

the herald

NEWS OF ZION LUTHERAN | ANOKA

MAY 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 am (Sun)

Scripture Readings

May 2-3
John 14:1-14

May 9-10
John 14:15-21

May 16-17
John 17:1-11

May 23-24
John 20:19-23

May 30-31
Matthew 28:16-20

On Saturday, May 16 Zion welcomes award-winning author and photographer, John Noltner as he installs an exhibit of new stories about addiction and recovery as part of a weekend seminar. The weekend will feature speakers and resources for people to learn more about recovery for themselves and others they care about. John will also lead a studio to invite stories from attendees, asking, "What has helped you move toward healing?" And he will give a closing keynote on Sunday to share some of the local stories he gathers. Last day to register for this conference is May 4.

2026 CONFERENCE

RECOVERING PEACE



JOHN NOLTNER

"A Peace of My Mind"

John will install an exhibit of new stories about addiction and recovery at Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka as part of a weekend seminar. The weekend will feature speakers and resources for people to learn more about recovery for themselves and others they care about. John will also lead a studio to invite stories from attendees, asking, "What has helped you move toward healing?"

Breakout Sessions



BILL LECLAIR
Recovery Cafe Anoka



REV. DR. ED TREAT
Center of Addiction and Faith



DERYL GLAZE
Founder of Motivation through Recovery, Relapse and Prevention workshops



PER NILSEN
VP of Spiritual Growth and Leadership Development - MN ADULT & TEEN CHALLENGE



LORI BLAUKAT
*Sr. Program Planner
Mental Health and Relationship Violence Prevention, Anoka County Public Health*



PAM LANHART
*Founder & Executive Director
Thrive! Family Recovery Resources*



FACES OF HOPE
Documentary: personal accounts of Anoka residents with opioid misuse, followed by a panel discussion

More Information



SATURDAY
MAY 16, 2026



8:15 AM - 4:15 PM



To register go to <https://www.zionanoka.org/registration-events/> or scan the above QR code

financial update

Financial Update

Thank you for your faithful stewardship. The charts below show our financial position for the first three months of 2026. We are grateful to you for your ongoing support of Zion's mission and ministry.

General Fund Income (through March)

Budgeted Income	\$465,918
Actual Income	\$435,252
Actual Expenses	\$515,920
Net Difference	-\$80,668

Building Fund Income (through March)

Budgeted Income	\$79,884
Actual Income	\$77,694
Actual Expenses	\$81,141
Difference	-\$3,447

Gifts received (through March) for Technology & Building Renewal Campaign
(to be matched by the Zion Foundation) \$191,371

Mortgage Reduction Update (through March)

Mortgage Balance 01/01/2022	\$2,222,606
Mortgage Balance 01/01/2023	\$1,745,246
Mortgage Balance 01/01/2024	\$1,358,337
Mortgage Balance 01/01/2025	\$1,105,756
Mortgage Balance 03/31/2026	\$875,184

One Body, One Spirit, One Hope

By Colleen Nelson

It was March and some early signs of spring—mild temperature, bright sun and melting snow—were playing tricks on me, considering I woke up to 3 degrees just last week. I shouldn't have been surprised considering the temperature fluctuations in Minnesota. While my husband and I were walking our dog that afternoon, I noticed a shelf of ice hugging the curb with a rivulet of water flowing underneath. As the runnel was making its way to the grate, the flow was undermining the accumulated snow and ice. It reminded me of my childhood; stomping on the shelf with my boots and watching the water disperse in all directions.

According to the Britannica Dictionary, to undermine is to make someone or something weaker or less effective. Some agree that our current societal climate undermines our nation's norms and we find ourselves wondering if our collective moral compass is askew. With the fear-based rhetoric, it's easy to think that our desire to live the lives we are accustomed to is somehow being devalued and it's difficult not to worry about our world's uncertain future. To put this in perspective, previous generations have also dealt with their own challenges and woes played out in society. In other words, similar to God's people in the past, we are called to live as God's people in the present.

The burning question is will we have the gumption to counteract what appears to be a proverbial mountain to climb? Will the fruit of the Spirit prevail? (Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.) If so, what is our part to play? We are promised as Christians that faith is enough to build our confidence to spread Christ's love, hope and peace in our corner of the world. "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:4-6

with gratitude

Celebrating Ann Campbell's Ministry

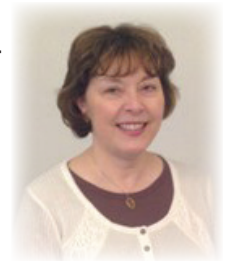
With both gratitude and a touch of sadness, we share that Ann Campbell, our beloved Director of Children's Ministry, will be retiring.

Ann has been a faithful and joyful presence in the life of our congregation. Through her creativity, compassion, and deep love for children and families, she has helped nurture faith in countless young hearts. Her leadership has shaped a vibrant children's ministry that will continue to bear fruit for years to come.

While we will deeply miss Ann's energy and dedication, we also celebrate this new chapter in her life. Retirement brings well-deserved time for rest, renewal, and new adventures, and we send her forward with our prayers and heartfelt thanks.

Please join us as we honor and celebrate Ann on Sunday, May 3 at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a special time to share memories, express our appreciation, and wish her well.

Thank you, Ann, for the many ways you have blessed this community. You will always be a cherished part of our church family.



Zion Super Sale News

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 5-6:30 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.



There are many ways to contribute to the Super Sale: Donating goods, snacks and time. Questions? Please stop at the Welcome Desk on Sundays or contact Pat Stearns 612-418-0617.

welcome

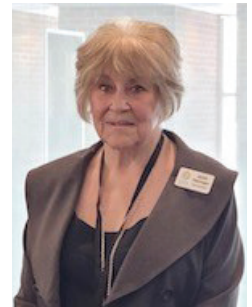
Changes to Delivery of the Herald Newsletter

Dear Friends at Zion,

I want to share an important update regarding our congregational newsletter, The Herald. After thoughtful discussion and careful stewardship of our resources, we have made the decision to move to an email-only distribution of The Herald, rather than mailing printed copies. This will start with the August Herald. This change will result in significant savings of approximately \$17,000 each year. These funds can then be redirected to support the ministries, outreach, and mission work that are at the heart of who we are as a congregation. We understand that this is a change, and we want to make sure everyone continues to have access to the newsletter. If you do not currently receive emails from Zion or need help getting set up, please let us know—we are happy to assist you. For those who are unable to access email, we will work with you to make other arrangements so you can stay connected. Thank you for your understanding and for your continued commitment to the life and ministry of Zion. Grace and peace, Pastor Connie

Thank You, Jackie!

We are deeply grateful for the many years Jackie Pipenhagen has faithfully served as Zion's Funeral Coordinator. In 2005, Jackie and her late-husband Mick, started helping at Zion's funerals. After Mick passed away in 2017, Jackie continued being an official Funeral Coordinator here at Zion with Sandy Steinbring until just this year. Jackie's compassion, organization, and steady presence have brought comfort and dignity to countless families during some of their most difficult moments. Her work has been a quiet but powerful ministry, and the care she's shown has made a lasting impact on our entire church community. Thank you, Jackie, for your dedication and for sharing your gifts so generously!



Noisy Offering - May 2 & 3

Thank you to everyone who brought in their Noisy Offering in April! We gathered \$381.49 which will go toward our camp ministries. The next weekend our Noisy Offering buckets will be out is May 2 & 3. 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.

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.

Annual Plant Sale - May 9

Zion Youth are hosting their annual flowering plant sale as a fundraiser for their summer trip to Milwaukee. The sale will take place on Saturday, May 9 from 8-10 a.m. or until supplies last. Plants may be picked up curbside outside door #1 (our main entrance). Plants can also be preordered online from one of three options: red geraniums, shaded potted plants and sunny potted plants.

Color options for both shaded and sunny plants will vary and are not guaranteed. Come and pick up your plants early to get the colors that you want! Plants ordered online can be picked up on Saturday from 8-10 a.m. If needed, we can hold your plants to be picked up Saturday night or Sunday morning. To preorder your plants go to www.zionanoka.org and click on the Registration Tab at the top of the page or scan the QR code above.



worship and grow

Pentecost is Coming - Wear Red!

Pentecost is Sunday, May 24—a joyful and powerful day in the life of the church! On this day, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon the disciples, empowering them to share the good news of Jesus with the world. That same Spirit is alive and at work in our lives today—guiding, comforting, and inspiring us in faith.

One of the traditions of Pentecost is to wear red, symbolizing the flames of the Spirit that rested on the disciples. So be sure to join in the celebration by wearing red to worship! Come and celebrate the Spirit's presence among us—then and now.



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 a.m.

May Adult Faith Forums

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

- **May 3 - No Forum. Ann Campbell's Retirement Party**
- **May 10 - MN Wheels of Honor: Jim Woodruff, founder.** MN Wheels of Honor is an all-volunteer, 501c3 non-profit organization that was formed in 2020 whose mission is to honor the men and women of Minnesota's Military, Law Enforcement, first responders and their families primarily with motorcycle rides to the homes of the honorees, acknowledging their contributions to our country, state and communities. Wheels of Honor is a past Zion Foundation Grant recipient.
- **May 17 - Join photographer and storyteller John Noltner, founder of A Peace of My Mind, for a powerful one-hour workshop exploring stories of addiction, recovery, and healing.** Drawing from his SOBR series of portraits and personal narratives, John will share moving stories and invite participants into meaningful conversation around a simple yet profound question: What has helped you move toward healing? This engaging session offers a space for reflection, connection, and honest dialogue about the moments when we've needed help—and how we've learned to receive it. All are welcome.
- **May 24 - No Forum. Memorial Day Weekend**

Small Group Study - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Our spring small group study continues throughout May. Below is the schedule for the remaining sessions:

- Week of May 3: Session 4 - Faith is Worldly: Bonhoeffer and "This-Worldliness"
- Week of May 10: Session 5 - Taking a Stand: "Is this a Bonhoeffer moment?": Wrong Question
- Week of May 17: Session 6 - Reading Bonhoeffer Today

Zion Pages Book Group - May 18

On May 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legacy Room, you are invited to the discussion of *The Night Postman*, the Pulitzer Prize Winning Fiction by Minnesota author, Louise Erdrich. All are welcome!

grow and care

It's Time to Register for Camp!

There are many summer camp offerings available for kids ages 0 through high school. To register go to <https://www.zionanoka.org/> and click on the yellow **Zion Kids Summer tab**. All campers must have a completed health form on file which is available online as well. Questions? Contact Lee Neitge lneitge@zionanoka.org.



Preschool Music + Dance

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

Summer Stretch Junior

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

Toddler Tuesday Park Playdate

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

Sports Camp

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

Camp Wapo

Seeds June 19-21
Grades 1-3 compl

Mini Camp Create It

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

Ukulele Basics

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

Camp Wapo

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

Summer Stretch

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

Thank You Recent Radio Broadcast Donors

Every Sunday morning at 9 a.m., Zion's worship service is broadcast on BOB-FM (106.1). Our radio broadcast covers a good portion of Minnesota and reaches several hundred listeners each Sunday, including many who do not have internet capability. Special gifts to support Zion's Radio Broadcast Fund are welcome. Gifts may be given in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion, such as a wedding anniversary. To make a gift to the Radio Broadcast Fund, note "radio broadcast" on the memo line of your check. If it is in memory of a loved one or in honor of an anniversary or birthday, enclose a note.

Pat Reuss
Greg Nelson
Cara Fish
Kristine Johnson
Lois Peterson
Craig Bakken

Ken & Sandy Benson in memory of Verlyn Wenndt
Judy Bendiske in memory of Bill Sundeen
Wayne & Donna Melby in memory of Bill Sundeen
John & Sandy Steinbring in memory of Bill Sundeen

about our people

Deaths

Donald O'Connor
Chet Tollefson
Judith Tostenrud
Jerry Shebetka
Robert A. Nelson

Deaths

Philip Rootes
Patricia Dahl
Lynda Warmuth
Kurt Johnson

Weddings

Angela Stuempert &
Ben Hoganson

New Members

Corwin Bradford
Jane Freeburg

care and serve

From the Social Justice Team

Do you love a parade? Join members of the Zion Social Justice Team at the Twin Cities Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28. The parade begins at 11 a.m. and is scheduled to run until 2 p.m. down Hennepin Ave in Minneapolis. Our group will meet between 10:30 and 11 a.m. at the corner of Hennepin Ave and 10th Street, near the Orpheum Theater. This location is just blocks away from Ramp A in Minneapolis where you could park. Stay for as long as you desire, the Pride Festival continues in Loring Park through 6 p.m. if you are interested. If you prefer to join festivities closer to home, Anoka is hosting its own Pride Day on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Riverfront Memorial Park.



Our Neighbors' Table

Zion's Social Justice Team is highlighting small, potentially overlooked ethnic restaurants where anyone so inclined can gather for new food experiences and fellowship! We are calling these gatherings "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 May's schedule.



- Thursday, May 14 at 12 p.m. - Baba Saj Mediterranean 8685 Central Ave in Blaine.
- Thursday, May 21 at 6 p.m. - Time & Place Jamaican Asian Fusion 3064 Coon Rapids Blvd in Coon Rapids.

Upcoming Equity Team Umbrella Meetings

- Creation Care Team: May 5 | 5:30 p.m. | Fireside Room
- Social Justice Team: May 7 | 6 p.m. | Fireside Room
- Zion Addiction Awareness Ministry (ZAAM): May 26 | 6:30 p.m. | Library
- Neighborhood Engagement Team (NET): June 16 | 6 p.m. | Library

ACBC Food Distribution Update

During the month of March, ACBC served over 2,400 households (7,870 individuals) with almost 129,000 pounds of food which was distributed to our local community! ACBC is very grateful for all the time and energy that Zion volunteers have shared. You helped to make this happen! ACBC continues to need a team of volunteers to show up every Thursday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. If you are able to assist, please sign up at the front desk.

Family Promise News

Zion's next opportunity to provide hospitality for Family Promise families in shelter is May 17. We are asked to provide laundry supplies for a month. If you would like to help with purchasing items and/or dropping the supplies off, please contact Pat Stearns at pat.stearns@comcast.net by May 10. If you would like to give money to support the purchases, please donate money to Zion and include a note "For the Zion Family Promise Account." Our next hosting week will be in the new Guest House where we will be asked to make 3 meals and entertain the guests one night. Somewhat back to what we did when they were at the church.

Habitat for Humanity Summer 2026

Zion's Habitat for Humanity week has been scheduled for July 20-24. We will be working on a rehab house in Roseville. Watch for more information in the June Herald and in upcoming E-updates.



1601 4th Avenue
Anoka MN 55303

ZION
LUTHERAN † ANOKA

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A WELCOMING FAITH COMMUNITY.
GROWING. CARING. SERVING.

News from Zion Pre-K



Spring is finally here, flowers are blooming, and May brings us to the end of our school year. The growth of our preschool children is much like emerging flowers that will bloom soon. We are so blessed and thankful to be a part of their early learning experience.

WELCOME

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

CONTACT US

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