



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

July 2023

Vol. 29 No. 7

Season of Pentecost



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.



A threefold cord is not easily broken.
Ecclesiastes 4:12

Being in partnership with other churches seems to be one of the themes this past month.

About a month ago I received a telephone call from our Bishop, Kevin Jones. He asked if I would give one of the three keynote addresses at our Synod Assembly. This year's theme was "Growing Together in Faith, Hope and Love". He wanted me to give a presentation on "Growing Together in Faith", based on our partnership with four others churches, regarding our work with The West Fork Food Pantry. I told



him I would be honored to do so, but I wanted my wife Diane to make the presentation with me. We gave the presentation on Saturday, June 10th and it was very well received, as were the other two presentations on "Hope" and "Love."

In our presentation we discussed how growing in faith isn't easy. There are lots of ups and downs, struggles and joys. This really resonated with people. We conveyed the truth that being the church, especially being the church together, isn't easy right now. It isn't easy with church attendance decreasing; with the difficulty some have with co-existing when others have a different point of view; with the clergy shortage. Cindy H, Darwin M, Diane and I all wore our red pantry T-Shirts, and at every break people would come up to us and tell us their stories, as well as thank us for our presentation and our work in the Food Pantry.

Then, just a few days before Synod Assembly, Caitlin T contacted Diane and me, and then our VBS Coordinator Doreen D, about partnering with another congregation on VBS. Caitlin had been in conversation with a woman from St. Paul Lutheran in Hampton who asked her if we would be open to them bringing their kids to VBS at our church.

Doreen contacted the woman from St. Paul's. She told her that

they have resources, that they are willing to share with us in this partnership. Doreen graciously agreed to work with them. At this year's VBS, July 17-20, our threefold cord will actually be a fourfold cord. The strands will include Zion St. John, St. Paul's, Hampton, Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, and most importantly, Jesus Christ.

May God continue to strengthen the ties between our congregations as we seek to be His hands and feet, bringing hope to this hurting world.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$92,619
Offering Received	\$84,754
Current Deficit	\$ 7,865
Expenses YTD	\$93,772
Checking Balance	\$ 5,315



Thanks to all of you, we had a very good month! Our budget deficit dropped by over \$2,000. We transferred back into savings \$5,000 that we had borrowed earlier, but, even then, our checking balance dropped by less than that amount. Thanks for your faithful giving!



Thursdays,
July 6, 13, 20, 27
2-5 pm
Saturday, July 1
10 am-noon

We are celebrating 5 years since becoming a permanent pantry and 2 years in our new building on July 6. We will be serving brats, brat patties and burgers during distribution, 2-5 pm. All are welcome to help us celebrate! We are very appreciative for all donations of

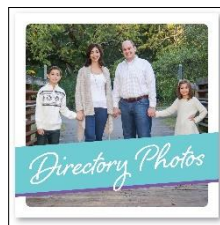
money, personal hygiene items, perishable and non-perishable food items, including garden produce. We are especially in need of juice, canned vegetables and fruit. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry building @ 106 Gilman.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The Franklin County Relay for Life events will be on Friday, July 28, 5-10 pm @ the West Fork HS Track. Events include a raffle and Silent Auction, singing by the Sheffield Philharmonic, food trucks, kids activities, a dunk tank, the Survivors and Care givers Lap around the field and the Luminaria Ceremony. More information is available on the Narthex table or on their FB page.

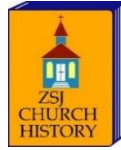


PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



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 in 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.

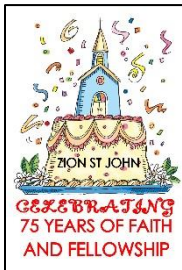
150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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. Phase 1 will begin soon and phase 2 in late summer. As of June 15, our total to \$26,206.00. 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 75th 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, July 10 @ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, July 11 @ 10am



WELCA GATHERING



The 35th Annual Gathering of the Northeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond on Saturday, June 17. Those attending from our congregation were Alice G, who serves as vice president, Diane Wills, parliamentarian, Lorna M, voting delegate, and Marcia E. Opening worship with communion was led by Pastor Katie Pals and Bishop Kevin Jones delivered the sermon, "Stir Us, Free Us," the theme of the gathering.

The business session followed with committee reports, election of officers, including Alice G as vice president, and adoption of two resolutions: one dealing with mental health, and the other approved moving to a biennial convention. Other reports given were about by Mike Knipp from LSI, LWR quilts & kits by Lea N, and happenings at the national level by churchwide representative Laura Krueger.

Interest sessions followed including "Chatting with the Bishop" on any topic participants wanted to discuss. Care of Creation by Donna Rasmussen shared about how this network can assist congregations in creation care efforts, including reducing single use plastics and other disposable products. Karen Samuelson Weltzin, a former member of our congregation, has traveled to the Dominican Republic, Brazil,

Uganda and Cuba with the Joni and Friends and Wheels for the World, which provides refurbished wheelchairs to those in need in third world countries. Used wheelchairs in any condition are accepted to be refurbished. Karen helps fit those chairs to the recipients and other volunteers present each with a Bible in their language.

In-kind offerings collected went to Colts Day Care, \$150 in cash and gift cards and 1035 items and Hopes of Wright County, \$350 in cash and gift cards and 201 items. Monetary offerings were \$2920.00 that will be split between church-wide Women of the ELCA and ELCA World Hunger-Bishop's Ride RAGBRAI. Lunch was served by the men of Trinity and St. Olaf before the gathering ended.

Submitted by Marcia E

STILL COLLECTING

School Kit
Donations

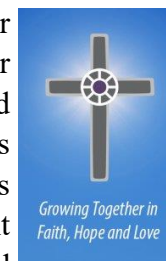


The ZSJ Piecemakers need your help! If you are spring cleaning or garage saling in the next few months, please watch for these gently used items: Bed sheets or blankets, Baby sleepers or gowns without the feet, 6-24 months, hooded jackets or sweatshirts, 9-24 months, baby blankets, baby t-shirts, 6-24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

We are also still accepting cash donations for school kit supplies. Donations can be given to Maxine H or Marcia E, or dropped off in the office.

NEIA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

As one of the voting members from our congregation, I would like to thank the congregation for the opportunity to attend. I was disappointed when I heard there would not be any breakout sessions. However, this year's format was great. There were two worship services and both had **very** meaningful messages, different liturgies, and interesting music. Instruments included organ, piano, violin, guitar, and trap set. So fun to sit and listen and enjoy (and sing wrong notes when I didn't know the hymn!). There were three shorter, interesting "talks" given at the beginning of the business sessions that more than made up for the eliminated breakout sessions. Pastor Kim and Diane gave one of these talks on the West Fork Food Pantry and did an excellent job. They even introduced everyone to the pantry mascot--Mrs. Ogilsvie. I am sure that Roma never imagined her creation would ever be travelling to Decorah and back, but she was a hit! Pastor Kim, Diane, Darwin and I wore our red pantry shirts and people were coming up to us all day to say how much they enjoyed the presentation and shared their pantry experiences or comment on how they would like to get one started in their area. It was gratifying! I got to dog sit Shadow while Pastor Kim and Diane were up front giving their presentation. (I hate to admit that she slept through most of it, so my job was really easy!) The business of the church was handled in a quick paced manner with time allowed for comments and concerns. There were also videos that went along with some of the programs and issues discussed which I found helpful. This really was an enjoyable experience to worship, learn, and take care of needed church business and elections. And have some great desserts! Thank you for the opportunity!



Submitted by Cindy H



Call to Order- The meeting was called to order on June 11, 2023, at 10:30 am by President Jim B. In attendance were Pastor Kim W, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N, Judy S, Dacia S, Doug D, and Vickie B. Pastor opened with a prayer.

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

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

Pastor's Report

- ♦ Pastor Kim performed a double baptism today. He has also performed 6 memorial services recently.
- ♦ Pastor attended the synod assembly. He and Diane did a presentation on the West Fork Food Pantry.
- ♦ He is planning the confirmation class trip to Minneapolis in August.
- ♦ Doreen extended an invitation to students at the Hampton Lutheran church to attend VBS with us since they will not be having VBS this year. We hope this will be a great opportunity for youth from both churches.
- ♦ Pastor provides In-Home Communion for shut ins and others who request it.
- ♦ Pastor and Diane will be on vacation June 24 to July 1.

Committee Reports

Parish Education

- ♦ Doreen D is coordinating plans for VBS. Anyone that is interested in helping can contact her.

Property

- ♦ Al has applied for three grants to help with the fellowship hall project.
- ♦ They have started working on the bathroom windows. July 19th they will start on the basement.
- ♦ They are also working on the landscaping project.

Stewardship- Has not met.

Youth & Family

- ♦ Pastor has requested for Bre to continue as our youth and family ministry leader for next year. Please pray for Riverside to make a favorable decision for us.

Worship & Evangelism

- ♦ If anyone wants to help with fellowship this summer, donuts will be provided. Please let Jim, Darwin or Vickie know if you would like to help.

Technology

- ♦ A new projector was donated from Mercy One. It will be used in the fellowship area.
- ♦ There was a problem with integrating the Metronet internet and the phone system. They are working on it.

Old Business

- ♦ The discussion for the church directory was tabled until the July meeting. Pastor will get more details on pricing.
- ♦ Pastor has requested a Memorial table to be used during funeral services with cremation. They will look at getting one.

New Business

- ♦ A motion was made to transfer \$1000 to the Cemetery fund for mowing. Motion, second, carried.
- ♦ Next Council meeting will be July 9, 2023.
- ♦ Motion to adjourn at 11:20. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Dacia S



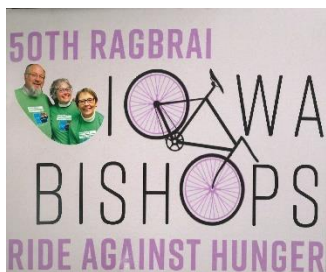
Office is Closed
Tuesday July 4

CEMETERY HISTORY



The records for the ZSJ cemetery located east of town have now been digitalized. This includes pictures of grave markers and the cemetery grounds along with historical information gathered through the years. This project started with Burnie G, Mavis S and Carolyn R when it was discovered that the original records were likely destroyed in the parsonage fire. If you would like to see the finished project go to the church website, other ministries tab and then, ZSJ Cemetery.

UNTIL ALL ARE FED



ELCA congregations and members from across Iowa are invited to join or support the three Iowa ELCA bishops as they ride this year's RAGBRAI (Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa) to fight hunger. Bishop Kevin Jones of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, Bishop Amy Current of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and Bishop Lorna Halaas of the Western Iowa Synod plan to ride 50-plus miles each day in the 50th RAGBRAI to highlight anti-hunger ministries and raise **\$50,000** for ELCA World Hunger. **RAGBRAI is set for July 22-29, 2023.** This year's route begins at Sioux City and ends at Davenport. Overnight towns along the route are Storm Lake, Carroll, Ames, Des Moines, Tama-Toledo, and Coralville. Show your support for the Bishops' peddling by donating to fight hunger in Iowa and around the world through ELCA World Hunger. For more information or to donate go to www.neiasynod.org or use the QR code.



PLEASE PRAY DAILY FOR THEIR SAFETY AND STRENGTH!

1	Gary S
	Julian C
3	Jesse M
4	Cadence N-P
5	Jill C
	Shannon L
	Ava H
8	Jeff C
9	Jackie H
10	Scott C
11	Ron P
12	Cole H
	Lucas W
15	Caleb C
16	Payton K
	Trevor G
17	Gene S
19	Amanda F
21	Cooper E
	Gail L
	Shirley M
22	Tim C
	Spencer H
23	Megan M
25	Blake B
	Joseph S
26	Brandon K
	Carolyn R
	Colson J
	Taylor K
28	Chad E
30	Malachi R
	Aaron I
	Jax K



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
Holly W	Al N	

- ♦ Faith Lutheran VBS in Laredo Texas
- ♦ ZSJ VBS campers and Camp Counselors from Ingham-Okobodji
- ♦ Confirmation trip participants
- ♦ Bishop Kevin Jones as he rides for Hunger on RAGBRAI

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

10:15 am Fellowship

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