

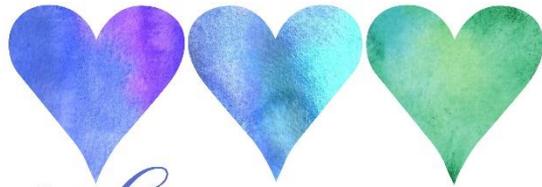


Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

February 2019 Epiphany Vol. 25 No. 2



“Love each other as I have loved you.”

JOHN 15:12, NIV



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.



“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel shall save it.”
Mark 8: 34-35

As I heard these verses read by Pastor David F at Lord of Love Lutheran Church in Belton, Missouri, I felt called by Christ to become a pastor. It took a few years of discernment and prayer before I enrolled in seminary, but that moment marks the beginning of an adventure, as our daughter, Amanda, referred to it.

Wednesday, February 6, marks the 20th anniversary of my ordination. Eight days later I was installed as a pastor in my first call. This year the week leading up to that anniversary will be very eventful. On Saturday, February 2, our daughter Amanda will be consecrated as a Deacon in the ELCA at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Au Gres, Michigan. Amanda will be consecrated at the church where she has been called to serve as Deacon. Her husband Matt is an ELCA pastor who serves Grace Lutheran Church in East Tawas about 20 miles away.

Deacons in the ELCA are called to ministries of Word and Service. Amanda will preach in Au Gres, three Sundays a month, and Matt and Amanda will exchange pulpits one Sunday each month so the people in Au Gres can receive Holy Communion. Michigan is also affected by the shortage of clergy in the ELCA.

Amanda is a graduate of Wartburg College where she majored in History and Religion. She then attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota for two years where she earned a Master’s Degree in Church History. After they were married and Matt accepted the call to Grace in East Tawas, Amanda worked part time as a Chaplain for the East Tawas Ministerial Association. A great portion of her responsibility was conducting weekly worship services in five different area care centers.

Diane and I will be participating in Amanda’s Service of

Consecration. I will be preaching and Diane will be playing flute. I have been blessed to serve two wonderful congregations during the past twenty years. Please keep Amanda in your prayers as she and her family begin a new adventure. And, thank you for making this such a wonderful place to be engaged in full time Christian service.



God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



This spring for Confirmation, we will spend our time walking through the 10 Commandments. We are taking a week to spend on each of the commandments to dive into what each one really means. This is eye opening for each of the students. We always start the unit by asking if they have perfectly kept each of the commandments. Typically, the students believe that they have. By the end of the unit, the students know that they have actually not followed all of the commandments because it's not always as simple as remembering not to say "Oh my God", but they also know the power of God's grace saves us all.

A really easy thing to believe about the 10 Commandments is that they are a list of "Don'ts." It's easy to feel like the commandments are meant to keep us down. But Pastor Kim has a really great way of showing kids that this isn't the case. He draws a rectangle on the board and tells the kids that the 10 Commandments are really like a boundary. If you live life within this boundary, things will be a little easier. But if you step outside of that boundary, you are absolutely still loved, but there may be consequences to deal with.

Each week, we teach the kids and they teach us as well. These

kids will soon be leaders in our congregation and in our community. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Caitlin



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of December 31, 2018:

Budgeted Income	\$218,172
Offerings Received	\$190,824
Deficit	\$ 27,348
Expenses for 2018	\$204,182
Checking Balance	\$ 8,576



During the month of December we cut our budget deficit by nearly \$6,800! This allowed us to catch up on our benevolent giving to other organizations and allowed our checking account balance to improve by over \$2,800. Thank you for your faithful giving!

HELP END
Human Trafficking



SEE SOMETHING ? SAY SOMETHING !



In the days and weeks leading up to the Super bowl, there is a marked increase in the number of human trafficking cases. Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. You might be saying to yourself that human trafficking does not happen in Iowa. Or that it happens only in big cities. That would not be the truth. Due to the intersection of I-80 and I-35, and the vast amount of open areas and deserted farm homes, our state is a thorough fare for the transportation of trafficking victims. You might be thinking to yourself, so what can I do? Try one or more of these ideas:

- ◆ If you **SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!** Put the human trafficking hotline number in your phone.
- ◆ Go on line to <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/> or <http://wingsofrefuge.net/> and start learning more.
- ◆ Donate to agencies who assist survivors of human trafficking, like Wings of Refuge in Iowa Falls.
- ◆ Be an advocate for the young women in your life. Watch out for them. If it seems to good to be true, it probably is.

Thursday Feb 7, 10am–12 pm
Thursday Feb 21, 3:30-5:30 pm



We gratefully accept donations of money, personal hygiene items, perishable and non-perishable food and garden produce. We are

still searching for a permanent space to house the food pantry. This space must be climate and pest controlled. If you have questions or donations, please contact the church office.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If West Fork Community Schools cancel classes, all church activities will also be cancelled. For Sunday worship, the Council President and Pastor Kim will consult and make a decision whether Sunday services and SS 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:

TV:	KIMT, WHO & KCCI
Hampton:	104.9 FM – KLMJ 98.9 FM - KQCR
Mason City:	1300 AM – KGLO 1490 AM – KRIB 97.9 FM – KCMR



CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

The Three River conference assembly is Sunday, February 10, @ 2 pm @ St James Lutheran in Allison. If you are interested in attending to represent ZSJ, please contact Pastor Kim.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Pastor Kim will be starting a new member class for any one interested in becoming a member of Zion St John Lutheran Church. The class usually involves two Sundays of informational time following worship, for about 45-60 minutes. If you are interested, please contact pastor Kim or the church office, 892-4010.



BIBLE CAMP

Because the Women of ZSJ firmly believe all children should have the opportunity to attend one of our Lutheran Bible Camps, we generously offer a \$150 per student campership. In addition the church also offers \$25. So as you are making your plans for summer, consider a week at camp, and let us help pay for it! If you have more questions, you can contact the church office, or talk with the camp personnel when you register your child!

LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC



If you have a student, 8-12th grade, who is interested in exploring their musical talent, please consider Lutheran Summer Music (LSM). LSM is a is an immersive residential performance and training program for young musicians, from all over the country. Dates for this year are June 23-July 21, @ Valparaiso University. Areas of study include Bassoon, Cello, Clarinet, Composition, Double Bass, Euphonium, Flute, Horn, Oboe, Organ, Percussion, Piano, Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet, Viola, Violin and Voice. At LSM, students build their musical skills and realize their unique abilities to the fullest extent possible. In addition to musical ensembles, students are part of small groups led by a counselors who reside in the dormitory with them. Worship is central to daily life at LSM. A supportive faith community, regardless of religious background, explores and celebrates the Lutheran church's tradition of musical excellence.

ZSJ is providing \$500 in scholarship money to any interested students. If you need more information, please contact Pastor Kim or Diane (Nick spent 3 summers @ LSM) or Caitlin or go to www.lsmacademy.org There are also brochures in the narthex.



Call to Order: 10:20 Doug D called ZSJ annual congregational meeting to order, on January 20, 2019, and declared there was a quorum. Opening litany led by Pastor

Review of 2018 Reports:

- ◆ **Membership Statistics** - 517 baptized members and 420 confirmed members.
- ◆ **Secretary** - Nancy R, motion to approve; John L second; approved.
- ◆ **Treasurer/Financial Secretary** - Total giving was \$193,930.64; ending checking account balance was \$8,575.64; ending savings account balance \$21,257.62. Report filed for audit.
- ◆ **Pastor** - Report p. 10-11. Discussed putting in the sidewalk on the west side of building. Thanked staff, Diane and Caitlin, music staff and Scott and Fred for technology. Thanked council and Doug for his leadership.
- ◆ **Director of Youth and Family Ministry** - Caitlin discussed report p. 11-12. Thanked volunteers and parents for their help. Thanked congregation for support in making the youth trip this past summer to National Youth Gathering possible.
- ◆ **President** - Report p. 12. Thanked Pastor and Diane for all of their work to make the church run effectively. Shared with Pastor Kim how much he is appreciated for his work and leadership.
- ◆ **Audit** - Daren M, Doreen D, Katie L reviewed financial reports. All accounts appeared in order.

Committees

- ◆ **Stewardship** - Report p. 13. Went well this year. More pledges than in past.
- ◆ **Property Management** - Report p. 13. Appreciate new the flooring at the front of the church, and the new west sidewalk. Thanked Lorna M for the work she does as custodian. Thanked members who

are not on the committee, Dave L, Doug D and Robert M for the lawn mowing and weeding.

- ◆ **Worship/ Evangelism** - Report p. 14.
- ◆ **Legacy/Memorial Fund** - Report p. 14-15. Discussed separate savings account for memorial committee. Discussed signers as Kari M, church treasurer, and treasurer and chair of the Legacy/Memorial Committee. Nancy R, motion to approve these designees; Darwin second; approved. Alice G indicated that the interest money, \$154.07, needs to be designated by the congregation. The committee recommends spending on archival storage material. Jill C, motion to approve this purchase; Doreen D; second; approved.
- ◆ **Technology** - Report p. 16. Thank you to Scott for his work on the streaming service being used at Sheffield Care Center and for those who are homebound.
- ◆ **Parish Education** - Report p. 16-17.
- ◆ **Youth and Family** - Report p. 18-19. Thanked Caitlin for the countless hours of time and work this past year.

Organizations

- ◆ **WELCA** - Reports p. 20-22. Ending bank balance at \$354.84
- ◆ **Riverside Bible Camp** - Report p. 23. Darwin brought a copy of the report from Riverside and will be available for review in the narthex.
- ◆ **West Fork Food Pantry** - Report p. 23-24. Thanked Pastor Kim and Diane for their work. Pastor discussed looking for a permanent site for the food pantry. Will have a meeting at the end of the month to discuss next steps. Darwin M discussed the experience of volunteering at the food pantry.
- ◆ **Lutheran Cemetery Association** - Report p. 24. Thanked Payton P for the work he does to care for the cemetery and snow removal at the church.

Elections

- ◆ **Church Council** - Three positions needing to be filled for 3-year terms. Daren M, Kathy M and Jennifer B are the nominees. Kari M, motion to approve; Alice G, second; approved.
- ◆ **Cemetery Financial Officer** - Craig O will continue in this role.

- ◆ **Nominating Committee** - 3 outgoing council members, Cindy H, Lisa P and Tony R and Judy S will serve as a member at large.
- ◆ **Legacy/Memorial Committee** - Megan E and Alberta C are the nominees for two year terms. Nancy R, motion to approve; Don G, second; approved.
- ◆ **Audit** - Doreen D finished her term. Daren M and Katy L will continue to serve their terms. Doreen D agreed to begin another 3-year term.
- ◆ **Voting Members**
 - Riverside** - Darwin M volunteered.
 - Synod - Youth** - Jacob R; **Adult** - Lucy M. If anyone else is interested please contact Pastor.

Old Business: none

New Business: Adoption of 2019 Budget Proposed 2019 Expenses - \$230,295.00, Total projected income: \$206,000.00. Discussed increased expenses due to health insurance for DYFM. A \$10,000 gift was given to cover a portion of her salary. Discussed the parsonage fund. Discussed how long the church can run at a deficit in the budget. Discussed a 2% cost of living increase for Pastor and Caitlin and \$.25/hour increase for Diane's hourly wage. John L, motion to approve as presented; Nancy R, second; approved.

Adjourn

Nancy R, motion to adjourn; Doreen D, second; approved.

Submitted by
Brigid C

*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Judy S called the meeting to order on Sunday, January 13, 2019, at 10:10 a.m. Those present were: Alice G, Maxine H, Judy S, Diane W and Marcia E. Judy gave devotions. The statement of purpose was read.

MINUTES: Minutes of the December 9th board meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank yous were received from Bishop Steven U for the teddy bear, Pastor Kim for the Christmas gift, and Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless for the \$75 Christmas donation and for the quilts, sheets, bedspread, throws and towel sets.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The checking balance was \$329.85 and savings balance was \$1,456.54 with \$831.72 of that designated funds. Report placed on file. The annual meeting financial report was reviewed.

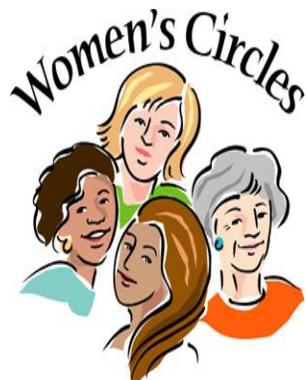
COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion was held on the difficulty of obtaining officers for the executive board, including not having a co-chair yet for this year. The Work Group list was reviewed and the reminder was made that members who are unable to work or furnish may contribute monetarily.

NEW BUSINESS: Fundraising ideas were discussed to help pay camperships, etc. Diane moved that a pie sale be held after church on February 17. The motion was seconded and carried. All members may contribute to this and pies will be sold by the slice or whole upon request. It was also decided to have a rummage sale this spring whenever the city-wide ones are held.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Marcia E



Dorcas Circle

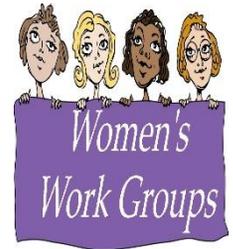
Tuesday, February 5 @ 10 am
Bible Study: Caitlin

Rebekah Circle

Not meeting until March 4

WORK GROUPS

The new 2019 work group lists are finished. If you receive a call to provide food for an event or funeral, please keep in mind you can also donate money as an alternative. If you have questions, please contact Judy Siems @ 892-4923 or the church office, 892-4010

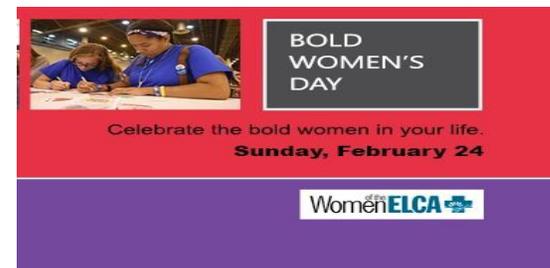


PRAYER LIST

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	Sarah P	Beth J
Sawyer A	Finley O	Pam B
Chuck N	Cliff C	Christy M
Virginia C	Bev F	Louise C
Kira N	Gary S	Junior N
Bishop Steven U	Eleanor O	Gail L

- ◆ The Bold Women on our lives
- ◆ The survivors of human trafficking
- ◆ Our YAGM, Callie A



February BIRTHDAYS

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 22 Amber H, Samantha H
 February 24 Tyler G, Preston L, Judy N
 February 25 Jen S
 February 26 Elle L
 February 27 Jim M

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Head Usher: Doug D

Altar Guild: Lorna M, Kim P

Acolyte:	
3	Claire T
10	Jake S
17	Gavin M-O
Crucifer:	
3	Emily M
10	Trevor G
17	Cole M

Lector: Doreen D

Greeters:

3 Swansons
 10 Mulfords
 17 Sanders
 24 Madsens

Offering Counters:

Fellowship Time Servers:

3 Petersens
 10 Dacia Schoning
 17 Paul T & Caitlin R
 24 Madsens

G Kim Wills, Pastor

pastor@zionstjohn.org

641-425-9453

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

mail@zionstjohn.org

641-892-4010

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