The Glory of Zion

Christ's Light Shining Among Us

Newsletter of **Zion Lutheran Church, School & Preschool**
4550 Mt Rushmore Rd | Rapid City, SD 57701 | (605) 342-5749 | info@zionrc.org | **zionrc.org**

September 2026

Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

–Matthew 16:24

We adorn our walls with them, wear them around our necks, and display them on our clothing. But what really happened on the cross?

A lawyer tested Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:36-39).

What happened on the cross is the fulfillment of Jesus' explanation to the lawyer. On the cross Jesus gave *all* of Himself to His Father in heaven. He gave *all* of Himself to perfectly love His neighbor.

Before He took up His literal cross, Jesus warned His disciples that by following Him they each would have to take up their own cross. The life of one redeemed by Christ is a life lived in sacrifice for others.

Here's the obvious statement of the day: A life of sacrifice is hard. It's giving more to offering that you think you can afford. It's coming in after the workday to work through the business of the church. It's late nights and early mornings in service to others. It's tirelessly serving those who may or may not ever give you thanks.

God's will for our lives is not that we love Him when we can fit Him in. He doesn't want our scraps and leftovers. He wants *all* of you. Just as He gave *all* of Himself to you.

And maybe better said, He desires that you to give all of yourself to your neighbor. You see, God doesn't need your money. But He uses those financial sacrifices to point others to see His Son. He doesn't need your time, but your neighbor does, to see Christ at work in you. He doesn't need your service, but your neighbor does to feel Christ's presence through you.

What happened on the cross? Christ gave His all to the Father for you. We can't redo that sacrifice, but we can pick up our own crosses and imitate it. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can live lives of sacrifice to others.

And through our lives of sacrifice, I pray that others see Christ through us. Will it be easy? No life filled with meaning was ever easy. Will the sacrifice be worth it? Jesus saw you and said yes. As you and I look upon our neighbors may we, by the power of the Spirit, say the same.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Bryan Meadows

MINISTRY FOCUS: Christian Education and Bible Studies

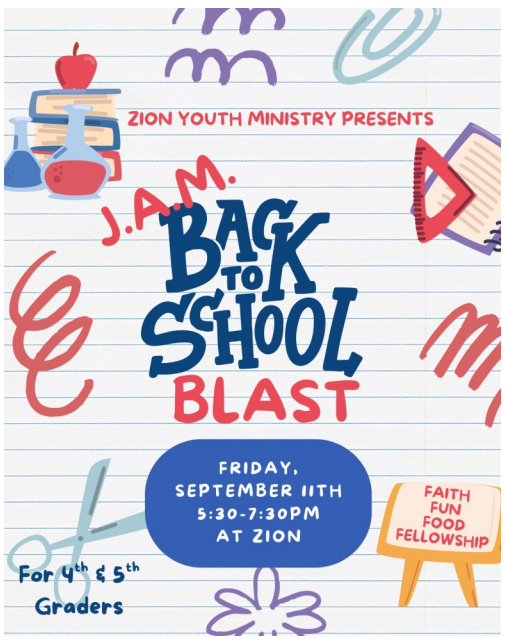
By: Lindsay Reule

School is back in session, and that means we will start Sunday School, Catechism, and Bible Studies again! Sunday, September 13, will be the beginning of our later worship time and Sunday School and Bible Studies on Sunday.

On Sunday morning, we will have education hour from 9:30-10:30 AM. Our Women's Bible Study will be doing the first half of Beth Moore's Daniel study, and they will meet in the third grade classroom. The Adult Bible Study, "From One," led by Pastor Phil Meadows will meet in the Sanctuary. Beginning on September 13, the study will be "From One to Many"- How did we go from one "denomination" to many. September 20 will be the beginning of "The Bible" - How did we get to today's Bible, and on September part three, "One God, Three Persons," will begin—A look at God and Persons. Pastor Gary Schulte and Pastor Bryan Meadows will be teaching Adult Catechism classes for parents of those going through Catechism. Anyone who would like to study Luther's Small Catechism is welcome to join. Pastor Schulte will start the year teaching first and second year Catechism parents in the Narthex. Pastor Bryan will start the year teaching third year Catechism parents in the library. Preschool and kindergarten Sunday School for kids starting at age three will be held in the preschool classroom. Elementary Sunday School for kids in grades one through five will meet in the first grade classroom. Middle school kids will meet in the fourth grade classroom. High school kids will meet in the board room.

There is something for everyone! If you have younger kids, we encourage you to still attend a Bible study session and bring your kids with.

Wednesday, September 9, will kickoff our Youth Ministry activities for the year. Our Youth Ministry is geared towards middle school and high school kids. Meet us in the backyard at Zion for a youth family BBQ! Youth AND parents AND younger siblings are encouraged to attend! We will share information about Catechism, High School Bible Study, Summer trips, and more! The main dish is provided; bring a side or dessert to share. On Wednesday nights, we will have Catechism class for middle school students and Bible Study for high school students from 6:00-7:30 PM. Keep an eye out for upcoming special events throughout the year on our Youth bulletin board!



J.A.M. (Jesus And Me) is for current fourth and fifth grade students. We will kickoff with our Back-to-School event on Friday, September 11, from 5:30-7:30 PM. Join us for faith, fun, food, and fellowship! J.A.M. will meet on a quarterly basis this year. Watch the Youth bulletin board in the hallway for more upcoming dates.

If you would like to help with Sunday School or have any questions about our Youth Ministry, please contact Lorien Petersen at lorien.petersen@zionrc.org.

Calling All Cooks, Bakers, and Food Lovers!

What's cookin'?

We are putting together a cookbook as a fundraiser for the Capital Campaign!

Recipes will be collected until **September 20.**

Email recipes to design@azuresgd.com or place them in the recipe box in the narthex.

Things to include with your recipe:

- Category
- Your name
- Your phone number

Categories

· appetizers and beverages	· cakes
· salads & soups	· cookies & candy
· breads	· pies and desserts
· casseroles	· canning and pickling
· meats	· heritage family recipes
· vegetables & sides	· anecdotes and shorties

Please share as many recipes as you want!

Thank you for participating in this fundraiser!

Christ's Way Continuing in Faith
Zion's Ministry Expansion Campaign

STEWARDSHIP MINUTE: Taking Our Next STEP in Faith

By Kevin & Becki Aker

Do you remember the scene in Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade when Indy is standing at the edge of cliff. In order to save his dad's life, he needs to make a leap of faith across a steep cavern. It is too far to jump and appears impossible. However, he takes a deep breath and steps forward. In reality, the path was actually there all along, but he just couldn't see it.

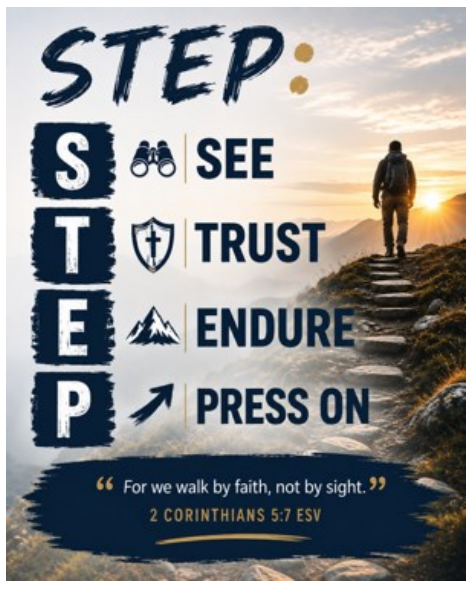
Our church continues down the path towards expanding our ministry. We have awarded a bid and are working on the financing process. Like Indy, we are at that same point, in which we are about to take our own leap of faith. Today I am going to encourage you to remember the acronym S-T-E-P in the days ahead.

Stepping forward, first and foremost we need to keep God as our focus. We perpetually need to SEE this process with spiritual eyes. We need to SEE the project not as we want it, but as our Lord wants it.

When Satan puts hiccups and potholes in the way, (which we know he will), we need to TRUST God's provisions and TRUST his timeline.

We need to ENDURE. Some days this will be easy and sometimes it will be a challenge. We have to remember that this whole campaign is a marathon and not a sprint.

We know that if we focus on God's will, we can confidently PRESS ON, being patient with the process, knowing that one day we will see God's ministry expanded here at Zion.



Save the Date

Zion Lutheran's Upcoming Blood Drive

Tuesday, September 22

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Becki Aker

By: Becki Aker

Meet Mrs. Aker

It is hard to believe I am starting my 12th year as the interventionist at Zion Lutheran Church, School and Preschool! It seems like only yesterday I was a Zion student myself. I am officially a daughter of the congregation. In fact, I am the 4th generation of our family to be members of the Zion family, with my boys being third generation students of Zion Lutheran School.

My teaching career began in the public schools because I have always felt that public schools need Christian teachers as well. I couldn't always talk openly about my faith, but I could try to live it in action. I spent the first five years of my career as a classroom teacher here in Rapid City. During that same time period I got married to my wonderful husband Kevin (who I met at church). We have two boys, Brody & Eli. When our boys were born, I decided to stay home as a mom for the next five years.

When a job became available here at Zion, I really felt that this was the direction God wanted me to go. My years here have reinforced that this is the plan God had for my life. I feel blessed to get to form relationships with the Zion students and their families.

Most of my time away from the classroom is spent cheering on my boys. My son Brody is a sophomore at Stevens High School. He plays football and throws shot put and disc during the spring. My son Eli is in 8th grade at South Middle School, but his heart lies on the baseball field. However, he also enjoys football, basketball and track too. At this season in our lives we eat dinner at either 4:00 PM or 9:00 PM and spend the rest of the time on a bleacher or in a lawn chair cheering them on! I wouldn't have it any other way.

When time allows, we love to camp in the Black Hills, enjoy time relaxing on our back patio and no matter the season, I always love to escape into a good book.

What Exactly Is an Interventionist?

I always tell people I have the best job in the school, because I get to work with all the students, no matter the grade or subject area! How I do this looks differently, depending on the day! The biggest part of my job is to give kids what they need in order to be successful!

Sometimes I go into the classroom and teach a lesson alongside the classroom teacher, which allows either of us to help students who need it. Sometimes I will teach the whole class, so the classroom teacher can assess or work with their students one-on-one. Other times I pull small groups of students to my office to complete an assignment or practice a skill they need a little more work on. At some point every day, I pull students to my office one-on-one to work on the skills they need. On Fridays we do what I call "Friday Time." Every classroom has 20 minutes in which I pull students to come work with me. This isn't just kiddos who need a little extra, this is all students. Everyone comes with Mrs. Aker at some point, which helps normalize it and makes it just another part of the day!

As interventionist, I am responsible for planning goals and tracking progress for students who are on formal learning plans, (what would be an IEP in the public school setting.) I am also in charge of planning interventions for students we are concerned about. We keep careful records for periods of time to track their growth or decide if we need to dig into things a little deeper. I facilitate meetings between parents, teachers and outside professionals to make sure we are all on the same page to help their child succeed! I am also a total data nerd, so I analyze and track assessment data to help drive our instruction at Zion.

Above all I want the students at Zion to know that my door is always open. I am here to listen, encourage, redirect, problem solve and celebrate the wonderful creatures God made them to be! It is never dull, but I wouldn't have it any other way!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

Zion Lutheran School and Preschool started the new school year with 168 students. We still have a few spots available in some of our classrooms. If you know of parents who might be interested in enrolling their child in afternoon preschool, kindergarten, 2nd or 3rd grade for the 2026-2027 school year, please contact Mrs. Solinsky, 342-5749. We offer small class size with maximum 16 in each preschool class, 15 in kindergarten, and 22 in each grade school class. (1st & 4th grades are full.)

As we start another school year, it is good to review and focus on our purpose at Zion School and Preschool:

Mission Statement

Knowing Jesus, Growing in Faith, Serving with Love

Philosophy

God has established Zion Lutheran School and Preschool for these reasons: To share the Gospel, to provide Christian education, to worship and serve, to accept and encourage, and to put teamwork into action.

Zion's Guiding Principles

- ◊ By **Knowing** Jesus, we develop the kind of Christ-like character that will make the graduates of our school Christian leaders in the church and world.
- ◊ By **Growing** in Faith, we maintain the highest standards of academic excellence in elementary school education integrated with, and related to, the teachings of God's Word.
- ◊ By **Serving** with Love, we provide an environment for children to discover, develop, and use their God-given talents in service to others and to His glory. We also partner with parents in leading their children to successful, useful and purposeful living.

Support Zion Lutheran School

As we begin another school year, there are many opportunities to support the ministry of Zion Lutheran School. If you would like to make a financial gift to help meet the needs of our teachers, students, and classrooms, we would be grateful for your support. Gifts may be used for classroom materials and supplies, student needs, teacher resources, or other areas where support is needed.

This fall, we are especially excited to begin the process of building our new gymnasium and classrooms! As these new spaces take shape, there will be many additional needs for furniture, equipment, technology, and classroom supplies to make them welcoming and ready for our students and teachers.

Any gift—large or small, is a meaningful way to support the ministry of Zion Lutheran School. Your generosity helps us provide a Christ-centered education for our students and prepares us for the exciting opportunities God has placed before us.

If you would like to make a financial gift or would like more information about specific needs, please contact Ann Solinsky at the school at 342-5749.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous support as we continue our mission *"to share the Gospel and to encourage discipleship by providing Christian education."*

School Office Hours

The office is open 7:30am-4:00pm for administration and 7:45am-3:30pm for teachers.

Fun Fact

Zion Lutheran School was awarded the #1 Private K-8 School in the Black Hills by Locals Love us!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: The Fellbaum Family

By Jan Meadows

We start when our children are born to teach them the most important lesson of life: Jesus loves you and me. Jesus loves us, that's the focus of what our Pastors teach our children through the Children's Message each Sunday. The Children's Message is one of the first things that Jordan and Megan Fellbaum appreciated when they visited Zion for the first time. Let me introduce this new family to you.

Megan was born and raised here in Rapid City. Her father is Kevin Thom, former Sheriff here in Pennington County. Her stepmom, Gayle, is retired from the FBI. Her aunt and uncle are Ronda and Mike Graf, members here at Zion. Megan left Rapid City to go to college at South Dakota State University, where she earned her RN in nursing. Her first employment as a nurse was at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Megan filled a variety of nursing positions there and now works at Black Hills Surgical Hospital here in Rapid City.

Jordan was born and raised on a dairy farm in Swanville, MN, the oldest of three sons. He's been getting up at 4:00 a.m. since he was very small to help his dad milk the cows. The cows are back in Minnesota, but Jordan still awakens around 4, ready to go help dad. Instead of cows, now Jordan works for RCS Construction, pouring concrete—from one hard job to another! Jordan looks forward to hunting and hiking here in South Dakota with his family.

How does a girl from South Dakota meet a dairy farmer in Minnesota? Well, Jordan's cousin worked with Megan at Mayo for a while. After she left that position, Megan and a few of her friends went to visit her in Swanville. While the cousin gave the girls a tour of metropolitan Swanville, Jordan tagged along. He and Megan soon found that they were quite compatible. As his final act before moving to a new call, their beloved Pastor Kevin Zellers, Jr., officiated at their marriage in September, 2023.

On New Year's Eve, 2025, Sawyer, their first child was born—Happy New Year!!! Sawyer loves it here in their home where the family moved one year ago in August. He has room to play with his dog, Mabel and two cats, Lennox and Bella. The best part, according to Sawyer, is Grandpa and Grandma live just a little way down the road and he gets to be with them often. He loves to play with Grandpa!

Shortly after moving in, Jordan and Megan came to visit Zion. They wanted to be part of a church with a Christian School, and they loved seeing the children participating in the Children's Message. After Jordan helped in our recent Workday, the trustees were quick to recruit him as their newest member. Megan is kept busy as both Sawyer's mom and a nurse at the Surgical Hospital. She hopes to be involved in Zion's school as time allows.

Jordan and Megan love bringing Sawyer and being part of the family here at Zion. They look forward to joining us in teaching everyone that Jesus loves all His children.

Want to Join Our Zion Family?

We offer new member classes yearly starting on October 15 this year. We welcome you to worship with us Saturdays at 5:30pm or Sundays at 8am or 10:45am. If you have any questions about joining our family or about Zion in general, please contact one of our pastors or the front office at info@zionrc.org.

Pastor Meadows: bryan.meadows@zionrc.org Pastor Schulte: gary.schulte@zionrc.org

CONGREGATIONAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Dave & Jan Jungemann

By Phyllis Martens

Dave and Jan Jungemann's connection with Zion goes back to 1973.

Dave grew up in Wolsey, where he was baptized and confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church. Jan grew up on a farm in Howard, about 70 miles southeast of Wolsey. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Howard.

Dave and Jan were married in Jan's home church on December 28, 1961.

They had two children: their daughter, Dawn, passed away from ALS in December of 2024; their son, Douglas, has MS and lives in his own apartment in Spearfish. Douglas receives 24-hour care at his apartment.

Dave and Jan have been blessed with three grandchildren – David, Joelle and Tessa – and six great-grandchildren – Julian, Aaries, David Jr, Taurin, Andrew and Susan. Much of their family lives in the Box Elder area.

Dave's career in the Air Force found them stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base starting in March, 1973. The Jungemanns lived in base housing until their newly built home in Box Elder was finished in April of 1979. Dave and Jan still live in that home today.

Jan has worked in education most of her adult life, having been employed with the Douglas School District for 26 years. She worked as a building clerk and then as the in-school suspension supervisor. After retiring in 2003, Jan served 11 years on the Douglas School Board.

Dave joined the Air Force right out of High School in 1956 and left the service in 1960. He re-enlisted in 1961, and served until February 1, 1980, when he retired. His Air Force career took him and Jan to Colorado, Texas, Florida, Guam, California, Thailand and, finally, Ellsworth.

At Ellsworth, the Jungemanns enrolled their kids in the Douglas School District. But two weeks after enrolling them, the schools shut down due to lack of funding. Jan heard that Zion had a school, so she made a phone call and talked with the receptionist, Sue Childs. Jan was not encouraged by Sue's response: it wasn't likely that Zion had an opening. But the two continued talking, and realized they had a common connection to Howard, South Dakota. By the end of the conversation, Sue had promised to set up a meeting with then Zion Pastor Wendling.

Future conversations would connect the dots to more providential connections to the name, "Jungemann," as a member of the Zion school staff had attended Concordia St. Paul with Dave's cousin, John.

According to Dave and Jan, it was by the grace of God and the name Jungemann that their kids were enrolled at Zion's school in May,1973. Dawn attended Zion for grades 4-6 and Douglas for grades 2-6.

Jan has been active in LWML, served as a Sunday school teacher and on the funeral and hospitality committees. Both Dave and Jan have served on recent Capital Campaign committees. Dave sang with the Zion Praise Team for many years. He has also served as a lay minister, trustee and Congregation President. Dave installed the irrigation system at the church and school.

WE ARE HIRING

AFTER CARE STAFF

- **16 + Years of age**
- **No Weekends or Holidays!**
- **Part-Time Hours (3-5:30pm)**
- **Work with kids ages 3-11**

Contact Hope Genzlinger for more information at hope.genzlinger@zionrc.org or 605-342-5749

Women's Ministry

WICKS (Widows In Christ Know Salvation)

Join us for our next fellowship on Sunday, September 20. We will meet at Outdoor Campus. Join us at 12:30 PM. Bring your own picnic lunch and a drink.

LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission)

LWML will meet at Zion at 10:00a.m. on September 12. The theme is Christian Education and the ingathering is for Zion's teachers "wish list". Pat Jessen and Ruth Kudera will give a report on the June LWML Convention. A business meeting will follow. Light refreshments will be served. We invite all women of the congregation from confirmation age and up to join us.

Zion Wish List:

Dry Erase Markers (fat and skinny), Band-aids (all shapes, sizes, colors), Pipe Cleaners, Sharpies (black and colored), Play-doh, Skin Colored markers and crayons, Pom poms, Ziploc Bags (all sizes), Clorox Wipes, Kleenex (with lotion), Star stickers, Heart Stickers, Glue Sticks, Glitter Glue, Pencil Top Erasers, Graph Paper, Googly eyes, Sticky Notes, Envelopes, and Scissors.

Dorcas Circle

We invite anyone who likes to sew and enjoys fellowship to join us!

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 10:30AM

Tuesday mornings at Zion

We meet in the library.

Join us for Zion Night at Pizza Ranch!

(At BOTH locations!)

September 15th from 5:00pm-8:00pm

Zion students will be there to greet you, bus tables and help out!

A portion of all sales will go to the Christ's Way Capital Campaign to expand our ministry!

Hint: Buy a RaiseRight card for Pizza Ranch ahead of time and Zion will benefit twice! If you want a physical card, these are *due 9/1/26* to be delivered on 9/3/26! Otherwise, grab an online card in the app!

KNOWING GROWING SERVING Christ's Way

P.S. Each table will have tip jars, so bring your cash to tip our kiddos for their excellent service!

RANDOM QUESTION: Tiffany Warnke, Youth Board Director

Who has had the biggest impact on your spiritual growth?

My only sister, Nicole, has had the biggest impact on my spiritual growth. My sister was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 40. She battled cancer on three different occasions with the third time finally taking her life after 16 months of aggressive chemo, and a life-time dose of radiation. Through it all, she was always keeping her eye on God...despite everything. And she did so in such a raw and real way. Sometimes she would question Him, sometimes she was angry at Him, and sometimes she would beg him for a different outcome than what the doctors had predicted. But no matter what...she never doubted that he was with her.

Her strength was remarkable, not just in dealing with the torturous treatment... but also in just keeping her eye on him. Every day she drew strength from her relationship with God. Even when she had a little hope that the outcome would change.

When things continued to progress and her healing never came.... She then shifted her prayers from herself to prayers for her children. Praying for God to guide their paths and bring them hope and faith — peace and a lifetime of positive memories .... In her Absence.

I often wonder if my faith is that strength and sure. And I often lean on her faith.... Knowing if she can live a dedicated faithful and hopeful reliance on God given her situation, surely I can too.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Beginning September 13

SATURDAY @ 5:30PM

SUNDAY @ 8:00AM & 10:45AM

Sunday School Begins 9:30-10:30 AM