



Zion St. John  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

April 2023 Vol. 29 No. 4  
Passion Week, Easter



# The Promise of Easter

## 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.*



These short insights are from "Water and Spirit," the 2023 Lenten devotional from Augsburg Fortress.

They are highlighting the dramatic events of Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday, including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and the triumph of Easter Sunday!

*They took down branches of palm trees and went out to him, shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"*

John 12:13-14

*Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you."*

John 13:34

*When Jesus received the wine he said, "It is finished."*

John 19:30

*Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"*

John 20: 18

How quickly the cries of "Hosanna!" turned to "Crucify him!" The palm branches lifted high in the air to welcome Jesus are replaced by the palms of Jesus stretched wide on the cross. Human history tells this story again and again, how the crowd can shift and fear crashes on the shore. These days how easily we can get caught up in the internet rumors and frenzy surrounding them. On that day many years ago, most in the crowd were hoping for a leader to inspire them to rise up against the Roman occupation. Some were probably along for the ride and some may have been afraid, worried about the "consequences."

Moving to Maundy Thursday. Jesus alone with his disciples, reminds them of the love they must have for others. Jesus calls this a new commandment, maybe because we can so easily get caught up in the "what's best for me" mentality or maybe because each time one of us manages to love our neighbors like Jesus does, it makes the whole world new again!

As Thursday ends and Friday begins, we see Jesus on the cross and no one could deny that even with all the potential, it appeared the cross had won. Grief engulfs all who knew Jesus, his disciples, the healed, the marginalized. In his death on the cross, Jesus walked with God's people to the very end and beyond. He too experienced death, just as we will. It was finished!



Finally we reach the mystery of Easter morning. It seems like such a long week and so much of a rollercoaster. Reminds me a lot of our lives. So much hope, so much promise and then so much despair and sadness. Mary Magdalene went to the tomb expecting to find death and found life; she expected grief and found joy! The resurrection of Jesus was an encounter between Jesus and those who love him, a reunion that overturned all their logical expectations and replaced them with a new and childlike wonder. In John's telling of Easter, Mary is the first to meet and recognize the risen Christ and first to be sent to share the good news! Mary proclaimed, "I've seen the Lord, the tomb is empty!"

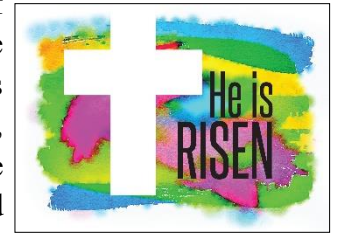
May we find as much joy and surprise as Mary on Easter morning!

Easter Blessings to you all!  
Pastor Kim



He is risen! He is risen indeed! I love this season. Trying to fully comprehend what Jesus did for me, for you, for everyone, is so incredibly hard to do. I will never know what it cost to see my sin upon that cross. Yet, I truly believe that

striving to live a life that is worth a fraction of that sacrifice is the only thing I can do. I love the redemption in the air. I feel like it is something that can truly be felt in the church, during Easter, but even more during the whole year! We can only give our hearts to Jesus and live for Him. Doing our best to share the good news of Jesus with others by showing the way His love has impacted us and turning that love towards others. I hope that your Easter and rest of your year is full of Jesus' love, remembering that overwhelming sacrifice He made for us!



He is Risen Indeed!  
Bre

## 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 \$25.00. Make your check payable to *Forever Yours*. **All orders must be in by Palm Sunday, April 2.** 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.

## 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, the Sharing Shoppe, Riverside Bible Camp, Bridge of Hope and Access Inc. When giving, please make your checks payable to ZSJ and then indicate the ministry in the memo line. The donation tab on the church website also includes these ministries as a choice in the drop down screen.



## SPAGHETTI SUPPER



The Sheffield Lion's club will be hosting a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, April 23, 11 am-1 pm @ the West Fork HS in Sheffield. A freewill donation will be used to support the Lion's scholarship fund and other activities. Carry out is also available. Stop in and share a delicious meal!

May 6, 8:30 am-noon  
(Rain Date, May 13)  
Please bring tools and  
gloves.  
Donuts and coffee  
will be provided!



## PALM SUNDAY



April 2 is Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. The day begins with the waving of Palms and celebration as we remember the day Jesus came into Jerusalem. The ZSJ SS, Chancel and Bell choirs will join together in praise of our Savior. The service will conclude with reminders of Jesus death on the cross. Make plans now to join us as we journey to the cross.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Holy Week continues with Maundy or Holy Thursday worship be on April 6, 7 pm. This service reminds us of Jesus' call to servanthood as his disciples. We will celebrate Holy Communion and the service will end with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday.



## GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP



As part of our ZSJ Good Friday tradition, the Youth will again lead worship and journey with Jesus and us to the cross. The April 7th worship will begin @ 7:30 pm.

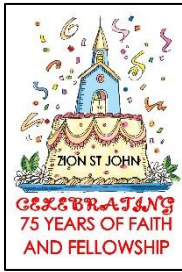
## EASTER MORNING

Holy Week will conclude on Easter Sunday, April 9, with two opportunities for celebrating our Lord's Resurrection. The Easter Sunrise service @ 6:30 am, will include special music from the Handbell and Chancel Choirs and Holy Communion. The youth sponsored Easter breakfast will begin immediately after worship until 8:30 am. The Easter Festival worship will begin @ 9 am and will also include Holy Communion.



**ALL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES  
WILL BE IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED!**





At the January annual meeting, the congregation approved a fundraiser in celebration of our 75th anniversary of this church building. This project would include new flooring in the fellowship hall, kitchen, bathrooms and hallway in the education unit and remodeling of the bathrooms. A \$50,000 fundraising campaign was approved. A generous memorial gift of \$20,000 from Virginia Lease will be used.

The council has visited with some local contractors concerning the remodeling of the bathrooms and have also obtained a bid for the flooring. They have suggested under ADA guidelines that both bathrooms become unisex bathrooms with the women's becoming wheel chair accessible. Both bathrooms would have one stool and one sink and the windows removed. The project would be in two phases with the bathroom remodeling first, then the flooring. Our timeline is to do phase 1 this spring and phase 2 this summer. The approximate cost of phase 1 is \$22,000.

As a church we have applied for a few grants to assist with the financing which we should hear about in the next few month. Because of that, we hope that we need to raise around \$14,000 from the congregation in the next 6 months. Total funds raised so far is \$1,050.00. To make your contribution to this worthy project, you can place a check in the offering plate or send to the church and put 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the memo line.

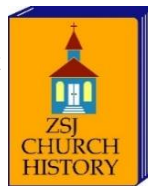
**Thank you for your prayers and support of this exciting project!**

## 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 need 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



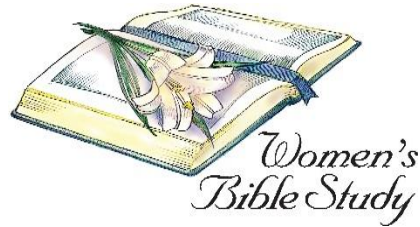
# Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Rebekah Circle

Mon, Apr 3 @ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, Apr 4 @ 10am



## MAY DAY TEA PARTY



The Women of ZSJ will be hosting the second annual May Day Tea party for mothers, daughters, aunts, sisters, and/ or neighbors on Sunday April 30, 2-4 pm. This is a dress up affair and will include fancy pastries and tea (coffee and lemonade), dress up clothes, pictures, games and May Day baskets. This is for mothers and daughters of all ages and relationships, so feel free to adopt a mom or daughter for the day! It is even a chance to celebrate the generations in your family!

## WELCA GATHERING

Our Annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 17 @ Trinity Lutheran in Belmond, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Our theme is *Stir Us Free Us*. Registration forms are available @ [www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca](http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca) or in the church office. Along with normal business there will be interest sessions and always fellowship and



worship. If you are interested in serving on the SWO board or nominating committee, you can also find those forms on the website as well. And lastly, there are educational scholarships available for women wanting to improve their employment status.

## THREE RIVER CLUSTER GATHERING



The Three River cluster will be meeting on Saturday, April 15, 8:30-10:30 am @ Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly. There will be a speaker from the Retrieving Freedom to share about their mission and lots of fun fellowship!

**Thursdays,**  
**Apr 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**2-5 pm**  
**Saturday, Apr 1**  
**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 juice, cereal, and canned fruit. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry building @ 106 Gilman.

## NE IA SYNOD ASSEMBLY



Our Synod Assembly is scheduled for June 9-10. It will be held at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Representing ZSJ will be Pastor Kim, Cindy H and Darwin M. We are also allowed to bring a youth delegate to the Assembly. These delegates must be confirmed and be high school aged. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Kim.



### **Call to Order**

◇ The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by President Jim B. In attendance were Pastor Kim Wills, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N, John L, Doug D, Judy S, and Vickie B, visitor Scott C. Pastor opened with a prayer.

### **Pastor's Report**

- ◇ Baptism scheduled for April 23, 2023
- ◇ Funeral scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ Funeral performed Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, Louis S at ZSJ
- ◇ Planning for Lent
- ◇ Provided In-Home Communion
- ◇ Pastor and Diane will be gone March 12-17, 2023

### **Secretary's Report**

- ◇ Motion and second to accept February secretary's report; carried

### **Treasurer's Report**

- ◇ Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed.
- ◇ Motion made and second to move money in Boiler Acct. and Elevator Acct. to Repair Fund Acct at the Bank and close Boiler and Elevator Accounts; carried

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Parish Education**

- ◇ Sunday school staff is very dedicated.
- ◇ Doreen D is the Vacation Bible School Coordinator for this year

#### **Property**

- ◇ Pastor will check that our landscape project is on the schedule.
- ◇ Al will check with both contractors to make sure we are on their schedule with phase 1 -bathroom project right after Easter. Jim working on Phase 2 flooring project later date.
- ◇ Lance checking on back door lock repair

#### **Stewardship**

- ◇ Doing temple talks as needed

#### **Technology**

- ◇ Motion and second to change our internet provider from Router 12 wireless to Metronet (as recommended by Scott Conlon). Motion carried.
- ◇ Motion and second to use Thrivent money to purchase a new back TV monitor; Carried.

### **Worship & Evangelism**

- ◇ March completed and Judy is working on April

### **Youth & Family**

- ◇ Confirmation going well.
- ◇ Preparing for Easter

### **Old Business**

- ◇ Survey Committee – scheduled to meet in April
- ◇ Synod Assembly – Darwin M, Cindy H are going as our delegates. Could still use one youth member June 9 & 10, 2023
- ◇ Ash Trees – Doug and Jim working on this to be done in April.

### **New Business**

- ◇ Council will serve a Potato Bar and Dessert on March 29<sup>th</sup> for Lenten Supper
- ◇ Looked at color options for flooring project, final decision at a later date
- ◇ Church Clean Up date is set for May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am
- ◇ Cemetery Clean Up date for 2023 –checking with Dave Schoning
- ◇ Next Council Meeting, April 16<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ Motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer at 11:15 am

Submitted by Vickie B

## **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

Here's a look at our finances as of February 28, 2023:

Budgeted Income	\$37,048
Offerings Received	\$25,230
Current Deficit	\$11,818
Expenses YTD	\$38,899
Checking Balance	-\$ 3,660

First the good news. Our budget deficit grew by just over \$3,000 which is much improved over January. The bad news is we had to borrow \$5,000 from savings to pay our bills. Any additional assistance you can give is greatly appreciated.

**Thank you for your faithful giving!**



- 1 Marielle V, Gordon G, Grady P
- 2 Ethan M
- 3 Adam S, Zach O
- 5 Seth B, Eli T
- 6 Aaron R
- 7 Jeff S, Elizabeth S
- 8 Mia T
- 9 Amy M, Sara J, Kennedy O
- 10 Marcia E, Jim T, Emily M
- 11 Kylie B, Zac C
- 12 Vicki T
- 15 Dale B, Katy L
- 16 Darin N
- 17 Delaney C, Joe M, Makenzii R
- 18 Greg R, Brinlee H
- 20 Emma M, Gary N
- 21 Curt C
- 23 Jan L
- 24 Sean C, Roger L, Kelix W
- 25 Vickie B, Jayden F
- 28 Madisyn H, Sarah R
- 29 Lisa H, Dawn G
- 30 Lonnie B, Adam T, Rachael H  
Alberta C, Christin M, Elizabeth 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	Gary S	Sarah P
Ray R	Betty H	Junior N
Christy M	Louise K	Drew H
Pat H	Patty B	Carolyn R
Diane R	Jon S	Marcy M
Parrish P	Sue K	Kathy V
Keely S	Kay E	

- ◇ The family of Garth R
- ◇ The family of Virginia C
- ◇ The family of Cory B
- ◇ The family of Gary R

- Apr 2 9:00 am Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion  
& SS and Adult Choirs sing
- Apr 6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion
- Apr 7 7:30 pm Good Friday Worship led by ZSJ Youth
- Apr 9 6:30 am Sunrise Easter Worship with Holy Communion,  
HB & Chancel Choirs
- 7:30 am Easter Breakfast by ZSJ Youth
- 9:00 am Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion



## 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:bre@riversidelbc.org">bre@riversidelbc.org</a> 10am-3 pm, T-W

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

10:15 am Fellowship &  
Sunday School