



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

March 2018

Lent

Vol. 24 No. 3



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.



They (Joseph's brothers) said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

Genesis 37: 19-20

During the season of Lent, I will be preaching a sermon series based on Max Lucado's book, You'll Get Through This. Given the number of families we have that have experienced the loss of a loved one this past year, as well as other families facing other challenges, I believe this is a very timely topic. The sermon series will begin on Sunday, February 18 and will end March 21, including Wednesday evening services. I am grateful to Caitlin Retz for presenting the first two sermons while I was away.

You'll Get Through This is based on the story of Joseph and I also did extensive research on this story for one of my seminary classes. The story of Joseph follows his life from the time he is thrown into a pit, sold into slavery in Egypt, rose to power and was then thrown in jail. It documents the many trials he faced until he finally rose to power as Pharaoh's second in command. When famine came, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in search of food, not knowing that Joseph was alive or in charge. After some time and disception, Joseph reveals himself and their family starts the path to healing and wholeness.

I encourage you to worship frequently during the season of Lent and to listen to how God changes intended evil to eventual good.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim





At the end of January, I had the most amazing opportunity to attend the ELCA Children, Youth, and Family Network Extravaganza in Houston, Texas. I had the pleasure of spending a long weekend with people who do what I do, those who are the best in the field. I learned about what we will experience when we take kids down to Houston this summer. I listened to fabulous key note speakers. I went to enlightening and exciting workshops, and I became inspired to come home and get back to what I am so lucky to get to do every day.

I had the opportunity to go on a bus tour of Houston that showed us the main sites that we will need to know for this summer's ELCA National Youth Gathering. This five-hour tour gave me the opportunity to learn more about Houston as a city. Houston is the most diverse city in the United States. In this city, there is no ethnic or racial majority group. Because Houston is a large hub for immigration, there are people from all over the world that live together in a harmony that you don't feel when visiting other cities in the US. Houston is also the largest city in the United States geographically. At a time when many cities were building up with skyscrapers and many storied buildings, Houston simply grew out, and continued to create more neighborhoods and districts that sprawl out over the Texas countryside. It is such a neat city!

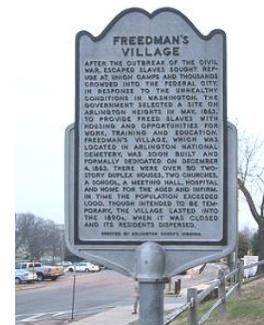
On this bus tour, I visited one of the places that is a site for service learning during the Gathering. This place is called Freedman's Town. This little neighborhood in the 4th ward of Houston was created after the slaves were set free shortly after the Civil War. At the time, Houstonians were not willing to help the freed slaves at all, so the community banded together to create their own livelihoods. They built homes, and did it quite well. They created small businesses that supplied the goods and services they would need. There were cobblers,

doctors, seamstresses, grocery stores, and all the other things that are needed by a community. With all this happening, some of these freed slaves became quite wealthy, and their lives showed it. However, the streets in Freedman's Town were still not paved and the city of Houston refused to help. So, the whole community banded together to pave their own streets.

Now, many of these buildings still stand, but they are in desperate need of some TLC. Many of the original buildings have been demolished to make room for new apartments and housing developments. Groups of people have been working together to buy remaining properties and restore the buildings to create museums that are a tribute to the memory of these amazing people. The students who are a part of the service learning at Freedman's Town may have the opportunity to help preserve some of these historic properties.

As I visited this place on an extremely rainy day, I was reminded of the way that we are all given spiritual gifts at our baptism. These gifts are given so that we might use them to make the Body of Christ a real and moving force in our world, the same way that all of the people in Freedman's Town used their gifts and skills to create a community that sustained them and fulfilled them. It also reminds me of God's promise to provide for us. Through all of the difficulties that came with going from the life of a slave to the life of a freed person, God was with them, guiding and helping them. What a wonderful reminder of the freedom Christ gives!

Grace and Peace, Caitlin





YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

It's hard for me to believe, but I've reached my halfway point here. Deciding to participate in YAGM this year has easily been the BEST decision that I've made in my life. I don't think that I can find words to describe how transformative my time here has been. I'm looking forward to seeing where the rest of the year takes me. Next week, I will be going on my mid-year retreat to Jordan. I'm excited to learn more about what the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) is doing there. Additionally, I'm excited to have the opportunity to spend time with a Bedouin community, see Petra, and reflect on my time here. It will be a nice opportunity to recharge for the second half of my YAGM year.

I'm very safe and happy here and I cherish each moment that I get to spend with my host community.

Thank you for your continued support.

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. We are still working on a more permanent solution and would welcome any suggestions!

**Next date is
Thursday, March 15, 4-6 pm**



LENTEN SUPPERS

Prior to Wednesday service there will be a supper hosted by various church groups. March 7 supper will be hosted by the Church Council, March 14 by the Youth, March 21 by Women of ZSJ.



LENTEN OFFERINGS

- Mar 7 Franklin Co Alcoholism
- Mar 14 Access of Hampton
- Mar 21 LSI
- Mar 29 Church of the Damascus Rd.



LENTEN WORSHIP

Midweek Lenten worship continues on March 7, 14 and 21, using the "Return to the Lord" liturgy written by Pastor Kim and Diane. Pastor Kim is also doing a sermon series on the Max Lucado book entitled, You'll Get Through This. This book details the life of Joseph and how he handled the losses in his life.

Along with the sermon series, we will also be using parts of the Peace At the Last service illustrated by Wendy S, Larry L's daughter. This service was created by her church in Washington and used as a tool for visitation with the sick and dying and their families. Wendy donated several copies to ZSJ and you are welcome to check them out.





FAMILY BOWLING

Join us for family bowling fun on Sunday March 25, 3 pm. We will be meeting @ Freeze Frame in Greene for some good old fashioned bowling! All ages are welcome, no previous experience necessary!

EASTER LILY GARDEN



An Easter lily garden will again decorate the sanctuary during the Easter season. A lily may be purchased for the garden through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$20.00. Make your check payable to *Forever Yours*. All orders must be in by Palm Sunday, March 25. If you are giving a lily in memory of someone or plan to bring a lily on your own, please let the church office know so that it can be noted in the Easter morning bulletin.



EASTER DAY EVENTS

- 6:30 am Easter Sunrise Worship with Holy Communion, & Choirs
- 7:30 am Easter Breakfast prepared by our amazing youth
- 9:00 am Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Easter is April 1! Come and share in the joy of the resurrection!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



ZSJ will be hosting this year's World Day of Prayer service, on Saturday, March 3 @ 9:30 am. This ecumenical service reaches over 170 countries across the world. This year the women of Suriname share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love and acceptance, with the theme

“All God’s Creation is Very Good”. The focus is on Genesis 1, the story of Creation. The Bible study and worship service invite us to explore the relationship between God and creation, and God and humanity and asks what is our role as Christians in the world of God. Please contact Vickie Bushkofsky with questions. Bring a friend!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here’s a at our finances as of January 31, 2018.

Budgeted Income	\$18,181
Offerings Received	\$11,491
Current Deficit	\$ 6,690
Expenses Year to Date	\$18,181
Checking Account	\$12,739



We had some bills come in late for expenses incurred in 2017. This combined with cold temperatures led to low worship attendance in January and with that lower offerings. Let’s work on cutting into this deficit in the weeks ahead. Thank you for your faithful giving!



Meeting called to order by President Doug D at 10:30 on February 11, 2018. Devotions led by Pastor. Members present: Brigid C, Pastor Kim, Doug D, Cindy H, Scott C, Tony R, Lisa P, Tracy D, Jim B, Vickie B

Pastor’s Report

Baptisms

⇒ Feb 11, 2018 Hayden E, daughter of Jonathan and Cara E

Weddings Scheduled

⇒ Oct 6, 2018 – Cassidy K and Brady R at ZSJ

Funerals

⇒ Dec 30, 2017 - Norman O at ZSJ

⇒ Jan 13, 2018 – Ron S at ZSJ

⇒ Feb 10, 2018 – Pauline P at ZSJ

Requests for Membership Transfer (1 Household, 1 Confirmed, 1 Baptized)

⇒ Melinda K K to Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) Clive, Iowa – Scott moved; Brigid second; passed.

Other Activities

⇒ Preached at the Sheffield Care Center once in January for Pastor Sandi, February 8 and 15.

⇒ Attended Malachi R's 8th grade basketball game.

⇒ Attended the Conference Pastor's dinner, with Diane, held in Waverly.

Items to Consider

⇒ We have received the new laptop computers and they are up and running. There have been numerous growing pains. E-mail is not working properly and Fred was unable to fix it. Would like to purchase Outlook Express. Caitlin would like to purchase Microsoft Publisher, because she needs this to create her youth calendar for the newsletter.

⇒ We need to set a date for Council Installation. – Will happen March 11th

⇒ We have received the bill for the Stewardship Brunch. It cost \$1,000.00. We will list this as a miscellaneous expense.

⇒ Pastor will be taking vacation Friday, February 16 through Friday, February 23. Caitlin will preach on Sunday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 21. Communion will move to the 4th Sunday, February 25.

⇒ Update on Mobile Food Pantry.

Connecting ZSJ with the larger church

(Bishop Steven Ullestad; Three River Conference, Dean Lisa Dietrich)

⇒ Serve on the Outside Council of The Church of the Damascus Road.

⇒ Serve on the Synod's SAFE Committee.

⇒ Darwin M and Diane Wills serve on the Synod Council.

⇒ Diane Wills serves as Synodical President of the Women of the ELCA, NE IA.

⇒ Attended the Stetson University Pastor's School in DeLand, Florida last week for continuing ed.

Secretary's Report – Tony, motion to accept; Tracy second; passed.

Treasurer's Report – Reviewed report

Committee Reports

⇒ **Parish Education** – (Brigid) Started planning VBS and end of the year SS activity.

⇒ **Property Management**- (Tony, Jim)

* Discussed flooring issues – entry way and under piano.

* Discussed cemetery mowing.

⇒ **Stewardship** – (Doug) will address this fall.

⇒ **Technology** – (Scott, Doug) Fred purchased new Linksys Velop Wifi for \$500. Will be reimbursed out of the computer software line item.

⇒ **Worship & Evangelism** – (Cindy, Tracy, Vickie) – Feb is done and March is still looking for two days for fellowship. Pastor will send an email to set up meeting. Explored ways to get fellowship covered.

⇒ **Youth & Family** – (Lisa) Still working on getting Caitlin a helper for JAM

Old Business

⇒ Julia to get direct deposit forms to Pastor and Caitlin.

New Business

⇒ Welcome new council members- Jim and Vickie

⇒ Furnace – Update. Had to replace motor and had the furnaces cleaned. We are now on an annual maintenance plan.

⇒ Money towards remaining window replacements in Banner Room or Sacristy – Pastor asked that they do Sacristy first. Pastor will communicate approval for getting bids. Ladies have designated money to off-set the cost.

⇒ \$50 in memorial funds are available

⇒ Serving Lenten supper - 3/7- Doug will send an email out to council for sign ups.

- ⇒ Pastors need for outlook express, Caitlin's need for Publisher – Brigid, motion to approve; Lisa, second; passed.
- ⇒ Discussed Aramark mat replacement. Property committee will look at options.
- ⇒ Money counters for the year – March – Jim & Lisa, April – Vickie & Scott, May – Tracy & Tony, June – Brigid & Doug, July – Brigid & Jim, August – Brigid & Lisa, Sept – Vickie & Scott, Oct – Tracy & Tony, Nov – Doug & Jim, Dec – Vickie & Scott
- ⇒ Adjourn Tracy, motion to adjourn; Cindy, second; passed.

Submitted by
Brigid C

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Called to Order by Alice G, president @ 10:20 am on February 4, 2018. Devotions by Alice, prayer and purpose statement.

Minutes: approved.

Correspondence: Thank yous from Jordon S, Malachi R, Caring Pregnancy Center, Northern Lights, New Beginnings, LAMP, Francis Lauer Youth Services, Hospice, Wings of Refuge, LSI, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief, ELCA Good Gifts, Women of the ELCA-CW, LWR and the families of Norman O, and Alva L.

Treasurer's Report:

- ⇒ \$150 in "pennies for poverty", was designated for chickens & goats
- ⇒ Alice purchased 3 Bibles for baptisms
- ⇒ EMS check still not cashed
- ⇒ HFF and Fall 2017 Ingathering sheets were handed out
- ⇒ report placed on file

Mission Action:

- ⇒ 13 quilts to shelters delivered by Maxine.
- ⇒ Truck will be at Fredsville Lutheran in rural Cedar Falls, April 14. Judy offered use of her truck & enclosed trailer if needed.

Mission Growth:

- ⇒ World Day of Prayer will be here Sat. Mar. 3 at 9:30 13 people needed to participate, all area churches have been invited....NOT just for women!!
- ⇒ Change of dates for Sheffield Care Center birthday parties to Apr 16 & Oct 15

New Business:

- ⇒ Convention at Waverly is June 16. Scholarships available for 1st time attendees.
- ⇒ 4 teddy bears sent to Pineville Ark & Kentucky.
- ⇒ Window \$ discussed. Request will be made at church council to consider doing the sacristy or banner room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by
Judy S



Rebekah Circle
Monday, March 5, 7 pm
Hostess, Bible Study: **TBD**

Dorcas Circle
Tuesday, March 6 @ 1 pm
Bible Study: Helga B
Hostess: Betty H

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



Landon T	Cliff C	Vicki M
Connie C	Gary S	Dick H
Bev F	Kay R	Laura M
Louise C	Kira N	Chuck N
Christy M		

- * The family of Pauline P
- * The family of Betty B
- * The family of Donna Mae J

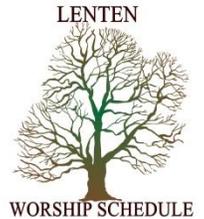


**SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD
ON SUNDAY MARCH 11!**



March 3	Helga B, Ahna L
March 4	Bev B, Sharon S
March 5	Pam M
March 7	Tony R
March 9	Todd H
March 10	Jim B, Julie D, Sarah R
March 11	LaVonne C
March 13	Lori S
March 14	Kacy L, Cole M, Craig N
March 15	Tara T
March 16	Ken B
March 17	Doreen D, Brandon M
March 18	Scott S, Jon S
March 19	Virginia L
March 20	Stephanie H, Steve H
March 21	Jadyn D, Lily D
March 22	Valerie L, Jenna W

March 23	Marie L, Ryan R
March 24	Taylor G
March 25	Roger E, Robert M, Kalynn W
March 26	Edward E, Tim K
March 28	Louise C, Camden H
March 29	Al N
March 30	Ciara H
March 31	Gene R



Mar. 3	9:30 am	World Day of Prayer service
Mar. 4	9:00 am	Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion, HB choir
Mar. 7	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by Council
	7:00 pm	Midweek Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar. 11	9:00 am	Sunday Worship (set your clocks ahead)
Mar. 14	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by Youth
	7:00 pm	Midweek Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar. 18	9:00 am	Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion
Mar. 21	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by Women of ZSJ
	7:00 pm	Midweek Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar. 25	9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion, SS & Chancel Choirs
Mar. 29	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship w/ Holy Communion, Women's choir sings
Mar. 30	7:30 pm	Good Friday Service by ZSJ Youth
Apr. 1	6:30 am	Sunrise Easter Service w/ Holy Communion, HB & Chancel Choirs
	7:30 am	Easter Breakfast hosted by ZSJ Youth
	9:00 am	Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Head Usher: Daren M

Ushers: Collin M

Altar Guild: Judy S

Lector:

4 Roger M
7 Cindy H
11 Girl Scouts
14 Diane W
18 JAM
21 Cindy H
25 Roger M
29 Roger M

Greeters:

4 Swansons
11 Girl Scouts
18 JAM
25 Greimanns

Acolyte:

4 Nate H
11 Taylor K
18 Emma M
25
29 Kalli T (7 pm)

Crucifer:

4 Gavin M
11 Jake S
18 Ava H
25
29 Alex S (7pm)

Offering Counters:

Tony R
Doug D

Fellowship Time Servers:

4 Bushkofskys
11 Girl Scouts
18 JAM
25 3rd-4th grade SS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Fellowship & Sunday School

G Kim Wills, Pastor

641-425-9453

pastor@zionstjohn.org

9:00am-3:00pm, T-F

Caitlin Retz, Director of Youth/Family Ministries 641-494-6989

youth@zionstjohn.org

9:00am-4:00pm, S-M-T-Th
9am-noon Wed.

Church Office

641-892-4010

mail@zionstjohn.org

9:00am-12:00pm, M-F