



AUGUST 2026

# ZION'S JOURNEY

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026.08.01

*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 al 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,

Have you ever wondered just exactly what the pastor does? It is a wonderful call/career if I say so myself, and while I have held this title for almost 10 years now, what I can promise you, is that it never gets boring. Beyond writing sermons, leading worship, confirmation, weddings, funerals, baptisms... the things everyone expects from a pastor, there are so many other tasks that a pastor claims, like Chief Executive Officer. Surprise! Yes, I said that! and I hope it caught your attention.

While the council acts as the Board of Directors, the pastor is the one who has responsibility for the day-to-day execution of the missional direction agreed upon by the congregation and the BoD. Which means, the pastor is at most meetings, guiding teams to live into the agreed upon mission of the church. And when the teams are struggling, the pastor helps them re-evaluate and re-invigorate their processes so they can live the mission with joy and success, as well as doing all kinds of paperwork to support that missional success: like writing newsletters, keeping personnel files, being involved in organization of council meetings, keeping parochial records accurate, talking finances... This list could go on and on, especially at a church the size of Zion. An administrative pastor is important in this environment, and then we add things like visitation and advocacy support.

And here is the most amazing part: while the pastor is the shepherd of all of this, (pastor means shepherd) THIS pastor has the most amazing team to help see to all of this—and this team I call Zion Lutheran Church. Each of you, everyone, has a beautiful gift that you have been contributing to the life of Zion, long before this pastor even showed up. I see you and say “THANK YOU!”

You are doing the work of the Koinonia, and that is right and good. I may be the shepherd, but what good is a shepherd without sheep? They are just a person sitting in a field looking at the sky wondering, “What do I do now?” THANK YOU for being AMAZING sheep, being on team Zion, and rolling up your sleeves in any way you can to let the gospel live.

Why do write all of this to you? If we investigate the text at the top of the page, it reminds us that the work of the church, even in the year 80 AD, made room for all people to get involved, to be part of the team, to work together for the common good, one mission, with many people all pulling the same direction. And even if you do have sub tasks on your plate, it is refreshing knowing that you have a team committed to a shared purpose. With a team, what can stop amazing from being?

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Listen to the words again, “*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.*” Being Koinonia, sacred relationship, is an invitation to live koinonia. All hands-on deck. All contributing as they are able. All receiving as they have need. This is not a one man, two men, small group, show. There is no I/my in church. It is our mission and we do it together. This is TEAM ZION. THANK YOU!

So, as we enter the month of August, say good-bye to summer vacations, and hello to school routines and work demands, remember, you have a home where you are welcome, where you belong, and where your participation matters. Remember, there is a lot of beautiful work being done at Zion, and you are part of a team that only gets better when the members of the team get out onto the field, raise their hand and say, “Put me in coach!”; for as cliché as it sounds, “There is no ch-rch without u.”

What’s on the horizon for you to get involved with?

- Car Show: Aug. 1—fundraiser for Table of Plenty
- Celebration of Aug. Birthdays: Aug. 2 during worship and fellowship
- Visitation Meeting: Aug. 11 @ 5:30 PM. Come see how to support the home bound members of Zion.
- Superheroes of Faith Sunday with backpack blessing: Aug. 23 with opportunities to learn about the new hearing support system, register for Sunday School, sign up for group texting, and more.
- Psalms and Songs Worship: Aug. 30; Come prepared to sing your heart out as we also will welcome young children to worship.
- August special offering: Table of Plenty
- Be a Sunday school teacher starting in September.
- Raise your hand and say yes to a council position.
- Become an usher

Most of all, just be bold. Show up! Participate in fellowship or a ministry team and get to know the beautiful people around you each week. Zion is an amazing place with amazing people. Let us celebrate that!

Your Shepherd,  
Pastor Martin

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.



### 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.

### 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 Saundra for ideas on how your Action Team can help support our ministries at Zion and beyond.

**thrivent®**

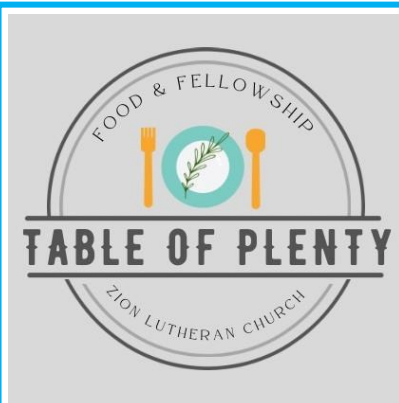
### Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, August 26 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, August 24 from 5:30-7:00 PM** in the Zion Lutheran fellowship hall. Make plans to join us for delicious food and fellowship!



We have the remaining meals of 2026 sponsored! While the meals are fully funded, we are still looking for volunteers to help serve at several of the remaining meals this year. If you're available to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact the church office to learn more or sign up to help.

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

#### Table of Plenty

Table of Plenty is a free monthly community meal that serves neighbors from across the Aberdeen area in a spirit of hospitality, compassion, and fellowship. It is prepared and served by various individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations within and around the Aberdeen community.

At Zion, we believe that Table of Plenty reflects our core value of strengthening connections between neighbors, embodying Philippians 4:11-13 and the call to live as servants to one another--*Feeding People, Nourishing Souls.*

To make an impact to this ministry, we invite you to consider sponsoring a meal, making a donation, or volunteering to serve the monthly meal on the fourth Monday.

For more information, please visit: [zionlutheranaberdeen.org/table-of-plenty/](http://zionlutheranaberdeen.org/table-of-plenty/)

**Thank you for your generosity!**

### 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**  
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 Lavone Merkel, Mary Kost, Jane Albrecht, and Monica Tietz for volunteering in the office over the summer. Your willingness to help keep things running smoothly has been a tremendous blessing!

### Welcome to Worship

A faith milestone will be held on Sunday, August 30 for two-year-olds and their parents to welcome them to the worship space. Be on the lookout for more information that will be sent to families ahead of the event!



### Noisy Offering

We will collect noisy offering during the worship service during the kids' 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

### Planting of Geraniums

Thank you to Pam Seyer, Judy Albl, and Sharlene Wanttie, members of Zion's Altar Guild Committee, for planting beautiful geraniums around the church grounds following our Pentecost celebration in May. Thank you for sharing your gifts in this meaningful way!



### Fall Kickoff Sunday

Mark your calendars for Fall Kickoff Sunday on Sunday, September 13 as we celebrate the beginning of a new year of faith formation at Zion! During worship, we will welcome our three-year-olds as they begin their Faith Explorers journey and offer a special blessing for our middle school confirmands as they embark on another year of growing in faith.



Following worship, our Elementary Faith Explorers will gather for their first day of classes, beginning at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary. Adults will have the opportunity to join Pastor Nicole for a "Heroes of the Bible" education class in Classrooms A&B, also beginning at 10:30 AM. Save the date—we look forward to kicking off the new ministry year together!

### 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

### Super Hero Sunday

Join us on Sunday, August 23 for Super Hero Sunday! This special worship service, voted on by the youth during our annual meeting, will focus on the superhero qualities found in stories throughout the Bible. As we explore the lives of faithful men and women in Scripture, we'll discover how God equips ordinary people with extraordinary courage, compassion, faith, and strength to serve others and how we live as super heroes of faith today.



During worship, we will also celebrate our annual Backpack Blessing. Students, teachers, school staff, and anyone beginning a new school year are invited to bring their backpacks, bags, or briefcases to receive a blessing and new backpack tag as we pray for a safe, successful, and faith-filled year.

During fellowship, please take a few moments to review and update your contact information and sign up for texting during our Member Information Update. Then, at 10:30 AM, we welcome our Elementary Faith Explorer families up to the Education wing, where families can get registered, meet teachers, visit classrooms, and learn more about the upcoming year of children's ministry. We hope you'll join us as we prepare for another exciting year of learning, growing, and serving together!



### ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, August 9 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)!

### Vocational Blessing

A blessing of cups will be held on Sunday, September 6 during worship. To remember Labor Day and the labor of your hands, we invite you to bring a favorite cup. It could be a coffee cup, a yeti mug, a thermos—any drink container of your choice to represent you and how you identify yourself as a child of God. We will bless these cups and you for the goodness of your discipleship, being God's love in the world.



### Caffeine, Cards, and Conversation

Join MC Sandra for a time of fellowship, games, and delicious drinks! This month, we'll meet on Wednesdays, August 5 & 12 from 1-2 PM at Caribou Coffee (6th Ave location). Your medium drink is on us!

Come enjoy card games, faith-filled conversation, and meaningful time together. 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.

### Hearing Support App

At the annual meeting in January, the congregation voted to install a Bluetooth system that would allow those in the sanctuary to transmit the live sound into their phone, which could then be connected to hearing aids or other assistive devices (such as headphones). The wait is over—the system is ready to use! We will be offering lessons on **Sunday, August 23** after worship in the sanctuary on using this new app. Please bring your smartphone and a willingness to learn!



# Over the Summer

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## Arts & Crafts

### NeSoDak Day Camp

On Thursday, July 9, two of our Zion youth attended their first Day Camp at NeSoDak! They spent the day worshipping, exploring God's Word through Bible study, creating arts and crafts, playing games, enjoying delicious food, and cooling off with some swimming. It was a fun-filled day of faith, friendship, and adventure. We had a wonderful time and can't wait to take a group again next year!

### Nashville Mission Trip

In June, ten Zion members traveled to Nashville for a week-long mission trip. They worked alongside three different ministry partners to accompany and support the unhoused, sort and package used shoes to promote commerce in underdeveloped countries, and build positive and impactful relationships for summer camp youth who come from low-income backgrounds, just to name a few of the experiences. In their free time, they saw the Grand Ole Opry, went to Madam Tussaud's, and caught a Twins game.

Thank you to all who donated towards the trip and prayed for the participants. It was an incredible experience for all to be God's hands and feet in Nashville!



### Build VBS

We had a great time BUILDing our faith at this year's VBS at the end of May! During our Lego-themed time together, children learned that God is our firm foundation and that, together, we are called to build lives rooted in faith, love, and service. Throughout the sessions, kids gathered for skits, Bible stories, games, small group discussion, crafts, and music that helped bring God's message to life.

A special thank you goes to the many volunteers who gave their time, energy, creativity, and hearts to make VBS possible. Your dedication helped make a memorable week for the children and families!



# 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.

### Renewal Team Update

In faith, and by direction of the congregation and council, the renewal team has been hard at work discerning where God is leading Zion. Through prayer, conversation, education, and thoughtful planning, the team has been exploring opportunities to strengthen relationships, building community among all members and our Aberdeen area neighbors. We recognize that this type of missional development happens by degrees of change, and as such, we value the process of discernment, allowing others to reflect on "wonderments" with us before we submit recommendations to council.

It is this process that encouraged the change to round tables and the Kingdom Corner for kids in the fellowship hall in June; the Wonder Station in the narthex; and the introduction of high-top tables. In August, you will see the development of a "Community Life" wall in the fellowship hall—where all things Zion will be posted for better access to information. What you might not explicitly see are the small changes that encourage time together as people of faith in new ways. For example, starting this fall, if you like to sing camp songs or have a heart for Sunday School music, you can join the kids in the sanctuary starting at 10:30 AM and sing your heart out. Also, the Faith Formation team is reintroducing "Guardian Angels", but now it's not just for kids. We are deeply thankful for the generous funds given by those excited to see the positive changes unfolding, and we are appreciative of the opportunity to apply for grants through a synod initiative.

There is so much beauty happening at Zion. The team covets your prayers as they hold you and the mission of God at Zion always before them.



# RENEWAL TEAM

### 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**

We have several openings for the remainder of this year! If you would like to sponsor a broadcast, please call the church office to pick your Sunday. Thank you for your faithful support of this vital ministry!

#### *Upcoming dates:*

September 13, 20, 27 October 4, 11 All of November

#### **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  
Ella & Eugene Aipperspach Undesignated

Claudia Aipperspach Sena

Esther Ottenbacher Altar Guild Ray & Marcie Andersh

Esther Ottenbacher Portals of Prayer Joel & Jane Albrecht

Esther Ottenbacher Steeple Anonymous

Esther Ottenbacher Steeple Gwen Cowherd

Esther Ottenbacher Steeple Arnold & JoAnne Mehlhoff

Esther Ottenbacher Steeple Lavina Nelson

Esther Ottenbacher Steeple Janice Voegele

Esther Ottenbacher Sunday School Loren & April Nehlich

IN LOVING  
*Memory*



## STEWARDSHIP

*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

### **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT**

#### **MONTH-TO-DATE through May 31, 2026**

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Budgeted May Expenses: | \$29,500.00 |
| Actual May Income:     | \$38,945.34 |
| Actual May Expenses:   | \$30,084.25 |
| Total:                 | \$8,861.09  |

#### **YEAR-TO-DATE through May 31, 2026**

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Actual YTD Income:   | \$132,005.06 |
| Actual YTD Expenses: | \$135,231.38 |
| Total:               | (\$3,226.32) |

#### **MONTH-TO-DATE through June 30, 2026**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Budgeted June Expenses: | \$29,500.00  |
| Actual June Income:     | \$21,276.45  |
| Actual June Expenses:   | \$28,552.28  |
| Total:                  | (\$7,275.83) |

#### **YEAR-TO-DATE through June 30, 2026**

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Actual YTD Income:   | \$153,281.51  |
| Actual YTD Expenses: | \$163,783.66  |
| Total:               | (\$10,502.15) |