathy McHenry, Executive Director of Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota, a ministry of the South Dakota Synod, to worship with us and share an educational workshop at 10:15 AM following the men's breakfast.

Kathy will share practical ideas about how new tax laws can affect your generosity, and how your life's work can make a lasting difference for your loved ones, Zion Lutheran Church, and your other favorite ministries.

This workshop is a free gift from LPGSD and its ministry partners. Kathy does not sell financial products, accept commissions, or charge fees—she simply offers tools and encouragement to help you create a legacy of faith and generosity.

Visit www.lpgsd.org for more information. To schedule a private visit, you may call or text Kathy at 605-868-8754 or email kmchenry@sdsynod.org.



Lutheran Planned Generosity
of South Dakota

Your life can make a difference

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

Living Legacy as the Image of God

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesdays at 12:15 & 6:05 PM

Midweek Lenten Services

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.

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:

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



Council Installation



On Sunday, February 1, Zion's next church council was welcomed and installed during worship. The 2026 council members include: Kirsten Nash, president; Stacy Geffre, secretary; Vicki Carlson, treasurer; Becky Stanek, faith formation; Andrea Morehouse, missional life; Bob Seyer, finance and stewardship; Carmel Heyd, member-at-large; and Braden Refsland, member-at-large. Special thanks to outgoing council members Marje Kaiser, Kathy Heffernan, Jessica Moser, and Doug Wanttie. Thank you all for your leadership!

Baptism

On Sunday, February 15, we welcomed Harper Margaret Madsen into the family of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. Harper was baptized at the 9:00 service by Pastor Nicole. Harper is the daughter of Paige Madsen. Congratulations, Harper; we can't wait to watch you grow in faith!



Happening at Zion

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!

**COMMUNITY
CONCERT**

Featuring the USD Chamber Singers

**15 SUNDAY
MARCH 7:00 PM**

Organ Celebration & Chords of Joy

Throughout January, our church was blessed with the installation of our new hybrid organ. A hybrid organ utilizes acoustically tuned speakers alongside our beautiful pipework to create a whole new experience for our church and congregation. On February 15th, we celebrated the completion of this capital campaign through blessing this new instrument and the many years of praise it will allow our congregation.

Thank you again to all who prayed for this project and those who contributed their time, talents, or funds to make this a reality.

As a way to continue this celebration, we would like to invite you **May 3rd at 2PM** to our annual Chords of Joy concert, where we will have a variety of musical performances. This event has been hosted the past two years

as an opportunity for our sanctuary to celebrate the many musical gifts our congregation and community has to offer and this year will expound on that celebration. These pieces may or may not be what you come to expect from church music but will showcase talent and passion.

The set list is not yet established so if you would like to participate, know of someone itching for an opportunity to share their musical talent, or thoughts on a specific song you would love to hear on our organ, please let the office, Zach Anderson, or Sonya Kempf know, and we will do our best to include it.

Chords of Joy

A CONCERT EVENT TO SHARE THE GIFT OF MUSIC

MAY 3, 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1732 S MAIN ST, ABERDEEN

Faith and Family



No Faith Explorers

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



Midwest Street Medicine Food Packs

On Sunday, February 8, our youth talked about Jesus as the Bread of Life and how food is important in order to help your body heal after hearing about Jesus healing the sick in John 4 & 5. In response to these readings, our elementary Faith Explorers made food packs for Midwest Street Medicine, while our middle school youth helped MSM by taping drink packets to water bottles in anticipation of the upcoming summer season.



Nashville Mission Trip Fish Bowl Fundraiser

Our Nashville Mission Trip participants are hosting a Fish Bowl Fundraiser, giving you the chance to win a fish bowl filled with gift cards, plus other great raffle prizes!

Tickets: \$10 each

How to Buy: Available Sunday morning or from any youth attending the trip

Drawing: Three winners will be drawn following Easter

Each ticket enters you to win:

First Prize: Fish bowl full of gift cards

Second Prize: Wooden cross centerpiece (pictured)

Third Prize: Baking gift basket

Thank you for supporting our mission trip and our youth!



Free Play Afternoon

We had a great time with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Good Shepherd and Bethlehem Lutheran churches! The youth played volleyball, basketball, and football in the gym, along with Mario Kart, air hockey, table tennis, pool, and board games in the youth room.



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 Sandra. Don't miss this fun and faith-filled event!

SD SYNOD YOUTH CONFERENCE
SAVE THE DATE

SIoux FALLS, SD

Kickback Thursday

On Thursday, March 12 from 1-3 PM, come enjoy an afternoon to relax and hang out on a no school day! There will be a variety of activities, including games, snacks, a movie, and more! Open to middle and high school youth—bring a friend! Rides are available to and from the event upon request; visit with Sandra if you need one!



Scholarships

Zion will once again award two scholarships for the upcoming academic year. See the application for full instructions.

Printed applications will be available starting **March 13** 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: zlcfaithlife@gmail.com

You will also be able to find the application on our website at zionlutheranaberdeen.org/signupcentral

ZION 2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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 by April 1, 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.

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, March 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, March 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, March 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 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**

Sheets Needed

The Zion Quilters are in need of sheets for their quilting ministry. The sheets can be any size, flat or fitted, new or gently used, and any material (please no jersey knit). Thank you for supporting their work!



Souper Bowl Soup

The Zion Lutheran Women would like to thank everyone who make our Souper Bowl Soup sale a success! We made approximately 220 quarts of soup. The board would like to thank Kathy Franz, Pam Seyer, Lavern Albrecht, Trudy Anderson, Jane Albrecht, Harvey Hardy, and Lester Harty for helping make the knoephla and turkey noodle soups. Thank you again for your support!

-Carmel Heyd, Norma Miller, Deb Hardy, Marie Bretsch, and Millie Suchomel

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

Staff

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor
 Sandra 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!

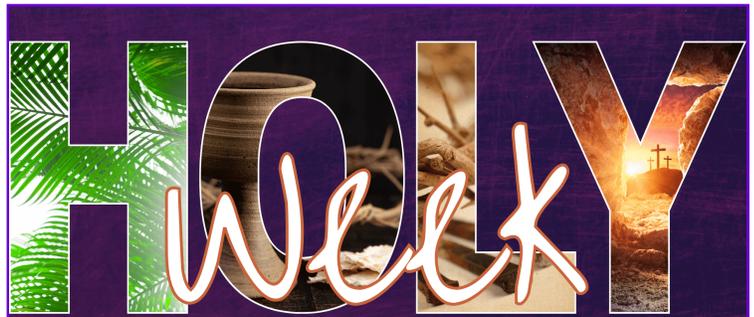
Upcoming dates:

March 22, 29 April 5, 12, 26 May 10, 17, 31

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
 \$55 for half



Holy Week Worship Services

Palm Sunday: March 29 @ 9:00 AM
 Maundy Thursday: April 2 @ 6:05 PM
 (First Communion)
 Good Friday: April 3 @ 12:05 PM (ELCA worship)
 April 3 @ 6:05 PM (at Zion)
 Easter: April 5 @ 9:00 AM

Quilt Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Wanda Wagemann who was drawn as the winner of the quilt raffle at the annual meeting in January!

Thank you to the Zion Quilters for making and donating the queen-sized quilt and for all who participated in the fundraiser.



THANK YOU!



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

THROUGH January 31, 2026

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Budgeted January Expenses: | \$29,500.00 |
| Actual January Income: | \$18,056.95 |
| Actual January Expenses: | <u>\$25,524.21</u> |
| Total: | <u>(\$7,467.26)</u> |