

November 18, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In less than two months we will begin celebrating the 150th anniversary of Zion St. John Lutheran Church! Sunday, November 24th is the culmination of our annual stewardship emphasis. For the past two weeks we have learned how God has blessed our congregation in many ways through good times and challenging times. We have remembered the sacrifices made by the generations before us to ensure that the ministry of this house of God would continue to today and into the future.

- On November 10 we heard from Marlene Severe who has been interviewing members of the congregation to share their memories in this congregation. Our President, Jim Bushkofsky gave us an update on items our church council is working on and challenged us to prayerfully consider increasing our pledges out of thanksgiving for what God has done for us.
- Last Sunday, Daren Meints recalled some of the challenges our congregation has faced over the years. Things such as having our German heritage be grounds to question our loyalty to the United States during WWI. The difficult transition to services being conducted in English rather than German. The challenges of the Great Depression and the way our congregation adapted to meet the challenges of the COVID 19 pandemic.
- This coming Sunday, November 24, will be Consecration Sunday. Diane Wills will give a Temple Talk about the 150th anniversary theme verse. On this day we will ask our members to make a financial commitment to God to support our ministries for the upcoming year. In keeping with our 150th anniversary we are asking our members to consider increasing their giving to reflect this great spiritual milestone. Please prayerfully consider increasing your giving in accordance with your income. Could you increase your giving by 15.0%? Could you increase your giving \$150 per month or \$15.00 per week or \$1.50 per week?

Enclosed with this mailing you will find a pledge card. Please consider what you will give back to God in 2025, God who has given us everything and reserved for you a place in heaven forever. Please bring your pledge card to worship this Sunday. If you leave it at home, we will have extras available. If you are unable to attend this Sunday, please mail it to the church or drop it off in the office.

We are very grateful for the financial gifts you have given to God this past year. Thank you so much! We look forward to celebrating the 150 Anniversary of Zion St. John with you!

We are grateful for your partnership in the Gospel!

Pastor Kim Wills & ZSJ Stewardship Committee