



# Zion St. John

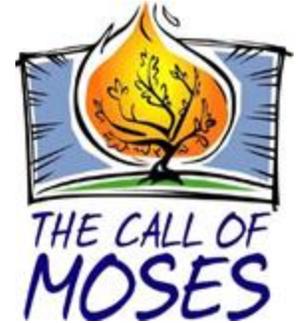
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

February 2018

Transfiguration/ Lent

Vol. 24 No. 2



*Create in me a*  
**clean heart,**



*God,*  
**and renew a**  
**right spirit**  
*within me.*

*Psalm 51:10, ESV*

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

*At Zion St. John Lutheran Church, we are committed to being the body of Christ until He returns. Led by the Holy Spirit and gathered around God's Word and Sacraments, we join in worship, fellowship, learning, spiritual nurture, outreach, and service, as we grow in faith and invite others to experience Christ's presence.*

*"Then the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses and He said, "What of your brother Aaron the Levite? I know he can speak fluently; even now he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you his heart will be glad."*

Exodus 4:14

So what made God mad at Moses? Moses was reluctant to serve God because he was "slow of speech". God overcame Moses' objection by sending Aaron to him as his assistant.

This year in the ELCA we are celebrating the ministry of Philip Melanchthon. He was Martin Luther's assistant. And while Luther wasn't nearly as hesitant to serve God as Moses was, God provided Luther with a capable assistant whose gifts complemented his own.

Certainly, Martin Luther was the face of the Reformation. But that being the case, Luther also bore the brunt of the critical attention that came with his teachings. After the Diet of Worms, Luther was kidnapped by his friends and taken to Wartburg Castle, where he remained hidden for some time. During his absence Melanchthon kept the home fires burning.

Melanchthon was a very gifted scholar and an excellent writer. In fact, Melanchthon made numerous contributions to the writings that are now referred to as the Lutheran Confessions; writings which can be found in the Book of Concord.

In my life and ministry I have been blessed to participate in partnerships that have been mutually beneficial. I have been particularly blessed to find such a partnership with my wife Diane. We have found that each of our gifts complement each other. One of the

valuable things I have learned from her is this: I am, by nature, someone who always tries to please other people. Diane has taught me that pleasing others isn't always possible nor beneficial. And she has taught me not to take criticisms so personally.

Hopefully, you too have experienced the joy of such partnerships. If so, please take time this month to thank God and our human partners for the ways they have been a blessing to us.

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



I have a pretty awesome job. I have the privilege of hanging out with amazing kids and sharing my faith with them. What could possibly be better than that? Kids these days can get a bad rap. We hear a lot about how they are harder to discipline these days, how they are so absorbed in social media, how they just don't care about their faith or being involved in the church anymore. But the thing that I've realized is that, while the social media part might be true, the other parts are just a gap in understanding between generations.

I love all of the groups that I work with, but lately, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade kids have been blowing me away with their evangelism and passion for God. It seems that every week, we have a new friend coming to JAM to hang out and spend time in a safe, faith-centered atmosphere. And most of the time, the kids keep coming after the first time. Our group began with mostly just our members, about ten kids, but now, on weeks that every one is present, we could have as many as 17! This group loves to hear Bible stories, not read out of the Bible, but told orally, as they would hear a parent read them a story. We play games that apply to the Bible story for the day, or do a craft, or put on skits of the story. Whatever we do, they do it with enthusiasm and lots of laughter. They take what we learn each week, and I can see them sharing the light of Christ with friends and family

everywhere they go.

This week, I was surprised in a whole new way. The JAM kids asked me if they could be worship assistants. Some wanted to read the lessons, some wanted to present some special music, some wanted to help with offering, and others wanted to be there to sit with people who were newer to our congregation and needing some guidance. It was THEIR idea! Because they asked, they will be taking a Sunday and helping with much of the service in March. We are all blessed to have amazing kids with servant hearts.

On January 21, our gospel was from the book of Mark and tells us how Jesus recruited his disciples. He said he would teach them how to "fish for people." Sometimes, for us Lutherans, overtly sharing our faith and being the fisherperson God wants us to be is a tricky deal. It's personal, sometimes emotional, and other times, we just don't feel like we have the right tools. But here we are, getting a great example from our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders about how to get people to understand the love of Christ. It just starts with asking, just an invitation. And it's amazing what the Holy Spirit can do with that one question.

Grace and Peace,  
Caitlin





## OUR RETREAT IN GALILEE

One of the people that we had the opportunity to meet was Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. We read his book, “Faith in the Face of Empire” as a way to help us understand more about what life is like in the West Bank for Palestinian Christians. Reading Mitri’s book and being able to discuss it with him, did a fantastic job of framing the rest of our retreat. Mitri’s book discusses Jesus living in the Holy Land during a time of Roman Occupation. He was a member of a marginalized group and his ministry catered to other people on the periphery of society. He traveled to areas that politicians and religious leaders wouldn’t, in order to empower the oppressed to combat the empire. Jesus achieved his goal because “his mission was not a reaction to the Roman Empire, but rather teaching that God’s blueprint for liberation of the people was to set them free and restore their faith in themselves and in God” (Faith in the Face of Empire, p 105).

Having this information helped me to have a richer understanding of the Holy sites that we visited. For example, we visited Capernaum, the home of the disciples, Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Capernaum was a village, situated on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus performed many of his miracles in Capernaum and it served the center of his public ministry. Jesus’s work in Capernaum included healing the sick, calling his disciples, and preaching God’s word. Each of these things helped to empower the downtrodden and oppressed, as well as, restore their faith in God and their abilities to oppose Roman occupation. Just across the Sea of Galilee, there was a constant reminder of the Roman occupation, the Roman capital of Galilee, Tiberias. At Caesarea Philippi, which is where Peter declared that Jesus is the Messiah (Matthew 16:13-20,

Mark 8:27–30 and Luke 9:18–20), this declaration becomes more meaningful because Caesarea Philippi had been a religious site during the Hellenistic Period for the Greek god Pan. Later, a shrine to Caesar was built there. Knowing this, Peter’s declaration that Jesus is the Messiah becomes a message that the Kingdom of God transcends any earthly empire.

Today, members of my host community are dealing with many of the same issues that the Jesus's followers dealt with. An occupying force controls many aspects of their lives. Despite this, God is still walking alongside them, helping them to regain faith in themselves and God in order to find creative ways to oppose the occupation and eventually become liberated.

Peace,  
Lars

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

ZSJ is the host site for the Mobile Food Pantry in Franklin County. This mobile pantry is through the Food Bank of Iowa and will be held the 3rd Thursday of every month. Hours will be from 4-6 pm. Set up time is from 3-4 pm and we always welcome volunteers! For more information, please contact the church office @ 641-892-4010 or [secretary@zionstjohn.org](mailto:secretary@zionstjohn.org). We are still working on a more permanent solution and would welcome any suggestions!

Next date is  
Thursday, February 15, 4-6 pm



## WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If West Fork Community Schools cancel classes, all church activities will also be cancelled. Regarding Sunday worship, the Council President and Pastor Kim will consult and make a decision as to whether Sunday services and Sunday school will be held. If services are cancelled it will be **posted on the homepage of the**

website and we will notify the following television and radio stations:

Mason City **KIMT**  
Des Moines **WHO & KCCI**

Hampton: **104.9 FM – KLMJ**  
**98.9 FM - KQCR**

Mason City: **1300 AM – KGLO**  
**1490 AM – KRIB**  
**97.9 FM – KCMR**

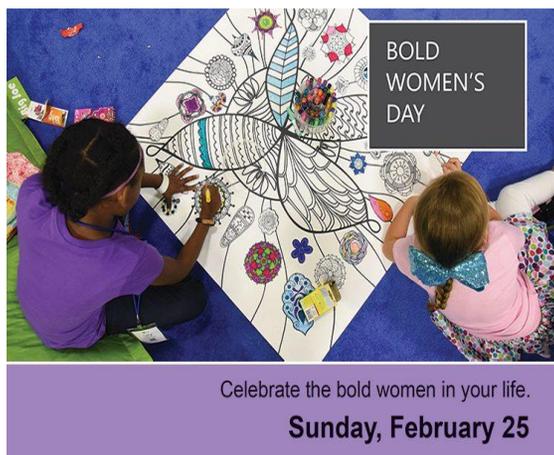


## LENTEN SUPPERS/ WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday worship will February 14, @ 7 pm. This service will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Starting on February 21, @ 7 pm, Midweek Lenten worship begins, using the “Return to the Lord” liturgy written by Pastor Kim and Diane. Prior to each service there will be a supper hosted by various church groups. February 21 supper is hosted by the Handbell choir and February 28 host is the Chancel Choir.

These worship services and suppers will continue through Wednesday, March 21.

As is our custom, the offerings for each service will be designated for charitable organizations



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of December 31, 2017.

<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$210,850</b>
<b>Offerings Received</b>	<b>\$194,923</b>
<b>Final Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 15,927</b>
<b>Expenses Year to Date</b>	<b>\$197,223</b>
<b>Checking Account</b>	<b>\$ 20,449</b>



We had a very strong December. Our budget deficit decreased by \$4,000 and our checking account balance increased by over \$6,000.00. We did have about \$1,000 in expenses incurred in December but the bills were not received until well after the first of the year so a more accurate checking account balance would be \$19,500.00. Thank you for your faithful giving! Let's get off to a great sta



**Call to Order** – President Dacia S call the annual meeting to order at 10 am. She declared a quorum, Pastor led devotions.

### **Review of 2017 Reports**

- ◇ Membership Statistics – On Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 517 Baptized, 417 Confirmed
- ◇ Secretary – Daren M, motion to approve; Don G, second; approved.
- ◇ Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Total giving was \$198,080.20. Motion to approve, Katie L; second, Darwin M; approved.
- ◇ Pastor – Thanked staff for their work. Thanked members of congregation for work on parsonage and funerals.
- ◇ Director of Youth and Family Ministry – Caitlin talked about active youth and service work they are doing. Thanked congregation for enthusiasm and support of the youth program.
- ◇ President – Dacia thanked congregation for the volume of volunteering throughout the year. Thanked church staff.
- ◇ Audit – Doreen D reported that the committee (Lisa H, Katie L &

herself) went through the financial statements and all appeared to be in order.

### **Committees**

- ◇ Stewardship – Report on pg 14
- ◇ Worship and Evangelism – Cindy H reviewed her report. Asked for members of congregation to please sign up to be worship assistants.
- ◇ Technology – Scott C reviewed report. Stated that the next committee project is a remote control hand held Zoom camera to be able to download live church services to Youtube.
- ◇ Property Management – Dave S thanked everyone for their work on the parsonage project.
- ◇ Legacy/Memorial Fund – Alice G talked about the new brochure as they were handed out. Reviewed projects in brochure. Thanked Don R for his work on this committee.
- ◇ Parish Education – Caitlin reviewed report. Talked about VBS week: 75 kids and 35 volunteers. Announced this year's theme, "Shipwrecked". Christmas program was also a great success.
- ◇ Youth and Family – Caitlin reviewed report. Committee members meet once a month. 12 kids and 6 adults heading to Houston this summer for the NYG. More fundraisers will be coming up.

### **Organizations**

- ◇ WELCA – Alice G thanked everyone that has donated, served and worked events. Asked for someone to consider being Vice-President and someone to help Marlene S with Education.
- ◇ Riverside Bible Camp – Darwin noted that they are celebrating 75 years of ministry. Reviewed report. Caitlin reminded that we offer financial support for members to go to camp.
- ◇ Lutheran Cemetery Association – Report on pg 24 by Craig O.

### **Elections**

- ◇ Church Council – (3) Scott C, Jim B, Vickie B. Cliff C, motion to approve; second, Lois B; approved.
- ◇ Cemetery Financial Officer – Craig O is willing to continue. Motion, Lance L; second, Darwin M; approved.
- ◇ Nominating Committee – Three outgoing council members and two congregation members, Brigid C, Doug D, Tracy D, Judy S. Council will find someone to fill the last position. Motion, Lance L; second, Katy L; approved.

- ◇ Legacy/ Memorial Committee (two) – Roger M and Dacia S. Daren M, motion; Brigid, second; approved.
- ◇ Audit Committee (one) Doreen D, 3<sup>rd</sup> year; Katy L, 2<sup>nd</sup> year; Daren M, 1<sup>st</sup> year. Don G, motion; Alice, second; approved.
- ◇ Riverside Bible Camp – Darwin M to continue. David S, motion; Maxine H, second; approved.
- ◇ Synod Assembly – Sarah R, Jacob R as youth. Darwin M and Cindy H as adult members. Motion, Nancy R; second, Alice G; approved.

### **Old Business-None**

### **New Business**

- ◇ Presentation and Adoption of 2018 Budget – Dacia reviewed the report. Charles S made a motion to amend the budget. Adding \$500 to Education for Lutheran Summer Music Program scholarship for high school student in our congregation; second by Diane W; approved. Motion, Judy S to accept budget as amended; Nancy R, second; approved as amended.
- ◇ Constitution Changes—Continuing Resolution C13.07, Memorial committee management; requires one vote. Motion, Jill C; second, Dave S; approved. Alice G made a motion that the Legacy/Memorial fund would like to use the interest from the account (\$60.08) to purchase acid free boxes to store record books that are falling apart; Nancy, second; some discussion; approved.

**Adjourn** at 11:00 am

## *Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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Dear ZSJ Sisters in Service,

The women of our church are called upon to provide food or help serve for planned functions (World Day of Prayer, Confirmation, special guest events, etc.) and unplanned ones (funerals). Most women are designated to be part of a work group. Some are not part of a work group due to the fact that they are not living within a reasonable distance from our church.

If you **are** part of a work group you may be called and asked to furnish one of the following for planned functions:

**Salad:** A salad for 10 - 12 people. If you choose a Jell-O salad, please use a 6 oz. size package.

**Bars:** The jelly roll size pan is recommended.

**\*\*When you furnish food, please remember to always mark your bowl or pan with your name before bringing it to the church kitchen. (Address labels work great.) Also, please remember to pick it up after the event.\*\***

At times, a monetary contribution is requested to use for items or food needed for an event. If you feel that you **are not able** to help work at or provide for activities because of distance, health reasons, or work schedules, we would always gratefully accept your donation to be used to purchase bread, meat, condiments, drinks, etc. that are needed for these functions. A contribution can be dropped off or sent to the church office, but please note in the Memo portion of your check or send a note to make sure we know that it is for use at WELCA functions.

Together we will be able to continue this ministry to our church family.

In His Service,  
Alice G  
Women of ZSJ President

**Rebekah Circle**

Monday, February 5, 7 pm  
Bible Study: Alice G  
Hostess: Lorna M @ home

**Dorcas Circle**

Tuesday, February 6, 1 pm  
Bible Study: Marilyn S  
Hostess: Lavonne C



## PRAYER LIST

In order to keep Pastor Kim informed and our prayer list accurate, please let the church office or Pastor know if you are in the hospital or are anticipating hospitalization.

Cindy R	Sue N	Sarah P
Lorri H	Sawyer A	Finley O
Pam B	Jim H	Judy N
Donna Mae J	Landon T	Cliff C
Connie C	Gary S	Dick H
Bev F	Kay R	
Louise C	Pauline P	Kira N
Chuck N	Christy M	

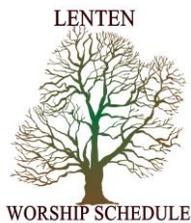
- \* The family of Ron S
- \* The family of Norman O
- \* The family of Les D
- \* The family of Betty L
- \* The family of Ron S
- \* The victims and survivors of Human Trafficking



February 2 Gary R, Jake S, Marvin H  
 February 4 Steve L  
 February 5 Zach G, Jason G  
 February 7 Chris H, Sara W  
 February 10 Jackson B, Xavier B  
 February 12 Jordan H, Courtney L  
 February 13 Taylor C  
 February 14 Abby S, Emily T  
 February 15 Cassidy E, Cheri K, Diane R  
 February 16 Todd H  
 February 17 Jordan L, Charles S  
 February 18 Macy D, Nancy R  
 February 19 Samantha H, Holly W  
 February 20 Marcia K  
 February 21 Breanna L  
 February 24 Tyler G, Preston L, Judy N  
 February 25 Jen S  
 February 26 Amber H, Samantha H, Elle L  
 February 27 Jim M



**FEBRUARY**  
 Birthdays



Feb. 11	9:00 am	Transfiguration Sunday SS children sing
Feb. 14	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion, Men's choir sings
Feb. 18	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship, Choir sings
Feb. 21	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by HB Choir Midweek Lenten Service "Return to the Lord"
Feb. 25	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion, led by Praise Team, Bold Women's Sunday
Feb. 28	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by Chancel Choir Midweek Lenten service, "Return to the Lord"
Mar. 3	9:30 am	World Day of Prayer service

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Head Usher:** Doug D

**Ushers:**

**Altar Guild:** Lorna M  
Kim O

**Lector:** Doreen D

**Greeters:**

4 Don & Maxine H  
 11 Don & Maxine H  
 18 John & Shannon L  
 25 John & Shannon L

**Acolyte:**

4 Ava H  
 11 Emma  
 14 Cole M 7 pm  
 18 Malachi R

**Crucifer:**

4 Isaac T  
 11 Trevor G  
 12 Delaney C  
 18 Hayden S

**Offering Counters:**

Tony R  
 Doug D

**Fellowship Time Servers:**

4 Don & Alice G  
 11  
 18  
 25

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

9:00 am Worship  
 10:15 am Fellowship & Sunday School

G Kim Wills, Pastor 641-425-9453  
[pastor@zionstjohn.org](mailto:pastor@zionstjohn.org) 9:00am-3:00pm, T-F

Caitlin Retz, Director of Youth/Family Ministries 641-494-6989  
[youth@zionstjohn.org](mailto:youth@zionstjohn.org) 9:00am-4:00pm, S-M-T-Th  
 9am-noon Wed.

Church Office 641-892-4010  
[mail@zionstjohn.org](mailto:mail@zionstjohn.org) 9:00am-12:00pm, M-F