



# Zion St. John

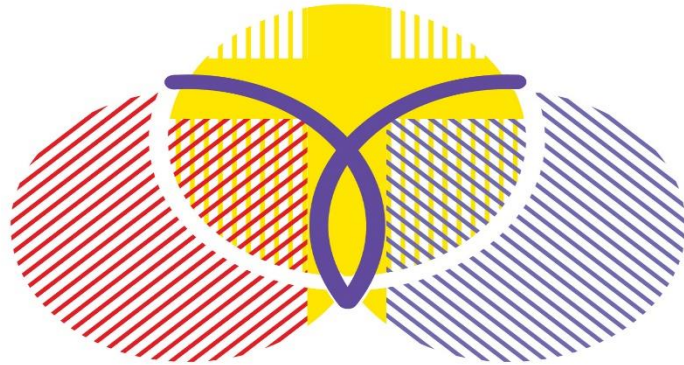
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

June 2023

Vol. 29 No. 6

Season of Pentecost



# Trinity Sunday

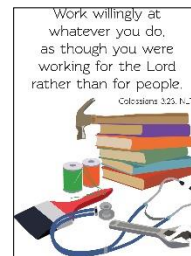
## OUR VISION STATEMENT

*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.*



*We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.*  
John 9:4

I will turn 65 years old this month. So, I have spent hours applying for Medicare and working with our congregation's insurance provider to make the necessary changes. I have been asked this question several times during the past month and so I felt compelled to respond to it. That question is, "Are you planning to retire?" The simple answer to that question is "No."



There are many factors that go into such decisions. Recently, a well-meaning family member sat me down and said, "Let's figure out when you're going to retire." There are so many things to consider. There are financial and health factors to consider. In the end I told them, "Look, life is uncertain. Who knows what tomorrow will bring?"

The main reason why I am not seriously considering retiring is that I enjoy what I am doing. I feel God still has work for me to do and I feel very blessed to serve a congregation that has such committed members. So, thank you for what you do to make this a good call. That will serve you well in the future. Another factor in my decision is the current pastoral shortage. As far as I know, I am the only full time rostered ELCA pastor in Franklin County. Nearby congregations including Greene, Hampton, Rockwell and Thornton are currently open.

Years ago, in a business setting, I was told that if you don't have someone working for you who has the skills you need, you should train someone to provide those skills. While I have played only a small part in helping her on her path, we are blessed that Caitlin T is willing to lead worship when I am gone. I am also glad to say that we have had two congregational youth members who have also served as Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Caitlin and Jesse M.

I am also blessed to serve ZSJ with my wife Diane who serves as church secretary and in many other ways. God has blessed our past.

May God continue to bless our future!  
Pastor Kim

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP



Here's a look at our finances as of April 30, 2023:

Budgeted Income	\$74,095
Offerings Received	\$64,181
Current Deficit	\$ 9,914
Expenses YTD	\$74,103
Checking Balance	\$ 9,656

While our budget deficit grew by \$3,000, we still had a solid month. The council voted to transfer the \$5,000 we had borrowed from savings back into that account so you will likely see a drop in the checking balance next month. As summer begins, please remember that our expenses here at church do not take a vacation. Thanks for your faithful giving!



**Thursdays,**  
**Jun 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**  
**2-5 pm**  
**Saturday, Jun 3**  
**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.

## CONNIE C SCHOLARSHIP

Connie C, who was a very faithful member of this congregation, passed away on March 16, 2018. To honor her memory, her husband David, has established a scholarship fund. Two awards of \$250 each are awarded to graduating seniors who are members of ZSJ Lutheran

Church. To be considered, an application needs to be submitted.

This year's recipients are Ava H and Jake S. These scholarships were presented at the Graduation Reception following worship on May 21st. We thank the family of Connie Clausen for their generosity. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, or apply for next year, please contact Roger Madsen.



***Congratulations***

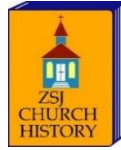
***Jake & Ava!!***

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



The last pictorial directory done at ZSJ was in 2011, so you can imagine that a few things and people have changed. Because of the many changes to the photography business, the council and staff have decided to self publish our own directory. Our goal is to have a hard copy printing as well as an electronic version by the end of 2023. With the onset of selfies, cell phone cameras and social media, we are asking each family unit to submit a photo to be used in the directory, by September 30. This can be done electronically or by hard copy. Please limit these pictures to immediate family members who are also church members. If you are not sure, please check with the office. If you need assistance, arrangements can be made with the office to take a picture for you.

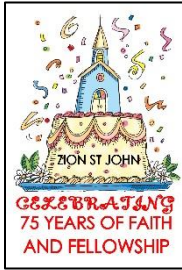
## 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the memo line.

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

## Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### Rebekah Circle

Mon, June 5 @ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, June 6 @ 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](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. Lorna M, Marcia E, Diane W and Alice G will be representing ZSJ.

## CASH DONATIONS

Cash donations are needed to help purchase school kit supplies for 125 homemade backpacks. Donations can be given to Maxine H or Marcia E, or dropped off in the office.





## ITEMS NEEDED



The ZSJ Piecemakers need your help! If you are spring cleaning or garage saling in the next few months, please watch for these gently used items: Bed sheets or blankets, Baby sleepers or gowns without the feet, 6-24 months, hooded jackets or sweatshirts, 9-24 months, baby blankets, baby t-shirts, 6-24 months, and new light-weight dark colored bath towels and hand towels and bars of gentle soap in original wrapping. If you find these treasures you can put them in the Quilter's room in the basement. Thank you for your help!



The ZSJ Piecemakers crafted 6 beautiful quilts for our 2023 HS graduates. These wonderful comforting symbols of love were given to the graduates at the reception on May 21. Thank you Piecemakers!



**Call to Order**-The meeting was called to order at 10:20 on May 7, 2023 by President Jim B. Those members in attendance were Pastor Kim W, Jim B, Judy S, Vickie B, Doug D, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N. Pastor opened with a prayer.

**Correspondence** We received a thank you from Damascus Road.

**Secretary's Report** Motion and second to accept the April secretary's

report; carried.

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

### Pastor's Report

- ◇ Pastor performed the Baptism of Julian Cook, son of Zachary & Shaunda Cook.
- ◇ Pastor performed a funeral on May 6<sup>th</sup> for Maxine Harvey.
- ◇ Pastor planned the confirmation trip to Waverly to visit Bremwood and Freedom Retrieving on May 3.
- ◇ Pastor has been providing in home communion to members who desire it.
- ◇ Pastor coordinated the install of new Metronet internet service.
- ◇ Pastor has coordinated the landscaping project for the end of May for the memorial of Larry Lockwood.

### Committee Reports

#### Parish Education

- ◇ Last Day of Sunday School is May 13, it's been a great year with great teachers!
- ◇ Ingham Bible Camp will be providing leadership for Vacation Bible School again this summer, Doreen is coordinating.

#### Property

- ◇ New east door ordered.
- ◇ Clean up day rescheduled for May 13.
- ◇ Blocks to replace bathroom windows should be installed early June.

#### Youth & Family

- ◇ Another successful Good Friday service from our Youth.
- ◇ A motion and second for the intention to engage Riverside again this fall to provide a Youth Director for us.

#### Worship & Evangelism

- ◇ Church will provide donuts for fellowship through the summer months as needed.

#### Technology

- ◊ A new tv has been purchased for the back of the church and will be installed on church cleanup day.
- ◊ Metronet is scheduled to install the new internet service soon.

### Old Business

- ◊ Jim & Jason treated the Ash trees in April.
- ◊ The Church Survey results were reviewed and discussed.
- ◊ Work on a new church directory will likely begin in June.

### New Business

- ◊ Synod Assembly plans discussed.
- ◊ Next Council meeting will be June 11, 2023.
- ◊ Motion to adjourn at 11:30, with the Lord's Prayer.

Doug D, VP

## CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS

Last fall the church council prepared a survey and asked our members to respond. We received 49 responses. The purpose of the survey was to determine what we could do to increase in person worship. There were three areas of concern that the council is addressing at this time:

### 1. Change Time of Service

Change Sunday School and fellowship to 9:00 am with the church service to follow at 10:00 am. Would changing service time or adding a service make a big enough impact on the number of in person attendance?

### 2. Extra Services

Add a Wednesday evening service There is a conflict the majority of the year with confirmation, bell and choir practice held on Wednesday night.

Have 2 church services each Sunday. One starting at 9:00-9:50, fellowship and Sunday School at 9:50-10:50 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> service at 11:00-11:50. The concerns with this option is do we have enough hands to hold 2 services, musicians, video, greeters, ushers, lectors, lighting

candles & carrying the cross. It is so nice to be one body worshipping and working together, would two services change that.

### 3. Sharing of the peace concerns

It is understandable to be nervous about the sharing of the peace. In the past our church has stopped sharing the peace from about November to March during cold and flu season. If uncomfortable shaking hands just fist bump your neighbor or use eye contact and verbally share the peace.



The council has discussed some possible solutions or changes, but none of these would take place until a congregational meeting has been held. We encourage all members to share our weekly services on their individual Facebook pages with anyone that cannot be there in person. The Council will continue to study the survey and update you as needed. Our goal is to do the best for the most and continue to preach Jesus and love!

## 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

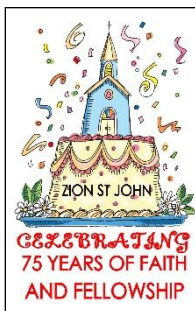
Iowa's Early Childhood Services program. LSI Early Childhood Services supports parents of young children to limit the risk of abuse and neglect in the home. Families enrolled in Early Childhood programing often struggle to pay basic needs such as diapers and wipes.



**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.**

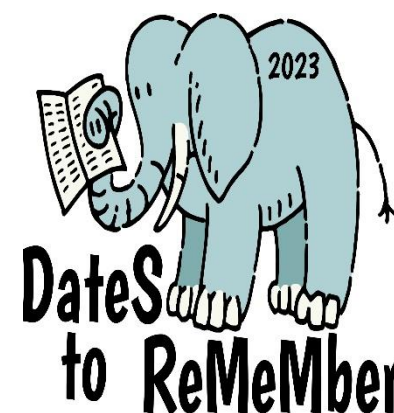
**Please place these items in a two gallon zip lock bag and put in the donation box in the narthex. Our congregational representatives Pastor Kim, Cindy Hemm and Darwin Meyer will take them to the assembly.**

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. We have already received a grant from the Kinney-Linstrom Foundation for \$2500 for our project. That brings our total to \$25,706.00. Additional grants are still pending. 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!**

VBS	July 17-20
Riverside Quilt Auction	Aug 5
Blessing of Backpacks	Aug 20
7-9 Conf Meetings	Aug 23
WELCA Meeting	Sept 5
Quilting resumes	Sept 6
JAM resumes	Sept 6
SS resumes	Sept 10
3rd Grade Bibles	Sept 10
7-8 Conf resumes	Sept 13
Music groups resume	Sept 20
Riverside Golf	Sept 29
LWR Pickup	Oct 14
WELCA Heat n Eat	Oct 22
9th Confirmation	Oct 29
SS Christmas	Dec 10



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

- ◇ The family of Maxine H
- \* The family of Garth & Joann R
- \* Our HS graduates & their families, Trevor G, Ava H, Cole M, Gavin O-M, Guilia S & Jake S.
- \* Our Synod, Pastor Kim, Cindy H & Darwin M, as they meet in assembly on June 19-10.
- \* The women of NE IA Synod as they gather on June 17 in Belmond.

- 1 Athena L
- 3 Holly C ,Gary S, Mavis S  
Oakley Ha
- 4 Norma M, Brad G, Lucas F
- 5 Jake W
- 6 Carla B, Hannah M
- 9 Todd B, Landon R, Cheyene P
- 10 Cassidy R, Kim O, Addison S
- 11 Addy P
- 12 Ken B, Pastor Kim W, John L,  
Andy O, Jakob W
- 14 Lorna M
- 15 Jacob R
- 16 Michelle B, Jason R
- 17 Lois B, Laney O
- 18 Maxine H  
Todd H
- 19 Heaven H
- 21 Don H, Owen P, Hudson B  
Grayson L
- 22 Kristle C, Ian L, Shane W, Sr.
- 23 Lori O, Hayden S
- 24 Ian C, Lori S, Jessica R
- 27 Alice G, Lennyn B
- 28 Kari M, Morgan N
- 29 Doris M
- 30 Carter N

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

10:15 am Fellowship

## 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