



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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January 2026 Newsletter

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JANUARY SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	Greeter	USHER	PowerPoint
<u>1/4</u>	Stan Olson	Lana Papp, Stan & Audrey Olson	Dale & Gail Kurns	Doug & Gayle Arntzen	Kyrie Benes
<u>1/11</u>	George Maruska	Jody d'Autremont & Diane Lutz	Pat Fredrickson	Jim Fredrickson	Falan Aanenson
<u>1/18</u>	Cindy Giese	Cindy Giese & Vickey Cowen	Avis Simpson & Vicki Minzel	Bill Cowen	George Maruska
<u>1/25</u>	Falan Aanenson	Falan & Caylee Aanenson	Patty Stranz & Vicki Minzel	Aaron Aanenson	Kyrie Benes

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 the January calendar.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

January 1, 2026

Dear Members and Friends of Zion,

As we begin a new calendar year, we are also beginning a time of transition within our church. Pastor Audrey retired the end of December, Falan Aanenson is gradually stepping away from her position as the administrative assistant, and at the end of January, Denise Goodwyn and I will complete our three years of service on the church council. All-that-said, a number of members are lending a hand to assist with a smooth transition of worship service and leadership within our church.

Pastor Stacey Heggem, Lay pastors Meryl McKenna, and Roger Woltermann have agreed to take turns leading most Sunday worship services until the end of May. However, beginning in February, one Sunday a month a member(s) of the congregation or council will be needed to lead the service. Please prayerfully consider teaming up with others to serve in this capacity. Great resources are available to assist with this endeavor.

In January, a number of volunteers will be in the office at various times throughout the week answering the phone and greeting walk-ins to connect them with a person to best help them. If you have a pastoral need, question about church events, or wish to volunteer in any capacity please call the church at 406-538-5082.

We are actively working on improving our communication throughout the congregation. To this end, we're searching for a new system that avoids sending emails to your spam folder, printing more hard copies of the monthly newsletter which will be available on the table in the narthex, adding more information to our Facebook page, increasing information on our website (including the newsletter, under "news"), and enlisting the help of the following council and committee members who have offered to serve as key communicators during January and February:

Lloyd McKenna- Council President
Denise Goodwyn- Council Vice President

406-350-1581
406-350-2503

Audrey Olson- Council Secretary
Bob Bjelland- Council Treasurer
Bob Giese- Personnel Committee Chair
Lana Papp- Council Coordinator; Call Committee

206-595-5687
406-366-2548
406-366-1211
406-366-2364

Please don't hesitate to contact any of us to ask questions, make suggestions, share concerns, or volunteer. We're here to support you. Our contact information is in the church directory app on your phone, or can be obtained through the church office.

I'm sure you're wondering about the process of hiring a new pastor. Briefly, the Church Council is forming a Call Committee. It is the Council's hope to establish a committee that represents the demographics of our church. Lana Papp is coordinating this effort. We hope to vote on a slate of members at our Council meeting on January 19th. Once the committee is formed, they will begin the task of compiling information to be submitted to the Synod who then begins searching for a "rostered pastor" for us. Your involvement is requested to help with this process. Please watch for a survey in the mail from Zion. Your opinion is needed to create an accurate profile of our church which aides the Call Committee in seeking a pastor to meet our needs. More information will be forthcoming about this process, as it is the Council's intent to keep everyone informed. Also, this is always a much slower process than we'd like, so your patience is much appreciated.

*** Important Notice: We will hold our annual meeting after worship on February 1, 2026. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,
Lloyd McKenna
Zion Church Council President



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.

New Office Hours (May vary)

Monday 10am-2pm

Wednesday 9am-2pm

Thursday 10am-2pm

Friday 9am-12pm

Office Help Schedule

All days for the month of January are full!

Thank you to:

Vickey Cowen

Vicki Minzel

Cindy Giese

The February calendar will be on the office desk if you would like to help.

Dear Zion and Zion Council:

Thank you for the wonderful send-off. The meal was fantastic, and as always with Zion cooks, delicious.

Thank you for the generous gift certificate for dinner out in Missoula. Eric is already planning a date. We are both looking forward to having a nice meal together.

As I begin this new adventure, know that I will be praying for Zion and God's guidance. God has a plan for God's church and with the faithfulness of Zion I know the ministry will be a gift to this community.

It has been an honor to be your pastor. I have been blessed by the ministry we have done together.

In Christ,

Pastor Audrey

B.L.A.S.T.

Believe, Learn and Seek Truth

**We will see everyone on
January 7th!!**



January Social Concern is...

Social Concern for January: Campus Ministry

We are supporting campus ministries in both Bozeman and Missoula. All donations given will go directly to their campus pastors, to be used at their discretion to support students, ministry needs, and outreach. Thank you for helping us invest in faith, community, and the next generation.

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

Zion Church Council Summary

December 2025

- Pastor Stacey Heggem, Meryl McKenna, and Roger Wolterman have created a schedule to lead most worship services on Sundays through May. However, congregational or council members are needed to volunteer on the following Sundays: February 22, March 22, April 12, and May 10.
- The proposed budget for 2026 was presented by Bob Giese, Finance Committee Chair and approved.
- The annual meeting was scheduled for February 1, 2026.
- It was reported that we are still waiting on parts for the elevator.
- Lana Papp agreed to help recruit members for the call committee.



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

*** Cheri * Holly * Jason B. * Mike**

*** Dianne * Pam * Ron**

January Calendar of Events

1/1	New Years Day Office Closed	1/16	<u>Office Open @ 9am – 12pm</u>
1/2	<u>Office Open 9am – 12pm</u>	1/17	Vera McGuire's Funeral @11am Lunch to follow
1/4	Worship @ 9:30am	1/18	Worship @ 9:30am
1/5	<u>Office open 9am-1pm</u>	1/19	<u>Office Open 10am-2pm</u> Council Meeting @ 6:00pm
1/6	Bible Study 4pm Choir Practice @ 6:30pm	1/20	Choir Practice @ 6:30pm
1/7	<u>Office Open 9am</u> Men Over Lunch 12:00pm B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM 7 th & 8 th Grade Bible Study @ 3:30pm Wee Singers @ 4:30pm Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm	1/21	<u>Office Open @ 9:00am</u> Men Over Lunch 12:00pm B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM 7 th & 8 th Grade Bible Study 3:30pm Wee Singers @ 4:30pm Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm
1/8	<u>Office Open @ 11am</u> Quilting @ 9am Prayer Circle @12:00pm	1/22	<u>Office Open 10am – 2pm</u> Quilting @ 9am Prayer Circle @ 12:00pm
1/9	<u>Office Open @ 9am – 12pm</u>	1/23	<u>Office Open @ 9am – 12pm</u>
1/11	Worship @ 9:30am	1/25	Worship @ 9:30am
1/12	<u>Office Open @ 10am – 2pm</u>	1/26	<u>Office Open @ 10am – 2pm</u>
1/13	Rachel Circle @ 9:30am Caring Ministry @ 5:30pm	1/28	<u>Office Open @ 9:00am</u> Men Over Lunch 12:00pm B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM 7 th & 8 th Grade Bible Study 3:30pm Wee Singers @ 4:30pm Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm
1/14	<u>Office Open @ 9am</u> Men Over Lunch 12:00pm B.L.A.S.T. /Rainbow @ 3:30PM 7 th & 8 th Grade Bible Study @ 3:30pm Wee Singers @ 4:30pm Youth Group FCC @ 6:15pm	1/29	<u>Office Open 10am – 2pm</u> Quilting @ 9am Prayer Circle @ 12:00pm
1/15	Men's Bible Study @ 6:30am <u>Office open @ 11am</u> Quilting @ 9am	1/30	<u>Office Open @ 9am – 12pm</u>

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.
