



Christmas cards are a favorite December item for me to create and mail. I have three favorite parts of these: the family photo, the annual letter with an update to relatives and friends on what our family is doing, and a blessing. Often the blessing includes a Scripture. If you are still working on your Christmas cards, here are a few Scriptures and prayer sentences that you might like to include:



- **“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him” – John 1:9-10**
- **“And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11**
- **“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. After coming into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. -Matthew 2:10-11a.**

Prayer sentences:

- God bless you and your celebrations this Christmas!
- May the joy and light of Christmas fill you to overflowing for the coming year!
- With gratitude I remember you this Christmas. May God bring deep peace to your home and strong hope for tomorrow.

-Pastor Elaine Sveet

## NEW TEAMS -

Do you know what makes Zion stronger? You do. Zion is beginning some new teams as we invigorate, organize and expand our ministry. There may be a perfect place where your talents and brains could fit. Contact the church office or Pastor Elaine if you'd like to serve on own of our new teams.

- **Hospitality Committee** (focused on intentional welcome and social opportunities)
- **Financial Committee** (overseeing monthly expenses and income)
- **Outreach & Mission** (overseeing the Community Outreach Fund, and helping opportunities with charities)
- **Flowery Ministry Team** (extension of our Building & Grounds committee, focused on Christmas Poinsettias, Easter Lilies and Exterior Church flowers)



## Christmas Eve Worship Services:

1:30pm: Family Service

3:30pm: Family Service

5:30pm: Traditional  
Candlelight

10:00pm: Traditional  
Candlelight



## Stewardship

What Zion means to me

Home — Zion is my church home.  
Through the 50 years I've been a member,  
I've seen many changes  
Changes in staff, changes in music,  
Changes in Sunday School-it's  
Wednesday Church School now,  
Changes in members, Welcomed  
new ones and said goodbye and  
sent some home  
Changes in location-in our very  
building

But still, even with all the changes,  
God is still its center-strong steady  
and stable.

The Christ in Our Home booklet  
talks about holy places-  
Places that situate us in the  
grandeur and safety of God.  
That's what Zion is to me —  
My church home where I find, feel,  
see and hear  
The grandeur and safety of God.

-Harry Summers

## In Memory Of Leonard Johnson

### Undesignated Memorials

Daniel Lafontaine

Jacky Smith

Angela and David Speiser

### **November 2023-Baptisms**

Clyde Howard Tinnes— 11/5

### **November 2023- Funerals**

Darrel Gilseth— 11/1

Leonard Johnson 11/15

Daniel Reid 11/27

Ardis Markle 11/30



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

Zion General Fund ~ Building Fund ~  
Community Outreach  
Education ~ Global Missions ~ Hand Bells ~  
Music Ministry ~ Playground  
Prayer Shawl ~ Trust ~ Youth Ministry ~ ZLCW

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





### Advent Breakfast:

**Saturday December 2nd @9:30am**

A breakfast will be served, free will offering.

This is for men and women, as well as young people. Please join us!

Pastor Natasha will speak about her Lily Grant and travel to various countries in Europe



### Reminder to our snowbirds:

If you are heading south for the winter, please contact the office to let us know:

- \* When you are leaving
- \* What your address will be
- \* When you plan to return



We will continue to email our monthly Visitor if that is how you have received it in the past.



### Yummy for the Tummy Auction

**Sunday, December 3rd @ 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall-**

Auctioneers Luke Schaefer and John Gruenberg will host 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 \$\$\$\$. Half of the funds will go towards the Heat Pump and the other half will go towards Zion's General Fund . *Please have items to the church by 9:30am on the 3rd.*



### BINGO-BELLS

**Saturday, December 16th 6-8pm**

**6-6:30pm Supper for a free-will offering and then 6:30-8pm BINGO for \$10**



Come out for some fantastic BINGO playing fun. Prizes for the best Ugly Christmas Sweaters, so dressing up in your over-the-top Christmas-iest clothing is highly encouraged but definitely not mandatory. Great BINGO prizes again, and Silent Auction baskets too. Supper is a Potato Bar with all the fixings to enjoy. Led by our youth attending the National Youth Gathering.



### Christmas Poinsettias



Church flowers will be run differently. They will no longer be processed through the Trust committee. Please write checks to Zion Lutheran NOT Memorials. Proceeds from Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lillies will support the exterior flowers at Zion. Beauty inside and out of the church year round is supported by your flower donations! Flowers can be named: in Memory of (loved one) in Celebration of (anniversary or big birthday), or in Honor of (Zion). Two donation amounts will be received. \$5 which contributes to beautiful silk, artificial poinsettias which will be enjoyed for years, or \$25 for fresh poinsettias. You will be able to take your live plant home at the conclusion of our Christmas season. All poinsettia donations are due by December 17th and will be placed in the sanctuary on the 20th.





### 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 **Sunday, December 17th**

We are serving families from North Central Human Services and Nexus PATH



### Pancakes are Coming Your Way!

#### ***Pancake Breakfast:***

***Sunday, December 17th:***

The Youth of ZLC will be hosting a pancake breakfast **before and after the 10am service** on Sunday, December 17th. All proceeds will go to the team headed to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, July 2024.

### **NATIVITY TOUR & CONCERT** ***Wednesday, December 20th 5-8pm***

**Tour of nativity sets** (come and go anytime to view between 5-8pm) **and Concert 7-8pm.**

Get set to really savor the joy of Christmas with a look at a number of sweet nativity sets showing the holy family at Jesus' birth, then settle in for some moving music as instrumental and vocal music is presented. This is a free-will offering event and a great event to bring friends and family to enjoy with you. We'd love for you to get involved! Sign up to bring a nativity set from home to display and fill out a description of the story behind your nativity. Sign up to offer a piece of music in Zion's Christmas concert. Think of it as a talent show. All abilities, ages and musical offerings welcomed! Speak to Pastor Elaine if you have any questions.



### **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 are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. We will be gathering for another **Blue Christmas service on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm.** I look forward to this service every year as a way to slow down and listen to God. This year the service is at our normal Saturday worship time. This will provide a time and place of solace during the often-hectic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We will come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. Immediately following the service there will be appetizers and a time of fellowship. Please bring an appetizer to share, like cheese and crackers, little smokies, or something sweet.

Pastor Natasha Kolles



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.



This group meets once a month.

**Next meeting is Saturday, Dec. 16th @9am**



**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 their White Elephant Christmas Party at Pizza Ranch December 14th @12pm.**



### Quilting Ministry NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

**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 Mon, Jan. 15th @ 9am.**



**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 latex paints due to allergies.



### Widows & Widowers

Support & Treats with Pastor Elaine. The next meeting is

**Wednesday, Jan. 3rd @ 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. 12th @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.

**Next meeting is Sunday, December 10th @11am**



### BELL CHOIR

**Join our Sunday or Wednesday December Bell Choir! (or both!)**

*You can ring bells, It's not that hard!*

Performances Sunday, December 10th & Wednesday, December 13th.

Wednesday Bell Choir practices from 5:30-6pm on November 29th, December 6th & 13th

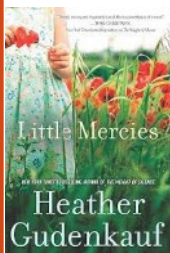
Sunday Bell Choir practices from 11:15-11:45am on December 3rd & 10th.

Bell Choir led by Kiara Torgeson.





**Book Club**— *Meets every 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 6:30pm.*  
*As a reminder, there will not be a book club meeting in December.*



January's book is "Little Mercies" by Heather Gudenkauf

Veteran social worker Ellen Moore has seen the worst side of humanity, the vilest acts one person can commit against another. She is a fiercely dedicated children's advocate and a devoted mother and wife. But one blistering summer day, a simple moment of distraction will have repercussions that Ellen could never have imagined, threatening to shatter everything she holds dear, and trapping her between the gears of the system she works for.

A powerful and emotionally charged tale about motherhood and justice, *Little Mercies* is a searing portrait of the tenuous grasp we have on the things we love the most, and of the ties that unexpectedly bring us together. (Excerpt from Amazon.com)

Worship Date	On-Site	Online	Total
28, 29, 1 Oct-Nov	464	564	1,028
4, 5, 8 November	289	232	521
11, 12, 15 November (Kids Sabbath)	407	450	857
18, 19, 22 November (Thanksgiving Eve) (No Online Sun.)	203	108	311

## NURSERY MINISTRY

We provide nursery care during our  
**Sun Morning (9:45-11am) &  
 Wed Evening (6-7pm)**  
 Worship Services.

We also provide childcare during any of our  
 Faith Formation times  
 (Church School/Confirmation).

- Wednesday 4:15-5:45pm
- Wednesday 7:00-8:00pm

Childcare is also provided  
 during special events  
 or as needed for meetings.



## Donation Station Update

We started collecting non-perishables for the Lord's Cupboard on Wed, Nov 1st with our Annual Trick or Can Event led by our Confirmation Students. We packed the trailer on Nov 8th and delivered **1,388 lbs** of food for the food pantry! The Lord's Cupboard will also receive an additional \$1,000 from the Minot Area Community Foundation because we collected over 1000 lbs of food!

Thank you all for your generosity!





# Financials

## TIME & TALENT AUCTION

### Thank You!

We were overjoyed at the congregation's response to our first Time & Talent Auction on Sun. Nov. 5th. We raised \$16,210 for our church's general fund. This supports the active ministry of our congregation in everything from staff to programming and pastoral care. Your generous items and services were responded to with generous bids. Thank you to our Auction Planning Team: John & Rachel Gruenberg, Diana McLean, John Thompson and Pastor Elaine, and to our entertaining auctioneers Kevin Beeter and Bruce McLean. We're already eagerly looking forward to next year.



All 2023 offerings and donations to special funds need to be received in the church office by

**Friday, Dec. 30th.**

Anything received after that will go toward your 2024 giving statement.

Contact Amanda at the office if you have any questions about your giving or where you are with your 2023 pledge.

Annual giving statements (for tax purposes) will be mailed to members in mid to late January.

## 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**  
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

**Please scan this QR code  
to Give to ZLC**



## Pledge Cards

We continue to have a significant operating deficit. Your giving keeps your church strong. Help Zion end 2023 in the black!

Because of you, Zion changes lives. Ministry needs to continue to grow. Imagine what a difference you can make. Will you help us plan? Give us an estimate of what you might give this year. The deadline to get pledge cards in is

**December 1st 2023**

**103** Pledge Cards have been received as of  
11/28/2023. Our goal is **150!**

**Scan the QR Code for an online pledge card**



## **CHURCH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

### **The Friendly Beasts Meet Jesus** **CHRISTMAS ROTATION**

\*Wednesday-Nov 29th, Dec 6th & 13th

\*Sunday-Dec 3rd, 10th & Wednesday, Dec 13th

\*Kids' Sabbath-*"The Friendly Beasts Meet Jesus"*

\***Saturday, Dec 16th** at **5:00pm Worship**

Led by 7pm Church School Session

\***Sunday, Dec 17th** at **10:00am Worship**

Led by 4:30pm & 9am Church School

\*Please let me know if your child is unable to participate in the Christmas Kids' Sabbath

THERE WILL BE NO CHURCH SCHOOL Dec 24th-Feb 7th due to LIFE Groups. Talk to Chris if you and your family are interested in participating in a LIFE Group. Learn more about LIFE Groups in this edition of the Visitor.

## **FAMILY ADVENT WREATHS**

\*Advent is a time of expectant waiting and the preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

\*We have supplies for your family to make Advent Wreaths to use in your home. Contact Chris to receive materials. We will have the wreaths, supplies to decorate, and a daily devotion for your family to use throughout this season of anticipation.

\**We are celebrating the first Sunday in Advent as Nov 26th so we can celebrate all four weeks prior to the 4th Sunday in Advent (which actually falls on Christmas Eve this year)*



## **LIFE Groups are happening!**



LIFE (Living in Faith Everyday) Groups are:

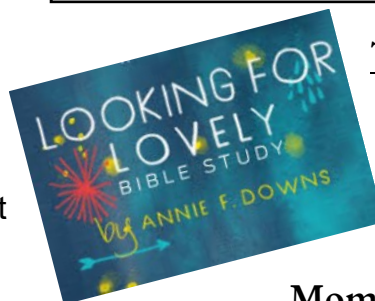
- Groups of 8-12 people
- People who meet in homes or at church with a designated **LIFE Group Host**.
- "Sermon Chats," which are guided conversations based around the previous week's sermon and scripture readings led by a **Facilitator**.
- LIFE Groups will meet **five** weeks beginning **Jan 6th/7th**.

### **What Will We Study?**

- **Health & Wholeness**

### **How do I sign up?**

- Talk to the staff and we will be sure to get you placed with a group, sign up at the church or online starting Dec 6th.



TWO Opportunities to dive into this study!  
"What does it mean to collect moments that matter!"

### **Moms on a Mission**

Stay-at-Home-Moms

Wednesdays at 9am at Zion

### **SOUL Sisters**

Working Women

Wednesdays at 7pm at Zion

**This 6-Week Study will start**  
**Wednesday, January 3rd**

- There is a sign-up sheet outside the office and on our website under Sign-ups and Forms. Please sign up so we can be prepared for the needs of the group.
- Please purchase the study prior to the first gathering. Be sure to find the "Bible Study Edition" of the book which contains ques-

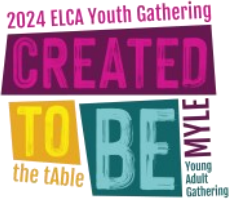




## CONFIRMATION UPDATE

Everyone's favorite for the month of December is back: Christmas Caroling! On December 13th all 6th-8th graders will be caroling at our local nursing

## 2024 SUMMER TRIP



As the snow is falling, Christmas music playing and sitting in front of my office heater, it's really easy to get excited for warmer weather during our Summer trip! July 16-23rd Pastor Elaine and I are traveling with 14 very eager high schoolers to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We have started our fundraising process and would love to see as many faces at our events as possible! To ensure you don't miss what we have planned, mark these dates down

**Sat. December 16th-** Bingo Bells

**Sun. December 17th-** Pancake Breakfast

Come out and support Nolan Callahan, Leah Dokken, Bostyn and Cashtyn Edwards, Annlea Eskelson, Kinley Gruenberg, Hannah Randash, Ellie and Harrison Schaefer, Ethan and Oliver

## KORTNI'S CORNY CORNER

Q: What did Adam say the day before Christmas?

A: It's Christmas, Eve!

Q: What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?

## YOUTH GROUP

### IGNITE 9TH-12TH GRADE

**Wednesdays from 8-9:30pm**

Only a few more youth groups for the year of 2023! What a fun year we've had. Let's close out the year with a bang!



**December 7th-** Service Project

**December 13th-** Christmas Party

Starting January 2024, we will be starting a monthly Bible Study for teens. More

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Did you know...** *"Those celebrating Christmas and other winter holidays expect to spend \$875 on average on gifts decorations, food and other key seasonal items..."*   
-cpapracticeadvisor.com

"Thoughtful, amazing, and incredible" are a few words my sister used to describe my gift giving skills. I LOVE giving the perfect gift to my loved ones. Looking through Etsy, Amazon and Target until I find that "just right" gift is my love language. However, with inflation and "going into debt" not on my Christmas list, I traded in my Etsy search bar for some handmade gifts. Surprise, I still have the same joy making gifts as I did shopping and spending way too much money. Christmas is not about who spent the most money or got the fanciest of gifts but instead being with those you love. Give your credit card a little break this year and remember what is



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



December

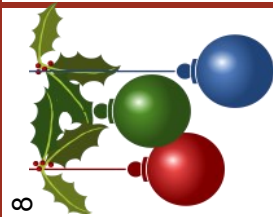
3  
9am: Church School  
9:15am: Coffee Fellowship  
10am: Worship  
11am: **Yummy for the Tummy Auction**

4  
5:30pm: Childrens Ministry Mtg.

5  
9am: Pastors Text Study  
10:30am: Team Mtg  
1pm: Watercolor Grp  
5:30pm: Personnel Committee Mtg.

6  
2pm: ZLCW Board Mtg  
4:30pm: Church School  
5:30pm: Food Faith Family Meal  
6:15pm: Worship  
7pm: 6th-8th Grade Confirmation & Church School  
8pm: Ignite

7  
7:30pm: Narcotics Anon



9  
5pm: Worship

10  
9am: Church School  
9:15am: Coffee Fellowship  
10am: Worship  
3:30pm: Order of the Arrow Mtg



12  
9am: Pastors Text Study  
10:30am: Team Mtg  
1pm: Watercolor Grp  
5:30pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry  
6pm: Girl Scout

13  
4:30pm: Church School  
5:30pm: Food Faith Family Meal  
6:15pm: Worship  
7pm: 6th-8th Grade Confirmation & Church School  
8pm: Ignite

14  
12pm Hannah Circle White Elephant Christmas Party  
6pm: Girl Scout 10319 Mtg  
7pm: Cub Scout Pack  
7:30pm: Narcotics Anon



16  
9am: Men's Breakfast  
5pm: Worship-Christmas Kids Sabbath  
6pm: Supper  
6:30pm **BINGO-BELLS**

17  
**Angel Tree-Tags Due**  
9am: Christmas Kids Sabbath  
9-Noon: Pancake Breakfast  
10am: Worship  
6:30pm: Holy Listening



19  
9am: Pastors Text Study  
10:30am: Team Mtg  
1pm: Watercolor Grp  
6:30pm: Council Mtg

20  
4:30pm: Church School  
5:30pm: Food Faith Family Meal  
5-8pm: Nativity Tour  
6:15pm: Worship  
7-8pm: Concert

21 Homeless Persons Memorial Day  
7pm: Cub Scout Pack Mtg.  
7:30pm: Narcotics Anon



23  
5pm: **Blue Christmas** Worship with snacks and Fellowship

24  
**Christmas Eve**  
1:30pm & 3:30pm: Family Service  
5:30pm & 10pm: Traditional Candlelight Service



26  
9am: Pastors Text Study  
10:30am: Team Mtg  
1pm: Watercolor Grp

27  
**No Programs or Worship**

28  
6pm: Scouts #4432  
7:30pm: Narcotics Anon



30  
5pm Worship



## O HOLY NIGHT

A D N H P W P J Q B T G F F S Q V  
Y D M Q M I A A S T A R R L G F R  
F X F A G R D O N K E Y A S Q L J  
F S B U G S A V I O R M N F W U W  
H H E A X W I X H Z I E K J A C B  
E E T M B Y J R S N M V I N Z X I  
M P H I N Y R O A E H H N U G L B  
I H L B K Y P G S Z B N C Z O Q J  
W E E Z M Z N I M E U Q E X L M E  
K R H I M Z W F M E P S N P D N S  
Z D E R A S K T A B A H S L D Y U  
G N M Q J J J S N Y I A E S R V S  
V A N F Q F A T G F T G I A Z T X  
N J C U R Z Z X E U N O M N G L Z  
B K Y M W I H F R A P E A C E G W

ANGEL  
ANIMALS  
BABY  
BETHLEHEM  
DONKEY  
FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS  
GOLD  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MANGER  
MARY

MYRRH  
PEACE  
SAVIOR  
SHEPHERD  
STAR  
WISE MEN





## Zion Lutheran Church

1800 Hiawatha Street  
Minot, ND 58701



### 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

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

Like us on [Facebook](#)



### 2023 Council Members

John Butgereit President  
Melissa Helgeson Vice President  
Rich Jensen Secretary  
Erica Atkinson Treasurer  
John Thompson  
Kristi Asendorf  
Sherry Broderick  
John Gruenberg  
Matt Sundahl  
Annlea Eskelson Youth Member  
Lead Pastor Elaine Sweet  
Pastor Natasha Kolles