the herald

NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

FEBRUARY 2024



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-Person Worship 5 pm (Sat) 8, 9 & 11 am (Sun)

Livestream Worship 9 & 11 am (Sun)

Cable TV 10 am & 5 pm (Sun)

Radio Broadcast

106.1 (BOB-FM) 9:10 am (Sun)

Gospel Readings

Feb 3-4 Mark 1:29-39

Feb 10-11 Mark 9:2-9

Feb 17-18 Mark 1:9-15

Feb 24-25 Mark 8:31-38 Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday - February 14

Ash Wednesday is February 14. Worship times will be at 12 noon & 6:30 p.m. and we will have the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion as part of both services.

Ash X Wednesday

Our mid-week services will also be at 12 noon & 6:30 p.m. Our Lenten theme this year is: "The Call to "I AM" as we explore the "I AM" statements of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Below is the schedule of our mid-week and Holy Week services:

- Ash Wednesday, February 14 Pastor Brent
- Lent 1, February 21: I AM the Light of the World
 - Lent 2, February 28: I AM the Door

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- Lent 3, March 6: I AM the Good Shepherd
- Lent 4, March 13: I AM the True Vine
- Lent 5, March 20: I AM the Resurrection and the Life
- Maundy Thursday, March 28: I AM the Bread of Life
- Good Friday, March 29: *I AM He = the Absolute I AM*

Zion Annual Meeting February 25 @ 10 am

The Annual Meeting of Zion Lutheran Church will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, February 25 in the Sanctuary. The meeting will also be livestreamed.

- You may attend the Annual Meeting in person at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary or you may watch it online (go to Zion's Facebook page, YouTube Channel or website at <u>www.zionanoka.org</u> and click on the livestream button.)
- Copies of the Annual Report will be available at the front desk by mid-February. We will also be emailing the Annual Report to our membership email list. The agenda and all necessary information will be in the Annual Report.
- If you will not be attending the meeting in person, you may vote by absentee ballot. Two ballots are enclosed in this Herald. Ballots should be received no later than Friday, March 1. You may mail them in, drop them off, or scan and email them to kjohnson@zionanoka.org. Each confirmed member should only fill out and return one ballot. If you need additional ballots for your household, you may stop by or call the church office.

A Farewell Luncheon & Program for Pastor Brent

We are so grateful for Pastor Brent and his leadership, dedication, passion and commitment to Zion. Please join us Sunday, February 25 at 12 p.m. in the CLC to celebrate and wish Pastor Brent well with a luncheon and small program. Seating is limited so be sure to sign up at the front desk to reserve your seat and lunch!

a farewell message from pastor brent



As most of you know by now, I will be retiring at the end of this month, after 37 years in parish ministry and more than 8 ½ years as your Lead Pastor. As I prepare to say good-bye, I think of a weekly experience that I had during the pandemic. During that time, many of us gathered in the main parking lot every Sunday and worshipped together "drive-in" style. The drive-in experience was, for me, and for many of you, a powerful experience in the midst of a difficult time. It was so good to be able to gather together—even if it was in a parking lot! At the

conclusion of the "drive-in" service, the pastors developed a familiar ritual. We would wait at the driveways and wave at each of you as you left the parking lot in your cars and you would wave and smile back. At the beginning of the pandemic it was kind of an emotional moment—because we did not know how long this "separation" would last. We looked forward to seeing you again the next week. In a few cases, it was the last time that we saw a beloved sister or brother in Christ. Yet, we remembered that farewell in the parking lot and we knew that one day we would meet again in the Church Triumphant.

That is the same sentiment that I am experiencing as I prepare to retire in a few weeks. I hope to see you again as we go about our daily lives, and if our paths do not cross again, I trust that we will see each other again on the other side. As I say "good-bye", there are a few things that I want to leave you with.

First, thank you for the privilege of being your Lead Pastor at Zion. It has been such a joy to share worship with you, to share life's joys and sorrows, to celebrate Christmases and Easters, our 150th Anniversary, and so many other special times with you. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. Thank you for serving and sharing your gifts in so many ways. Special thanks to all those who have served in leadership, and thank you to Zion's wonderful staff—you are a great team!

Second, please continue to pray for, support and encourage Pastor Connie, Pastor Sue, all the Church staff, and our congregation's leaders. Please continue to be the faithful, supportive disciples that I've come to know. As Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 13:11-12, "Dear brothers and sisters, be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace." This is my prayer for you, my Zion brothers and sisters.

As I stood at the edge of the driveway of our church parking lot during the days of "drive-in" worship, I trusted that one way or the other, I would see each one of you again someday. As that great hymn says so well: "God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you, daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet; till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again."

Your grateful servant in Christ,

Pastor Brent

lead pastor transition update



Dear Zion Friends in Christ,

The Church Council met yesterday to discuss next steps of the transition process for when Pastor Brent retires on February 29th. What follows is an update to the previous communication.

First, a celebration lunch for Pastor Brent and his 37 years of ministry will be held on Sunday, February 25th at 12:00 noon. More details to come but save the date as we honor Pastor Brent and wish him all the best on his well-deserved retirement!

Second, to meet our pastoral needs during the transition of leadership, the Church Council unanimously voted to name Pastor Connie Interim Lead Pastor effective March 1. Pastor Connie has worked through many transitional periods while at Zion, has a great working relationship with our church staff, and her years of ministry at Zion brings continuity to our church community during this time of change. Please keep Pastor Connie and the entire staff in your prayers during this time of transition.

Third, the Minneapolis Area Synod is working with us to find an Interim Associate Pastor to take on some of Pastor Connie's current duties. We are hopeful to have a few candidates to consider soon. More to come on this in future communications.

Lastly, with a plan in place for interim pastoral coverage, the Church Council will begin to focus on assembling a Call Committee. In accordance with our church bylaws. "When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of six voting members shall be elected by the Congregational Council (B13.01, b5). The goal of the Executive Committee and Council is to appoint a Lead Pastor Call Committee at the next Council meeting in February.

In Peace,

Craig Jerome

Congregational President

A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY. GROWING. CARING. SERVING.

welcome and worship

O.W.L.S. Potluck and Program - February 29

Zion's "Older Wiser Lutherans" will hold a potluck and program in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 29 at noon. Our entertainment will be Pastor Kevin Doely who is a musical ventriloquist. If your last name begins with A thru L, please bring a hotdish to pass and M thru Z, bring a salad. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk so we know how many people are planning on attending.

Family Promise Sunday - March 10

Adam Monaghan, Program Director at Family Promise in Anoka County will be with us at Zion on Sunday, March 10. He will give a brief update on the work of Family Promise at the beginning of the 9 a.m. service and will be in the Legacy Room at 10 a.m. for those who are interested in volunteering with Family Promise or just learning more about the work that FPAC does with families experiencing homelessness.

Zion Super Sale June 6 & 7 - Mark Your Calendars Now!

Zion's Annual Super Sale will be held on Thursday, June 6 and Friday, June 7. Item drop off will start on June 2. This year's Super Sale will be coordinated by Bob and Pat Stearns. A meeting for all Super Sale Department Heads will be held on Tuesday, March 12 in the Legacy Room at 4 p.m.

Noisy Offering for Camp Ministries

Thank you to everyone who brought in their Noisy Offering in January! We gathered \$526 which will go toward our camp ministries. The next weekend our Noisy Offering buckets will be out is February 3 & 4. We will also have a bucket at the Welcome Desk if you would like to drop off your Noisy Offering during our normal office hours.

First Communion Class - March 3

First Communion instruction will be offered on Sunday, March 3 from 11 a.m. to noon in the Theater. We practice open communion here at Zion, so parents, if you feel your children are ready, please sign up. Children will receive their first communion at the service of your choice. Please register all children, and at least one accompanying adult. Register at www.zionanoka.org under Upcoming Events, or through your Realm app, or scan the QR code at the right. Contact Ann at acampbell@zionanoka.org for more information. If you're unable to attend, our next class will be in the fall.



Weekly Worship Opportunities **In-Person Worship**

Saturdays @ 5 pm and Sundays @ 8 am, 9 am & 11 am Livestream Worship

Sundays @ 9 am & 11 am

Radio (BOB-FM, 106.1)

Sundays @ 9:10 am **Cable TV Channel 6 Broadcast**

Sundays @ 10 am & 5 pm

Children's Choir Grades 2-5

Questions? Contact Jonathan Campbell jcampbell@zionanoka.org or 763-506-8113

February Dates

Rehearsals on Saturdays from 10-10:45 a.m. February 3 & 10 Sing in Worship Sunday, February 11 @ 9 & 11 a.m.



Zion Lutheran Church 2024 Absentee Ballot

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: Please remove this absentee ballot from your Herald. There are two ballots (back to back). If your household needs additional ballots, please stop by the front desk or call the church office. Each confirmed member should only fill out and return one ballot. When voting, please vote for the number of nominees indicated on the ballot for that position(s). An * indicates incumbent. When done voting, mail your ballot to Zion Lutheran Church, 1601 4th Ave., Anoka, MN, 55303; drop it off at the front desk; or scan it and email to kjohnson@zionanoka.org. All ballots must be **received no later than Friday, March 1.**

Church Council Nominees (vote for 5):	Nominating Committee Nominees (vote for 3):
Kevin Campana	Caroline Baker
Ann Johnson*	Diane Halvorson
Nick Nolby	Roger Tinker
Nicole Panzer	Other
Cindy Pipenhagen*	
Other	
	Voting Members for Minneapolis Area Synod Nominees (vote for 6):
Zion Foundation Nominees (vote for 5):	Carol Dixon
Judy Dietrich*	Emily Johnson
Rod Nelson*	Ken Johnson
David Recker	Doug Jones
Bill Travis	Bill Travis
Verne Winter*	Pam Travis
Other	Other
Zion Pre-K Board (vote for 2): Carol Dahl*	

____ Laurel Gabrielson

____Other ______

I vote for the 2024 General Fund, Building Fund and Pre-K Budgets _____ Yes ____ No

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Other	Other

Zion Pre-K Board (vote for 2):

____ Carol Dahl*

____ Laurel Gabrielson

____Other ______

I vote for the 2024 General Fund, Building Fund and Pre-K Budgets _____ Yes ____ No

Truth at the Well

By Colleen Nelson

Like an onion, Bible stories are often comprised of many layers before one gets to the core of the message. The Woman at the Well is one such story. Having sent his disciples on an errand, Jesus arrives alone at Jacob's well, tired and thirsty from his journey. When a Samaritan woman comes to draw water from the well, he asks her for a drink. This sounds like such a simple request yet there is nothing simple about it. If she had given him a drink and he subsequently went on his way, this story would have been edited from the book of John. Let's peel away some layers to gain a closer look. By asking this woman for a drink, he ignored the hostility between the Samaritans and the Jews. The woman recognizes the absurdity of the situation and calls him on it, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan. How can you ask me for a drink?" Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." John 4:9-10. Jesus then explains what 'living water' means by revealing himself to her. He makes himself credible in her eyes by describing details of her life that he oughtn't have knowledge of. In this way, Jesus was making a disciple out of her, knowing she would turn to her people proclaiming him as the Messiah. Of course, this is exactly what she does and because of her testimony, the Samaritans invited Jesus to stay two more days and many more became believers. Throughout Jesus' ministry, his actions were often counter to the culture he lived and preached in. This story is no exception. Jesus had a long and meaningful conversation with a woman when women, at that time, were often denigrated and dismissed. It was his intention to draw all people to him, no matter their religion, social status, gender, age, vocation or physical and mental well-being. As for today, Jesus' ministry and relationships serve as an example for us to mimic on our life's journey.

welcome

New Member Orientation - February 4

A New Member Orientation will be held on Sunday, February 4 at 10 a.m. in the Legacy Room and will be led by Pastor Brent and Pastor Connie. To sign up please email Pastor Brent at <u>bcampbell@zionanoka.org</u> or call the church office at 763-421-4656.

Cinnamon Roll Sunday - February 11

On Sunday February 11, Zion high school youth will be serving fresh-baked cinnamon rolls in the Cornerstone from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. This is a freewill offering fundraiser for our youth's Mission Trip to Tacoma, Washington.

Free JOYA Concert - February 18

Join us on Sunday, February 18 at 3 p.m. for a free Joya concert. Minnesota Orchestra Associate Principal cellist Silver Ainomäe will play fellow Estonian Arvo Pärt's *Spiegel im Spiegel*. Minnesota Orchestra violinist James Garlick and pianist Mary Jo Gothmann will join Silver for Mendelssohn's glorious first piano trio and a spritely, fun trio by Hummel. Please plan to come and invite your friends!!! More information at <u>www.joyachambermusic.com</u>.

grow

Adult Small Group Studies

We finish up the small group study on "Why: Making sense of God's Will" by Adam Hamilton. The last session, "Why God's Love Prevails" will be the week of February 5.

Starting the week of February 20 (Monday group begins one week late due to Presidents' Day holiday), we begin a new 5-week study called "God Never Gives Up On You" by Max Lucado.

God enacts his perfect plan through imperfect people – including you and me! In this five-session Bible study, you will see how God used Jacob- the misbehaving patriarch who was strong on savvy but weak on conscience – simply because God chose to use Jacob. Jacob's story invites us to believe in a God who sticks with the unworthy until we are safely at home. Below is the schedule:

- Week of February 19: Taking Shortcuts
- Week of February 26: *Reaping What You Sow*
- Week of March 4: Living with a Louse

Books are on sale at the front desk for \$12. Sign up for one of the small groups listed below at the Welcome Desk.

- A Monday at 1 p.m. in the Legacy Room taught by Pastor Sue Wallager.
- B Tuesday at 8:45 a.m. in the Legacy Room taught by Ken Johnson and Greg Bergeron.
- C Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Legacy Room taught by Pastor Connie Tiede.
- D Thursday at 1 p.m. on Zoom taught by Pastor Jim Barsch and Pastor Amie Odahl.

Upcoming Adult Forums

Zion's Sunday Adult Forums are at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

- February 4: Dr. Karoline Lewis, Professor and the Marbury E. Anderson Chair of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary will be presenting part one of a two-part series called: "Belonging: What the Samaritan Woman at the Well Teaches Us About Following Jesus." Sitting at the well with the Samaritan woman and Jesus in John 4 we learn key characteristics of what it looks like to follow Jesus. These sessions will have us listen in on this extraordinary conversation and invite us to think in new ways about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.
- February 11: Presented by Zion Addiction Recovery Team and Faith Partners. From birth to death, through times both joyous and filled with pain, congregations bear us up. Belonging to a congregation fills our need for community, gives us identity, and adds meaning to our lives. Faith communities offer us celebration and solace, spiritual growth, and moral direction. With calls and cards, casseroles and cakes, congregations shepherd us through the many transitions of life, including illness. Yet people suffer in loneliness and shame, the physical, spiritual, and emotional ravages of addictive behaviors their own and those of others. During this forum the team will share its ministry and offer time to complete a brief survey which will help shape the direction of this ministry.
- February 18: Part Two of "Belonging: What the Samaritan Woman at the Well Teaches Us About Following Jesus" by Dr. Karoline Lewis.
- February 25: Annual Meeting

Zion Pages Book Club

February 26 | 6:30 pm | Theater

We will be discussing *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. In this novel, we are reminded that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. Zion Pages meets the 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Theater. All are welcome!

- Week of March 11: Wrestling with God
- Week of March 18: Returning Home

news from children, youth and family ministry

7th Grade Retreat - Sunday, February 18 from Noon to 3 p.m.

We will gather for lunch and participate in activities centered around what it means to reaffirm our baptism. All 7th grade confirmation students are required to attend, email <u>kweiland@zionanoka.org</u> if you have a conflict.

Camp Wapo Registration

Registration for Camp Wapo is now open! Zion kids in Grades 4-12 will be at camp June 16-21, and Seeds weekend for Zion kids in Grades 1-3 is June 14-16. Please use the following link to register http://lwlbci.com/zion-anoka. If you have an 8th grade student who cannot attend camp this year, or if you have financial concerns, please email kweiland@zionanoka.org.

Lenten Soup Supper - Wednesday, February 21

Join us for a Lenten Soup Supper! Soup will be served from 5-6 p.m. A freewill offering will be accepted for the soup with proceeds going to support our mission trip to Tacoma, Washington this summer.

Lutheran Late Night for Middle and High School Youth

Join us at Zion from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, February 23 for Lutheran Late Night! Snacks will be provided, and night games will be played. Friends welcome – hope you can make it!

Paid Summer Intern Positions - Apply Now!

Join a team of young adults who lead kids day camps, and discover your God-given superpowers! Job description and application can be found in the Document Center at www.zionanoka.org/ziondocumentcenter/ and also at the front desk. Contact Ann Campbell at (763) 421-4656, or acampbell@zionanoka.org/ziondocumentcenter/ and also at the front desk. Contact Ann Campbell at (763) 421-4656, or acampbell@zionanoka.org with questions. Applications are due March 15. Interviews and hiring decisions may be made as applications arrive, so apply soon.

Preschool Ballet - Tuesdays in February

This class is for ages 2-5 with a caregiver and meets February 6, 13, 20, 27 (Tuesdays) from 9:15-9:45 a.m. \$10 per child. To register go to <u>www.zionanoka.org</u> and click on the Registration Events tab.

Ukulele Classes - Wednesdays During Lent

Beginner Ukulele Classes for Kids and Grown Ups! Both classes are FREE! February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20. Choose from two options: Ages 4-7 with a caregiver, 4:30-5 p.m. and Intergenerational ages 5+, 6-6:25 p.m. To register go to <u>www.zionanoka.org</u> and click on the Registration Events tab. Ukuleles provided!

Save the Dates for Kids Summer Camps!

Families and volunteers! It's time to put Zion Kids Camps on your schedule! Registration opens March 15! Our Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme is back by popular demand—The Blessing Bus: LIVE!

Family "Blessing Bus" VBS

For families with kids age 0-5 plus siblings Sundays from 10-10:50 a.m., June 9, 16 & 23

Zion Sports Camp

For kids grades K-5 June 24-27 (M-TH) 9 a.m.-noon

Pre-K "Blessing Bus" VBS

For kids age 3-5 July 9-11 (T-TH) 9-11 a.m.

K-5 "Blessing Bus" VBS

For kids grades K-5 July 15-18 (M-TH) 9 a.m.-noon

Camp Create It

For kids grades K-5 July 29-Aug 1 (M-TH) 9 a.m.-noon Family Program: 11:30 a.m.-noon TH

KidSing Jr.

For kids age 3-7 June 12, 19 & 26 (W) 9:30-10 a.m. July 17, 24 & 31 (W) 9:30-10 a.m.



care

Social Justice Team

The next meeting of the Social Justice Team will be Monday, February 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library, where we will talk about a podcast from the 1619 project - <u>https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/23/podcasts/1619-slavery-anniversary.html?action=click&module=audio-series-bar®ion=header&pgtype=Article</u>.

Grief Support Group

Tuesdays in February | 6:30 p.m. | Fireside Room

This four-week support group offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. Meetings are open to anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, or knows someone who has. Facilitated by Pastor Sue Wallager. Contact Pastor Sue for more information at swallager@zionanoka.org.

Prayer Ministry Invitation

If you have a celebration or concern you would like the prayer team to include in their prayers, complete a green prayer card located in the Sanctuary pew racks, in Zion's Chapel and also at the front desk or you can email your celebration/concern to prayer@zionanoka.org.

If you would like to be a part of Zion's Prayer Team Ministry or would like more information, contact Pastor Sue swallager@zionanoka.org.

Thank You Recent Radio Broadcast Fund Donors

Greg Nelson	
Florence Shebetka	
Dianne Carlson	
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about our people

Baptisms Dec 23 - Jax

Dec 23 - Jax White-Rodriguez

Deaths Sharon Beatty Lee McGillivray Mary Youngquist Phyllis Dargis

New Members David & Naomi Nelson, Elliot, Erika & Everett Skogen

care for each other and the world

Recovery Team

Zion is beginning a new Addiction Recovery Ministry, and the Addiction Recovery Team needs your help. Much is made in the disciplines of spiritual growth about the difference between "talking the talk" and "walking the walk." In the final analysis, of course, it is the "walk" that counts. Yet we can't ignore the importance of the "talk" either. Knowing how people think or feel not only helps one understand how they act, it also gives clues on why they might act differently than they think or feel. The Addiction Recovery Team wants to hear your "talk" by asking you to complete a short online survey. This survey, provided by Faith Partners and compiled by the University of Texas for our use, will be available online February 4-18 (see link below) and will help provide future direction of this ministry. If you are unable to use the link, we will have paper copies available.

Please join the Zion Addiction Recovery Team during the Sunday Adult Faith Forum on February 11 as we explain more of the details and introduce you to our team.

https://redcap.dellmed.utexas.edu/surveys/?s=TCDEECT4EJMYFFM9

Embracing EcoFaith: A Call to Action for Earth's Preservation

"Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing." Hosea 4:3

In a world grappling with environmental challenges, Zion's EcoFaith Team stands united in the belief that our spiritual values can inspire positive change for the planet. As stewards of the Earth, it is our sacred duty to safeguard its beauty and biodiversity for generations to come.

The Spiritual Connection to Nature-Recognizing the interconnection of all living beings and the Divine presence in nature, our EcoFaith team emphasizes the spiritual connection to the Earth. By fostering a deep appreciation for the environment, we can cultivate a sense of responsibility to protect and preserve it.

Sustainable Living Practices-Incorporating eco-friendly practices into our daily lives is a tangible expression of our EcoFaith commitment. From reducing single use plastic to adopting sustainable energy sources, every small action contributes to the greater goal of ecological harmony.

Environmental Advocacy-Our faith empowers us to be advocates for the environment. By raising awareness about climate change, deforestation, and other critical issues, we amplify our collective voice to influence positive policy changes and promote sustainable practices on a broader scale.

Greening Our Places of Worship-Transforming our places of worship into eco-friendly spaces demonstrates our commitment to living in harmony with the Earth. Implementing energy-efficient technologies, promoting waste reduction, and creating sustainable landscapes are ways we can make our faith communities centers of environmental conservation.

Education and Outreach-Sharing our EcoFaith values with others is essential for creating a ripple effect of positive change. By organizing workshops, seminars, and community events, we can inspire others to join the movement and foster a broader understanding of the urgent need for environmental conservation. As members of the EcoFaith Team at Zion Lutheran Church, let us embody our commitment to the Earth's preservation through daily actions, advocacy, and education. Together, guided by our spiritual values, we can be catalysts for a sustainable and harmonious future, ensuring that the beauty of our planet endures for generations to come. All ages are welcome to join the EcoFaith Team to lend expertise, encouragement, ideas and follow through in this endeavor. The next meeting is scheduled February 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legacy Room. For more information contact Pastor Connie at <u>ctiede@zionanoka.org</u>.

Pam Travis, Zion EcoFaith Team Member



1601 4th Avenue Anoka MN 55303

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A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY. Growing. Caring. Serving.

Zion Pre-K News



On a chilly winter day our preschoolers wore their pajamas to Pre-K and enjoyed popcorn for our movie day!! So fun to have special days!!

WELCOME

You are invited, you are welcome to come and experience God's love at Zion Lutheran Church.

CONTACT US

1601 4th Avenue Anoka MN 55303 763.421.4656 www.zionanoka.org