



# Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

January 2023 Vol. 29 No. 1  
Baptism of Jesus/ Epiphany



## 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.*



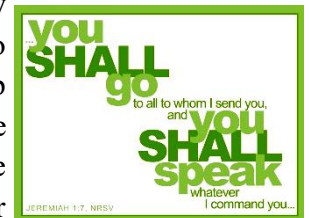
*For you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.*  
Jeremiah 1:7b

This verse is about God calling Jeremiah to be a prophet of the Lord. Jeremiah has some objections to this. Chief among them is the fact that he is, in his words “only a boy”. But God doesn’t care about Jeremiah’s age. God will give him words to say and protect him.

The shortage of pastors in all denominations has been something that has been forecast since before I started seminary. And while it has been gradually growing worse, this past year it has really become evident especially in our area.

A few months ago, I attended a Dean’s meeting at our synod office. Bishop Jones informed us that currently in the ELCA approximately 600 pastors and deacons are retiring each year. Our seminaries are graduating approximately 250 pastors and deacons each year. Some of the congregations in our conference and vicinity that have or soon will have pastoral vacancies include, Hampton, Greene, Allison, Rockwell and Thornton. In our Synod there are 42 congregations seeking pastors, some of these are two point parishes, 9 of them are part time positions.

When I go on vacation finding a supply pastor is next to impossible. We are blessed to have Caitlin T who is willing to lead worship when I am not here. Jim B and Darwin M have also led services in the past. When I was gone for two days in December, I had to call a pastor in Mason City to cover for me, but he came down with COVID after I left so he couldn’t cover emergencies – fortunately there weren’t any.



The reason I bring this up is two-fold. First, if you know Christian’s that are looking to make a career change, they should consider attending seminary. There are many programs available where people can live where they currently are and just attend classes at seminary two or three times a semester. The rest of the classes are

online. They can usually find internship sites close to where they are currently living. The second reason I am writing on this subject is that I think it's time that we do the same thing with pastoral coverage that we have done with leading worship. We need to look within the congregation. I will be exploring this subject with our new council when they meet in February. I will need to select a curriculum to train parish visitors. If this is acceptable to the new council, then I will seek some applicants for these volunteer positions. Please pray about this and discern if this is something God might be calling you to do. As a congregation, God continues to bless us in so many ways. May God continue to lead us in 2023 to be the body of Christ in the world.

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



Happy New Year!! Let's embrace 2023 with open arms, open minds, and open hearts! The past fall and winter were an absolute blast for me. I felt nothing but warm welcomes from the church and kids, which I will never be able to express how

much that means to me! I loved getting to know the youth programs, and am so excited to see them keep moving forward and growing! Our Sunday School kids did a fantastic job fundraising for their Fall 2022 project, which was to help our Piece Makers raise money for materials to provide quilts to homeless shelters. For their spring project they will be raising money to purchase Bibles! Our confirmation class has been providing a great time of fellowship and community for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, we even had a few bummed out we took a break for the holidays! Hopefully 2023 brings even more joy, excitement, and love to the youth of ZSJ!



With all of my Gratitude,  
Bre

**Thursdays,**  
**January 5, 12, 19, 26**  
**2-5 pm**  
**Saturday, Jan 7**  
**10 am-noon**



We are very appreciative for all donations of money, personal hygiene items, perishable and non-perishable food items. We are especially in need of pasta, juice, cereal and personal care items. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box in the alley @ 106 Gilman.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of November 30, 2022.

Budgeted Income	\$199,682
Offerings Received	\$166,034
Current Deficit	\$ 33,648
Expenses YTD	\$184,724
Checking Balance	\$ 1,135



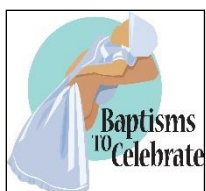
Overall, we had a good month. Our budget deficit grew by \$2,200 but our checking account balance only decreased by \$70. If you have not yet filled out a pledge card for 2023, please prayerfully consider doing so. This helps us as we prepare our budget to present at the annual meeting. Thank you for your faithful giving!

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Have you changed your mailing address, email address or phone lately? If you have, please take a few minutes to let the church office know by calling, 641-892-4010 or emailing [secretary@zionstjohn.org](mailto:secretary@zionstjohn.org) with the information!



## WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY



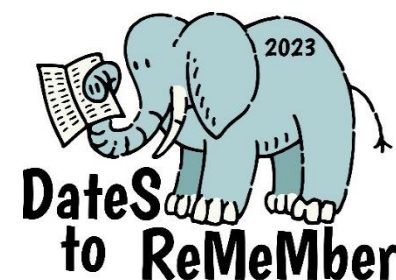
We welcome Leah C and her daughter Addison to our church and God's family through Holy Baptism. We also welcome Chayton, her son, who has been a part of our confirmation program since September!

## OFFICE WINDOWS

The office windows have been replaced and will soon be completed with new framing and shades. Including the leftover money from the sanctuary window project, we have collected nearly \$4000 toward the \$4800 price tag. Thank you to everyone who has donated toward a more energy efficient building.



Jan 9	Annual Reports Due
Jan 22	Annual Meeting
Feb 12	Souper Bowl of Caring
Feb 22	Ash Wednesday
Mar 3	World Day of Prayer
Apr 2	Palm Sunday
Apr 6	Maundy Thursday
Apr 7	Good Friday
Apr 9	Easter
May 4	National Day of Prayer
May 21	WF Graduation
May 28	Pentecost Sunday
Jun 9	Synod Assembly
Jun 17	WELCA Gathering
Jun 25	Lutheran Summer Music
July 17	VBS
Aug 5	Riverside Quilt Auction
Aug 20	Blessing of the Backpacks
Sep 10	Rally Sunday, SS begins, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles
Oct 29	Reformation/Confirmation
Nov 12	World Hunger Sunday
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Worship
Dec 3	Advent begins
Dec 10	SS Christmas Program
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Worship
Dec 25	Christmas Day Worship

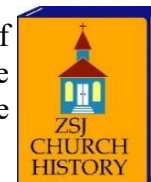


## 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Believe it or not, we will be celebrating 150 years of being a church in 2025, only a few short years away. As we get closer to this huge milestone, we are in need of the following to make this day very special:

- ◆ Volunteers to serve on a planning committee
- ◆ Written or verbal family stories

Let Diane, Pastor Kim or any council member if you would like to help!



## MISSING PICTURES

There are a few years of confirmation pictures that are missing from our records. Below you will find a list. If you recognize any of these names as family or friends, maybe ask around and see if you can help us locate one or more of these missing treasures. If you do locate them, we would request a scan for our records and the confirmation picture wall. Thank you in advance for help with this project!



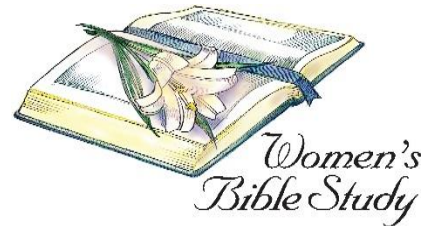
From St John (country church)

- 1909 Albert Bielefeld , Lena Schaefer, Albert Schroeder,  
Karl Storck, Christian Timmermann
- 1910 Friedrich Ginapp, Carl Horstmann, Albert Humburg,  
George Kammeier, Gladys Kammeier, Frieda Liekweg,  
Roy Pohle, Maria Schnabel, Sophie Timmermann,  
Andreas Volkmann
- 1912 Hermann Ginapp, Arthur Humburg, Walther Humburg,  
Arthur Liekweg
- 1914 George Boelck, Emma Bielefeld, Emma Kruckenberg,  
Elsa Wiele
- 1916 Albert Dittberner, Arthur Dittberner, Emma Eickmeier,  
Frank Freytag, Andreas Janssen, Amalia Liekweg,  
Heinrich Schroeder, Alfred Tuecke, Viola Tuecke

From Zion (town church)

- 1915 Albert Freudenberg, Georg Freudenberg, Leonora Freudenberg  
Rosa Freudenberg, Anna Humburg, Lorenz Kammeier,  
Roland Kammeier, Hellen Oehlert, Lotta Potts,  
Lorina Storck, Lester Tool

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



**Rebekah Circle**  
Mon, Jan 9 @ 6 pm  
Video upload by  
Tues, Jan 10 @ 10am

## HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Thank you ZSJ members, Once again the Holiday Food Fair was a success, Once again the weather was a little tricky, I always worry that we won't have many kinds of cookies, but you always amaze me, There are always plenty and such a wonderful variety, We raised close to \$1000 that was divided between Wings of Refuge and the office window project.



Thank you to all who donated items, to those who came for fellowship and to shop. Everyone pitches in and the day goes very smoothly, Most of the items left were sold on Sunday morning, so thank you again. It is fun to see all the different items and see everyone and to socialize with others, It was a wonderful day made special by all of you! Thank you again and hope to see you next year.

In His service,  
Carla N

### Sunday January 8, 9 am

Co-Chairs: Dacia S  
Alice G  
Secretary: Pam M  
Treasurer: Diane W

The logo for the 'Installation of WELCA Officers'. It features five stylized human figures of different colors (yellow, brown, pink, blue, teal) standing in a row. Below the figures, the words 'Installation of WELCA Officers' are written in a clean, sans-serif font.

Installation  
of WELCA Officers

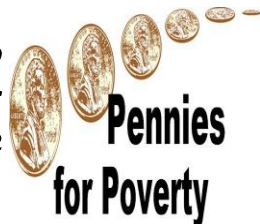


- Jan. Judy S, Dacia S
- Feb. Marcia E, Lorna M
- Mar. Katy L, Marie L
- April Carla N, Marlene S
- May Kari M, Judy S
- June Alice G, Kathy B
- July Sue L, Marlene S
- Aug .Dawn G, Vickie B
- Sept Jackie H, Dacia S
- Oct Kim M, Marlene S
- Nov .Carla N, Alice G
- Dec. Kari M, Kim O



*Thank you to all who gave thank offerings this year! We were able to send nearly \$150 to our church wide organization!*

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Penny Jar this year! We collected over \$130 for the Spirit of West Fork!*



## PIE SALE

The Women of ZSJ will be hosting our annual pie sale on February 12, after worship. Watch for order forms in the February newsletter and mark your calendars now!

## WORSHIP CHANGES

Holy Communion will be served on January 1 and 22, instead of January 15.



Worship Changes



*We are ever reminded of the kindness and generosity of the people of ZSJ! Thank you for all the words of encouragement, gifts, cards, hugs and smiles through this Christmas season and into 2023!*

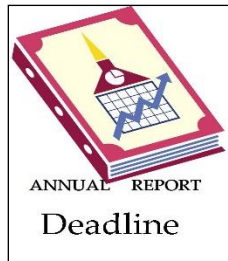
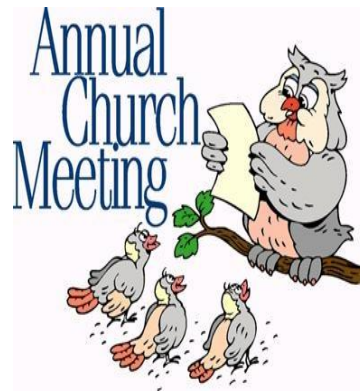
*Pastor Kim, Bre & Diane*

*Thank you to the best bell choir ever! The ornament and candle are beautiful! Your dedication to our choir will always be remembered!*

*Diane*



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
ZSJ ANNUAL MEETING JAN.  
22 2023, 10 AM  
(SNOW DATE JAN. 29) ALL  
CONFIRMED MEMBERS  
ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO  
ATTEND!**



**REPORTS DUE  
JAN. 9!**

### WINTER WEATHER



If West Fork Schools cancel classes due to weather, all church activities will also be cancelled. For Sunday worship, the Council President and Pastor Kim 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 TV 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**

- 2 Josh D
- 4 Kiera H
- 5 Dusty M
- 6 Season C, Andrew S
- 7 Amanda W
- 9 Larry G
- 11 Emma O
- 13 Ryan S, Claire T
- 15 Daren M, Frances W
- 16 Arliss G
- 18 Carter B, Brynn C, Fred R
- 19 Tyler C
- 20 Britne K
- 21 Heidi H
- 23 Jennifer C
- 24 Mason M, Lisa P
- 26 Mary Beth S
- 27 Brooke E, Lacy W
- 28 Will L, Eleanor O
- 29 Hunter W, Olivia T
- 30 Betty H, Janet L
- 31 Jonathan S, Olivia L



**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

### STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

G Kim Wills, Pastor	641-425-9453 <a href="mailto:pastor@zionstjohn.org">pastor@zionstjohn.org</a>
	9am-3pm, T-F
Church Office	641-892-4010 <a href="mailto:mail@zionstjohn.org">mail@zionstjohn.org</a>
	9am-12pm, M-F
Bre Hilton, DYFM	515-520-0559 <a href="mailto:youth@zionstjohn.org">youth@zionstjohn.org</a>
	10am-3 pm, T-W

## 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. You call him directly @ 641-425-9453. Family members are also welcome to call.

Cindy R	Judy N	Bev F
Sarah P	Ray R	Cliff C
Doris E	Betty H	Junior N
Christy M	Virginia C	Louise K
Drew H	Pat H	Larry O
Louise C	Carolyn R	Diane R
Sharon S	Jon S	Gary S
Parrish P	Carter R	Patty B
Sue K	Sue N	

◇ The family of Chuck N  
◇ The family of Antoinette F

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9:00 am Worship  
(Live Stream @ [www.zionstjohn.org](http://www.zionstjohn.org) ,  
Sunday Worship)

10:15 am Fellowship &  
Sunday School



\*\* \*\* For those who are continuing to worship at home, prepackaged communion will be available for pickup on Friday January 20. You will find the cups on trays on the Narthex table.