

2026.11.01

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? [26] Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? [27] Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? [28] "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. [29] Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. [30] If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? [31] So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' [32] For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. [33] But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. [34] Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:25-34)

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

The season of harvest and thanks is here, and the community is blanketed in leaves of golden color. While we humans are quick to rake them away, the ecosystem actually thrives when they stay, supporting the cycle of life. In this matter, the earth does not worry about the leaf drifts. They are a sanctuary for life.

Isn't it a wonder that God created a sanctuary by leaves? They are a simple covering for things we can't even see. I try to imagine what the landscape would have looked like before roads and houses. How thick would the layer of leaves be? Where would the leaf drifts be offering the most coverage? Would bunnies play and squires search through their crunchy sound? Would this be nourishment for worms to grow food for birds? Of course. So much life and no worries that the leaf drifts (places of sanctuary) were a nuisance. They would be nothing but a pure gift to all that had that type of need. An autumn expression of Matthew 6:25-34 coming to life, reminding us, "We have no reason to worry. We simply need to 'seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness.'"

Seek ye first. Have no worries. God's kingdom is for us. God's righteousness is available. How beautiful! We are so blessed for this to be our aim. We are blessed to live in this way, relying fully on God, for all things we need will be provided. We are blessed for the variety of "leaf drifts" that offer us sanctuary in our lives. All of the places we find support as a church, as individuals that provide us shelter and sustainability.

1st God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; 2nd a community of Saints; 3rd the heart of the saints that work to steward God's gifts for the building we call a sanctuary; 4th the hearts of neighbors that gather to worship; 5th the hearts of a community to care for one another.

This list could keep going. What would you add to it? These are all reasons to give abundant thanks, and this month we will do so with great joy, both in our homes and as a congregation.

November 1st – All Saints/Appreciation Sunday: We will give thanks for our beloved siblings who have claimed their baptismal promise and for the newly baptized. We will also celebrate the many ways members of Zion give for the kingdom to be alive here and now. Help us express appreciation for the variety of ways the gospel is alive through Zion Lutheran.

November 15th– Thankoffering Sunday: Thankoffering Sunday and the Special (Noisy) offering of the month is in coordination with Zion Lutheran Church Women. All money given will go to the Salvation Army via their ministry team.

November 15th – Faith and Fellowship Sunday: Following church, we will gather after breakfast to participate in a variety of faith formation activities, such as working together to create advent banners, making ornaments for the home bound members, writing Christmas cards to our home bound members and our Adopt-a-Grad youth, etc.

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November 22nd – We will give thanks with the use of our energy as we gather to decorate the church for Advent, join together for a soup and pie social, and make Christmas Care packages for our home bound members and Adopt-a-Grad students.

November 26th – Thanksgiving Day: How will you share thanks with your family for the gospel?

November 29th – The first day of Advent.

We have so many reasons to give thanks and praise. I look forward to seeing you in worship and celebrating all this goodness with you. Together let us give thanks for all of the "leaf drifts"/places of sanctuary God gives, turning our focus toward God and God's kingdom.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Martin

Other Opportunities to Participate in Offering Sanctuary as an Expression of Gospel Living

Joining Council

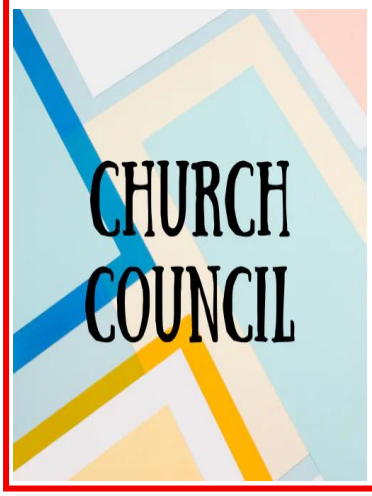
There are many ways to express stewardship and discipleship talents at church. We often think of duties and events that support worship or outreach, but the church has so many opportunities to exercise skills that you might use every day.

Are you a person that naturally galvanizes a group together, cheerleading them to complete a mission? Are you curious about organizational development and have a willingness to follow and enforce protocol as a means of guiding others? Do you understand the church as a faithful expression of God's love? You just might be a council president/vice president. (Being familiar with Roberts' Rules of Order is helpful.)

Are you a person that thinks numbers tell a story? Do you understand a budget and have a willingness to follow and enforce financial protocol as a means of caring for the monetary gifts of the church? Do you understand the church as a faithful expression of God's love? You just might a council treasurer or finance team member.

Are you a person that loves to take notes? Do you understand the organizational need for positive transparent communication and love to organize documents? Do you understand the church as a faithful expression of God's love? You just might be a council secretary.

Are you a person that gets excited helping ministries be successful? Are you able to seek creative ways to be missional while balancing the boundaries of organizational structure? Are you able to support organizational structure as a means of guiding others? Do you understand the church as a faithful expression of God's love? You might be a council member-at-large.



Each of these positions are specific opportunities that are legally necessary roles for organizational well-being of Zion. They often get thought of as difficult, and yes, they can be challenging; but it is a lifegiving challenge that undergirds the church's ability to function, like the columns that hold up a bridge. Without the columns, the bridge collapses. All organizations need people committed to holding up the columns. Churches need people committed to holding up the columns, so the good news lives through us.

What are the columns of infrastructure the council is ultimately responsible for? In a nutshell, the council's job is to monitor the CAMELS. What is CAMELS? CAMELS is an organizational term identifying the pieces necessary for stability and thriving.

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Other Opportunities to Participate in Offering Sanctuary as an Expression of Gospel Living

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- C – capital (financial and social): Faithful stewardship of our relationship with monies and people.
- A – assets management: Seeking best ways to care for investments, property, equipment, and people, both through a budget and other policies and procedures.
- M – mission, manpower and materials: Identifying the mission of the church. Galvanizing the members and personnel of the church to successfully support the mission, ensuring they have access to the tools needed for success, offering accountability as needed to keep the ministry healthy.
- E – equity (specifically, Biblical equity): Upholding fairness, justice, and impartiality in judgment and behavior. Living fair and just, ensuring that all individuals are treated with righteousness and without favoritism; appreciating the energy of people and unique abilities to support ministry.
- L – liabilities: Be conscious of contracts and issues that could create debt for the church.
- S – success and celebration: Be deep in devotion with God, celebrating the leadership and work of God, and express this by affirming ways ministry events and projects are doing well.

If you have ever been curious about council, come to a meeting! Let us show you what it is all about. If you are hesitant because you have a previous experience, come to our next meeting. Let us show you what is now. Caring for the CAMELS is actually quite a bit of fun as one makes decisions that lets God's mission live and people of God shine as they live God's mission. Caring for the CAMELS gives you a front row seat to ensuring that Zion is cultivating communities of caring and belonging as champions of the gospel. What do you have to lose by trying it out?



Soles4Souls
Check your closet and prepare your shoes.
In the season of Advent, we invite you to lose all the soles you no longer wear,
and give them away for others to share.

SOLES4 SOULS

Soles4Souls is a nonprofit global organization that collects gently used but still wearable shoes (and new shoes!) and distributes them to those in need.

New kids' shoes will go to help provide footwear to homeless children in the United States. Used shoes are shipped to global partners, entrepreneurs and small businesses that clean up the shoes, and resell them in their communities for a discounted rate. This supplies a need and creates jobs. Collecting and redistributing shoes is also a gift to the environment, diverting these textiles from the landfill.

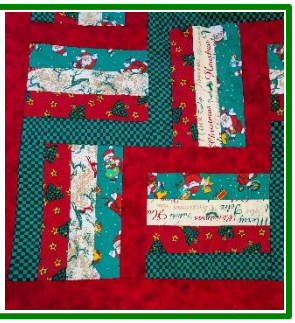
We will collect shoes through December, and in January, they will be sent to Soles4Souls in Nashville. Curious about the organization? Ask any of the youth or adults that went on the mission trip this last summer! This was one organization they served at. You can also chat with Christy Guthmiller or check out their website: soles4souls.org. We will have a bin out starting the first Sunday in Advent (November 29).

Help us give the gift of supporting the soles/souls of the planet and people this winter!



Quilt Tickets

The Quilters are raffling a king-sized Christmas quilt to support Table of Plenty. Tickets are 1/$3 or 2/$5 and can be purchased on Sunday mornings through the month of November. The winner will be drawn at the November Table of Plenty meal on **Monday, November 23**, so be sure to purchase your tickets by then!



Previous Happenings at Zion

Bible Milestone



When a child is baptized and welcomed into our faith family, promises are made—not only by parents and sponsors, but by the congregation, as well. One of those promises is to support parents in placing Scripture into their child's hands and helping them grow in faith.

On Sunday, October 4, Zion celebrated this promise as first-grader Brom Stanek received an Adventure Bible and a blessing during worship. Following worship, Brom decorated a special Bible bag to carry his new Bible! Congratulations on this exciting faith milestone! We look forward to watching you continue to grow in God's Word and love.

Bible Trivia and Reformation Potluck





On October 19, members of Zion gathered for Faith and Fellowship, enjoying breakfast together before putting their Bible knowledge to the test with a game of Bible Trivia! Questions were geared toward all ages and covered a wide range of topics, from the story of creation and the beginnings of Christianity to knowledge about the structure of the Bible. It was a fun way to learn, laugh, and grow in faith together!

On October 25, we celebrated Reformation Sunday by wearing red and sharing a potluck meal following Faith Explorers. During the meal, Martin and Katie Luther (Allen and Kirsten Nash) paid a visit to Zion! They shared the story of Martin Luther and how his actions helped spark the Reformation.

Trunk or Treat

Zion hosted our annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25 from 2-4 PM. There were several hundred children and their families participated in the event, despite the soggy weather. In addition to the Trunk or Treat, there were games, crafts, and desserts in the fellowship hall, and a family photo area was set up. Thank you to all who hosted a trunk, game, craft; made desserts; and donated candy for our Trunk or Treat. We could not host such a successful event year after year without your support! Below are the top three places in the trunk decorating contest.







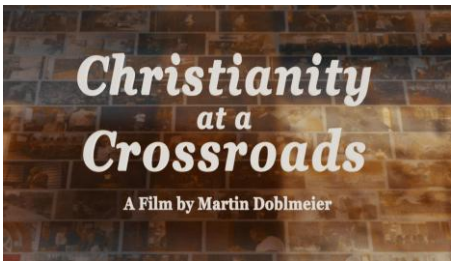
Grateful for You

☺ Thank you to everyone who brought dishes to share at our Reformation potluck! A special thank you to ZLCW for preparing the scalloped potatoes & ham and setting up for the meal, and to Allen and Kirsten Nash for bringing history to life as the Luthers!

☺ Thank you to Norma Miller for your hard work on the prayer banners for the fellowship hall!

Learning Opportunity

Join Pastor Nicole for the first part of the docuseries, "Christianity at a Crossroads" on **Sunday, November 8 at 10:45 AM in Classrooms A&B.** Following the video, there will be a short discussion time on the ideas presented.





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.

Save the Dates!

Full details for the following events will be available in the December newsletter. Until then, mark these dates on your calendar!

- **December 6:** There will be Christmas caroling around our local nursing homes and to our homebound members (depending on the number of volunteers) after men's pancake breakfast and Faith Explorers.
- **December 11:** Pastor Nicole and Richard will once again host a Christmas party at their house in the evening.
- **December 13:** Zion will be hosting a Chords of Joy Christmas event in the afternoon, showcasing local talent sharing songs that bring them joy during the Christmas season. If you are interested in participating in the event, please contact Zach Anderson.
- **December 20:** The Faith Explorer youth will present their annual Christmas program during worship. There will be fellowship and a potluck in celebration following worship that day.



Freezer Meals

If you know of anyone in need of a meal, please stop in the church office during the week.

We will assist you in getting meals from the freezer to give to someone who has a 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.

Faith and Family

Youth Rummage Sale & Soup Sale

There will be a youth rummage sale to be held on **Saturday, November 14 from 8 AM—12 PM.** In conjunction with the fall rummage sale, there will also be a soup sale, will all proceeds from the day benefitting the ELCA Youth Gathering participants.

If you would like to bring items to donate to the rummage sale, you can bring them starting November 1. All items can be left in Classrooms A&B. Please no electronics or adult clothing. Cheddar broccoli soup and wild rice soup will be available for purchase on the morning of the rummage sale until quantities run out (any left will also be available for purchase on Sunday morning, November 15). If you would like to place a preorder for soup, you can do so in the narthex through Thursday, November 12. Preordered soup can be paid for and picked up on November 15 after worship from the kitchen.

Thank you for your support!





Confirmation Corner



- Our last 6-7-8 confirmation small group meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 18.** Small group will resume January 6, 2027, after the Advent season and Christmas holiday.
- There will be a meeting for ninth grade confirmation youth on **Sunday, November 1 at 11:00 AM** in Saundra's office. Please have a parent attend with you, if possible!

ELCA Youth Gathering Update

Interested in attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer? It's not too late! Early bird registration runs through the middle of November. If you are in grades 8-12 and would like to get signed up, please visit with MC Saundra as soon as possible! You can still register after the November 15 deadline; however, extra costs will apply.





November Progressive Supper

Progressive suppers are back! **On November 1**, 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, we'll return to Zion for dessert and fellowship together. Suppers are open to middle and high school youth—bring a friend!

Our last progressive supper of the fall will be on Sunday, December 6.

Middle & High School Service Opportunity

There will be a service opportunity for middle and high school youth on **Sunday, November 22** following Advent decorating and the soup and pie lunch. We will gather together to serve others in our community. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to help us give back!



Coming Up at Zion



Advent Decorating & Lunch

The Christmas season is almost here! Join us on **Sunday, November 22, at 10:30 AM** as we decorate Zion for Advent and Christmas. We welcome volunteers of all ages to help set up trees, wreaths, nativity sets, and more.

Not able to help with decorating? There are plenty of other ways to get involved, including packing care packs and signing cards for our homebound members and college students. After decorating, we'll enjoy a lunch of soup and pie together! Mark your calendars and plan to join us as we prepare our church and hearts for the Advent season.

November Faith and Fellowship

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our October Faith and Fellowship event! We had a great time playing Bible Trivia as a church family. Congratulations to the Sunflowers and Little Lights for tying at the top of the leaderboard! We had so much fun with Bible Trivia and look forward to playing again in the new year!

Our next Faith and Fellowship event will be **Sunday, November 15**, following worship. We'll start with breakfast, and around 10:30 AM, we'll kick off our fellowship activity: Advent Prep! Come enjoy some food, fun, conversation, and activities as we prepare for the upcoming Advent season. 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 community and conversation! We are meeting at 322 Kitchen and Cocktails for the **November 3 gathering**. Appetizers are fully covered, and all young adults (high school graduates and older) are welcome. Come connect with us!

Thankoffering Service

The Zion Lutheran Church Women Thankoffering service will be held on **Sunday, November 15.** The money raised will be given to the Salvation Army Snack Pack fund, which currently supplies around 730 children with food to take home with them over the weekend.

The offering envelopes will be handed out on Sunday, November 8 and will be returned on Sunday, November 15, with extra envelopes available on the 15th if you forget yours at home.

Your support of this program is greatly appreciated!

-ZLCW



Upcoming Ministry Opportunities

Faith through Fitness

Starting again this month, we have an opportunity to help you achieve your fitness and strength goals!

Join Zach from **5:30-6:30 AM** at Massenomics (209 Railroad Ave SE) every Sunday in the basement gym for fellowship around resistance training. There will be no costs to you if you come during this time and no experience is required with no age restrictions. If you are interested, Zach will help you find a workout routine that will work for you.

If you have any questions, let Zach Anderson know and he'd be happy to discuss!





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, November 20 from 7:30-8:00 AM.** ** Please note the date change due to Thanksgiving.**

Care Packs and Christmas Cards

We are putting together care packs and signing Christmas cards for our homebound members and for our Adopt-a-Grad students. Below are items for each type of care pack that could be donated. Items can be brought to the church through **Sunday, November 22,** when care packs will be assembled. The college students' packs will be mailed in time for finals week, while our homebound care packs will be delivered during the Christmas Caroling event in December. Thank you for helping us share joy during this holiday season!



Adults
Chapstick; fuzzy socks; non-scented lotion; puzzle or coloring books

College Students
Gift cards; gas cards; fuzzy socks; study aids; home-made goodies



Freezer Meal Ingredients

The Missional Life team is asking for your help in restocking the freezer! Cards for freezer meal ingredients will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 15 (with any leftover cards being pinned to the bulletin board in the narthex. Please return all ingredients to the tote shelving in the fellowship hall by **Sunday, December 6.** Thank you for supporting our community and Zion neighbors through your donation!

The Joy of Christmas Video

As part of the Christmas program, the Education Team is helping the youth put together a "Joy of Christmas" video, and they are asking for your help! Throughout November and the beginning of December, there will be dates and times available for you to do a short recording about what brings you joy in this Advent and Christmas season and where you see God during this time. Find the schedule in the bulletins **starting November 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

Radio Broadcast Sponsorships

We have just one broadcast left to sponsor this year! If you'd like to sponsor it, please contact the church office. The 2027 sponsorship dates are now posted in the fellowship hall! Thank you for your continued and faithful support of this vital ministry!

Upcoming dates:

December 6 All of 2027



ZION MEMORIALS

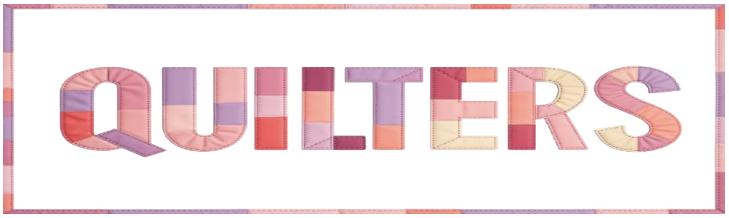
Memorial gifts are a meaningful way to honor friends and loved ones who have passed. If you would like to make a donation to one of our ministries in their memory, please contact the church office.

In Memory of:	For:	From:
Jo Tolvstad	Advocacy	Joel & Jane Albrecht



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.



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

MONTH-TO-DATE through September 30, 2026

Budgeted September Expenses:	$29,500.00
Actual September Income:	$18,934.43
Actual September Expenses:	$28,442.15
Total:	($9,487.72)

YEAR-TO-DATE through September 30, 2026

Actual YTD Income:	$211,868.00
Actual YTD Expenses:	$243,370.84
Total:	($31,502.84)

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®

For Your Information

The office will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day. The office will also be closed on Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving.

FYI

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

Salvation Army Snack Packs

- **Snack Pack Program population served:** We serve approximately 700 low-income youth from Aberdeen, Brown County and the surrounding counties.
- **Snack Pack Program Strengths:** We provide food to kids who are likely to go hungry over the weekend when school is out.
- **Snack Pack Program partners:** United Way, Aberdeen Public Schools, the Aberdeen Area Community Foundation, Feeding South Dakota, 3M, and area churches.

THE SALVATION ARMY DOING THE MOST GOOD

Men's Fellowship Opportunity

On **Wednesday, November 25 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 November Table of Plenty meal will be **Monday, November 23 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! As we approach the new year, we are looking for groups of individuals and organizations to sponsor meals. If you are interested or know of a group who may be, please reach out to the church office.

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.

