



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

May 2023

Vol. 29 No. 5

Easter/ Pentecost



*When the day of Pentecost had come, they
(the disciples) were all together in one place.*
Acts 2:1

For the Jewish people Pentecost is a harvest festival which takes place 50 days after Passover. Pentecost was one of the festivals where the Israelites were encouraged to bring the first fruits of the harvest to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Since there were Jewish people living all around the Mediterranean Basin there were people there speaking many different languages. Jesus' disciples were also in Jerusalem for this festival as the Lord had instructed them before He ascended into heaven.

On the day of Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were all in one place. Many believe in the very same place where they had shared the last supper with Jesus. Suddenly the Holy Spirit arrived and the disciples were gifted to speak in languages that they had never learned before. They spilled out of that room into the streets telling people about Jesus. It was a powerful event! The Bible tells us that about 3,000 people were baptized and became Christians that day. Pentecost is considered the Birthday of the Christian Church.

Here's a very interesting correlation. Church attendance is dropping in our country and the number of people feeling hopeless is rising. I believe these two are related. I pray that the Holy Spirit will once again provide an outpouring of the Spirit so that the message of Jesus reaches those that need to hear it.



JAM is our youth group for 5th 6th grade students. One of our members has invited two of his friends that don't have a church home to JAM this year. Bre and I have taught them about Jesus and some of the stories in the Bible. These two kids have attended because their friend speaks their language.

What languages do you speak? Do you speak engineering or nursing or construction? Whatever language you speak I challenge you to be like our young member who invited his friends. As the disciples were all together in one place on that Pentecost, I encourage all of us to be together in one place, here at church, on May 28 and pray together for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to bring hope to those who have little or none.

**When the day of
Pentecost came,
they were
all together in
one place.**



Acts 2:1

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.

I hope to see you on Pentecost, and wear red!

God's Blessings to You,
Pastor Kim

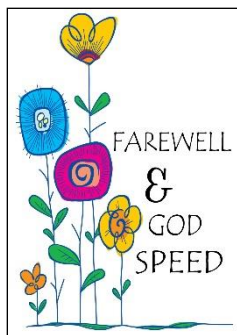


It's May!! And even though I am excited about warmer weather, I am most definitely sad that my year here is coming to an end. I know that I personally have had an amazing year! I have loved being able to pour God's love into the

church, and more specifically the kids in the church! And the only thing I can hope for, is that even one kid or person felt God's love this year. I am so excited for all the kids finishing this school year and moving to the next. Especially all our seniors as they graduate and head into the next chapter of their lives! God has plans for each and everyone of them, and I am so stoked for them all to figure them out! I hope everyone has an amazing summer and is truly blessed all summer!



God bless, Bre!



Bre's last day with us will be May 10. She will be returning full time to Riverside Bible Camp servings as a counselor! Take some time to thank her for blessing us in so many ways!

The family of Bill N invites you to attend his 80th birthday celebration on Sunday May 14, 1-3 pm @ the West Fork Food Pantry, 106 Gilman. In lieu of presents and cards, please bring a food item to donate to the pantry!



Happy Birthday Bill!

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Thank you to all who contributed to the Lenten offering recipients for 2023. The totals for this year are:

Access of Hampton	\$225
Bridge of Hope	\$380
Church of Dam Rd	\$225
LSI	\$310
Riverside	\$275
Sharing Shoppe	\$395

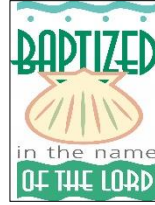


May 6, 8:30 am-noon
(Rain Date, May 13)
Please bring tools and gloves.
Donuts and coffee will be provided!



NEWLY BAPTIZED

In April we welcomed Julian Matthew C, son of Zac and Shaunda C through the sacrament of Baptism. His sponsors are Aidan S and Jasmine C.



NEW MEMBERS



In April we welcomed back to our membership Jennifer L, as a transfer from Lord of Life Lutheran in Austin Texas. We also welcomed Shaunda C through Affirmation of Baptism.

Welcome Shaunda and Jennifer!

NEIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The assembly will take place June 9-10 at Luther College, Decorah, with the theme “Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love,” based on 1 Corinthians 13:13. Saturday’s schedule begins at 9 am with morning prayer and includes three plenary sessions, lunch, ministry exhibits and closing worship.



Along with business sessions, there will be three different speakers will present on faith, hope and love — the three emphases of the assembly theme.

This year’s synod assembly offering will be designated for the [H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders](#) to provide scholarships for seminary students from the Northeastern Iowa Synod and the [Bishop’s Crisis Fund](#), which is used at the discretion of the Bishop to directly aid persons within the synod territory in times of need.

Congregations are invited to bring personal care kits to the synod assembly to support families served through Lutheran Services in Iowa’s Early Childhood Services program. LSI Early Childhood Services supports parents of young children to limit the risk of abuse and neglect in the home. Families enrolled in Early Childhood programing often struggle to pay basic needs such as diapers and wipes.



ZSJ will be taking donations for toddler bath kits. Each kit should contain a bath towel, washcloth, baby soap, toddler toothbrush & paste and a bath toy. Please place these items in a two gallon zip lock bag and put in the donation box in the narthex. Our congregational representatives Pastor Kim, Cindy H and Darwin M will take them to the assembly.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is a day of religious observance in the US when people are called upon to pray for their country. The first official day of prayer was in 1775, when the Continental Congress called for the public to fast and pray for the leadership of the Colonies. After that time, Presidents have called the nation to pray during times of war or other hardships. In 1952, Conrad Hilton (founder of Hilton Hotels) and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas, encouraged by Billy Graham, initiated a bill calling for the President to designate one day a year as a National Day of Prayer. In 1952, President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution into law.

In 1988, Congress chose the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer, and the bill was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

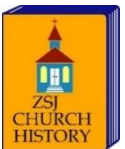
It is biblical and we are blessed to publicly pray for healing, forgiveness, and guidance for our nation and its leaders, now more than ever. This year the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 4.

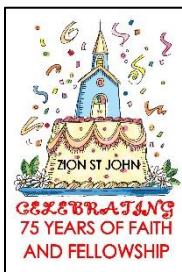
150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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
- ♦ St John Confirmation pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, & 1941 & Zion Confirmation picture from 1915

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





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 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.

We have applied for a few grants to assist with the financing which we should hear about soon. Because of that, we hope that we need to raise around \$14,000 from the congregation in the next 6 months. Total congregational funds raised so far is \$2,206.00. To make your contribution to this worthy project, you can place a check in the offering plate or send to the church and put 75th anniversary in the memo line.

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

2023 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

I am very excited to announce that the camp counselors from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp will be leading VBS again this summer, from July 17th- 20th, 5-8 pm. The theme this year will be “Uncovering the Truth of Who God Is.”



I am often asked what I enjoy about being involved with the youth program at church & I simply say that it's because I love children. But it's also my deep love for Jesus. I was fortunate

to have the importance of faith engrained in me throughout my life from not only my parents, but also many influential mentors and teachers along the way. It's very important to me that children have the opportunity for the same teachings about Christ that I had. There is

nothing more rewarding than helping that seed of faith grow in these children.

Please watch for registration information and more details that will be available on our church website, Facebook page, newsletter and weekly bulletins. If you want to be part of this mission, please let me know. Make a difference!

Doreen D
641-425-5033

Doreen.dohlman@gmail.com

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO ORDER: President Dacia S called the board meeting to order on Sunday, April 2, at 10:50 a.m. Those present were Dacia S, Diane W, and Pam M.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the February meeting minutes, Diane; second, Dacia; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thank yous for monetary donations were received from Wings of Refuge and Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless. A thank you was also received from the family of Larry O.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- * As of March 31, there is a checking balance of \$2,135.41 and savings balance of \$2,663.11 of which \$486.72 are designated funds.
- * The funeral cash donations balance as of March 31 is \$349.08. The report was placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

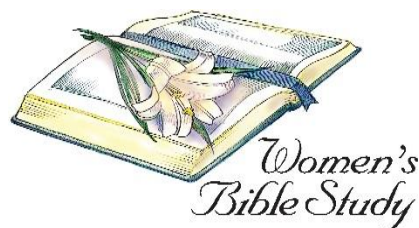
- * Care Center Birthdays – Diane will ask the Rebekah Circle if they will do this on April 17. A program may be presented, as well as treats for the residents.
- * Lenten Supper: We raised \$169 at the Lenten supper. Thirteen pounds

of beefburger was prepared, with not much left.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * May Day Tea – will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, with activities and snacks planned. We will meet to set up the basement on Saturday, April 29.
- * Kitchen: The salt and pepper shakers that we currently have are not in good shape. Pam will look into finding medium-sized replacements.
- * The Triennial Gathering is September 21-24 in Phoenix. If anyone is interested, there is an early bird discount if registered before 4/30.
- * Graduation – We will need to order cakes. Coffee, nuts, and lemonade will be served. We will need to get paper plates and napkins.
- * The Rebekah circle will be meeting at 6:00 on Monday, April 3 at the church. The video recording will be available on the YouTube channel the following day.
- * Dacia adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M



Rebekah Circle

Mon, May 1 @ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, May 2 @ 10am

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 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.

QUILTERS & LWR



The ZSJ Piecemakers have been busy the last 8 months collecting kit items and creating beautiful quilts. All these items were packed up in 15 boxes that were placed on truck headed for Lutheran World Relief in St Paul, MN. A total of 100 quilts, 16 personal care kits and 27 baby kits will be sent around the world to those in need.

Thursdays,
May 4, 11, 18, 25
2-5 pm
Saturday, May 6
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, canned vegetable and 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.

ZSJ CHURCH
OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY,
MAY 29, 2023!





Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 10:25 on April 16, 2023, by President Jim B. Those members in attendance were Pastor Kim W, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N, Judy S, Dacia S and Vickie B. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Correspondence- We received a thank you from Luther Seminary for our continued support for Daniel R.

Secretary's Report- Motion and second to accept the March secretary's report, carried.

Treasurer's Report - The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed.

Pastor's Report

- * Pastor performed a funerals for Cory B and Todd N in March and Gary R and Cliff B in April.
- * Pastor extended a big thank you to everyone who has helped with the many funerals we have had, he really appreciates it!
- * Pastor has been providing Pastoral Care to those who are bereaved. He has been planning and executing Lenten and Holy Week * Services.
- * A \$4,000 donation was received to be used at the Pastor's discretion. He would like to use a portion of it to replace the east door in the education wing. A motion and second to approve that project, carried. He has also designated a portion to be used for Bre's mileage for March, April and May.
- * Pastor and the committee sent out the letter to the Synod regarding the issues experienced during the 2021 Bishop election. We received a response letter from the Bishop informing us that the council has agreed to form a task force later this year to address the issues. The task force would bring recommendations to the 2025 Synod Assembly so changes can be put in place before the next bishop election in 2027.
- * Pastor provides In-Home Communion for shut ins and others who request it.
- * Pastor is planning to attend the Synod's Day of Renewal on April 27.

Committee Report

Parish Education

- * The last day of Sunday School will be May 14. Thank you to all the teachers, it has been a great year!
- * Ingham Bible Camp will be providing leadership for Vacation Bible School again this summer.

Property

- * Al gave an update on the progress for the Fellowship Hall remodeling project. He is applying for three grants to help with the project. They are planning to start the project in July.

Stewardship

- * Planning the 75th anniversary celebration.

Youth & Family

- * Thank you to the kids who helped with the Good Friday Service and the Easter breakfast. They had a good number of kids to help.

Worship & Evangelism

- * Planning to have donuts for fellowship this summer. Please sign up to help serve the donuts. If someone has a special occasion that they would like to provide the fellowship, please let the committee know.

Technology

- * A new tv has been purchased for the back of the church. They will get it installed.
- * The committee decided to switch the internet and phone coverage to Metronet. The installation will be in May.

Old Business

- * Jim will treat the Ash trees in April.
- * Church Clean-up day will be May 6 at 8:30 am.
- * The committee to discuss the Church Survey results is planning to meet in April.

New Business

- * Diane presented information on church members that were omitted. She had discovered them while reconciling church and cemetery records with obituary files. It seems most of them were during times of transition with pastors or merging of the churches. A motion and second was made for her to correct the discrepancies in the records to include those individuals who had been inadvertently omitted,

carried.

- * Request for membership was received for Shaunda C and Jennifer L. Motion and second to accept these membership requests, carried.
- * Request for transfer of membership for Emily M to Zion Lutheran Church in Clear Lake and Jessica, Nolan and Madelyn H to Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City. Motion and second to accept these transfer requests, carried.
- * Cemetery Clean-up day will be April 29 at 9:00.
- * Any student who will be attending an ELCA college, please let the office know. There are EPIC funds available to help with tuition.
- * Next Council meeting will be May 7, 2023.
- * Motion to adjourn at 11:30. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Dacia S
secretary

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of March 31, 2023:

Budgeted Income	\$55,571
Offerings Received	\$48,800
Current Deficit	\$ 6,771
Expenses YTD	\$56,283
Checking Balance	\$ 9,311



What a great month we had! Our budget deficit dropped over \$5,000 and our checking balance went from negative \$3,660 to a positive balance of over \$9,000! Thank you for your tremendous generosity!!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



SUNDAY
MAY 28,
9 am

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	Kay E
Christy M	Louise K	Drew H
Pat H	Patty B	Carolyn R
Jon S	Marcy M	Keely S
Parrish P	Sue K	Kathy V
Maxine H		

♦ The family of Clifford B

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

10:15 am Fellowship &
Sunday School (*thru 5-14*)

STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

G Kim Wills, Pastor	641-425-9453 pastor@zionstjohn.org
	9am-3pm, T-F
Church Office	641-892-4010 mail@zionstjohn.org
	9am-12pm, M-F
Bre Hilton, DYFM	515-520-0559 bre@riversidelbc.org
	10am-3 pm, T-W