



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Feb - Mar 2026 Newsletter

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Feb - Mar SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	Greeter	USHER	PowerPoint
<u>2/15</u>	Polly Weichel	Karen Combs & Diane Lutz	Sharon Nordahl	Scott Lutz	Falan Aanenson
<u>2/22</u>	Dana Leininger	Bill & Vickey Cowen	Wayne Leininger	Wayne Leininger	George Maruska
<u>3/1</u>	Karen Combs	Hope Sukut & Evelyn Benes	Karen Combs	Brian Sukut	Kyrie Benes
<u>3/8</u>	George Maruska	Laurie Bentley	Donna Strouf & Laurie Bentley		
<u>3/15</u>	Pat Fredrickson	Vickey Cowen		Bill Cowen	George Maruska

Please call the office if you would be willing to fill any of the open positions for this month.

***IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT**

Click [HERE](#) to see Zion's Google calendar.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

February 9, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Zion,

One of my bible readings this week led me to 1 Peter 4: 10 – 11: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen”

This reading has resonated with me as our church navigates the waters of transition without a captain (pastor) at the helm. Personally, I find it very humbling, and have been praying how I can best serve God within our church. At the same time, I’m very thankful for those who have agreed to serve in a variety of capacities to not only keep our ship afloat, but to move us forward in our faith. On behalf of the council, I’d like to thank the following members for stepping up at the annual meeting held February 1 to serve our congregation.

Suzie and Craig Flentie have once again volunteered to be Zion’s delegates to the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. They will attend a meeting in the Kalispell area to contribute to the decisions that continue to make the facility and camp experience for kids a success in our state.

Bill and Vickey Cowen agreed to keep us connected to St. John’s United located in Billings, as delegates to their annual meeting. This Lutheran facility for aging adults has grown not only in Billings, but other parts of the state as well.

Our constitution requires that a nominating committee be elected at our annual meeting. The purpose of this committee directly relates to 1 Peter that I quoted at the beginning of my letter. They have the task of recognizing various talents in our church, prayerfully considering, then asking members to be nominated to serve on the congregational council and other committees. Thank you to Lloyd McKenna and Denise Goodwyn (outgoing council members), Jim Fredrickson, Donna Strouf, and Jodie D’Autremont for stepping up to serve in this capacity.

Last year, the nominating committee recommended Suzie Flentie and Kent Yunker serve on the Trust Fund Committee. They were approved at the annual meeting as well.

Finally, Monte Boettger, Cherie Errecart, and Dana Leininger were elected to serve on the church council for a three-year term. We're grateful for their willingness to take on this leadership role within our church and look forward to working with them.

There are many others who serve in our church which I haven't recognized, and to you "thank you", your good deeds have not gone unnoticed. If you're a member or friend of Zion looking to get more involved, please consider the gifts God has bestowed upon you and reach out to Falan in the office at 406-538-5082. She can get you connected.

In closing with my ship at sea analogy; we are a solid and faithful ship in need of all hands-on deck as we navigate this portion of our journey with God. Again, thank you for your service now and in the future.

Grace and peace to you,
Audrey Olson
Church Council Secretary



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We share God's call to experience purpose, wholeness, and community in Jesus Christ and faithfully steward his creation.

If you haven't already, please download this app.

If you need help please call the office or Falan.

Staying connected with our church just got easier. Just download the Instant Church app and you will have access to our church directory.



If you haven't already, please download this app. You can use your home computer or a smart phone.

Service of the Word Volunteers Meeting

Have you considered lending a hand, or leading a *Service of the Word* worship service but aren't really sure what it entails? If you'd like to learn more about this opportunity to serve in this capacity please join Pastor Stacey after worship on Sunday, March 1 in the fireside room. Volunteers are needed for the following Sundays: March 22, April 12, and May 10.

Zion Youth Bible Study

(All are welcome, not just 7th & 8th grade)

Youth bible study is going great. We have been making our way through the book of Genesis. We are finding that God keeps His promises and works His plan, even through imperfect people.

"Together we will grow in faith and explore God's Word."

Ecumenical Journey through Lent, Feb. 25 - March 25, 2026:

Songs of Ascent

This Lent, Zion Lutheran Church will again join with our neighbors at Lewistown United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and St. James Episcopal Church for a series of shared Wednesday evening Lenten services. Together, we will journey through the season under the theme, the "*Songs of Ascent*," drawing on Psalms 120–134. Originally sung by pilgrims traveling "up" to Jerusalem, these psalms trace a movement from distress and exile toward mercy, humility, joy, and praise in God's presence. As we walk the Lenten road toward Holy Week, the Songs of Ascent help us lift our eyes to mountains, name our need for grace, and prepare our hearts for the saving work of Christ, who leads us to new life.

Zion Lutheran Church will host the first service on **Wednesday, February 25**. Services will then rotate among our partner congregations:

March 4 at Lewistown United Methodist Church (512 W Broadway St.)

March 11 at First Presbyterian Church (215 5th Ave S.)

March 18 at St. James Episcopal Church (502 W Montana St.)

and **March 25** again at Lewistown United Methodist Church.

Each gathering will begin with a soup supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by worship and reflection. We will conclude by 6:30 p.m.

All are warmly invited to join us for this ecumenical Lenten pilgrimage of shared prayer, song, and fellowship.

B.L.A.S.T.

Believe, Learn and Seek Truth

Vacation Bible School planning is in the works. If you would like to help, please contact Kyrie or Falan.



February Social Concern is...

Clearing House Connections

Clearinghouse Connections helps people who have unforeseen emergencies and cannot get help through other programs. This program helps with essential services such as food, clothing, shelter, transportation, medical, vision, and dental treatment. Support could be connections to other services or financial aid up to \$500.00 per family per calendar year.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark Clearing House Connections in the memo line of your check.

March Social Concern is...

The Elevator Maintenance & Upkeep Fund.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark Elevator in the memo line of your check.

Zion Church Council Summary January 2026

- The following members will serve on the Call Committee search for a new pastor: Ryan Benes, Anjeanette Carlson, Suzie Flentie, Stan Olson, Lana Papp, Scot Solberg, and Michelle Trafton.
- Coverage is needed to lead a service of the word (Sunday services) on the following dates: February 22, March 22, April 12, and May 10. If you are interested in helping to lead on any of these dates please contact Falan at the church office: 406-538-5082.
- A big thank you goes out to Falan Aanenson who has agreed to continue her position as office secretary!
- The elevator work has begun and should be operable in the foreseeable future.
- Please attend the annual meeting after worship on February 1 for more updates and decisions.



***Scott *Ed * Jessie * Tia * Mike**

*** Dan * Holly * Matt**

*** Dianne *Pam *Ron**

Thank You Outgoing Council Members

In January Lloyd McKenna and Denise Goodwyn completed their three-year terms serving on the church council. During their time both of them made significant contributions to the leadership of our church, most recently serving as president and vice president on council. It is with heartfelt thanks that we recognize their service.





Ash Wednesday
February 18th
Worship @ 6:00pm



Zion's Call Committee consists of Ryan Benes, Anjeanette Carlson, Suzie Flentie, Stan Olson, Lana Papp, Scot Solberg and Michelle Trafton. As stated in the Ministry Site Profile, the call process is a partnership of common purpose as ministry sites, rostered leaders, synod bishops and churchwide offices find ways to mutually cooperate and coordinate efforts in the call process. This process includes the submission of a Ministry Site Profile, MSP, which is designed

to be a summary of the characteristics and ministry of the church and to serve as the first impression that the church wishes to give to prospective candidates. We are currently working on this MSP and this process includes many different components, i.e. "Our Vision for Mission",

"Ministry Site Characteristics", "Leadership Needs", etc. The congregation will soon be receiving a survey from the Call Committee, asking for your input.

Feb - Mar Calendar of Events

2/15 Worship @ 9:30am
 2/16 Council Meeting @ 6:00pm
 2/17 Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
 2/18 Men Over Lunch 12:00pm
 B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM
 7th & 8th Grade Bible Study @ 3:30pm
 Wee Singers @ 4:30pm
Worship @ 6pm
 Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm
 2/19 Men's Bible Study @ 6:30am
 Quilting @ 9am
 Prayer Circle @12:00pm
 2/22 Worship @ 9:30am
 2/25 Men Over Lunch 12:00pm
 B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM
 7th & 8th Grade Bible Study @ 3:30pm
 Wee Singers @ 4:30pm
Soup Supper @ 5pm @ Zion
Ecumenical Worship to Follow @ Zion
 Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm
 2/26 Quilting @ 9am
 Prayer Circle @12pm
 March
 3/1 Worship @ 9:30am
 3/3 Bible Study @ 4pm
 Caring Ministry @5:30pm
 Choir Practice @ 6:30pm

3/4 Men Over Lunch 12:00pm
 B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM
 7th & 8th Grade Bible Study 3:30pm
 Wee Singers @ 4:30pm
Soup Supper @ 5pm @
United Methodist
Ecumenical Worship to Follow @
United Methodist
 Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm
 3/5 Men's Bible Study @ 6:30am
 Quilting @ 9am
 Prayer Circle @ 12:00pm
 3/8 Worship @ 9:30am
 3/10 Rachel Circle @ 9:30am
 3/11 Men Over Lunch 12:00pm
 B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM
 7th & 8th Grade Bible Study 3:30pm
 Wee Singers @ 4:30pm
Soup Supper @ 5pm @
Presbyterian Church
Ecumenical Worship to Follow @
Presbyterian Church
 Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm
 3/12 Quilting @ 9am
 Prayer Circle @ 12:00pm
 3/15 Worship @ 9:30am
 3/16 Council @ 6:00pm
 3/17 Choir Practice @ 6:30pm

DUTY GUIDELINES FOR USHERS

1. Be on duty fifteen minutes before service.
2. If necessary, turn on lights in nave, chancel, and narthex.
3. Make sure guest register is open and working pen is with it.
4. Check bulletin for baptism or special events that may need attention. Check with pastor if you have questions.
5. Stand near the nave doors to distribute bulletins. As needed, usher persons to their pews (e.g., the infirm, new members, etc.) especially as last minute folks come in and see that the back pews are full. Leave one of the doors open for late comers.
6. Fill out the *Attendance Record*. Leave in the narthex or place in the offering plate.
7. **The Offering**
 - Offering plates will remain at the back (not passed through the pews).
 - Always look at the bulletin to see when the offering should be taken to the front.
 -  - Receive the offering in the choir loft and narthex, as needed.
 - When the Pastor comes to the altar rail to receive the offering, ushers come forward with one offering plate and leave the other on the table for anyone who might have forgotten to give their offering.
9. **The Communion.**
 - Ushers should open the narthex doors and take their positions in the aisle at the front during the singing of the “Lamb of God”, so that members can be directed forward while the pastor communes the assistants.
 - Ushers will move back pew by pew to maintain a steady line of communicants.
 - Inform the pastor if there are persons to be communed in their pew.
10. Tidy the pews after worship. Pick up papers and put hymnals and Bibles in place.

Communion Guidelines

Please come to the sacristy during the singing of the “Holy, Holy, Holy”.
(If that is not sung, come during the Offering.)

Wash your hands at the sink.

Decide who will:

- who will serve wine, who will pick up cups (if serving by trays),

During the singing of the “Lamb of God” come to the front and stand at the altar to receive communion.

Leave the emptied trays at the altar. Place the covers on the unused trays remaining on the tables. Exit through the sacristy to take your seat.
