



Hope at Zion this Advent

Luke's gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod ..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers, however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear." In our own time, we might ask: is it even possible to be fearless in a fearful world? When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears - they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

Every Advent, we light candles, sing carols, and pray for Christ's coming because we believe God entered a frightened world to bring good news. Our hope is born with Jesus. Our hope, as people of faith, is gritty, resilient, beautiful, strong, and enduring. No matter what we fear or face, God is with us. This advent, let us insist on hope. Let us trust that good news is greater than fear! This advent you will see lanterns in our worship. You will see light in our sanctuary shining deliberately in these darker December days. Your voice in worship can join in praise to God, uplifting us all in hope with familiar carols of joy. I pray that in worship this Advent, your soul will find peace and hope will be stirred.

**'O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.'**

Advent Devotion Booklets are available in the Church office on this Advent worship theme: Insisting on Hope. They are created by Sanctified Art, are just \$1 and include weekly original art, poetry, reflection, prayer and music. We hope these Advent Devotions add to your connection with Christ during these weeks of preparation for Christmas.

Look for Advent Children's bulletins to be distributed at Children's Sermon time in worship during Advent too.

Lots of people would love an experience of peace, hope and connection with some good people this Christmas season. Who will you invite to worship this Advent and Christmas?



Christmas Eve Worship Services:

1:30pm: Family Service
3:30pm: Family Service

5:30pm: Traditional Candlelight
10pm: Traditional Candlelight



Memorials



IN MEMORY OF CHRIS FIECHTL

Education Fund: Karla & Mike Paurus

IN MEMORY OF ILEAN MCLEAN

Trust Fund: Shawn & Gwen Nelson

IN MEMORY OF HAZEL OSRTOM

General Fund: Joyce & Hilmer Maas

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



November 2025- Baptisms

November 2025- Funerals

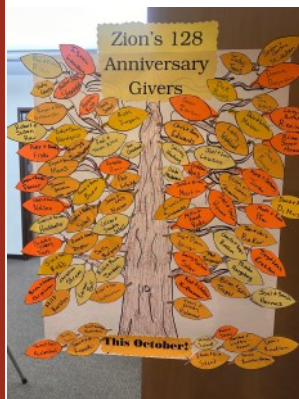
Doug Beck 11/22

Looking Back!

Anniversary Annual Appeal

Thank you to all who supported our second Anniversary Appeal. We collected \$10,821.00 for our New Carpet project and Sign refresh. All of the carpet in Zion was placed when this building was built in 2007, so at 18 years old, there are areas of deep wear and seams that are fraying and becoming tripping hazards.

Thank you for making our 128th Anniversary an opportunity to beautify our fabulous Zion building.



Thank you to all those who generously gave to Zion's 128th Anniversary Appeal:

Jay & Dyanne Altringer, Amanda & Isaac Lawshea, Chris & Jen Baker, Kevin & Renae Beeter, Janell Beggs, Carmen Bell, Teresa BerntsonHynson, Sally Butgereit, Dick Butts, Bruce & Linda Christianson, Sue Cleveland, James Clute & Sherlene Nelson, Steve & Rondi Deaver, David & Myrna DeMers, Donna Desjardins, Chris & Amy Edwards, Troy & Leah Erickson, Pete & Mandy Fiske, Jody Geotz, Michele Schmidt, Roger & Deb Guttormson, Shirley Hartung, Phoebe Haugeberg, DuWayne & Joann Hendrickson, Joel & Sonja Hernes, Terry & Gail Hjelmstad, Travis & Cassidy Hjelmstad, Justin & Sarah Hochhalter, Brian & Janet Hornecker, Tina Hughes, Ordean Huus, Gene Iverson, Karen Jensen, Mark & Bethany Jensen, Richard & Paula Jensen, Pat Jorgenson, Ruth Juergens, Kent & Chelsea Kirkhammer, Marshall & Lindsay Knaup, Connie Knudson, Milt Korslien, Joel & Lori Lawson, Joyce & Hilmer Maas, Deb Mahoney, Dale & Wanda Maixner, Josh & Nikki Martin, Jordan & Chelsey Mickelsen, Craig & Jane Nelson, Neal & Karen Nelson, Cindy & Dennis Nordquist, Matt & Kara Pfau, Robert & Susan Rau, Butch & Ruth Ann Rexine, Fred & Teresa Rittel, Jim & Sue Robb, Charlie & Angie Roehm, Richard & Bev Roen, John & Vicki Rovenko, Millie & Floyd Rude, Darlene Rust, Dustin & Bobbi Jo Schall, Gary Schell, Glenn & Sandra Schell, Eunice Simbalenko, Jacky Smith, Larry & Carlene Solar, Brian & Leanne Steenerson, Joe & Beth Stenvold, Christine Strom, Marlys Sundbakken, Pastor Elaine & Erik Sveet, Tiffany & Brock Teets, Judy Teets, Brian & Julie Troxel, Larry Wahlund, Pat White, Angela Zerr, Dean & Nancy Ziegler

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



Men's Breakfast

Come and have breakfast with Zion dudes/fellows/gentlemen where you will eat, pray, and talk.

Next meeting is Sat. December 20th @9am in the Fellowship Hall



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 the Christmas Party at Pizza Ranch on Thursday, Dec. 11th @Noon

Meets every Tuesday 1pm in the North Boardroom



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.



Widows & Widowers

Support with Pastor Elaine.
Treats provided by
Connie Knudson
The next meeting is
Wed. January 7th at 1pm



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. Dec. 9th @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.



Quilters

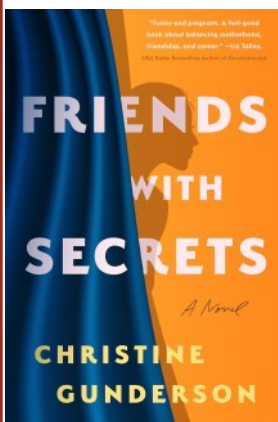
Come join our quilters group! All are welcome to join regardless of skill level. **Next meeting is Mon. Dec. 8th at 1pm and 6pm**

Prayer Circle

Meet with Pastor Elaine to pray over members of the congregation.

Next meeting is Mon. Dec. 17th at 2pm in the south board room

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



January's Book is "Friends with Secrets" by Christine Gunderson

What you see isn't always what you get.

Take Ainsley. The gorgeous mother of two lives a picture-perfect life with her husband, Ben—aspiring politician and heir to a candy fortune—in suburban Washington, DC. But in reality, Ainsley has no idea what she's doing and is terrified someone will figure out who she really is and where she came from.

Nikki's fighting to keep afloat as a stay-at-home mother of four, subsisting on chicken nuggets and very little sleep. She's a mess on the outside, and inside yearns for the validation—and the paycheck—of the television news career she left behind. ***Excerpt from Amazon.com ****The Next Book Club Meeting is Tuesday, January 13th at 6:30pm**

Angel Tree for At-Risk Families



Help local families meet their basic needs. We have our tree set up right outside the front office with tags ready to be grabbed. All gifts must be received by **Monday, December 15th**. We are serving families from North Central Human Services and Nexus PATH

Poinsettias for Christmas



Beautify Zion in honor of a loved one by contributing toward the Poinsettia plants by Dec. 15th. Suggested donation \$10.

Poinsettias are not just a pretty flower, they have an interesting history connected with Christmas.

Symbolism: The red leaves of the poinsettia are often interpreted as representing the blood of Christ, while the star-like shape of the plant symbolizes the Star of Bethlehem. **Mexican origins & connection with Nativity Scenes:** The poinsettia is native to Mexico, where indigenous people used it for decorative purposes, and later, Franciscan friars incorporated it into nativity scenes in the town of Taxco. **Legend of Pepita:**

A popular Mexican legend tells the story of a poor girl named Pepita who offered a humble bouquet of roadside weeds as a gift to the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve, which miraculously transformed into beautiful poinsettias.



Christmas Poinsettias



Scan the QR Code for:
Online Payment
or
The Online Form



Instructions for Online Payment:

1)Scan QR Code with your phone camera 2)Enter in amount 3)Click on Poinsettias 4)Follow Prompts

Christmas Poinsettias

Zion will decorate the sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas. Your contribution may be in Memory of (loved one) in Celebration of (anniversary or big birthday), or in Honor of (Someone or Something). Fill out this form and return to Amanda at the office with your donation by Monday, December 15th. Please write checks to Zion Lutheran. Any donations received in excess of the cost will be deposited in the flower fund. Suggested Donation \$10.

I wish it to be: ☐ In memory of ☐ In honor of ☐ In Celebration of ☐ Cash/Check or ☐ Online

Total: \$ _____

From _____

Form and donation must be returned to office by **Monday, December 15th**.

Looking Ahead!

Food Faith Family Meal Schedule

December Menus

12/03 Community Meal: Chilis-Chicken, Beef and Gluten Free, Salad Bar

12/10 Community Meal: Pizza & Breadsticks, Salad Bar

12/17 Community Meal: Taco in a Boat

12/24 & 12/31 Christmas Eve/New Years Eve No FFF Meal



Yummy for the Tummy Auction

Sunday, December 7th @ 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall

There will be an auction of baked goods. Bring your favorite baked goods (lefsa, pie, cake, cookies, krumkake, etc.) to auction off to the highest bidder. Have some fun and raise some \$\$\$\$. All funds will go to the ZLCW which use the funds to support numerous charities locally and globally during the holidays. *Please have items to the church by 9:30am on the 7th.*

Blue Christmas Service

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss can be magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. Our annual Blue Christmas on **Saturday December 20 at 5pm** will provide a time and place of solace during the often frantic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and peace during the holidays.



Nativity Tour & Christmas Concert December 17th

All are welcome to take part in our Christmas Concert and Nativity Tour. Your nativity would look great at Zion for one day. There will be winners for the Most Unique, Most Beautiful, Best Traditional and Best Tiny Nativity so be sure to get yours in! The tour and meal begins at 5pm/ Christmas concert to follow at 6:15pm. All levels of musical ability are encouraged to sign up! Concert starts at 6:15pm. Sign up outside the church office.



Financials

	Year to Date
Income	\$525,935.50
Expenses	\$523,896.89
Surplus	\$2,038.61

Thank You

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

Please scan this QR code to give an offering to ZLC



****Expenses are currently lower due to vacant staff positions. Previous deficit years will begin to be offset by potential surpluses. Strong giving is needed to provide options for staffing in the future.****

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

Mailed In
Check or in Giving Envelope to
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
October 25th, 26th, 29th	162	232	394
November 1st, 2nd, 5th Confirmation Sunday & Kids Sabbath	526	289	815
November 8th, 9th, 12th	204	259	463
November 15th, 16th, 19th	188	206	394

2026 Pledges to Zion

As of November 25th we have received 97 pledge cards. Of the total received to date. 11 are new pledgers to Zion. 22 pledgers increased their pledge from last year and 10 have decreased their pledge. Our current pledge total for 2026 is \$240,945.00. Your pledge helps Zion create a smart and responsible budget. When you inform us of your anticipated giving total for next year, we are able to make plans for the future including staff salaries, maintenance planning, and program and mission funding projections. Thank you for helping us be proactive in our future visioning by participating with your pledge commitment. Every pledge counts. We are so grateful for your faithful support and commitment to Zion!

Church School Updates

***Christmas Rotation**

- *Wednesday—Dec 3rd & 10th
- *Sunday— Dec 7th AND Wed, Dec 10th (for Dress Rehearsal)
- *WEDNESDAY, DEC 17TH—CHRISTMAS PARTY—MOVIE, GAMES, SNACKS

“Do Not Fear, Get up & Go”

***Sunday, Dec 14th Worship
at 10am (Led by ALL the
Church School students)**



**NO CHURCH SCHOOL
Dec 21st-Jan 7th**

Donation Station Update: A HUGE thank you to all who provided non-perishable food for our Trick or Can Food Drive Event. We collected **2,125 lbs** of food for the Lord's Cupboard Pantry. **THIS IS OVER 450lbs MORE FOOD THAN LAST YEAR!** Through Minot Area Community Foundation grant, we also were able to secure an additional \$2,125 grant to the Lord's Cupboard!



Angel Tree Tags

Zion is working with North Central Human Services and Nexus PATH this year for our Angel Tree.

***Please return Angel Tree Tag
with gifts in gifts bags to Zion
by Monday, Dec 15h.***



Sunday, Dec 14th from
6:30-8pm at
Bootlegrz!



Beat the Cold Carnival **for ALL AGES!**



All ages are invited for an intergenerational event full of fun and fellowship. If you are older, do not have children or are single—there will be activities FOR YOU such as board games, conversations, cards and more! Join us for a potluck lunch and activities! There will be something for EVERYONE!

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, January 25th from
11am-1pm**





Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed		Thu		Fri		Sat	
		1 Trust Envelope Month	2 1pm Watercolor Grp	3 4:30pm Church School 5pm: Food Faith Family 6pm Worship 7pm Church School & Confirmation 8pm High School Youth Grp	4 7:30pm Narcotics Anon	5 	6 5pm: Worship						
7 9am Church School 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship 11am: YUMMY FOR THE TUMMY	8 	9 1pm Watercolor Grp 5:30pm: Prayer Shawl 6:30pm Book Club	10 4:30pm Church School 5pm: Food Faith Family 6pm: Worship 7pm Church School & Confirmation (caroling) 8pm Highschool Youth Grp	11 10am: Edgewood Worship 12pm: Hannah Circle Christmas Lunch 6pm Cub Scout Pack #4432 Mtg 7:30pm Narcotics Anon	12 	13 5pm Worship & Hymn Sing							
14 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship-Kids Sabbath 6:30pm Holy Listening	15 5:30pm Finance Mtg 6:30pm: Council Mtg	16 1pm Watercolor Grp	17 2pm Prayer Circle 4:30pm Church School Party 5pm: Food Faith Family & Nativity Tour 6:15pm: Worship & Christmas Concert 7pm Church School 8pm Highschool Youth Grp	18 6pm Cub Scout Pack #4432 Mtg 7:30pm Narcotics Anon	19 	20 5pm: Blue Christmas Worship							
21 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship with Choir	22 	23 1pm Watercolor Grp	24 Christmas Eve 1:30pm & 3:30pm: Family Service 5:30pm & 10pm: Traditional Candle Light Service	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED  7:30pm Narcotics Anon	26 	27 5pm Worship- Osmund Mourm Baptism							
28 9:15am Coffee Fellowship 10am: Worship	29 	30 1pm Watercolor Grp	31 News Years Eve										



Joy to the World

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



ADVENT	INFANT	MYRRH
ANGEL	JESUS	NATIVITY
BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	REJOICE
BIRTH	MAGI	STABLE
BLESSINGS	MANGER	STAR
CAMELS	MARY	THREE KINGS
FRANKINCENSE	MIRACLE	WISE MEN

Zion Lutheran Church
1800 Hiawatha Street
Minot, ND 58701

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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

Phone: 701-852-1872

Email: zlc@srt.com

Website: www.zionlutheranminot.org

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2025 Council Members

Joe Stenvold President
Amanda Winkels Vice President
Sherry Broderick Secretary
Mike Uran Treasurer
Matt Sundahl
Rondi Deaver
Nicole Martin
Harry Summers

Kinley Gruenberg Youth Member
Lead Pastor Elaine Sveet