



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

March 2019

Transfiguration/ Lent

Vol. 25 No. 3



“I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”

Psalm 121: 1-2

Journey WITH JESUS



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.

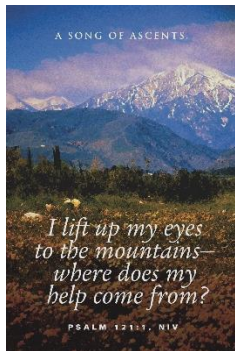
The air temperature when I pulled up to the church this morning was 11 degrees below zero. Hoping to find evidence that winters grip on us was about to loosen, I looked up the extended forecast. Right now, they are predicting that the overnight low on March 1 will be 7 degrees below zero. The average high temperature on March 1 is 37 degrees and the average low is 19 degrees. It’s been a long time since we’ve even been above freezing.

Winter is not the only thing that has a grip on us. On Sundays we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which this year falls on March 6th. We will worship that evening at 7:00 p.m. and we will be confronted with our mortality as ashes are imposed on our forehead and we hear the stark truth, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

Having made the confession “that we are in bondage to sin”, it would be easy for us to just throw up our hands and not take an inventory of our transgressions. Having heard what will become of our bodies could reinforce such thinking. But that is not what Christ calls us to do during the season of Lent. So, I encourage you to fully engage in the disciplines of Lent. To worship not once but twice each week. During college my oldest son, Christopher, attended a Roman Catholic service on Ash Wednesday and the priest likened the season of Lent to spring training for Major League Baseball players. During spring training the players work on the basics of the game which include, fielding, throwing, bunting, and baserunning. During Lent we are to work on the basics of the faith which include prayer, giving alms, studying God’s Word, receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion and service to others. Engaging in these activities will lessen sin’s grip on us.

By Easter, which falls on April 21, the air will be warmer, there will be flowers in bloom and the Twins & Cubs will be playing baseball outdoors!

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



How will your family observe Lent?

The Lutheran Church is rife with tradition. We use liturgy that is similar to what was used in the early church, we use the same music that many of our parents and grandparents sang and loved. We use paraments on the altar that symbolize the church calendar that is many hundreds of years old. And, we observe six weeks of Lent.

Many people find ways to keep Christ at the forefront of their mind during Lent. Often, I hear people talking about things that they can give up or not do during this time. This is a tradition that we see a lot of in our area. Among my youth, I hear them saying things like, "I'm going to give up candy and pop for Lent." And that is a very respectable thing to do, but I wonder if we can do something that will have meaning beyond these six weeks for us as we think about our Lenten practices.

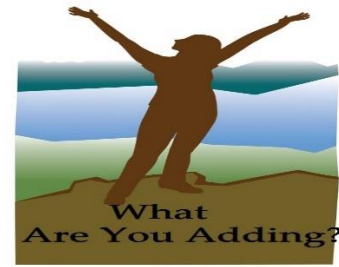
I read online recently an article where a family decided to add something to their lives rather than take away from it during Lent. They did things like spending at least an hour per week in service to someone else, reading from the Bible as a family, donating money to a worthy cause, sitting down to a meal as a family as many nights as possible, and more. They felt that this practice brought them closer to God and closer to each other. They enjoyed it so much, they took many of these

activities and carried it on throughout the year.

How will your family observe Lent this year? How will you teach your children what the season means? Perhaps creating new traditions as a family could be a fun and engaging way to learn and grow.

Grace and peace,

Caitlin



*All members of Zion St. John
are invited to the wedding of*

Caitlin Retz

And

Paul Tauro, Jr.

May 4, 2019 4:00pm

Zion St. John Lutheran Church

*Reception to follow
at Franklin County Convention Center*

Hampton, VA

Please RSVP to Caitlin by March 20, 2019

641-494-6989

PRAISE TEAM

Do you enjoy Praise Team? Listen to Christian Contemporary music anytime! Here's the songs we will be playing on March 31st. Look them up on YouTube or your favorite music platform anytime!

Jesus, Friend of Sinners by Casting Crowns

Simplicity by Rend Collective

Jesus Loves Me by Chris Tomlin

My Jesus I Love Thee (Traditional Hymn)

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

by Hillsong

O Come to the Altar by Elevation Worship

Jesus Loves Me by Hillsong Young and Free



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"Come everything is ready"

This is the theme for the 2019 World Day of Prayer, Saturday, March 2nd, 9:30 am @ Zion Reformed Church in rural Sheffield. We are invited to learn about Slovenia, its history and culture. WDP's guiding principals affirm that "prayer is rooted in listening to God and to one another." Come, learn, pray and grow!



LENTEN OFFERINGS

Our midweek offerings will be given to various charitable organizations in our area, including Church of the Damascus Road, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), the Sharing Shoppe, Riverside Bible Camp and Access Inc. When giving, please make your checks payable to ZSJ and then indicate the ministry in the memo line.



LENTEN SUPPERS

Prior to the Midweek Lenten services there will be a supper hosted by various church groups. A free will donation will be taken to support their ministries.

March 6	5:30 pm	ZSJ Handbell Choir
March 13	5:30 pm	ZSJ Youth
March 20	5:15 pm	ZSJ Council
March 27	5:15 pm	ZSJ Chancel Choir
April 3	5:15 pm	ZSJ Handbell Choir
April 10	5:15 pm	Women of ZSJ



LENTEN WORSHIP



Midweek Lenten worship begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 7 pm. We will continue services on March 13, 20 and 27, using the "Return to the Lord" liturgy written by Pastor Kim and Diane. Pastor Kim's sermon series is entitled "*The Roads Jesus Walked.*" We invite you and your family and friends to add midweek worship to your Lenten faith practice!

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, April 14. 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.



ZSJ HISTORY



The office staff has been working to preserve our church history in preparation of our 150th anniversary celebration in 2023. There are some things that are missing: St John confirmation pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916 and 1941; Zion confirmation picture from 1915, and council minutes from 1948-1954 and 1964-1967. If you can help contact the office!!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of January 31, 2019:

Budgeted Income	\$19,161
Offerings Received	\$16,085
Current Deficit	\$ 3,076
Expenses Year to Date	\$18,956
Checking Balance	\$ 5,493



During the month of January, we experienced some very cold and snowy weather which had an adverse effect on worship attendance and giving. We have experienced the same weather pattern so far in February. If you are unable to attend worship, please consider either mailing a check or dropping off your offering at church during the week. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Thursday Mar 7, 10am-12 pm

Thursday Mar 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



Call to Order

President Jim B, Feb. 10, 2019 at 10:30 am called meeting to order. We welcomed new council members to the group. Present were Jim B, Vickie B, Scott C, Pastor Kim, Lisa P, Cindy H, Kathy M, Jennifer B and Daren M. Devotions were led by Pastor.

Pastor's Report

Weddings Scheduled:

◇ May 4, 2019 Caitlin Retz & Paul Tauro @ ZSJ

◇ July 20, 2019 Zac C & Shaunda M @ Diamond Oaks

Funerals Scheduled

◇ Feb. 12, 2019 Jim M

Other Activities

- ◇ Three home communion visits.
- ◇ Two hospital visits.
- ◇ Visited a member whose husband suddenly passed away.
- ◇ Preaching at the Sheffield Care Center every Thursday during the month of February.
- ◇ Completed preparations for the annual meeting that was held on Jan. 20, 2019.

Items to Consider

- ◇ New member class coming up, possibly in March.
- ◇ Installation of new council members will be March 10, 2019.
 - *Kathy M, Worship & Evangelism
 - *Jennifer B, Parish Ed.
 - *Daren M, Property Management.
- ◇ Biennial Report for the State of Iowa will be completed this month.

Connecting ZSJ with The Larger Church

- ◇ Pastor serves on the Outside Council of The Church of the Damascus Road.
- ◇ Pastor serves on the Synod SAFE Committee.
- ◇ Diane Wills serves on the Synod Council and is President of the NE IA Women of the ELCA.

Secretary's Report

Motion to approve, Scott; Daren, second; carried.

Treasurer's Report

reviewed & discussed

Committee Reports:

Parish Ed.

- ◇ Sunday school continues.
- ◇ Confirmation has 14 members (7th and 8th graders).

Property Management

- ◇ Windows in Sacristy (money already set aside for this project)

Stewardship No report

Worship & Evangelism

- ◇ Worship assistants assigned through March

Youth & Family

- ◇ Caitlin provided transportation to kids attending the Spirit Garage in Minneapolis on Feb. 10, 2019, for their contemporary service.

Old Business:

- ◇ Pastor will check with Nancy about providing AED training.
- ◇ Community church service (summer) Pastor will check with Pastor Sandy on this.
- ◇ Basement lighting bill will be coming. LED lighting and wiring complete. Memorial money has been designated for this project.
- ◇ Funeral committee will be established. This is necessary to set policies (similar to our existing wedding policies) if no funeral director is involved.
- ◇ Front door flooring discussed. Checking into decorative cement.
- ◇ Permanent place for food pantry needed.

New Business:

- ◇ Council phone numbers and committee assignments shared.
- ◇ Lenten Suppers begin March 6. Council will provide meal March 20 with free will donations. Sign up sheet will be shared next meeting.
- ◇ Money counters for February will be Jim and Vickie. Money counters for March will be Cindy and Daren.
- ◇ Education wing boiler will not heat above 65 degrees, Murphy's will be called.
- ◇ Dehumidifiers may need to be replaced. Pastor will check and discuss with Jim B.
- ◇ Motion to adjourn at 11:35, Scott; Cindy second; carried.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Plagge, Secretary



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on March 10th for Family Movie Night. We will start the showing @ 4 pm and of course popcorn will be included!

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO ORDER: President Judy S called the meeting to order on Sunday, February 10, 2019, at 10:20 a.m. Those present were: Maxine H, Judy S, Diane W and Marcia E.

MINUTES: Minutes of the January board meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- ◇ Thank yous from ELCA for the \$130 purchase of Good Gifts with the Pennies for Poverty money, and from Francis Lauer and Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless for the \$75 Christmas donations.
- ◇ An invitation to World Day of Prayer on **Saturday, March 2**, at 9:30 a.m. was received from Zion Reformed Church Women. They will host and give the program. Everyone is invited to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The checking balance was \$318.10 and savings balance was \$1,456.78 with \$831.72 of that designated funds. Report placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◇ Our annual pie sale will be held February 17 after church. Pies are needed and will be sold by the slice for \$3, or whole pies for \$15.
- ◇ We scheduled a church rummage sale for Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to this, but no clothing, please.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ◇ Work groups 1 & 2 will serve the Jim M funeral on February 12.
- ◇ A work group will serve the graduation reception on May 19.
- ◇ There is a change to be made in the circle books for serving and entertaining at the Sheffield Care Center birthday parties. Our dates will be April 15 and October 21 at 2:30 p.m.

Judy adjourned the meeting.

Secretary, Marcia E



Dorcas Circle
Tuesday, March 5 @ 10 am
Bible Study: Pastor Kim

Rebekah Circle
Monday, March 4 @ 6 pm
Bible Study: Lorna M

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
Ray R		

⇒ The family of Jim McLennan

⇒ The family of Audrey Knowles

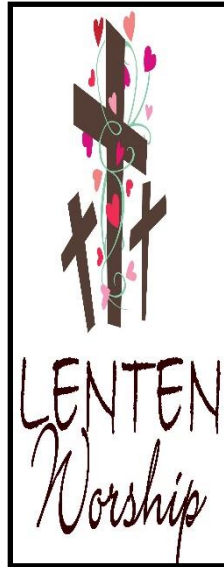


**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR ON
SUNDAY MARCH 10!**





March 1	Libby J	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 Jr.		
March 28	Louise C, Camden H		
March 29	Al N		
March 30	Ciara H		
March 31	Gene R, Nick J		



March 3	9:00 am	Transfiguration Worship w/ Holy Communion, SS choir sings
March 6	5:30 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by the ZSJ Handbell Choir
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Holy Communion
March 10	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship
March 13	5:30 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Youth
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Service "Return to the Lord"
March 17	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion, Choir sings
March 20	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Church Council
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten service "Return to the Lord"
March 24	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship, HB choir plays
March 27	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Chancel Choir
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Service "Return to the Lord"
March 31	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship led by Praise Team

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Head Usher: Daren M

Altar Guild: Kathy B, Sue R

Lector:

3	Claire T
6	Marcia E, 7 pm
10	Marcia E
13	Marcia E, 7 pm
17	Judy S
20	Jim B, 7 pm
24	Marcia E
27	Darwin M, 7 pm
31	Shannon L

Greeters:

3	Mia T
10	Mia T
17	Mia T
24	Julie G
31	Lathams

Offering Counters:

Cindy H, Daren M

Fellowship Time Servers:

3	Greimanns
10	Johnsons
17	Judy S
18	Noltes
31	Marcia E

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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



G Kim Wills, Pastor

pastor@zionstjohn.org

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

youth@zionstjohn.org

Church Office

mail@zionstjohn.org

641-425-9453

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

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

9am-noon Wed.

641-892-4010

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