



JUNE & JULY 2026

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Pastor's Pen

2026.06.01

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 at 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,

Recently during a staff meeting, our devotions by author Max Lucado offered the following thoughts:

“Grace is God walking into your world with a sparkle in his eyes and an offer that’s hard to resist. ‘Sit for a bit. I can do wonders with this mess of yours.’ Believe this promise. Trust it. Cling like a barnacle to every hope and covenant. Imitate Ruth and get busy. Go to your version of the grain field, and get to work. This is no time for inactivity or despair. Off with the mourning clothes. Take some chances; take the initiative. You never know what might happen. You might have a part in bringing Christ to the world.”

How fitting are these words in light of the new budding community we see forming in the book of Acts? Very much like barnacles, they clung to the truth they had experienced while walking with Jesus and in response to the Holy Spirit. They clung with deep hope, and that clinging drove them to be together, hold things in common, share with one another... you get the idea. The natural response to clinging to the Christ is to honor Christ by getting busy.

How fitting are these words for us? Our clinging to the cross as Zion Lutheran Church is manifesting in beautiful actions to serve in love and live as Christ loves.

- The renewal team, based on responses from the congregation, has presented thoughtful options to council, which have been approved. These options address the congregation-identified need to build deeper connections and include: intentionally bringing all members together in a Faith and Fellowship time; addressing the difficulties in hearing and developing conversation in the fellowship hall by replacing square tables with round tables; revising how the narthex is a reflection of the hospitality to all who visit Zion; and creating space in the fellowship hall for all ages to participate. The need for renewal was first started pre-Covid. Now, as the renewal process unfolds, we give thanks for all members that have provided input to the renewal team. We give thanks for the renewal team's energy to process and recommend action for Zion's missional future. We give thanks to those who are excited to see the positive energy and have given designated funds to support purchasing the round tables and other items as they become identified. We give thanks to God and to the guidance of the Holy Spirit for leading us all in the direction we should go. THANK YOU! Each little step will help us grow stronger together to serve together.

(continued on next page)

Coming Up at Zion

- The members of Zion rallied together to ensure the roof replacement/repairs can be completed. From an estate gift by a faithful member who has claimed her baptismal promise, to each of the saints in light who are clinging to the cross now. THANK YOU!
- The work of Table of Plenty is a live action act of love, serving about 2000 meals a year and providing opportunities for relationship development between church and community. This year, to support the Table of Plenty ministry at Zion, there will be an awareness and fundraising campaign on August 1. Come jump into the fun with us!

These are just a few of the many wonders that are unfolding at Zion. Together, as we cling to the cross, we have so much to look forward to. Let us allow this beautiful summer before us to be a place to jump in with both feet, letting the gospel live in our lives.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace.

Your Shepherd,
Pastor Martin



Zion Car Show



Save the date! Zion's second annual Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 1, in the south parking lot. Show time is 11 AM–1 PM, and there is no fee to enter a vehicle. Admission for the public is free, and lunch will be available for purchase. There will also be a 50/50 split pot and a silent auction in the fellowship hall, with all proceeds from the day benefiting the Table of Plenty ministry.

To support this event, the Table of Plenty committee is asking for donations for the silent auction. Donated items will be sorted and assembled into themed baskets for the auction. If you would like to donate items (or an entire basket), please bring all donations to the church office by Sunday, July 12.

More details will be shared in the August newsletter and weekly bulletins as the event approaches. Be sure to mark your calendar and make plans to join us for a day of cars, food, fellowship, and fun for the whole family!

Mission Trip Update

Our mission trip participants will be serving as God's hands and feet in the world in Nashville from May 31–June 6. Please keep the group in your prayers during this time as they serve, grow in faith, and share Christ's love with others!

The team will also be leading worship on Sunday, June 28, and will share more about their experiences during fellowship time that morning. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join them!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS ON INSTAGRAM

Follow us:
@zlcaberdeensd

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

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

Bethesda Learning Academy

Bethesda Learning Academy is a nonprofit childcare center proudly connected to the Bethesda Home of Aberdeen.

Each day, they provide care, education, and nurturing support to approximately 60 children, creating a safe and enriching environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive.

As part of their continued commitment to providing high-quality early childhood experiences, they have launched the fundraising campaign, "Building Big Dreams." Their goal is to expand and enhance our learning environments by investing in a wider variety of engaging and developmentally appropriate materials. These include large soft play stackable sets, outdoor obstacle courses, indoor playground equipment, and nature-based learning items designed specifically for our preschool program.

All noisy and special offering donations for the month of June will be donated to the Building Big Dreams campaign.

Thank you for your support!

 Bethesda

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesdays, June 24th and July 29th 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!**

MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP



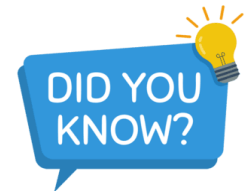
Table of Plenty

The summer Table of Plenty meals will be **Mondays, June 22nd and July 27th from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for delicious food and fellowship!

We are planning for the end of 2026 and beyond; if you are interested in sponsoring a meal or volunteering, please contact the church office.

Did You Know?

We support Bethesda Learning Academy through the donation of Ken's and Kessler's receipts. Simply bring any receipts from these two participating businesses, and BLA receives a percentage back of your total purchase price. Receipts can be placed in the blue shoe box in the Corner of Caring.



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

Esther Ottenbacher
Shirley Wagemann
Frances Wolff

Bethesda Town Sq.

Viola Tetherow
Lorraine Kusler
Elsie Geffre

California

Erna Schmierer

Nano Nagle

Jo Tolvstad

Derian Lodge

LaVon Elsen



Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to the Women's group for spring cleaning and organizing the kitchen!

Chords of Joy

Zion held its third annual Chords of Joy event on Sunday, May 3. Thank you to everyone who attended and allowed us to share the gift of music with you! Special thanks to all of the musicians who performed and to those who baked goodies to be enjoyed during fellowship time.

A heartfelt thank you as well to Zach Anderson for all of his work organizing and planning the event, and to Pastor Nicole for serving as co-host for the afternoon. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this joyful event a success!



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.

In the Know

Last Day of Faith Explorers

The Zion youth rounded out their final day of Faith Explorers on Sunday, April 26, with a fun-filled "Zion Olympics." Youth participated in several events that highlighted what they learned throughout the year, including matching days and activities from the story of Creation, extinguishing Jesus' birthday candles with water guns, and racing to Jesus' tomb while carrying spices. The Olympic games concluded with a dance-off to the Power Shuffle and the awarding of gold medals for sharing the Gospel with others!

During worship, we also recognized the Faith Explorers teachers who helped prepare and lead lessons throughout the year. Jennifer Wagemann was honored as she prepares to retire from Sunday morning teaching after twenty-two years of service. Thank you, Jennifer! Also, thank you to the teachers and helpers who shared their gifts and nurtured the faith of our youth this year!



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.

Updates and Celebrations

Greetings from the renewal team!

Our purpose is to shape mission and stewardship in support of the congregation's future vision and sustainability. The congregation has identified a goal of intentional relationship building. Through participation in SD ELCA Holy Playground, learning opportunities, and conversations with ministry teams and congregation members, the renewal team identified several opportunities. Many ideas were already in beginning stages before the disruption caused by COVID, and now they have a chance to move forward. Thank you to everyone who took time to join the conversation and to those who have given designated funds to support this renewal energy!

Two themes emerged in discussions: the fellowship hall makes conversation difficult and there are limited opportunities for fellowship across ages. The fellowship hall is often noisy, the playroom/nursery draws young children and parents away, and children and youth go directly to programming after worship, leaving little time to connect with adults.

RENEWAL TEAM

In response, the council approved three proposals from the renewal team:

1. Replace rectangular tables in the fellowship hall with round tables to make group conversation easier and support new fellowship activities.
2. Remove one coat rack and pew from the narthex, opening the space for development of a more inclusive and welcoming area for all ages.
3. Launch a monthly Faith and Fellowship Sunday with a shared meal beginning in fall 2026, bringing all ages together for faith formation and fellowship. Be on the lookout for more information as this develops. It promises to be faith forming fellowship fun for all!

As you see changes occur, we encourage you to take a moment, observe these spaces, and ask: Where do you see communities of caring being cultivated? How are we at Zion working to be champions of the gospel? Moments of connection are already emerging as these changes begin and are visible to those who pause to notice the Spirit at work.



Graduate Recognition Sunday

We were honored to celebrate the Class of 2026 on Sunday, May 10. Graduates received a special blessing and a gift from the congregation, including the book *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* and *By Candlelight* devotional. Fellowship time was made even sweeter with cake shared in their honor.

During worship, we also recognized our scholarship recipients, Kailey Jensen and Isaac VanderWeyst. Congrats graduates! May God's grace and blessings guide you in this next chapter of your lives.



Faith and Family

Welcome To NeSoDak



NeSoDak Day Camp

It's not too late! If your 1-3 grade youth (as of the 25-26 school year) is interested in attending the Day Camp that is being held at NeSoDak on Thursday, July 9, please visit with MC Sandra as soon as possible! There is still a couple of spots available for this mini-camp experience. Cost is \$100 and all transportation and food is provided.

ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting

There will be a meeting on Sunday, June 7 at 10:30 AM in MC 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)!



Caffeine, Cards, and Conversation



Join MC Sandra for a time of fellowship, games, and delicious drinks! Starting June 10 and throughout the summer, we'll gather every Wednesday from 1-2 PM at Caribou Coffee (6th Ave location). Your first drink is on us! We will not meet on 6/17 & 7/1.

Come enjoy card games, faith-filled conversation, and meaningful time together in a relaxed setting. Whether you stay for the whole hour or just stop by, we'd love to see you there! Come when you can, and bring a friend! This is an event for MS & HS youth.

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! **It's not too late to attend! If you're interested in going, please contact Sandra ASAP!** The event's theme is: Imagine.



JULY 31-AUGUST 1

SOUTH DAKOTA SYNOD YOUTH CONFERENCE

Worship Schedule

S U M M E R 2 0 2 6

9:00 AM Worship service with Holy Communion
(livestreamed and live radio broadcast)

10:15 AM Fellowship time

Worship Schedule

We currently 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 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**

For Your Information

Pastor Nicole and Sandra will be out of office from May 31—June 6 for the mission trip. Pastor Nicole will be out of office June 18-24; Sandra will be out of office June 17-22. If you are in need of pastoral care or ministry assistance during these times, please contact the church office.



SHAWN KEMPF MEDICAL FUNDRAISER

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BENEFIT TO HELP DEFRAY MEDICAL EXPENSES.

In February, Shawn was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. He and his family are overwhelmed with this news. He has begun treatment and is facing this journey head-on.



 FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE
Shawn Kempf Medical Benefit

13 JUNE, 2026

5:00 PM

Yelduz Shrine | 802 S Main St · Aberdeen, SD

PADDLE
WHEEL

SILENT & LIVE
AUCTION

SPAGHETTI
SUPPER

We will be serving a spaghetti supper with a free will donation. The evening will also include a live auction, silent auction, paddle wheel, and additional fun activities. Come support and spend time with the community!

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

We have several openings in the months ahead! If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday.

Upcoming dates:

August 23 September 6, 13, 20, 27

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at 225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
 \$55 for half



ZION MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts are a meaningful way to honor friends and loved ones who have passed. If you would like to make a donation to one of our ministries in their memory, please contact the church office.

In Memory of:

For:

From:

Norman Denning Sunday School Loren & April Nehlich

IN LOVING
Memory

Thank you for your ongoing gifts in memory of loved ones.

THANK YOU!



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT


MONTH-TO-DATE through April 30, 2026

Budgeted April Expenses:	\$29,500.00
Actual April Income:	\$22,618.57
Actual April Expenses:	\$29,814.18
Total:	(\$7,195.61)


YEAR-TO-DATE through April 30, 2026

Actual YTD Income:	\$93,059.72
Actual YTD Expenses:	\$105,147.13
Total:	(\$12,087.41)

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life mtg	2	3 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	4 1:00 PM Quilters	5	6
7 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM ELCA Youth Gathering meeting	8 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	9 11:30 AM Book Club	10 1:00 PM Caffeine, Cards, & Conversation 8:00 PM AA meeting	11 1:00 PM Quilters 3:00 PM ZLCTW meeting	12	13
14 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Altar Guild meeting	15 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	16 5:30 PM Worship Life meeting	17 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	18 1:00 PM Quilters	19	20
21 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 	22 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	23	24 1:00 PM Caffeine, Cards, & Conversation 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's Fellowship	25 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters	26	27
28 5:30 AM Faith through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	29 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	30				

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	2 1:00 PM Quilters	3	4 
5 5:30 AM Earth through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	6 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life mtg	7	8 1:00 PM Caffeine, Cards, & Conversation 8:00 PM AA meeting	9 Day Camp @ NeSoDak 1:00 PM Quilters	10	11
12 5:30 AM Earth through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Education meeting	13 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	14 8:30 AM Lifetime Screening 11:30 AM Book Club	15 1:00 PM Caffeine, Cards, & Conversation 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	16 1:00 PM Quilters	17	18
19 5:30 AM Earth through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	20 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 6:00 PM Church Council	21 5:30 PM Worship Life meeting	22 1:00 PM Caffeine, Cards, & Conversation 8:00 PM AA meeting	23 1:00 PM Quilters	24	25
26 5:30 AM Earth through Fitness 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	27 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	28	29 1:00 PM Caffeine, Cards, & Conversation 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's Fellowship	30 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters	31 Synod Youth Conf.	