



SEPTEMBER 2026

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026.09.01

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,

In every season, day, hour, minute, we stand before the Lord. The beginning of a new month is not to say the old months are simply eradicated. They old lingers forward with us in our memories, as we, by the turning of a clock's hands, move into the future. What was, now "is". What is coming, "has yet to be."

For each new season, month, day, or hour, we can hold fast to what has been, knowing it cannot come again; no two moments are alike. Or, we can look for "what has yet to be," with eyes ready for what comes next. As the saying goes, no person can stand in the same river twice. Do we stand in rivers of faith and look downstream to what has been? Or do we turn our head up the river to see what is coming our way?

These questions are life-giving when we are busy with beginning of school. Are we looking back at the past, or are our heads pointed toward what is possible with the cooler breezes and holidays before us? As Ecclesiastes chapter three reminds us, there is a season for everything under the sun. What seasons and gifts lay ahead that we can be excited for which we cannot see?

This ability to look for what is possible with God upstream in our river of faith, while it often seems difficult, I believe our ancestors of faith teach us why it is valuable. When the Holy Spirit came, their energy was not on how it used to be, watching downstream. They focused on the task of the day, and what was to be, the increasing of the church, happened. Listen to the words: "*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.*"

The goal was not adding people. The goal was being together in fellowship, living with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having good will. Focused on that, the future happened to them as people were added to their community. All they had to do was look upstream to God in faith: live in faith, love in faith, be generous in faith, as a community with glad and generous hearts.

This passage teaches us, the church, what our goal is, also—not to focus on the past or measure butts in the pew to relive our glory days. This passage teaches us, in this season of life, we simply must look upstream to God in faith: live in faith, love in faith, be generous in faith, as a community with glad and generous hearts; or in other words, "Cultivate communities of caring and belonging as champions of the gospel."

With this in mind, Zion's council (Kirsten Nash, Stacy Geffre, Vicki Carlson, Becky Stanek, Bob Seyer, Braden Refsland, Andrea Morehouse, and Carmel Heyd), along with the Renewal Team, have been thoughtfully and creatively seeking opportunities that help all of us at Zion live our mission well. You have seen some of the shifts they have approved, such as the Community Life wall. All information about church life, from the newsletter to radio information is now located in the fellowship hall, as a way to more effectively communicate to members of Zion.

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Starting September 13th on Fall Kickoff Sunday, Christian Education experience will begin at 10:30 A.M. in the sanctuary with music. Adults are welcome to come sing with the youth before breaking into the learning session. The goal of this action is twofold: one, to give all people (adults, families, youth, children) an opportunity to fellowship together each week; and two, to create an opportunity for all generations of the church to learn a set of songs we all know well, allowing us to sing more vibrantly as one communion of people during worship. How do we worship robustly if we stay segregated in even our music preferences?

On September 20th, we will begin a Faith and Fellowship experience on the third Sunday of each month. All people of the church will be gathered together for breakfast and time to interact around a faith activity. We trust that the elders of the congregation will live the commitment/promise made at baptism and engage the youth to help them learn. We trust that the youth will participate, understanding that they, too, have gifts to give, for the well-being of all. We trust that parents, couples with no kids, and single persons will bring themselves to be part of the community. *This event is for everyone.* If it is your norm to leave right after worship, I am challenging you to stay. How can we be church with you if we are missing time with you?

On September 27th, there will be a congregational meeting. Think of it as a “State of the Church” address instead of waiting until January to do all the business of the congregation. Items to be addressed:

- Financial well-being
 - Celebrating our current financial standing
 - Preparing for the future budget of 2027 and beyond
- Constitutional updates: By vote in January, council was tasked with finding a better way to vote in a president and vice president. The council believes it is right that the congregation discuss options for this change. The congregation will also be presented with recommended changes to language for organizational clarity.
- Stewardship of facility: In the historical past, a yearly deep clean of the facility and landscaping have always been done by a subset of dedicated disciples who found great joy to dusting, scrubbing, or pulling weeds. However, those small groups no longer exist and so cleaning and caring for the landscaping have declined. Council wishes to discuss this matter with the congregation, giving members the opportunity to develop a plan to care for the facility.

Please come ready for a thoughtful discussion on caring for Zion into the future. Your voice and presence matter.

Also beginning in September, on the Sunday before each Table of Plenty meal, we will set the tables at the close of fellowship time to help prepare for the next day. Many of our Table of Plenty volunteers have jobs and use personal leave to come support this ministry. We are thankful for their sacrifice and recognize that setting tables the Sunday before will go a long way to support the ministry and energy capacity of our volunteers.

Being church together is a spiritual gift that tends our soul but is also a commitment to caring for the community of faith. As scripture tells us, *“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.”*

Together, let us look upstream to what is possible with God, so the work of the church (cultivating communities of caring and belonging and sharing the gospel) may be done.

Grace and peace to you this day and many days to come.

Your shepherd,
Pastor Martin



Thrivent Action Team Grants

Are you a Thrivent member? You can organize a Thrivent Action Team to help Zion! Action Teams are small groups (including at least one Thrivent member) organized for service projects or fundraisers. Thrivent provides a \$250 debit card as seed money for supplies and other project needs. Learn more at thrivent.com or contact MC Saundra for ideas on how your Action Team can help support our ministries at Zion and beyond.

thrivent®

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

Midwest Street Medicine Aberdeen

Unlock **H.O.P.E.** for the Unhoused—**Health. Outreach. Prevention. Equity.**

Every day, countless individuals experiencing homelessness go without the medical care they desperately need. At Midwest Street Medicine, we believe that hope is the key to change—one act of kindness, one connection, one life at a time.

When you donate, you're not just giving money—you're unlocking access to vital healthcare, compassion, and dignity for those who need it most.

- Provides essential medical care to those without access
- Supplies first-aid kits, medicine, and hygiene essentials
- Supports mobile medical units and street outreach teams
- Restores dignity and builds trust with individuals in need



MIDWEST STREET MEDICINE

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, September 30 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!

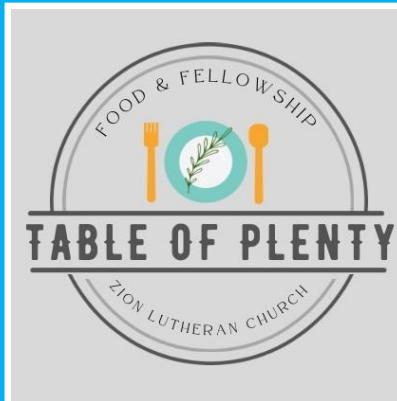


Table of Plenty

The September Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, September 28 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 upcoming 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.

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.



Drive Up Donuts

Drive Up Donuts is back! 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 first Drive Up Donuts event of the year will be held on **Friday, September 25 from 7:30-8:00 AM**.



Grateful for You

- ☺ Thank you to all who helped set up the facility for the August Table of Plenty meal!
- ☺ Thank you to Allen Nash for all of your time updating and maintaining our technology and for your work on our Bluetooth hearing system!
- ☺ Thank you to Lenny Tietz and Art for hanging the bulletin boards in the fellowship hall!
- ☺ Thank you to all who have been helping with funerals, from sound operators and ushers to kitchen volunteers and food donations!



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.

Updates



For Your Information

- The Youth Team is planning the fall rummage sale for **Saturday, November 14**. Keep us in mind as a place to donate your items as you organize before winter!
- Pastor Nicole will be out of office September 14-15 and 28-30 for continuing education. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office.
- Plans are in the works for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25 following a Reformation Day potluck at 11:00 AM. Stay tuned to future bulletins and the October newsletter for all the details!

Floor Waxing

Please note that the Fellowship Hall and kitchen will be closed following fellowship on Sunday, September 6 through Saturday, September 12 while the floors are being waxed. During this time, the spaces will be unavailable for meetings, events, and other activities. Thank you for your understanding as we work to keep our church spaces looking their best!



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

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.



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. All are welcome to join us for music and a time of fellowship together! Save the date—we look forward to kicking off a new year of Faith Explorers together!



God's Work Our Hands Sunday

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 20! Missional Life will be collecting donations and inviting you to lend a hand as we pack snack packs, breakfast packs, and create affirmation cards to support Midwest Street Medicine and Zion's freezer meal and bag meal ministries.

Watch for donation cards in the Fellowship Hall beginning in September with a list of items needed. Please consider donating items and plan to join in our first Faith and Fellowship event as we put our faith into action and serve our neighbors!



God's work. Our hands.

Faith and Fellowship Sundays

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 and build community among all members and our Aberdeen area neighbors. One of the opportunities available to build relationships and strengthen our Zion community is through Faith and Fellowship Sundays, which will be held on the third Sundays of each month following worship. All people of the church are invited to gather together for breakfast and time to interact around a faith activity in the fellowship hall. The first Faith and Fellowship Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 20 and will be supporting God's Work. Our Hands. (see details above).



Faith and Family



Fall Kickoff Sunday & 3 Year Old Faith Milestone

We are excited to welcome our youth back for another year of Faith Explorers on Sunday, September 13! Our three-year-olds will be officially welcomed to Faith Explorers and recognized during worship.

Following worship at 10:30 AM, we'll gather in the sanctuary for music together before heading to our classrooms for activities centered around the story of Noah's Ark. Middle and high school youth are invited to meet with MC Sandra in the youth room for a time of faith, fellowship, and connection. Mark your calendars—we can't wait to kick off another great year together!

Middle and High School Faith Explorers

On Sunday mornings when there is no Faith and Fellowship, join MC Sandra and our adult volunteers in the youth room after worship for snacks, conversation, and discussion about the week's lesson. Then stick around for some friendly competition with Mario Kart, foosball, Throw Throw Burritos, and more! This time is not required for confirmation—just come and join us on the weeks you're able! We'd love to see you there!



Confirmation Corner

There will be a meeting for current 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students on **Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 PM** to discuss the upcoming confirmation year. The meeting will be held in the youth room—supper will be served! If you cannot attend, please visit with Sandra. Midweek classes will begin on **Wednesday, September 16**.

The middle school youth will also given a blessing during worship on the 13th.

ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, September 20 at 11:00 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 fall fundraising options. Be sure to attend (even if you're not ready to commit yet)! Registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering will open in November for students currently in 8th grade through seniors in high school.



Progressive Supper

Progressive Suppers are back! We'll travel to different homes throughout the evening, enjoying a different part of the meal at each stop. It's a fun way to eat some great food, hang out with friends, and get to know each other along the way!

Beginning in October, we'll gather at Zion at 4:45 PM on the first Sunday of each month for a prayer and to load up the church van to head to our first host. After appetizers and dinner at two different locations, we'll return to Zion for dessert and fellowship together. These events are open to middle and high school youth—bring a friend!



Over the Summer

Last month, we highlighted some of the youth events that took place over the summer, including VBS, the Nashville Mission Trip, and camp at NeSoDak. This month, we're turning our attention to some of the projects that have recently been completed in and around our facility:

Flat Roof Project

Our flat roof is fixed! The contractor worked on the roof over the span of several weeks and completed the project at the beginning of July.

Steeple Repair Project

Earlier this spring, the large metal cross atop our steeple blew over during some very strong winds. A special congregational meeting was held in May to approve the cost of repairing the steeple, and we're happy to say the work is now complete! The contractor came last week to complete the project, and with his recommendation, a newer, lighter cross was installed due to the age of the wood supporting the steeple. The Properties Team is in discernment about ways to use the older cross.



Round Tables

As part of the renewal process, the brown, rectangular tables in the fellowship hall were replaced with white, round tables to allow for a more welcoming space and easier conversation.



Kingdom Corner

Also as part of our renewal process, a special space was created in the Fellowship Hall for children to play and explore. The Kingdom Corner gives parents a place where they can keep an eye on their children without having to step away from a meeting, fellowship time, or whatever else is happening that day. This space is filled with soft toys and faith-based activities designed to help children grow in faith while getting their wiggles out!



Wonder Station

A wonder station has been created in the narthex and is stocked with manipulatives, interactive learning tools, coloring pages, books, and much more! This space replaces the worship toolboxes that were previously located at the back of the sanctuary. The wonder station is available to people of all ages, with activities and resources for everyone, whether you're looking for something to help you engage during worship, explore a new idea, or simply keep your hands busy.



Community Life Wall

Earlier in August, some of our bulletin boards from the narthex and fellowship hall areas were rearranged to create a community life wall. This space is designed to be a central place for all things Zion, including radio broadcast sponsorship lists, the newsletter, upcoming events, and leadership information. You'll also find several interactive spaces where you can connect with your faith community. The Wonder area is a place to share questions for Zion teams to ponder, while the Praise & Prayer area invites you to share life celebrations and prayer requests for our faith community to lift up. In the Celebrate area, you can post schedules, invites, and upcoming events where your Zion family can surround you with support and encouragement.



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
10:30 AM	Education time (Faith Explorers, MS & HS Faith Explorers, Faith and Fellowship)

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. and educational opportunities beginning at 10:30 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.

Congregational Meeting



A congregational meeting will be held on September 27 following worship in the fellowship hall. Think of it as a “State of the Church” conversation—a chance to address important matters together now rather than waiting until January to conduct all of the congregation’s business. Topics will include finances, constitutional updates, and stewardship of our facility. For more information about these topics, please see Pastor Martin’s letter at the beginning of the newsletter. Please come ready for thoughtful conversation about caring for Zion and its ministry into the future. Your voice, your ideas, and your presence matter!

Make & Take Craft Fundraiser

The Youth Team and our ELCA Youth Gathering participants are hosting a Make & Take craft fundraiser on Monday, October 12, beginning at 6:00 PM! Come enjoy a fun evening of crafting and fellowship while making a Christmas project to take home—and help support our youth as they prepare to head to Minneapolis next summer. More details will be shared as the date approaches, so mark your calendar and keep your eyes peeled for more information!



Hearing Support App



We launched our ListenWifi system at the end of last month! This Bluetooth adaptive hearing app lets you connect your hearing aids, headphones, or other listening devices straight to the soundboard during worship, making it easier to hear without much background noise! If you are in need of help setting this up on your smartphone, please stop and visit with an usher or sound board operator the next time you’re in church. We also have hearing packs with headphones available each week for anyone who would like to use them.

Zion Lutheran Church

1732 South Main Street
Aberdeen, SD 57401

(605) 225-6755 zlcaberdeen@gmail.com
zionlutheranaberdeen.org

Staff

Reverend Nicole Martin..... Pastor
Saundra Anderson.....Ministry Coordinator
Sonya Kempf.....Director of Music
Sue Gates.....Accompanist & Music Support
Stephanie HawkinsonPraise Band Director
Art Ketterling.....Maintenance Coordinator
Deb Larson.....Bookkeeper

ZION'S KEY MISSION

Cultivating communities of caring and belonging as champions of the gospel

ZION'S MOTIVATING MISSION

+ We seek to honor relationships with God, others, and self through expressions of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

+ We see to cultivate these relationships by being rooted in faith, growing in spirit, reaching out to those in need; by being faithful stewards of creation, property and finances; and by valuing and empowering all individuals to be an active participant in our congregation and community.

Executive Committee:

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

Council Representatives:

Becky Stanek.....Faith Formation
Bob Seyer.....Finance & Stewardship
Andrea Morehouse.....Missional Life
VACANT.....Properties
VACANT.....Worship Life
Carmel Heyd.....Member-at-large
Braden Refsland.....Member-at-large

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

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 November 1, 15, 22, 29

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half



Thank You!

Not enough thanks can be given to everyone who supported the Table of Plenty ministry at our Second Annual Car Show! From the volunteers and car owners to the participants and organizers, the love and support for Table of Plenty was on full display throughout the day.

Thanks to your generosity and support, the Car Show raised over \$3,900 to support the ministry and its ongoing efforts to *Feed People and Nourish Souls* in our community. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

THANK YOU!!

Thank You!

The Morehouse family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended Gary's 80th birthday open house, sent birthday wishes, or made a donation to Midwest Honor Flight in his honor. Thanks to your generosity, we received enough donations to sponsor one veteran's Honor Flight experience.

THANK YOU!!



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

MONTH-TO-DATE through July 31, 2026

Budgeted July Expenses:	\$29,500.00
Actual July Income:	\$19,877.75
Actual July Expenses:	\$25,463.48
Total:	(\$5,585.73)

YEAR-TO-DATE through July 31, 2026

Actual YTD Income:	\$173,466.38
Actual YTD Expenses:	\$189,247.14
Total:	(\$15,780.76)

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting	3 8:00 AM Dial Screening 1:00 PM Quilters	4	5
6 Cup of Blessings 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	7 Office Closed	8 11:30 AM Book Club	9 6:30 PM 6-7-8-9 confirmation mtg 8:00 PM AA meeting	10 1:00 PM Quilters	11	12
Fellowship Hall & Kitchen Waxing						
13 Fall Kickoff Sun. 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith Explorers 11:00 AM Altar Guild mtg 11:15 AM Education meeting	14 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life mtg	15	16 1:00 PM Cardmakers 6:30 PM MS confirmation 8:00 PM AA meeting	17 1:00 PM Quilters	18	19
20 GWOH Sunday 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith & Fellowship 11:00 AM ELCA Youth Gathering mtg 11:15 AM Church Council	21 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	22	23 6:30 PM MS confirmation 8:00 PM AA meeting	24 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters	25 7:30 AM Drive Up Donuts 2:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal	26 2:00 PM Wedding
27 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith Explorers 10:30 AM Special congregation meeting	28 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	29	30 1:00 PM Cardmakers 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's Fellowship			