

the herald

NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

APRIL 2026



ZION
LUTHERAN + ANOKA



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-Person Worship

5 pm (Sat)
8, 9 & 11 am (Sun)

Livestream Worship

9 & 11 am (Sun)

Cable TV

5 pm (Sun)

Radio Broadcast

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

Scripture Readings

April 4-5

Matthew 28:1-10

April 11-12

John 20:19-31

April 18-19

Luke 24:13-35

April 25-26

John 10:1-10

Easter Worship

April 4 & 5

Saturday at 5 pm

Sunday at 8, 9:30 & 11 am

Radio Broadcast: BOB-FM, 9:10 am

Cable Broadcast: Ch 6, 5 pm

Livestream: 5 pm; 8, 9:30 & 11 am

Zion Super Sale is Coming!

The 2026 Zion Super Sale is just around the corner, beginning on June 7, the first day of accepting donations and ending on June 12 with clean up! Handouts will be available in May outlining what can and cannot be accepted. It's always an exciting time to meet people and build friendships! Mark your calendars now!

- June 7: Begin accepting donations 12-7 p.m.
- June 8-9: Set up and donation drop off 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
- June 10: Final preparations from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
- June 10: Perk Sale 5-7 p.m.
- June 11: Super Sale 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
- June 12: Super Sale 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- June 12: Clean up starting at 12 p.m.



a message from your pastors



Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the early morning of the first Easter, the women went to the tomb expecting grief. Instead, they heard astonishing news: “Do not be afraid... he has been raised.” In the story we hear this year from the Gospel of Matthew (28:1–10), the women run from the empty tomb with both fear and great joy—and then they meet the risen Jesus on the way. Their mourning turns to hope, and their fear becomes good news to share.

That same good news is at the heart of Easter. And Easter is more than a single day. In the church, the celebration of Easter continues for **seven weeks**, a whole season when we keep hearing the stories of the risen Christ and the promise of new life.

Easter reminds us that God is always bringing life out of what seems lost—hope out of despair, light out of darkness, and new beginnings where we thought the story had ended.

We invite you, your family, and your friends to **join us for Easter worship at Zion** and throughout the Easter season. Come and hear again the good news that Christ is risen and that new life is God’s gift for all of us.

Alleluia!

Pastor Connie

Congratulations, Katie!

Intern Pastor Katie Weiland has been awarded Luther Seminary's Graduate Preaching Fellowship. After her graduation from the Seminary in May and the completion of her internship at Zion in June, Katie will embark on a six-month fellowship in which she researches lay preaching in a variety of contexts across the state of Minnesota. This fellowship is made possible through the generosity of Janet Karvonen-Montgomery and Alan Montgomery.



Manger, Boat and Cross

By Colleen Nelson

The Tale of Three Trees is written by Angela Elwell Hunt and beautifully illustrated by Tim Jonke. Angela retells an American folktale (author unknown) about three trees, their dreams, and their ultimate destinies which far surpass their understanding. The season of Easter is an ideal time to share this poignant story with children and adults alike. The first tree hopes to become a gilded chest filled with precious gems. The second tree aspires to be built into a large sailing ship to carry kings. The third tree hopes to continue growing until it becomes the tallest tree on the mountaintop, directing people’s eyes to heaven. The story continues years later when three woodcutters appear with their axes. The first tree is built into a manger in which the blessed Mary lays her newborn son, Jesus. The second is fashioned into a simple fishing boat that carries Jesus and his disciples on the Sea of Galilee. The third tree’s hope to remain on the mountaintop is dashed when she is cut down and becomes a cross, an instrument of death. But on Easter morning the very thing she had hoped for comes to fruition. As a cross, she directs people’s eyes to heaven, after all. The first two trees differ from the third in the sense that they both set their sights on grandiose dreams; their finished product a spectacle for all to envy. How surprised and proud they must have been when God had a different plan. The third tree held a faith-filled ambition to grow and point to heaven. She must have been devastated when the woodcutter took his axe to her to be fashioned into a cross, onto which Jesus was nailed, suffered and died. On Easter morning, however, when Christ conquered death, she became a cherished symbol of Jesus’ resurrection and the eternal life we’ve been given by God’s grace. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die.” John 11:25 NIV

welcome

Thank You, Zion Volunteers!

Zion and our community is blessed in so many ways by all of you and all that you do! Thank you! Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 19-25. Please join us Sunday, April 19 in the Cornerstone for cake and coffee following each of the services.

*You give your time, your heart, your grace,
You brighten every corner place.
In every task, God's love shines through -
We thank Him every day for you!*

New Member Coffee - April 19

We will have a new member coffee on April 19 at 10 a.m. in the Legacy Room. If you have recently joined or are interested in receiving more information about Zion Lutheran, please join us!

Free Joya Concert - April 19

Joya returns with a concert on Sunday, April 19 at 3 p.m. featuring Minnesota Orchestra principal trumpet player James Vaughen. More information to come. Mark your calendars for this free concert— it will be spectacular!!

Cinnamon Roll Sunday - April 26

On Sunday, April 26 we will be having fresh baked cinnamon rolls during coffee hour as a fundraiser for our high school youth summer trip, Mission Milwaukee. This trip is a partnership with Service Learning Camps, and we thank you for your generosity and support in making this trip possible.

Family Promise Open House - April 26 - Save the Date!

The Family Promise Guest House is close to completion! Zion will have an opportunity on April 26 at 2 p.m. to see the house before it opens. In July, families will begin moving into the house and we will move back to a hands-on approach to working with the families. We will be asked to serve 3 meals in a week and provide entertainment for the kids one night a week. More to come on our weeks soon!

Our Neighbors' Table

Wear your Zion name badge (so we can recognize each other) and join us on the second and third Thursdays of each month as we celebrate the gift of global diversity right here in the north metro! Below is April's schedule.

- **April 9, 12 p.m. at Arepas on the Go** (9801 Xenia Ave, Brooklyn Park) An arepa is a type of flat bread that might strike you as looking like an English muffin, but it's made from a corn dough and then stuffed with anything from cheese to traditional taco fillings. Arepas are primarily found in Colombian and Venezuelan cuisines.
- **April 16, 6 p.m. at Mrs. Taco** (1574 154th Ave NW, Andover).



Women of Zion Spring Retreat

APRIL 18 | 9:30-11:30 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join Pastor Mike Pancoast for "God Meets Us in Our Suffering: Hope & Encouragement for Those Journeying Through Cancer...Or Anything that Sucks." Pastor Mike will share from his book God Meets Us in Our Suffering which he co-wrote with Rolf Jacobson and Karl Jacobson. During the retreat you will be invited into conversation about suffering, faith and God's faithfulness, equipping you with knowledge and inspiration for your own life, and in your faithfulness to those whom you love who suffer. Sessions will include (1) Treatment - When God Shows Up in Your Suffering (2) Meals & Milestones - How We Show Up for Each Other (including "Do's" and "Don'ts") (3) Laughter - Finding Joy in the Midst of Illness and Disability. A sign-up sheet and books for purchase will be available at the front desk.

Baptism Class - May 3

If you are expecting, have had a baby or adopting and would like to know more about baptism, we will be having a baptism class on Sunday, May 3 at 12 p.m. in the Library. Contact Kristine kjohnson@zionanoka.org to register.



Worship in person Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Sundays at 8, 9 & 11 a.m.
Livestream on Sundays at 9 & 11 a.m.
Cable TV Channel 6 Broadcast Sundays at 5 p.m.
Radio Broadcast BOB-FM 106.1 Sundays at 9:10 a.m.

Annual Plant Sale

Save the date! Zion's annual flowering plant sale will be taking place this year on Saturday, May 9 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Plants are sold on a first come first serve basis. The pre-order form will be made available April 13.

Noisy Offering - April 11 & 12

Thank you to everyone who brought in their Noisy Offering in March! We gathered \$572 which will go toward our camp ministries. The next weekend our Noisy Offering buckets will be out is April 11 and 12. 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.

Lutheran Late Night - April 17

Join us at Zion from 7-10 p.m. on Friday, April 17 for Lutheran Late Night! This event is for middle and high school students and functions like a lock-in, but you go home at the end of the night. Snacks will be provided, and games will be played. Friends welcome - hope you can make it! Please register here <https://cutt.ly/TtUik8Uw>.

Zion Pages Book Group - April 27

On April 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legacy Room, you are invited to the discussion of *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. All are welcome!

April Adult Faith Forums

Grab a cup of coffee and join us Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

- **April 5 - No Forum. Easter Sunday**
- **April 12** - Handel's Messiah, Part 3: Dr. Jonathan Campbell will conclude his three-part series on Handel's Messiah, focusing on the music most associated with Holy Week and Easter.
- **April 19 - TBA**
- **April 26 - LPGM India Travelers:** Laura Feile from LPGM will join Bill and Marie Norquist and their daughter, Sarah, as they share about their recent mission trip to India with Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry.

Small Group Study - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Our spring small group study begins the week of April 12 with *Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire*, a curriculum created by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale from Augsburg University. (Lori was also our presenter at our March 8, 2026 Adult Faith Forum.) This six-week study not only takes us deeper into the story of Bonhoeffer's life, work, and death; it also invites us to grapple with a number of his writings from across the breadth of his career. Sessions are about an hour long with the exception of the first one and are held in the Legacy Room Monday at 1 p.m., Tuesday at 9 a.m., Wednesday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Below is the schedule for April.

Week of April 12: Session 1 - 90 minute documentary video on Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Week of April 19: Session 2 - Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life: 10 Key Turning Points

Week of April 26: Session 3 - It's All About the Neighbor: Theological and Ethical Ideas

Zion Kids & Youth Need Your Help!

Zion's kids and youth need your help! We support three children (Dinesh, Srimathi and Sri Vidhya) who live and study at boarding homes through Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry's Project: Education India. You can donate in person on Sundays in the Theater and Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall or you can give online. www.zionanoka.org and click on the **Give Today** button on the Home page or scan the QR code to the right.



Sri Vidhya
Age 7



Srimathi
Age 11



Dinesh
Age 13



Children, Youth and Family sponsorships through Project Education India



LPGM Online Giving

Zion Kids Summer Camps

Camps are set for Summer 2026 and registration is open at <https://www.zionanoka.org/registration>.

Preschool Music + Dance

June 3, 10, 17 & July 15, 22, 29
10:30-11 a.m., Ages 0-5

Toddler Tuesday Park Playdate

July 28, 10-11:30 a.m.
Ages 0-5

Summer Stretch Junior

Thursdays, July 9-Aug 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Grades 9-12 compl

Sports Camp

July 6-9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Grades K-5 compl

Mini Camp Create It

August 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Grades K-5 compl

Camp Wapo

Seeds June 19-21
Grades 1-3 compl

Ukulele Basics

July 16, 23, 30, 11-11:45 a.m.
Grades K-5 compl

Summer Stretch

Thursdays, July 9-Aug 13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Grades 4-8 compl

Camp Wapo

Week-Long June 14-19
Grades 4-12 compl

caring for each other and the world

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry (LPGM) India Trip

Zion Lutheran Church members, and long-time LPGM supporters, Bill and Marie Norquist recently returned from a deeply impactful trip to India from February 10-24 with LPGM. Their journey took them Dehli in the north and to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the south. The trip started with an interfaith experience, as they visited Hindu and Sikh temples and holy sites. They then traveled south to meet our Indian partners in Tamil Nadu. There, they were greeted with warm hospitality. They spent time dancing, eating, chatting, and playing with students at our partner's boarding homes. They also had the special opportunity to meet the students they sponsor, as well as two of the three students sponsored by Zion Lutheran Church. They will be sharing their reflections from their journey of a lifetime at Zion's Adult Forum on Sunday, April 26 from 10-11 a.m. Come listen to their stories, ask questions, and learn more about what it's like to travel to India with LPGM. (excerpt from Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry article) <https://lutheranpartners.org/events/lpgm-india-travelers-at-zion-lutheran-church-anoka-minn-trg97qnoc>



ACBC Asked...Zion Responded

In January, ACBC responded to increased food needs in surrounding metropolitan communities and Zion was asked to help with packing emergency food boxes to meet those needs. Since that time, Zion has provided eight volunteers each week and also drivers. Recently, ACBC expressed their thanks to Zion: *ACBC would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the Zion Social Justice Team and Zion volunteers for their commitment to helping at ACBC this winter. The volunteers have been so dedicated and have showed up every week! Not only has their hard work and compassion been amazing, but they continued to pivot with us at every turn to get nearly 8,000 extra pounds of food into the community last month.*



Thank You Recent Radio Broadcast Donors

Lyle & Marlene Willock
Shirley & Tina Erickson
Jane Freeburg
Cara Fish
Elaine Isaacson

John & Judy Allen
Scott & Kelly Scherer
Shirlie Johnston
David & Cindy Jones
Kristine Johnson

Lois Peterson
Craig Bakken
David Holmes & family in memory of Darlene Holmes
Dianne Carlson in memory of Diane Klasen
Norma Goings in memory of Diane Klasen

about our people

Baptisms

March 1 - Kaleb Wurm
March 22 - Everett Knoll
March 22 - Beau Haug

Deaths

Judy Landowski
Bill Sundeen
Nellie Kaley
Ronald Gross

New Members

Thomas Pederson; Desiree Davis; Andrew Knoll & Kayla Belden and Everett Knoll; Scott & Joanna and Harlow Theisen; Alexander Haug & Nicole Gustafson and Beau Haug

caring and serving

Zion to host Recovering Peace Conference

On May 16, 2026 Zion will host “Recovering Peace”, a conference about recovery.

Purpose: to learn through listening to stories about the struggles and successes of people in their recovery from addiction.

Did you know? In the United States, nearly “48.4 million people are battling a substance use disorder (1 in 6 Americans (aged 12 and older).”

The Mental Health Crisis: In 2024, 21.2 million adults suffered from both a mental health disorder *and* a substance use disorder.

Where to Turn: Many people don’t know what to do or where to turn when a family member has an addiction. It can be a nightmare. The same is true for mental health. Even if it hasn’t happened in your family, become someone who can help a friend, coworker or neighbor in need, even save a life.

Role of the Church: Many churches and faith communities allow recovery groups to co-locate in their facilities but until recently, very few had actual recovery ministries like ZAAM, the Zion Addiction Awareness Ministry.

Impactful Presentations: The speakers lined up for Recovering Peace will cover topics such as:

- Their own journeys through recovery
- How to reduce the stigma that prevents people from seeking help for addiction or mental health concerns
- What family recovery services look like
- How Anoka County is addressing its opioid crisis—featuring a documentary & a dedicated website, <https://www.facesofhopeanoka.org/>.
- Providing local resources, stories of recovery and reducing the stigma surrounding addiction, and much more.

Register now at <https://www.zionanoka.org/registration-events/>.

Upcoming Equity Team Umbrella Meetings

Creation Care Team: April 7 | 5:30 p.m. | Fireside Room

Social Justice Team: April 9 | 6 p.m. | Fireside Room

Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET): April 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Legacy Room

Zion Addiction Awareness Ministry (ZAAM): April 28 | 6:30 p.m. | Library



Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka
presents...

Recovering Peace Conference

May 16 | 8:15 AM to 4:15 PM


My past does not define my future. I am changing the narrative.


I've accepted the future I can't control, and just keep moving forward in any positive way.


Ft. John Noltner's
"A Peace of My Mind"
and a variety of speakers presenting on addiction awareness and recovery and mental health.

REGISTER HERE!

Zion Lutheran Church
1601 4th Ave
Anoka, MN 55303
(763) 421-4656
www.zionanoka.org







1601 4th Avenue
Anoka MN 55303

ZION
LUTHERAN † ANOKA

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 4190

A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY.
GROWING. CARING. SERVING.

Chili Cook-Off and Dessert Auction Returns



On Sunday, March 8, Zion's Chili Cook-Off made its triumphant return! After an absence of several years, around 70 people gathered in Zion's Fellowship Hall to taste eleven chilis and vote on their favorite one. Jonathan Campbell took home the honors and donned the ceremonial chili apron to commemorate the occasion!

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