

MAY 2026

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen  
2026.05.01

*Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common, they would see their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*  
*Acts 2:43-47*

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Words from our faith ancestors are a rich place for us to root our vision for daily living. As Lutheran-flavored Christians, this is exemplified in the language, Sola Scriptura, Sola Fides, Sola Gratia: Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone. In these three ways, we stand in the story of God as part of the salvific promise and guided to live in the world now. This was also true for the first Christians; they stood in the promise of salvation and were guided by the very words of Christ, under God's grace, to create the community of Christ.

We are privileged to do the same. We wake up each day, getting to live as the love of God in the world. It is not a burden. It is a joy. We are privileged to use all of the resources at our fingertips to support the flourishing of a restorative community.

This is the exemplar of the book of Acts. To read it is to see how varieties of communities are set afire to live with new passion, to bring positive possibilities to the hurt, the sick, and the oppressed in the name of Christ. The book of Acts reveals how positive possibilities are rooted in the deep interpersonal relationships between God with the people, and the people together. We call this very personal relationship koinonia.

Throughout May and into the summer, this is where we will focus our attention, living Koinonia: living community. As we do so, I am inviting you to consider how you participate in this relationship through the place we call Zion. What brought you to Zion? What keeps you at Zion? What makes your heart sing about Zion? How is the Holy Spirit calling you to be part of koinonia expressed through Zion?

For our Stewardship Love Offering, we will step boldly into koinonia by supporting the Scholarship Fund. At baptism, we are swept into the community of Christ, and the community of Christ promises support of the baptized. An offering to the scholarship fund is one way to honor that promise.

Lastly, as a way of joining in koinonia, you are invited to "Fireside Festivities, Food, and Fun" at the Pastor's house. Games will be provided. Hot dogs included. BYOB. May 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 7 pm. Let us start the Memorial Day weekend together.

Let us pray. Lord, as we move into warmer days, inspire us to live in deep relationships that honor you and others, multiplying koinonia and your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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](http://thrivent.com) or contact MC Sandra for ideas on how your Action Team can help support our ministries at Zion and beyond.

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

### An Afternoon of Service

On Sunday, April 19, several youth from Zion and Good Shepherd gathered for a day of fun and service. The group enjoyed lunch together, took on an Easter-themed escape room, and then spent time volunteering at the Humane Society. Everyone had a great time walking dogs and socializing with the cats, making it a meaningful and memorable day for all involved.



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

#### Zion Scholarship Fund

Each year, Zion commits to supporting one high school graduating senior and one continuing education student through the gift of a \$350 scholarship. Your financial contribution helps us keep distributing these scholarships year after year.

**Thank you for your generosity!**



### 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)

May 14 Messy Canvases

May 21: Faith and Films\*\*

*There will be no Learning to Line Dance classes this month.*

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: Super Mario Brothers movie. 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

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 Doug Wanttie and Mike Bretsch for spearheading snow removal for the winter!


☺ Thank you to everyone who brought food for, prepared, cooked, served, and cleaned up after the church potluck in April. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and conversation together, which wouldn't have been possible without everyone's contributions to the morning!



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON INSTAGRAM**

Follow us:  
@zlcaberdeensd

TAG US IN YOUR PICTURES FROM WORSHIP, CHURCH EVENTS, AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



**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



CONGRATULATIONS!

**CLASS OF 2026**

Graduates will be recognized during 9:00 AM worship on:  
**Sunday, May 10th**

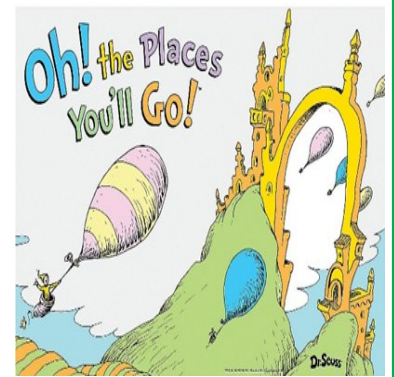
### Graduate Recognition

We will be recognizing the class of 2026 during worship on Sunday, May 10. High school seniors: letters were mailed home about this event. If you have not already been in contact with Sandra about the details, please reach out!

Cake will be served during the fellowship time in their honor.

### Graduate Gifts

We will be gifting our graduates a copy of "Oh the Places You'll Go", complete with Bible verses and messages on Sunday, May 10. These books will be available for congregation members to sign and leave well-wishes for our graduates on Sunday mornings April 26 and May 3 in the narthex. Please take a moment to share messages with our seniors!



### Zion Clothing Order

As we place an order for mission trip shirts, you are invited to also purchase Zion clothing! The online store will be open through May 5 with shirts and sweatshirts available, along with aprons and insulated mugs. To order, please stop at the table in the narthex or scan the QR code.



### 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



**Reminder!**

### Table of Plenty Meeting

There will be an appreciation and meeting for all Table of Plenty volunteers on Wednesday, May 13 at 6:00 PM in Classrooms A&B. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend. If you are unable to be there, please visit with Jena German.

### 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! Through the month of 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!



**FIRESIDE  
FESTIVITIES,  
FOOD AND FUN**

**Friday, May 22**

7:00 PM | Pastor's House

### Fireside Fellowship

As a way of joining in koinonia you are invited to "Fireside Festivities, Food, and Fun" at the pastor's home. Enjoy an evening of games, connection, and community—games will be provided, and hot dogs are included. Feel free to bring your own beverages.

**Join us on May 22 beginning at 7:00 PM as we kick off Memorial Day weekend together!**

Please use the church directory to find Pastor Nicole's address.

### St Dymas Visit Meeting

There was an informational meeting held in April for anyone who is interested in worshipping with the St. Dymas congregation. Potential visit date includes Thursday, August 6 with a backup of Thursday, August 13. If you are wanting to participate, you will need to complete a multi-page packet prior to attending. Please note that only five visitors are permitted to worship with the congregation on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM.

For more information or to receive a visitor packet, please contact the church office or connect with Jane Albrecht.



**Chords of Joy**

A CONCERT EVENT TO SHARE THE GIFT OF MUSIC

**MAY 3, 2026**

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1732 S MAIN ST, ABERDEEN

### 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!

## Faith and Family



### ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting

There will be a meeting on Sunday, May 3 at 10:30 AM in Sandra's office for those interested in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer. We'll talk about the current trip itinerary, changes in structure of the event that have been made, estimated cost, and beginning fundraising options. Be sure to attend (even if you're not ready to commit yet)!

### 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!

The logo for Adopt-a-Grad. It features a blue graduation cap icon on the left, followed by the text "Adopt-a-Grad" in a large, green, sans-serif font. Below the text are two horizontal bars, one blue and one green.

### SD Synod Youth Conference

**Mark your calendars and get ready — the SD Synod Youth Conference is coming to Sioux Falls on July 31-August 1!**

This two-day youth gathering will bring together students from across the synod for a meaningful, memorable experience packed with worship, breakout sessions, service opportunities, games, music, and much more!

We're excited to share some preliminary details for this year's gathering!

- ✦ Registration: Open to 2025-2026 school year 6-12 grade youth
- ✦ Cost: \$25 per person
- ✦ Lodging: Stay overnight at welcoming, local churches in Sioux Falls
- ✦ Meals: 3 delicious meals included, along with snacks and water for break times

It's going to be a meaningful time of connection, conversation, and community. Mark your calendars, spread the word, start planning, and get excited! We can't wait to gather together! **If you plan to attend this event, please let Sandra know by Wednesday, May 27.** The event's theme is: Imagine.

# Faith and Family

## First Holy Communion Milestone

On Wednesday, April 1, class and communion bread baking was held for those taking part in the Holy Communion milestone and their families. Participants gathered for supper, learning about bread and the sacrament of Holy Communion, and then made Communion bread for Holy Week services. The celebration of the Rite of Holy Communion for our youth was held during the Maundy Thursday service on April 2. Everett Anderson, Harrison Bretsch, Hunter Hawkinson, and Dylan Kolb received Holy Communion for the first time, surrounded by family and their baptismal sponsors; they then served communion to their siblings in Christ. Congratulations on this faith milestone!



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13  
4-8 PM

### Fundraiser at Taco John's

25% of all sales during this  
time goes to the Nashville  
Mission Trip participants

## Taco John's Fundraiser

Mark your calendar to support the Nashville Mission Trip at 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!

## 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 available in the office and online throughout the month of May. This year's theme is BUILD. VBS is open to youth in grades preK-5 and is open to all kids in the community; if you have a youth in your life you would like to get registered, please visit with MC Sandra.



## Ongoing Ministry Opportunities

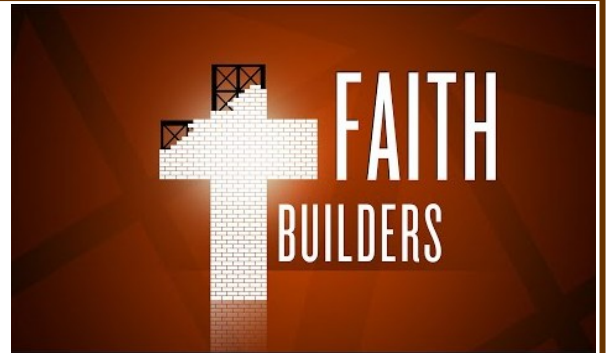
### F A I N S I G H T

#### 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, May 15 from 7:30-8:00 AM**. This event is open to all. This will be the last Drive Up Donuts event until fall.

#### Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, May 27 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, May 18 from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion Lutheran fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for delicious food and fellowship! **\*\*Please note the date change due to the Memorial Day holiday!**

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. Please note: Faith Explorers begins a summer break this month.

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](mailto: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 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:**

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:*

June 14, 21                  August 2, 16, 23, 30

**RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED**

Call the office at 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast  
\$55 for half



*Easter Flowers*

**Easter Flower Thank You**

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

- The Nash family in memory of Lana and in thanksgiving for God's blessings
- Aileen Kolb in memory of her husband, Duane

**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>
Jordan Heyd	Altar Guild	Sonya Kempf
Norman Denning	Trust Fund	Jim & Norma Miller

IN LOVING  
*Memory*

**THANK YOU!**



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

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT**



**MONTH-TO-DATE through March 31, 2026**

Budgeted March Expenses:	\$29,500.00
Actual March Income:	\$26,103.06
Actual March Expenses:	\$24,992.36
Total:	\$1,180.70

**YEAR-TO-DATE through March 31, 2026**

Actual YTD Income:	\$70,441.15
Actual YTD Expenses:	\$74,704.58
Total:	(\$4,263.43)

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM ELCA YG meeting 2:00 PM Chords of Toy	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life mtg	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	<b>7</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 6:30 PM Thursdays Together	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10 Grad Recognition</b> 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith Insights	<b>11</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	<b>12</b> 11:30 AM Book Club	<b>13</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 4:00 PM Taco John's fund. 6:00 PM Table of Plenty mtg 8:00 PM AA meeting	<b>14</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 6:30 PM Thursdays Together	<b>15</b> 7:30 AM Drive Up Donuts	<b>16</b>
						
<b>17</b> 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith Builders 10:30 AM Church Council	<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	<b>19</b> 5:30 PM Worship Life meeting	<b>20 Newsletter Deadline</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	<b>21</b> 1:00 PM Quilters 6:30 PM Thursdays Together	<b>22</b> 7:00 PM Fireside Fellowship @ Pastor's house	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith Insights	<b>25 Building Closed</b> 	<b>26</b> 5:30 PM VBS	<b>27</b> 1:00 PM Cardmakers 5:30 PM VBS 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's Fellowship	<b>28</b> 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM VBS 6:30 PM Thursdays Together	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time						