



# Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

May 2018

Easter/ Pentecost

Vol. 24 No. 5



***“But you... are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people; in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”***

**1 Peter 2:9**

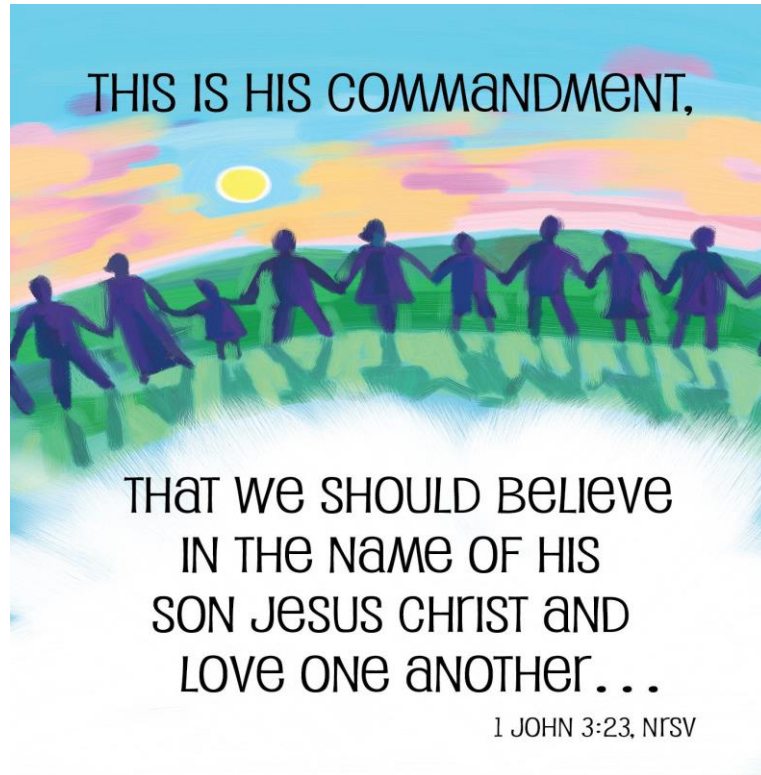
I am writing today about an issue I see going on in the larger church. Now the issue that I’m bringing up isn’t unique to the ELCA. Earlier this year I attended an ecumenical conference in Florida and it was rampant there as well.

The issue is the negative view people have of each other. We are all sinful beings, so it goes without saying that sometimes we all have a hard time seeing the good in others. Our country and world face significant challenges that tend to create negativity.

While at the conference, I heard for three straight days about how awful we all were. At one point I said to myself, “You know, the registration fee for this conference was \$399.00. And I am going to walk out of here feeling worse about myself than when I walked in the door.” That wasn’t what I really needed. What I really needed was some encouragement.

The average attendance in mainline Protestant churches continues to decline. The average decline in attendance in ELCA congregations over the past ten years is about 20%. Now there are churches that are growing in the ELCA. When I arrived here 9 years ago our average attendance was 105. Last year we were at 103. We are doing extremely well compared to other churches in our denomination, particularly when you look at congregations in rural settings.

Rather than focusing on how awful we all are, we need to focus on how to help others. And my guess is we aren’t going to grow if people walk out of our doors feeling worse about themselves than when they sat down in the pew. But what I believe most people need when they come to church on Sunday is to get their bucket refilled. The world does a pretty good job each week of draining our buckets



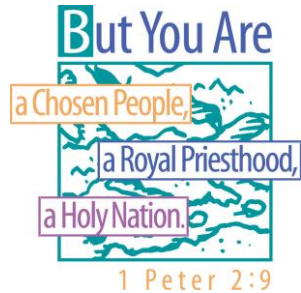
## **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

*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.*

by constantly reminding us of our shortcomings.

**The message of the Gospel is Jesus died for our sins, while we were still sinners!** We can never be good enough to earn our way into heaven. No matter how hard we try we can never make ourselves good enough to make heaven on our own personal merits. Jesus loves us, even though we continue to fall short.

If Jesus continues to love us despite our shortcomings, shouldn't we as Christians strive to love each other despite our faults?



God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



Lately, I have been asked this question several times: "How do I make faith important with my kids?" As we get into the season of nice weather, ball games, and kids being out of school, things only seem to get busier. But, if we think about it, we never seem to get much down time. My mom always says that life never really slows down, it just changes direction. So, with this in mind, I have compiled some ideas for you to bring faith discussions into your home. These are things that you can do without having to worry about saying the wrong thing or not knowing enough to have the conversation. Try what you like and just see how it goes for you.

◆ **Be an example.** Kids learn the most from their parents.

If you want them to have an active faith life, they need to see you have an active faith life! This means attending church, spending time in community with other Christians, and being



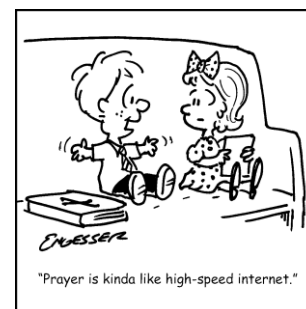
willing to talk about faith. This is a huge first step!

◆ **Look for God.** In my experience, people spend a lot of time in the car in the summer. As you're driving, look at God's creation and point out some of the beautiful things that are in it. Share those things with the kids. You might even be surprised at the things they see. If you have time to sit down for dinner together, where did you see God during your day? Did you see God in other people? Perhaps in a current event you heard about? Maybe in the way the kids play with each other there is a God moment.



◆ **Pray.** Spend time together as a family in prayer. When you have a meal, either at the drive-through, or at the dinner table, take a second and thank God for the blessings of the day. When you wake up in the morning, take a few seconds as a family to ask God for guidance during the day. Before bed, say another quick prayer, thanking God for the day. These prayers can be brief, and don't have to be eloquent and perfect. Kids will often surprise us and learn to talk with God like a best friend, and that's exactly what we want!

I hope that these easy ideas can help you to put God at the forefront of your activities for the summer.



Grace and peace,  
Caitlin



YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION

This past month, I had the privilege of having my mother visit me! It was extremely fun for me to show her around the Holy Land and have her meet my host community. During her time here, we were able to share Holy Week and celebrate Easter together.

On the first morning after my mom arrived, we went on a school field trip to Jericho, to an amusement park called Banana Land. Each grade organized their own BBQ. We were offered more delicious food than we could possibly eat. Both of us were so full that we passed on getting waffles and ice cream on the way home.

Holy Week was filled with highlights. They include a Palm Sunday processional from the Mt. of Olives to Jerusalem, a Maundy Thursday service that ended with a walk to the Garden of Gethsemane, and a walk on the Via Dolorosa for the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. There were people from all over the world singing and speaking in their own languages, yet we were all worshipping together.

My host community showed my mom the same love that they've shown me throughout the year. My highlight of her time here was seeing how my mother and host community embraced each other. She now has a better understanding and insight into my year of service. I know that I've said this many times before during my YAGM year, but I will cherish the memories from the past two weeks with my mom, for the rest of my life.

Thank you again for your support! Lars

### Congregational Meeting



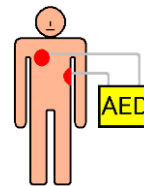
## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

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, May 17, 4-6 pm**



## AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATOR



At the March Council meeting, one of the items that was discussed was the need for us to have an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. These devices have saved the lives of many people whose hearts have stopped beating.

The cost for an AED would range between \$1,500 & \$2,000. Currently we have \$200 in Memorial Funds designated for this. The council is encouraging members of ZSJ to prayerful consider contributing to this project so we can purchase an AED in the near future. If you would like to contribute please write AED in the memo line of your check.

## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The ZSJ Church Council has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, May 6, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to consider accepting a bid to do cement work on the west side of the church. This work will hopefully eliminate flooding in the fellowship hall. The money to fund this project would come from the insurance money we received from

the damage that occurred to the parsonage.

Two separate bids will be considered. The first is to do cement work from the front of the church to the parking lot, \$8,155. The second bid is to replace the sidewalk from the parking lot to Gilman Street, \$3,980. The current balance in the parsonage fund is \$20,565.14.

## LENTEN OFFERINGS

Sharing Shoppe	\$240
Riverside	\$425
Fr Cty Alcoholism	\$832
Access	\$725
Church of Dam. Rd	\$230
LSI	\$555



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of March 31.

<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$54,543</b>
<b>Offerings Received</b>	<b>\$46,071</b>
<b>Current Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 8,472</b>
<b>Expenses Year to Date</b>	<b>\$49,726</b>
<b>Checking Account</b>	<b>\$16,578</b>

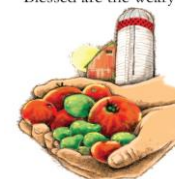


We had an excellent month! While this checking account balance includes money from special offerings that were collected during Lent our checking account balance increased by over \$9,000.00 last month. Thank you for your faithful giving!

## WELCA GATHERING

The NE IA WELCA will be gathering on Saturday, June 16 @ Wartburg College, in Waverly. The theme of the day is "Blessed are the weary...". There are numerous interest sessions throughout the day including the worship team from Bremwood, foster parenting, mandelas, the Bishop, disaster preparedness, Native American traditions, financial planning and keynote speaker Pastor Kevin Dooley who is a ventriloquist. The day will also include morning worship with communion, shopping and a delicious lunch with lots of fellowship. There is more information on the narthex bulletin board or on line @ [www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/](http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/)

Blessed are the weary...



## FIRST COMMUNION

Our fifth grade class will celebrate their first communion during May and June! Take an opportunity to celebrate this milestone with *Taj M, Gage P, Libby T, McKenna S, Nolan S and Hunter W.* Welcome to the Lord's table!



**ZSJ CHURCH OFFICE  
CLOSED ON MONDAY,  
MAY 28, 2018!**



**ALL MEMBERS OF ZSJ :  
ANNOUNCING OUR BAKELESS BAKE SALE**

A bit of news we have today.  
A bakeless bake sale is on the way.  
In these busy days, who wants to bake,  
A pie or cookies or even a cake?

You'd be surprised if you counted the cost  
Of ingredients, heat,  
and the time you've lost.  
Baking for sales is extra work,  
Yet nobody really wants to shirk.



So we've thought of a plan  
that's really grand,  
And feel quite sure that you'll understand.  
In an envelope, if you like,  
please include the price  
Of a pie or cake or anything nice.



Without fuss or bother  
you've done your part.  
We hope you'll give with a willing heart.  
This is the end of our little tale,  
Wishing success for our  
**BAKELESS BAKE SALE!**

This fundraiser is for Bible camp scholarships (We pay up to \$150 towards each campership), shut-in gifts, Christmas gifts, stewardship project needs such as batting for quilts, fellowship programs and for other special needs. Checks payable to: **ZSJ WELCA** and send to

**Diane Wills  
1399 Beeds Lake Drive  
Hampton, Iowa 50441**

Or drop off at the church office by **June 1, 2018**, Thank you for your contributions!



**Call to Order** -by President Doug D, on April 8, 2018, at 10:25.  
Present - Doug D, Scott C, Jim B, Brigid C, Pastor Kim, Lisa P, Vickie B, Cindy H, Tony R. Pastor led devotions.

**Pastor's Report**

- ◆ Weddings scheduled
  - August 31, 2018 Alli L & fiance at Shakopee, Minnesota
  - October 6, 2018 Cassidy K & Brady R at ZSJ
- ◆ Funerals Performed
  - March 19, 2018 Connie C
- ◆ Request for Membership Reinstatement (1 Household, 1 Confirmed, 1 Baptized) Lucy M- Scott, motion to approve; Brigid, second; passed.
- ◆ Other Activities
  - 2 Communion visits, 1 Hospital visit, 1 Hospice visit, 3 member visits.
  - Working on setting up Constance C Scholarship.
  - Helping coordinate conference Cross-Generational event, April 21
  - Coordinated distribution of food from Farm Bureau event.
  - Writing references for scholarships and jobs.
- ◆ Items to Consider
  1. Currently Memorial Funds are kept in the church savings account. The Memorial Committee would like us to open a separate saving account dedicated to Memorial Funds. Kari supports this. Vicki, motion to approve; Doug, second; passed.
  2. Faster internet service has been installed by Frontier. Our bill will actually decrease by \$30.00 per month.
  3. Contacted flooring store in Dumont about getting an estimate on section of flooring in the sanctuary. They said they will stop by and give us an estimate. Pastor will follow up.
  4. New floor mats are in place. Discussed contractual concerns.

5. Pastor checked on the cost of purchasing an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED). They run between \$1500 & \$2000. Cindy, motion that money from council Lenten meal be used for this; Jim, second; passed.

6. Pastor may take two days of vacation: Thursday & Friday, April 19-20. Doug will be informed of decision.

7. Discussion had around church safety and possible plans. Pastor will talk with staff about concerns.

◆ Connecting ZSJ with the larger church

1. Pastor serves on the Outside Council of the Church of the Damascus Road.
2. Pastor serves on the Synod SAFE Committee.
3. Darwin Meyer and Diane Wills serve on Synod Council.
4. Diane Wills serves as Synodical President of the Women of the ELCA.

**Correspondence** - reviewed thank you's

**Secretary's Report** - Lisa, motion to approve; Tony, second; passed.

**Treasurer's Report** - Brigid, motion to pay the cemetery account, Church of Damascus Road for Missions, and part of Payroll Administrator on a quarterly basis for FY 2018; Vicki second; passed. Also keep in mind that although the current checking account balance is over \$16,000, the Lenten offerings will be paid out in the next week or two and that is about \$2,000.

## Committee Reports

### Parish Education

- ◆ Last day of SS is Mother's day.
- ◆ Working on planning for VBS. List is up for donations for meals.

### Property Management

- ◆ April 21st is clean up day.
- ◆ Discussed bid on concrete to the west of church. \$8155 from Adams Concrete. Discussed need to set up congregational meeting to present estimate. Scott, motion; Jim seconded; passed. Congregational meeting set for May 6th.

**Stewardship** - nothing till fall

**Technology** - Discussed streaming of services to the nursing home. Scott spoke to Sheffield Care Center. Discussed positives and concerns. Scott will continue to work on this.

**Worship & Evangelism** - Meeting set for Tues April 17th. Discussed concerns with getting fellowship covered.

### Youth & Family

- ◆ Easter breakfast was a huge success. 23 students helped.
- ◆ Compliments made for the Good Friday Service that Caitlin wrote.

### Old Business

- ◆ Ceiling issues in the sacristy - Darwin is looking into this.
- ◆ Accordion door leading into the sanctuary and carpeting under the piano - discussed plan to continue work on these.
- ◆ Reminder Church clean up is April 21, rain (or snow) day April 28, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Daren Meints will be giving us a name for window replacement
- ◆ Tony will continue to pursue information on tuck pointing.

### New Business

- ◆ Scholarship in memory of Connie Clausen - setting up a committee.
- ◆ Estimates on concrete work on the west side of the church
- ◆ April 25 Secretary's day - Discussed plans
- ◆ Scott, motion to adjourn; Brigid seconded; passed.

Submitted by  
Brigid C

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Alice G called the meeting to order on Sunday, April 15, 2018, at 10:35 a.m. Those present were: Alice G, Marlene S, Diane W, and Marcia E.

**MINUTES** from the March 11th meeting were approved as written with the addition of a thank you for the teddy bear and prayers from Marshall County High School, Benton, Kentucky.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank you notes were read from the family

of Connie C and from Congregational United Church of Christ, Cromwell, Iowa, for the teddy bear. A letter from Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless was received describing their mission.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Diane reported a checking balance of \$1,154.64 and savings balance of \$1,455.46 of which \$626.72 are designated funds. Report placed on file. She also reported that our offerings have been low because circle meetings have been cancelled due to bad weather, so she doesn't have much to send to the synod women's organization this quarter. We might want to remember that in our upcoming offerings. Bakeless Bake Sale continues to June 1. Amazon.com offers to donate a percentage of sales to Women of the ELCA as one of their charities if you go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) when ordering.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ◆ Alice reported for Mission & Action co-chair Maxine H that the following items were delivered to the Spring LWR Ingathering at Fredsville Lutheran Church Saturday morning, April 14: 100 quilts, 46 personal care kits, 39 baby care kits, 13 sewing kits. Also, 9 quilts were given to LSI, Beloit.
- ◆ Mission & Growth co-chair Marlene reported she is looking into ideas for an event.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

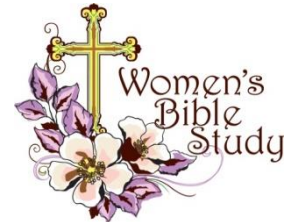
- ◆ The board approved Alice voting the Sheffield Care Center ballot. Caitlin requested scholarship funds for five youth attending WYLDE which has been approved as camp scholarships.
- ◆ Bremwood is especially in need of items. The needs list will be posted on the bulletin board. Contributions may be put in a box in the narthex from May 6 to June 10. Our circles' emphasis for this will be hygiene products.
- ◆ In-kind donations for the SWO convention on June 16 are rolled bandages and 4 to 5 ounce bars of soap.
- ◆ Diane reported that an overnight trip to Global Health Ministries, LWR warehouse and Mary's Place in Minneapolis is being

planned for July 30-31. More information to come.  
Alice adjourned the meeting @ 11:15 am.

Secretary, Marcia E

**Rebekah Circle**  
Monday, May 7, **6:30 pm**  
Bible Study: Alice G

**Dorcas Circle**  
Tuesday, May 1 @ 9 am  
Hostess: Helga B  
Bible Study: Arliss G



#### 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
Gary S	Dick H	Christy M
Bev F	Kay R	Louise C
Kira N	Chuck N	Beth J



- ◆ The family of Laura M
- ◆ Our HS Graduates, Caleb C, Lauren D, Ciara H, Payton K, Collin M, Guilia M, Morgan N, Sarah R, and Grace S
- ◆ Our first communion class, Taj M, Gage P, Libby T, McKenna S, Nolan S, and Hunter W.

May 1 Olivia R  
 May 2 Dean H/ April S  
 May 3 Timothy K  
 May 5 Ashley D/ Shelby H  
 May 6 Lane L/ Kathy M  
 J. T. N/ Tate S  
 May 7 Jameson O/ Hunter R  
 May 8 Mark N  
 May 9 Julie G/Darwin M/ Shelley V  
 May 10 Cindy R  
 May 11 Bill N/ Barb S  
 May 12 Stephen S  
 May 13 Marlene S  
 May 15 David S  
 May 17 Maddie H  
 May 18 Caitlin R  
 May 19 Nate H/ Bob K/ Nicholas N  
 May 22 Brett B/ Nick N/ Shannon O  
 May 24 Kimberly W  
 May 26 Dallas E/ Lindsey S/ Sammie W  
 May 27 Jerry R/ Keifer H  
 May 28 Breeana P  
 May 29 Val B/ Michael S/ Kemlin H/ Diane W  
 Stella K/ Emily A



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

**Head Usher:** Don G

**Lector:** Alice G

**Ushers:**

**Greeters:**

**Altar Guild:** Carla N  
Louise C

6 Ron P & Jacob R  
13 Dirksens  
20 Severs  
27 Katy L

**Offering Counters:**

Tracy D  
Tony R

**Acolyte:**

6 Emma M  
13 Malachi R  
20 Kalli T

**Crucifer:**

6 Gavin M  
13 Ava H  
20 Isaac T

**Fellowship Time Servers:**

6 Chancel Choir  
13 Don & Maxine H  
20 Graduation Reception  
27 Diane W

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

10:15 am Fellowship & Sunday School

*(Last day of SS is May 13)*

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