

OCTOBER 2026

ZION'S JOURNEY

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026.10.01

¹⁰When the LORD your God has brought you into the land that he swore to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—a land with fine, large cities that you did not build, ¹¹houses filled with all sorts of goods that you did not fill, hewn cisterns that you did not hew, vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant—and when you have eaten your fill, ¹²take care that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³The LORD your God you shall fear, him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear. ¹⁴Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, ¹⁵because the LORD your God, who is present with you, is a jealous God. (Deuteronomy 6:10-15)

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

October is the season of turning leaves and crisper weather. Outside decorations fill the yard—pumpkins, goblins, corn stalks, and costumes. Soon this will turn to turkeys to be followed by silver bells and colored lights. October harvest sets in motion a season of gratitude for the creation of all God provides. We give thanks for the land that produces; the stalks that give; the table full of abundance; the gift of life in bread from the field; and wine from the grace, the gift of life from God becoming one of us.

Harvest is a moment to see all God does and know that God is God, not of just people but of all creation, being itself, life itself, gifts of love itself.

How amazing that we, the very essence of God, God's image to care for creation, are given this opportunity to celebrate all God gives. How amazing that we are empowered to share all God gives. We give of our time and talents, and our monies, yes; but we are also called to give of our spirit, in prayer, hope, love, and joy, offering these same God-given gifts to others as we have been given them.

The harvest, while we reap what is of God, we share what is of God out into a glorious world with our neighbors. What a life-giving season for us to be in together as a church, standing in the harvest of what God provides for us, to share in that harvest with others. Thanks be to God for it all.

And here at Zion, this harvest provides us unique opportunities for us to consider the same: what does it mean for our own organization to share what God has gifted to us? How do we share in the harvest, not filling our own grain bins, but sharing so others too can know the bread of life?

Yes, harvest is upon us. Let us rejoice and be glad for it.

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

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.

Grateful for You

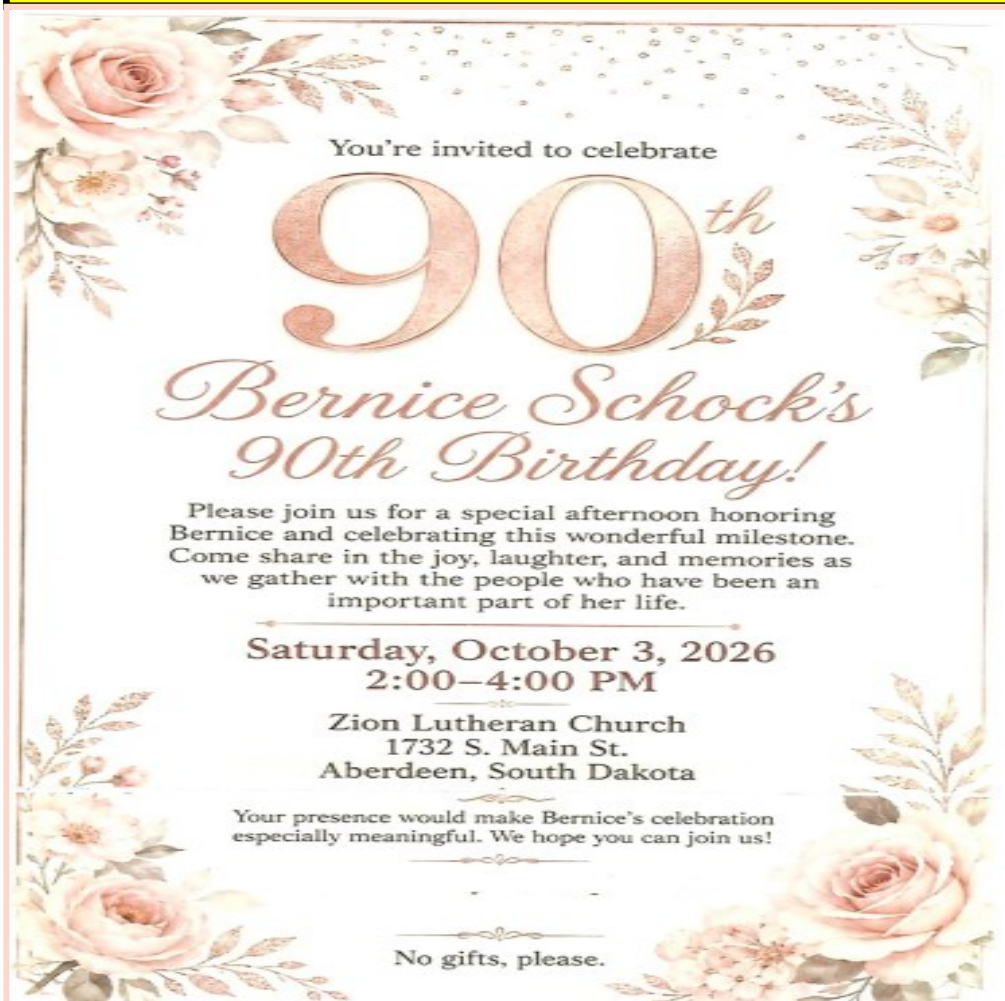
☺ Thank you to the Zion Lutheran Church Women's group for writing in and mailing fall cards to our homebound members. They were so appreciative of your act of kindness!

For Your Information

- Pastor Nicole will be out of the office from October 9-15. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please call the church office.
- The office will be closed on Monday, October 12 in observance of the Native American Day holiday.



You Are Invited!



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 for you to use to donate noisy (or quiet) offering on the other Sundays of the month.

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!



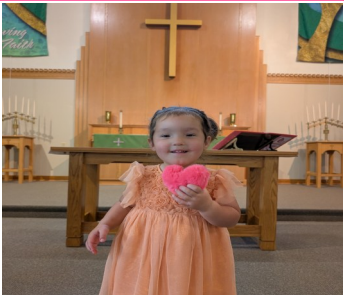
Rides Available

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 by Thursday at noon.

Previous Happenings at Zion



Welcome to Worship Milestone

On Sunday, August 30, we celebrated our two-year-old children during the kids' time in worship. Eloise Anderson received a heart to take home and place in her Faith Chest. She was also blessed by other youth and reminded that worship is a place where she can hear about God's love for her. Most importantly, she was reminded that she always has a place among God's people and her faith family here at Zion. We are so grateful to be part of her faith journey! Pictured is Ellie with the heart she received during worship.

Floor Waxing

A huge thank you to Glenn Denning, Lenny Tietz, and Art for their hard work waxing the Fellowship Hall and kitchen at the beginning of September, as well as putting everything back in place after! We also appreciate Doug Wanttie, Mike Bretsch, Merrill Heim, and Art for moving all of the appliances and furniture out of the Fellowship Hall and kitchen in preparation for the week. This project was a huge undertaking and couldn't have happened without all of your time, energy, and willingness to help. The floors look amazing! Thank you for helping care for and improve our facilities!



Middle School Confirmation Blessing

Pictured are Greysen Ross, Avalon Jondahl, Cadence Refsland, Emersyn Jondahl, and Carter Moser, who received a special blessing during worship on Sunday, September 13, as they begin another year of middle school confirmation.

As they continue their confirmation journey, we pray they will grow in faith, ask questions, discover more about God's love, and know that their Zion faith family is here to encourage and support them along the way. We look forward to walking alongside them as they learn, grow, and live out their faith!



God's Work Our Hands Sunday

As part of our first Faith and Fellowship Sunday, Zion members gathered after breakfast to pack food packs, wound care kits, and winter kits to support Midwest Street Medicine and their work here in Aberdeen. It was a wonderful opportunity for people of all ages to come together, serve our neighbors, and put our faith into action. Thank you to everyone who shared their time and helped make this service project a success!



Coming Up at Zion

TRUNK OR TREAT



Trunk or Treat

Zion will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event on **Sunday, October 25 from 2-4 PM**. Plans are in the works for desserts and drinks to be served and a photo area to allow families an opportunity to have a picture taken, along with games and activities in the fellowship hall.

We are looking for:

- cookie or bar donations
- vehicle hosts
- game/activity station hosts
- donations of candy to hand out

To sign up to host a vehicle, run a station, or bring desserts, please see the sign up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall by Friday, October 23. All candy donations can be left in the box in Sandra's office, as well (no need to sign up to bring candy). Donations should be brought to the church by the 25th at noon.

Reformation Potluck

The Welcome and Caring Team is organizing a potluck to celebrate Reformation Day on Sunday, October 25! Following Faith Explorers, we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal and time of fellowship. Bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy good food, conversation, and community as we celebrate our faith family at Zion. Everyone is welcome!



October Faith and Fellowship



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our first Faith and Fellowship event in September! We had a great time coming together to make care packs for Midwest Street Medicine and support their work in our community.

Our next Faith and Fellowship event will be Sunday, October 18, following worship. We'll start with breakfast, and around 10:30 AM, we'll kick off our fellowship activity: Bible Bingo! Come enjoy some food, fun, and conversation. We hope to see you there!

Young Adult Fellowship

Join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM for an evening of faith, community, and conversation! We are meeting on the rooftop at 322 Kitchen and Cocktails for the October 6 gathering. Appetizers are fully covered, and all young adults (high school graduates and older) are welcome. Come connect and grow with us!



Faith and Family

First Grade Faith Milestone



On Sunday, October 4, first grade youth will be recognized during worship and will receive their very own Adventure Bible! Following worship, youth will participate in decorating a Bible bag during Faith Explorers to allow them to easily bring their Bibles along to Sunday morning Faith Explorers and other milestones that occur as they get older. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

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



- **SAVE THE DATE:** Our 9th grade youth will meet together at 11:00 AM on Sunday, November 1 in MC Sandra's office for a check-in meeting. For this time together, please be thinking about ideas for your youth event and who you would like to ask to be your faith mentor!
- **MIDDLE SCHOOL DON'T FORGET:** If you need help signing up to help during worship or to participate in a congregational event, please visit with MC Sandra! 6-7-8 confirmation classes run through mid-November before taking a break for Advent.

ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting

Interested in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer? Join MC Sandra **on Sunday, October 18 at 11:00 AM in her office** for an informational meeting. We'll talk about the current trip itinerary, changes to the Gathering's structure, estimated costs, and fall fundraising options. This will be the last informational meeting before registration in November! Youth can still be added after the initial November registration deadline, but additional costs will apply.



October Progressive Supper



Progressive suppers are back! **On October 4, we'll gather at Zion at 4:45 PM** 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. Suppers are open to middle and high school youth—bring a friend!

The remaining progressive supper dates for the fall will be Sunday, November 1 and Sunday, December 6.

Faith and Family

Soul Shop Opportunity for High School

We have been invited by Bethlehem Lutheran Church to join them for Soul Shop™ on **October 28 from 8-9 PM**. If you would like to attend this free workshop, please visit with MC Sandra to get registered. Friends are welcome!

Soul Shop™ for Youth is an engaging, hope-centered experience that helps high school students care for their own mental health while learning how to support friends who may be struggling. David Galvan will be the facilitator via ZOOM. David has been teaching, training and facilitating conversations about whole-person health with students and adults since 2010. He has personally spoken to nearly 30,000 students and recently became the Youth & Young Adult Director for Soul Shop™. David is dedicated to the mission of ensuring that every person has access to help, healing and hope.

In a safe and honest environment, youth will:

- Talk openly about stress, sadness, pressure, and hope
- Learn healthy ways to manage difficult emotions
- Recognize when a friend may need help
- Practice listening and responding with care
- Identify trusted adults and support systems

soul  shop

The goal is simple: **to remind young people they are not alone and that reaching out is a sign of strength.**

**YOUTH
RUMMAGE
SALE**  

Youth Rummage Sale

Plans are in the works for a youth rummage sale to be held on **Saturday, November 14 from 8 AM—12 PM**. All proceeds benefit the Zion youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in June 2027. Quarts of soup will also be available for purchase on the day of and through pre-sale. Stay tuned for more information!

If you would like to bring items to donate to the rummage sale, you can start bringing items the week of November 1. Please no electronics or adult clothing. As you are cleaning and organizing before winter, keep us in mind!

Make and Take Fundraiser

Join us on Monday, October 12 at 6:00 PM for a fun evening of food, fellowship, and crafting! Choose between a Christmas-themed wood round or charcuterie board and create a project to take home with you! Supper and snacks will be available for a freewill donation. This event is hosted by the Youth Team and ELCA Youth Gathering participants, with all proceeds benefiting those attending the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer. **Sign-up forms can be found in the fellowship hall and need to be returned by Thursday, October 8.**



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:

November 15, 22 December 6, 13

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED

Call the office at
225-6755 to sign up

\$110 for whole broadcast
\$55 for half



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)

Help Needed

Our quilting group could use some extra hands to help make quilts! There are several ways to help, including tying, cutting, and/or sewing. You can work alongside us at church on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00–3:00 PM or take projects home to work on at your convenience. We are incredibly grateful for your donations and support! Our quilts are shared with various organizations throughout Aberdeen. If you are interested in helping, please contact Norma Miller or Elaine Schumacher.

QUILTERS



STEWARDSHIP
Managing God's Gifts To Us

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

MONTH-TO-DATE through August 31, 2026

Budgeted August Expenses:	\$29,500.00
Actual August Income:	\$19,467.19
Actual August Expenses:	\$25,701.55
Total:	(\$6,234.36)

YEAR-TO-DATE through August 31, 2026

Actual YTD Income:	\$192,933.57
Actual YTD Expenses:	\$214,948.69
Total:	(\$22,015.12)

Thrivent Action Team Grants

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

thrivent®

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

St. Dysmas

St. Dysmas is an ELCA congregation located behind the walls of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD and Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, SD. We also support a Sunday evening worship at the Yankton Minimum Unit in Yankton, SD.

God created, chose, and loves you and includes you in his beloved family. Here at St. Dysmas, guided by the Holy Spirit and through the promises given in Jesus Christ, we welcome all to this family. We are here to proclaim God's mercy and grace to all. We are here to give a shoulder to lean on, an ear to hear and above all, to be open to the many plans God has for you. This is God's mission for us to the people we serve behind bars.

Thank you for your support!

 **St. Dysmas**
hope beyond bars

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, October 28 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!

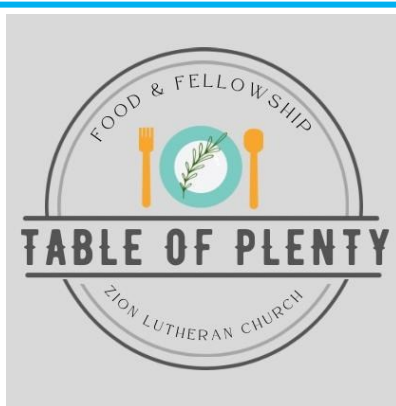


Table of Plenty

The October Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, October 26 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 a few volunteers to help serve at a couple of the remaining dates. If you're available to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact the church office or MC Sandra 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.

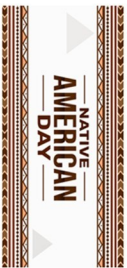


Drive Up Donuts

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 next Drive Up Donuts event will be held on **Friday, October 30 from 7:30-8:00 AM**.



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 1st Grade Milestone 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time w/ Men's pancakes 10:30 AM Faith Explorers 11:15 AM Education team mtg 4:45 PM MJS & HS Progressive Supper	5 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Missional Life mtg	6 5:30 PM Young Adult Fellowship	7 6:30 PM MJS confirmation 8:00 PM AA meeting	1 8:00 AM Dial Screening 10:00 AM ZLCW mtg 1:00 PM Quilters	2	3 2-4 PM Birthday Open House
11 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time	12 Office Closed 6:00 PM Youth Make & Take Fundraiser 	13 11:30 AM Book Club	14 1:00 PM Cardmakers 6:30 PM MJS confirmation 8:00 PM AA meeting	15 1:00 PM Quilters	16	17
18 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	19 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6:30 PM MJS confirmation 8:00 PM AA meeting	22 1:00 PM Quilters	23	24
25 9:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Faith Explorers 10:45 AM Potluck 2:00 PM Trunk or Treat	26 10:00 AM Staff meeting 1:00 PM Quilters 5:30 PM Table of Plenty	27 8:00 AM Lifeline Screening	28 1:00 PM Cardmakers 6:30 PM MJS confirmation 8:00 PM AA meeting 8:00 PM Men's Fellowship 8:00 PM HS Soul Shop	29 9:30 AM Finance mtg 1:00 PM Quilters	30 7:30 AM Drive Up Donuts	31