



Dear Zion,

Over the past seven years, we have shared so much together. We have navigated a pandemic, walked through staff and pastoral transitions, celebrated the growth of children, and accompanied one another through the highs and lows of daily life.

I have grown deeply during my time at Zion—learning more about the Church, about community, and about who I am as a pastor. For all of this, I am profoundly grateful.

I want to share with you that I have accepted a call to serve as the Associate Pastor of Congregational Life at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bismarck. I am excited for this new opportunity and trust that God is leading me into this next chapter with intention and hope.

Of course, it is bittersweet to say goodbye to a congregation I have come to know and to love. It has been an honor and a joy to walk alongside you in ministry.

My final Sunday with you will be July 20th. During worship that day, we will hold a Service of Farewell for both Kortni and me. I hope you will join us later that evening from 4-6 as we celebrate the ministry we have shared and entrust one another to God's care.

As Zion continues forward, my prayer is that you will always look to the Holy Spirit for guidance, to Christ for grace and forgiveness, and to God for love that knows no bounds.

Blessed to be a blessings,  
Pastor Natasha Kolles



Thank you to the **Surprise Church Yard Workers!** We were so happy in June to see **Blake and his son Andrew Vetter** trimming trees and bushes during early June, while other members of the family participated in our week of Day Camp at Zion. **Karen Hennesey** was also seen pulling weeds in our flower beds for hours on a Saturday mid June. We are so grateful that these church members thought of giving some time to the church to help our expansive grounds look beautiful!! If God gives you a similar nudge, follow Blake, Andrew and Karen's lead. They showed up, checked with the church office and church custodian and then beautified our church grounds.

## **Synod Assembly Information for the Congregation**

Western North Dakota's ELCA Synod Assembly met May 30, 31st & June 1st in Minot at the State Fairgrounds. Around 250 people were present; 170 lay voting delegates, 60 pastors/rostered leaders, and 20 visitors. Zion's voting delegates were: Pastor Elaine Sweet, Pastor Natasha Kolles, Chris Torgeson, Dick Butts and Harry Summers.

Synod Assembly's agenda included a Pre-event Friday afternoon with Rev. Dr. Eric Barreto of Princeton Seminary on the gospel of Luke, and opening worship that evening at First Lutheran led by a number of SAMs (synodically authorized pastors), with fantastic bell, choral and organ music. Saturday began the business portion and reports from Synod staff and National ELCA representatives. An update from our Synod included news that there are currently 47 SAMs assisting the ministry of churches in our Synod. There are 27 openings for full-time pastors in our Synod. 20 of these are being served by SAMs. Nationally there are 200 more openings than pastors available to serve ELCA churches. Churches are encouraged to raise up their own people into ministry positions.

Some of the decisions made this weekend included:

- passed - WND Synod budget for 2026
- passed - 2026 Compensation Guidelines for Rostered Ministers with a change to increase the High Guideline by \$10,000
- passed - Official Greetings sent to 17 ELCA Synods gathering same weekend
- failed - request for formal technical review of the scientific claims in the ELCA's Earth Climate Crisis official statement about rising sea levels issued by the 2024 ELCA Conference of Bishops failed
- passed - request to 2025 ELCA National Churchwide Assembly invite churches to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, deepen awareness of this history, and support ELCA Truth-Telling Initiative
- passed - request that Churchwide Assembly address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People through awareness, prayer and advocacy work

Synod Assembly also included greetings from Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch, the national Executive Director of



Christian Community and Leadership, a video from our national presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, videos messages from seminary leadership, workshops on topics like stewardship, hunger, Christian Nationalism, ND Interfaith Alliance, Messy Church, Exploring Calls to Ministry, and Suicide Stigma. Offerings to support the wider church at Synod Assembly worship totaled \$16,000. It was a fruitful weekend of work and worship on the theme 'Rooted and Grounded in Love'. Continue to pray for the 159 ELCA churches in our Synod and pray for Synod staff leaders; Bishop Craig Schweitzer, Rev. Tera Kossow and Rev. Brad Dokken.



## IN MEMORY OF DONNA JEAN STUCK

Undesignated: Paulette Estvold  
Gary Leslie  
Linda Fugleberg



Outdoor Enhancement: Anonymous

General: Anne Marie Shimento  
Donna Desjardins James Clute & Sherlene Nelson  
Sonja & Joel Hernes John & Vicki Rovenko  
Charles & Sandy Swenson Ordean Huus  
Kristi Asendorf Marcia Hayes  
Jaquelyn Smith Kevin Olthoff  
Maryls Sundbakken Shannon Radke  
Erland & Jean Dettloff Terry and Gail Hjelmstad  
Donald Selk Connie Knudson  
Jerome Spitzer Floyd and Millie Rude  
Butch & Ruth Ann Rexine Pat White  
Joe & Beth Stenvold Hirst Family

ZLCW: Armend & Ranae Lynner

## IN MEMORY OF MYRON BRODEHL

Undesignated: Ian and Karlene Wyman  
Greg Simonson  
Marlene Larsen

## IN MEMORY OF EVELYN SCHELL

Undesignated: Carolyn Lyon

## IN MEMORY OF BOB KNOR

Undesignated: Pat White

## IN MEMORY OF DARLENE KORSLIEN PETERS

Undesignated: Jacky Smith

### Designated funds to which you may donate in memory/honor of someone:

Zion General Fund ~ Building Fund ~ Community Outreach ~ Education

Music Ministry ~ Outdoor Enhancement ~ Trust ~ ZLCW

*If no specific fund indicated, gifts go to the  
Undesignated Memorial Fund*



**June 2025- Baptisms**

**June 2025- Funerals**

Darlene Korslien Peters 6/16



The following groups & ministries are happening now! You are invited to attend any of the following (*bring a friend*):



**Meets @ 2pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Board Room.**

This circle joins together for a monthly Bible study led by one of our pastors. Contact the office for more information.

**Next meeting is Thursday, July 10th @2pm**



### Quilting Ministry

**Meets @ 9am on the 3rd Monday of the month in the Fellowship Hall.**

**Many hands are needed to cut pieces, pin, sew and tie.**

**No experience necessary!**

**Next meeting is in the fall**



**Meets every Tuesday 1pm in room 407. You can use the Southwest entrance**

This group meets weekly to enjoy the art of painting. You do not have to know how to paint to join. A short lesson is given at the beginning of the session, then conversation and painting on your own continues until 4pm. Bring your own supplies and any paint medium except oil paints due to allergies.



**Meets @ 5:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in Youth Room.**

Yarn is available if you wish to make shawls at

home. Prayer Shawls are given to people who are seriously ill or grieving.

**Next meeting is Tues. July 8th @5:30pm**



### Sisterhood Ministry

**Meets monthly**

Meet other women of the church while learning, celebrating and being a servant of God through

monthly service projects throughout the year.



### Zion Walkers

**ZION WALKERS** began mid May. This spring and summer enjoy an opportunity to gather weekly to walk our

neighborhood. Wednesdays we'll meet at the cross by our southeast door for a prayer together and then head out walking together. What a great opportunity to take care of our bodies, connect with each other and church staff, and enjoy the great outdoors. Come when you can - **Wednesdays at 9am**



**Book Club— Meets every 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30pm.**

**September's book is a Wing and a Prayer by Julie Lessman**

A street orphan abused and abandoned by an alcoholic father at age five, Gabriella (Gabe) O'Connor has never let a man stand in her way yet. So when a handsome flight officer thwarts her plans to become a WASP— Women Air Force Service Pilot — she's determined to join the war effort anyway she can. Her chance comes when she "borrows" foreign correspondent credentials from the Boston Herald—where her father is the editor—to stow away on a medical ship to the front.

\*Excerpt from Amazon.com

**\*\*The Next Book Club Meeting is Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30pm**

# Financials

	Year to Date
Income	\$303,279.36
Expenses	\$283,505.64
Net	\$19,773.72

*Thank You*

For your continued support of Zion Lutheran and Zion's mission!

Please scan this QR code to give an offering to ZLC



**4 ways to Give**



**In Person**  
Cash or Check  
Use giving envelope in offering plate



**On-line**  
RebelGive  
for one time giving or recurring giving  
[www.zionlutheranminot.org](http://www.zionlutheranminot.org)



**Mailed In**  
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1800 Hiawatha Street SE  
Minot ND 58701



**Bank Pay**  
Sign up with your bank for recurring giving direct from your account

Worship Date	On-Site	Online	Total
May 31st & June 1st	104	164	268
June 7th & 8th	95	164	268
June 14th, 15th, (Father's Day)	105	136	241
June 21st & 22nd	92	124	216

**Please remember your church over the summer.** We of course look forward to seeing you in worship. We also rely on your continued financial support June-August.

The church's building expenses stay pretty constant (air-conditioning, lights, insurance, telephone, internet) even when attendance changes, and our staffing costs remain constant through summer months too. So, you know this means that we really hope you can help give an extra gift to the church before you leave for summer vacation, or get busy with activities that may pull you away from your church this time of year. Thank you for being givers Zion can count on!



Zion's Lutefisk and Meatball dinner will be **Sat. September 20th** from 3pm-7pm. Dinner will include desserts and lefsa served family style.

Tickets are \$20 per person, \$10 child (6-12), Under 6 free.

\*Volunteer sign up for specific jobs and shift times will be available August 1st\*



## Day Camp Recap Celebration

- A HUGE thank you to the Camp Metigoshe staff who served Zion's 1st-6th grade campers: **Tesha, Randy, Adamas, Mikenna, and Micah**
- Campers were well fed with snacks throughout the week thanks to **JoAnn Hendrickson**.
- A huge shout out to **Sarah & Justin Hochhalter** who offered their home as a place for our staff to rest and renew each evening.
- Our decorating crew who turned our ed hallway into a magical underwater world to match our theme: **Jonah & the Big Fish: Lesley Peterson, Karin Unhjem, Kiera Torgeson, Kinley Gruenberg, Emma Peterson, Owen Peterson, Ava Sweet and Chris Torgeson**
- We were so blessed with amazing youth volunteers all week: **Kiera Torgeson, Kinley Gruenberg, Ava Sweet, Henleigh Schlosser**



## Fall Church School Registration

- Church School Registration for our 2025-2026 year is OPEN for 4 year olds to 5th graders!
- Please register online or use the QR Code below.
- Cost will be **\$35** per student with a max of **\$100** per family.



## Church School Fall Schedule

- **Backpack Blessing Worship, BOUNCE HOUSES & Games- Wednesday, August 27th from 5-7pm**—EVERYONE is welcome. Join in the fun and get a preview of the amazing year ahead of us!
- Our first day of Church School will be **Wednesday, September 3rd & Sunday, September 7th.**
- We will be seeking out caring adults to help guide our church school students beginning in August. If you receive a call, please prayerfully consider serving in a small way. **YOUR** impact on the young people of Zion is **GREAT & SUCH A BLESSING!**



## CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Upcoming confirmation year meetings will be posted next month! Keep enjoying your summer!

Summer  
time!

## YOUTH GROUP IGNITE 9TH-12TH GRADE

*Wednesdays from 8-9:30pm every other week during the Summer.*

Wed. July 2nd– Bonfire outside

Wed. July 16th– Bonfire outside– Kortni's final youth group

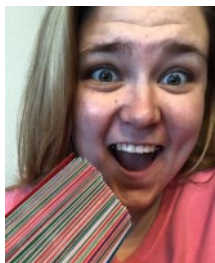
## PICTURES THROUGH KORTNI'S 7 YEARS



WND LYO Gathering 2018



Denver Mission Trip 2019



Youth Snail Mail 2020



Kortni's TikTok Career 2021



Montana Mission Trip 2022



Summer Youth Group 2023



Duluth Mission Trip 2024



ELCA Youth Gathering– New Orleans 2024



Summer Youth Group 2025

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that I'm going to miss you?

–Kortni

7 years ago, this church took a chance on me to lead their youth. I was fresh out of college with my elementary education degree and had just finished my 4th summer at Camp Metigoshe. I truly believed Zion had made a mistake in asking me to apply for the job. I remember walking into my interview scared out of my mind, but I also remember the relief I felt when Chris called to offer me the position.

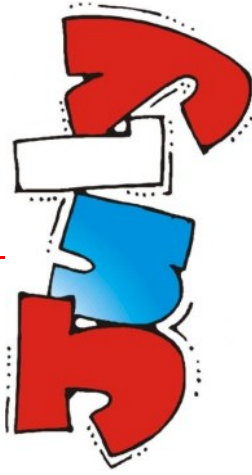








For 7 years, I have walked into this building that has become a home. I've watched youth grow into incredible young adults, and I've been cheered on by all of you—the congregation. You've walked beside me, shown up for fundraisers, helped when needed, and listened when I needed to rant. You've hugged me when I cried, celebrated big moments in my life and, laughed with me—and let's be honest, probably laughed at me a time or two as well.

Seven years of relationships are hard to walk away from, but a time of change has come in my life, and I'm excited for what's next. After the Seattle Mission Trip the first week of August, I'll be moving to Canada to live with my long-term boyfriend, whom many of you have met. This decision wasn't made lightly. You've held such an important role in my life. I will treasure every moment, and I will forever be grateful for the chance Zion took on this "kid."

Thank you for loving me, guiding me, and growing with me. This isn't goodbye—it's see you later. You will always have a special place in my heart.

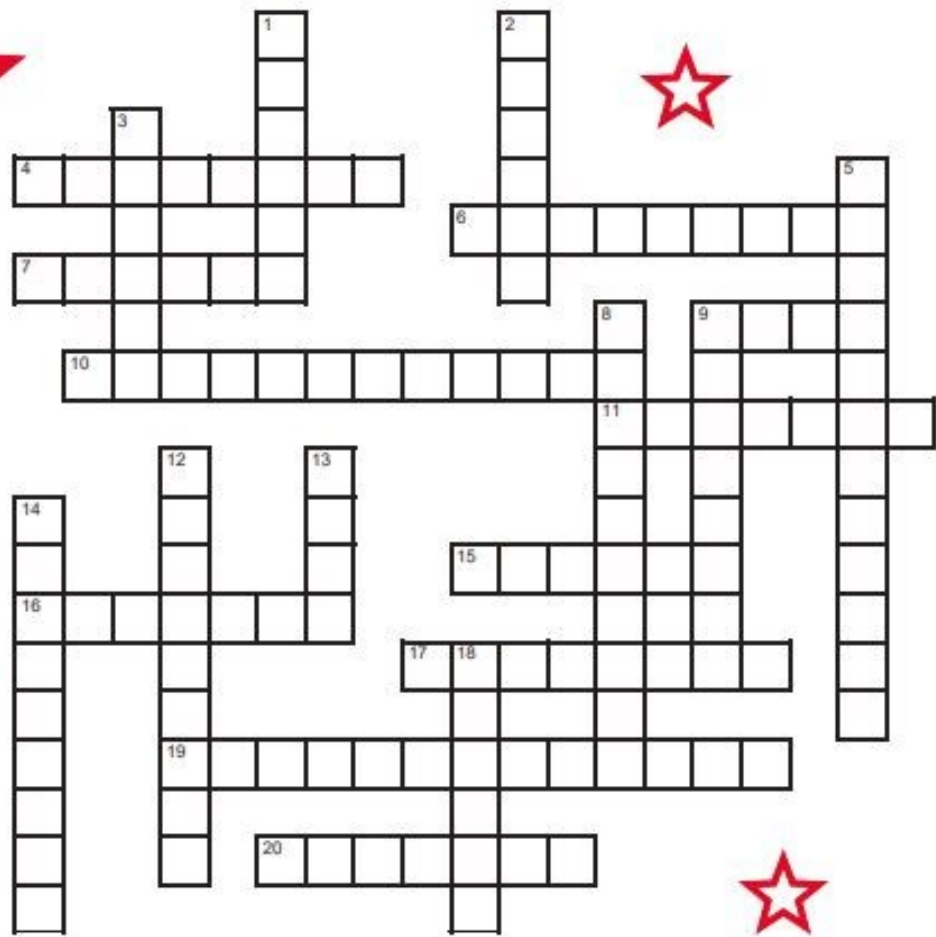
\*A farewell party will take place July 20th from 4-6pm\*

*God, thank you for my time at Zion.  
Amen.*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1pm: Watercolor Group	2 9am Walkers	3 7:30pm: Narcotics Anon. Mtg.	4 	5 5pm: Worship
6 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship	7 	8 1pm: Watercolor Group 5:30pm: Prayer Shawl	9 9am Walkers	10 2pm: Hannah Circle 7:30pm: Narcotics Anon. Mtg.	11 4pm: Miles & Hannah Anestra Wedding	12  5pm: Worship
13 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship	14 6pm: Finance Mtg 7:30pm: Children's Ministry Mtg	15 1pm: Watercolor Group 6:30pm: Council Mtg	16 9am Walkers 	17 2pm: Somerset Worship 7:30pm: Narcotics Anon. Mtg.	18 	19 5pm: Worship
20 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship and Trotter Baptism 4pm: Kortni & Natasha's going away party	21 	22 1pm: Watercolor Group	23 9am Walkers	24 7:30pm: Narcotics Anon. Mtg.	25 	26 Seattle Mission Trip (1/8) 5pm: Worship
27 Seattle Mission Trip (2/8) 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship	28 Seattle Mission Trip (3/8)	29 Pastor Natasha's Birthday! Seattle Mission Trip (4/8) 1pm: Watercolor Group 6:30pm Trust Mtg	30 Seattle Mission Trip (5/8) 9am Walkers	31 Seattle Mission Trip (6/8) 7:30pm: Narcotics Anon. Mtg.		



## Crossword Challenge



### ACROSS

4. American President who was born on July 4th, Calvin \_\_\_\_.
6. Founding Father and third President of the United States.
7. Public procession that might occur on July Fourth.
9. Red, white and \_\_\_\_.
10. City in which the Declaration of Independence was signed.
11. Nickname for the American flag, stars and \_\_\_\_.
15. Open air meal popular on July Fourth.
16. Symbol of freedom located in the New York City Harbor: Statue of \_\_\_\_.
17. Number of original colonies that declared independence.
19. Fight for American independence: The \_\_\_\_ War.
20. Famous signer of the Declaration of Independence: John \_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Patriotic song often sung on Independence Day: Yankee \_\_\_\_.
2. National anthem of the United States: The Star-Spangled \_\_\_\_.
3. The day of the month on which America declared its independence.
5. Founding document of the United States: The Declaration of \_\_\_\_.
8. First President of the United States.
9. Cooking outdoors on a grill.
12. Light show often seen on the 4th of July.
13. Month in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

14. National bird of the United States.
18. Commonly consumed food on July 4th.

Bald Eagle	Jefferson
Banner	July
Barbecue	Liberty
Blue	Parade
Coolidge	Philadelphia
Doodle	Picnic
Fireworks	Revolutionary
Fourth	Stripes
Hancock	Thirteen
Hot Dog	Washington
Independence	

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
1800 Hiawatha Street  
Minot, ND 58701

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**JULY**



**Our Purpose:**

**Loved by God – Living out the Love of Jesus**

**Our Guiding Principles:**

growing spiritually to be more like Jesus  
actively caring for one another  
welcoming and inviting all people  
giving generously to join in God's work  
joyfully serving as Christ's hands and feet  
living faithfully in daily life

**Zion Lutheran Church**

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Website: [www.zionlutheranminot.org](http://www.zionlutheranminot.org)

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**2025 Council Members**

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Amanda Winkels Vice President  
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Kinley Gruenberg Youth Member  
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Pastor Natasha Kolles