

ZSJ HISTORY 2016-2025

In these last 10 years, the church building saw more updates and changes in staff. All AC units in the building have been replaced, the stained glass windows in the sanctuary have been covered, new flooring has been added to the sanctuary, fellowship hall and narthex, new windows in the fellowship hall, sacristy and banner rooms, new landscaping in the courtyard, painting in the offices, narthex, fellowship hall and sanctuary, LED lighting,



sidewalks and tiling replaced on the west side of the building, removal of the choir loft and the trees in front of the church. The biggest project was the decision to tear down the parsonage after a frozen pipe did thousands of dollars in damage to the house in December of 2016. The house was decommissioned on August 18, 2017 and then

removed. This same year was the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, celebrating all that is good about being Lutheran! Also in 2017, the Handbell Choir played for the Bishop of Namibia in Waverly and journeyed to the Mall of America in Minneapolis to be part of setting a world record for the highest number of handbells playing in one place. In 2016, the church entered into an agreement with the Food Bank of Iowa to become a site for a mobile food pantry. By 2018, the need had grown and the West Fork Food Pantry became a permanent pantry, sponsored by 5 churches in town, and housed in our building. 2018 also saw a group of young people venturing to Houston for the NYG and updates to the technology to allow us to livestream services. By 2019, our on-line giving became part of our website, thru VanCo. Changes in staff also included Caitlin Tauro, Jesse Meints, Daniel Rainbolt, Bre Hilton and Leah Cruz serving as DYFM. And then COVID became part of our lives. To control the virus, all churches were ordered by the governor to close, from March 22-May 3. ZSJ remained open during the week and continued live services on Sunday with 10 or less people in the building, with everyone else tuning in on the new livestream. The building was sanitized daily, masks were worn and we social distanced. For Palm Sunday we created a car parade complete with palms and music, traveling through Sheffield. Services resumed in person on May 10, but no SS or Confirmation classes until the fall, and then an online option was available. The Women's gathering and NYG gathering were eventually canceled. By 2021, VBS, SS and Confirmation were in person and masks were no longer required. A lightening strike in August damaged many of the electronic components in the building, including the AC unit, 2 of the 3 monitors and numerous computers used for livestreaming. This year also saw



the moving of the West Fork Food Pantry to its permanent site @ 106 Gilman, the old bowling alley, with distributions beginning on July 1. In 2022, we began contracting with Ingham/ Okoboji to provide staff for VBS. 2023 was the 75th anniversary of this church building and saw a large fundraiser to update the fellowship hall flooring and bathrooms. This year also saw the conversion of the church cemetery records to digital. By 2024, the church was tuck pointed and the process was completed when the bell was removed from the bell tower. Some basic repairs were done to the bell and then it was placed back in the tower. 2025 has been a year of celebrating our varied ministries and history. In February, we celebrated our mission work. A concert in May featured our musical groups and organist Charles Sukup. An outdoor worship in August celebrated our families and traditions from the past, including a potluck picnic, ice cream social and a performance by the Looney Lutherans from St Paul. We entered floats in the Franklin County Fair and Sheffield parades. Banners were created for both inside and outside and a hymn was commissioned. Composer Brook Joyce from Luther College created *Christ is the Same*, featuring lyrics written by Diane Wills, based on Hebrews 12-13 and our theme verse Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ is the Same, yesterday, today and forever*. Our celebrations will be complete on November 2, when we worship together with the Bishop and former pastors and share a meal.



Other notable historical events were:

2016-a mass shooting in Las Vegas becomes the deadliest in US history; Taiwan elects a woman president; 100th running of the Indy 500; Chicago Cubs win the World Series, first since 1908; Donald Trump surprisingly wins the presidential election.

2017-Nintendo Switch is released; Emma Morano, from Italy, dies, the last known person to have been born in the 1800's; repeated N Korean missile testing causes uneasiness worldwide; DaVinci painting, *Salvator Mundi*, sells for \$450 million @ auction; Walt Disney buys 20th Century Fox; US recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

2018-12 members of a youth soccer team are rescued after spending 19 days in a flooded Thailand cave; a mass shooting @ Marjory Stoneman Douglas HS in Florida leaves 17 dead and 17 injured; President Trump meets with N. Korean leader Kim Jong Un; Saudi Arabia opens theaters and allows women to drive; Prince Harry marries Megan Markle; Terry Branstad steps down as Iowa governor and Kim Reynolds becomes the first woman to be Iowa governor.

2019- US House votes to impeach President Trump, the Senate acquits him in 2020; Event Horizon telescope gets 1st images of a black hole in space; Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris burns during Holy Week, with roof and main spire

collapsing; 1st case of COVID 19 is reported in Wuhan China,; Iowa created a children's mental health system.

2020-Brexit becomes a reality as UK leaves the European Union; COVID 19 pandemic reaches US soil, which results in worldwide lockdowns and the largest economic recession since the Great Depression; the death of George Floyd leads to national protests; Google is sued over privacy rights; Joe Biden is elected president; thru August 2025 over 103 million cases of COVID were diagnosed with 1.2 million deaths; an August Derecho devastates central Iowa, especially Ankeny, Ames, Marshalltown and Cedar Rapids; 300 Safe-T homes are built in Haiti thru GoServ Global; Iowa becomes one of the first states to reopen schools to in person attendance.

2021- Riots on Jan 6 protesting the election results occur in Washington DC; Japan Olympics are finally held, one year late; World begins to reopen after COVID 19 shutdowns; nearly 5 billion people worldwide are vaccinated against COVID 19; Iowa outlaws mask requirements in schools.

2022- Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her platinum jubilee (75 years), she dies 3 months later and her son Charles becomes King of England; Russia invades Ukraine; 1st pig to human heart transplant is successful; Elon Musk buys Twitter for \$44 billion; Roe vs Wade is overturned by US Supreme Court; world population reached 8 billion; NASA resumes space launches.

2023-Hamas attacks innocent Israelis, killing 1100 and taking 240 hostages, including children and Isarel declares war; the Ukraine war continues; an alleged Chinese spy balloon is spotted over US soil; a banking crisis results in several US banks closing, triggering a decline in the stock market and eventual government intervention; the island of Maui in Hawaii suffers 17000 acres of damage from widespread wild fires.

2024-Joe Biden ends his presidential campaign after a poor debate showing; Donald Trump is elected president after 2 assasination attempts, the first person to be elected to non-consecutive terms since 1892; container ship collides with Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, causing its collapse and killing 6; Ukraine and Israel continue to fight wars; shootings at Perry HS result in 3 dead, including the principal and a 6 year old; Caitlin Clark becomes the career scoring leader in NCAA Division I and the #1 draft pick for the WNBA; Greenfield Iowa is devastated by an EF5 tornado.

2025- New Year's Day celebration in New Orleans results in 15 dead after a vehicle rams the crowds; Los Angeles area suffers from the most destructive wild fires in its history; collision of a Blackhawk helicopter and a commercial plane over the Potomac River kills 64, including young members of US ice skating community; a new pope, American, Leo XIV is elected after Pope Francis dies; the REA plant in Hampton is recognized as a National Historic Landmark.

This will be the last opportunity to order 150 apparel! Click on this link <https://zionstjohn2025.itemorder.com/> to take you directly to the site. Store will be open online **September 7-15**. If you need assistance stop in the church office or email!



Zion St John Lutheran Church Fundraiser 2025

Go to the online store at <https://zionstjohn2025.itemorder.com/>

Adult



Gildan Dryblend 50 Cotton/50 Poly T-Shirt



Gildan 8400 Dryblend 50/50 Long Sleeve T-Shirt



Port & Company Core Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt



Port & Company Tall Essential Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt



Port & Company Core Fleece Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt



Port & Company Core Fleece 1/4-Zip Pullover Sweatshirt - Embroidered

Youth



Gildan Dryblend® Youth T-Shirt



Port & Company Youth Core Fleece Crewneck Sweatshirt



Port & Company Youth Core Fleece Pullover Hooded Sweatshirt

Mens



Port Authority Short Sleeve Easy Care Shirt - Embroidered



Port Authority Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt - Embroidered



Port Authority Silk Touch Polo - Embroidered



Port Authority Silk Touch Polo With Pocket - Embroidered

Ladies



Port Authority Ladies Short Sleeve Easy Care Shirt - Embroidered



Port Authority Ladies Long Sleeve Easy Care Shirt - Embroidered



Port Authority Ladies Silk Touch Polo - Embroidered

Headgear



Port Authority Flexfit 110 & Dry Mini Pique Cap



Port Authority Flexfit Cotton Twill Cap