



# Zion St. John

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

August 2023      Vol. 29 No. 8  
Season of Pentecost



### 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.*



*He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.* Psalm 62:2

As I write this Vacation Bible School 2023 is almost in the books. As we did last year, thanks to a generous donation from a friend of our congregation, four counselors from Ingham – Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp came to Sheffield to lead us.

Their leader this year was also here last year, Emily. She brought with her Godlid, who is from Tanzania, Abe, and Gregory. We were thrilled to share our home with them.

This year's theme was: "Foundation: Uncovering the Truth About God." The students were detectives and the leaders were special agents. The team from the Bible Camp did an amazing job! They related so well to our youth and to our helpers. In total we had almost forty students attending. About half were from our church with the other half coming from our community and from Hampton. As Doreen sat at the registration table, she heard, more than once, words of gratitude for us hosting this as well as words of regret that the churches they attend don't have VBS, some don't have Sunday School.

Having the Bible Camp lead VBS allows our adult and youth leaders to focus their time and energy on the kids that attend. Speaking of helpers, we had over 20 youth and adult helpers. That's a 2 to 1 ratio of students to helpers.

For the second year in a row VBS was organized and led by Doreen D. She kept all of us organized and functioning efficiently. Her dedication to the youth of our congregation is an inspiration to everyone.

So, what's in store for next year's VBS? No definite plans are in place. In my opinion, without a full-time youth director having Ingham Okoboji come back again next year is our best option. While we have many talented and committed members here, I'm not sure we can pull off VBS on our own without seriously burning out our volunteer base. It would also be difficult to put together a program of the same quality as we get from the Bible Camp.

With the current format we are offering the kids in our church and area a unique experience. In the end the cost to offer this runs around

\$2,000 which breaks down to about \$50 per child. If you are interested in sponsoring a portion of next year's VBS, please contact me. I believe it's a wise investment.

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of June 30, 2023.

Budgeted Income	\$111,143
Offerings Received	\$ 96,443
Current Deficit	\$ 14,700
Expenses YTD	\$110,098
Checking Balance	\$ 667



Well, we've definitely had better months. During June our budget deficit nearly doubled and our checking account balance dropped by \$4,500. The good news is that we still have a positive balance in our checking account. Just a reminder that while August is when many families take vacations, our church expenses do not. Thanks for your faithful giving!



**Thursdays,**  
**Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**2-5 pm**  
**Saturday, Aug 5**  
**10 am-noon**

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.

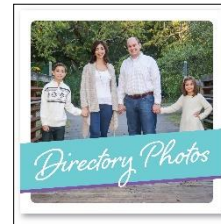
## RIVERSIDE GOLF

The nineteenth annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic will be Fri, Sept. 29 at Ames Golf & Country Club! Come enjoy lunch, golf, fellowship, and ice cream to conclude the day. If you are interested in playing and supporting Riverside, please contact Pastor Kim. Registration begins @ 10:30 am, followed by lunch and shotgun start @ noon. The registration fee is \$125 per person.



We will be modifying the worship schedule for August. Please note that Holy Communion will be offered on August 13 and 20, to accommodate Pastor Kim's trip with the confirmation students.

## 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 (jpeg or png please) or by hard copy. Please limit these pictures to immediate family members who are also church members. **For those who would like, pictures can be taken after worship every Sunday in September!**

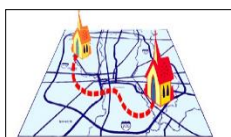


Thank you for all the cards and kind remarks sent to me for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. I really enjoyed reading them and have them sitting on furniture in my home. I will read them again when I put them away to save them! Thanks for your kindness!

Doris M

## MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

There have been a number of questions asked about how membership works and hopefully this will help everyone to understand. If you or a member of your family has been baptized and/ or confirmed here (that includes grandchildren) then you are a member of this church. Another way to become a member is to request membership as an adult. If you came from another Lutheran church, it is a very simple process



**Membership  
Changes**

and just requires a simple request and a vote of approval by the council. If you come from another church, then Pastor may ask you some questions or have you learn a little about Lutheranism and then the approval process.

Generally speaking, if you are receiving this newsletter, (by email or snail mail) or have received letters or emails about stewardship or church meetings, you are a member of this church. (there are a few exceptions, former members who have requested to stay on the list, or visitors who like to know what is going on.) If you have children who were baptized and/ or confirmed here and are now married and attending church elsewhere, have them email the church office and request a transfer.

If they would like to remain members, that is great too. But we would like to have updated information about addresses, emails, phone numbers, family members, etc so we can update our church records. As you can imagine this can be a challenging process, but can be made simpler with the technology available today! Most requests can be dealt with using text, email or a simple phone call. Thank you for helping us keep the records as up-to-date as possible!

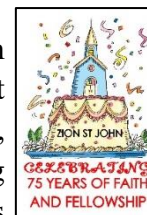
## PROPERTY UPDATES

The tuckpointing on the bell tower has now been completed and the downstairs bathroom windows have been bricked.

The east alley door has also been replaced and keyed the same as the front door. The new panic door system will also make for easier locking by staff, members and groups using our building.

We are continuing to raise money for the upgrades in the fellowship hall and downstairs bathrooms. 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 at the January annual meeting as part of the recognition of 75 years together in this building. A generous memorial gift of \$20,000 from Virginia Lease is being used. The bathroom remodel will begin soon. As of July 31, our total is \$26,456.00. 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!**

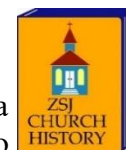


## 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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 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

We will be having our first planning meeting on August 27 after worship (about 10:15 am). If you are interested in helping in any capacity please try to attend!





# *Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

## **Rebekah Circle**

Mon, Aug 7 @ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, Aug 8 @ 10am



## **STILL COLLECTING**



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.

## **QUILTING RESUMES**

The ZSJ Quilters will resume quilting on Wednesday, September 6, starting at 8:30 am. There is something for everyone to do, even if you don't know how!!!



## **RIVERSIDE QUILT AUCTION**

The Riverside Quilt Auction will be Saturday August 5 @ Riverside Bible Camp. Here is the schedule:

**Mon, Jul 31** Online auction begins

**Sat, Aug 5**

**8:30 am** 5K Walk/Run  
View quilts in Chapel

**9:30 am** Pool open for 5K

**10:30 am** Outdoor Worship

**11:00** Live Quilt Auction

**12:00 pm** Lunch freewill offering

**1:00 pm** Pool open for all

For more information, go to [www.riversidebc.org](http://www.riversidebc.org)



## **WOMEN OF ZSJ GENERAL MEETING**



The Women of ZSJ will meet on Tuesday, September 5, 6 pm, for election of officers and approval of 2024 budget. Light refreshments will be served and Bible study will be led by Diane W. If you are in need of transportation, please let the church office know.

Blessing of Backpacks	Aug 20
NYG Information Meeting	Aug 20
7-9 Conf Meetings	Aug 23
WELCA Meeting	Sept 5
Quilting resumes	Sept 6
JAM resumes	Sept 6
Rally Day/SS resumes	Sept 10
3rd Grade Bibles	Sept 10
7-8 Conf resumes	Sept 13
Music groups resume	Sept 20
Riverside Golf	Sept 29
Directory Pictures Due	Sept 30
LWR Pickup	Oct 14
WELCA Heat n Eat	Oct 22
9th Confirmation	Oct 29
SS Christmas Program	Dec 10



Call to Order- The meeting was called to order on July 9, 2023, at 10:15 am by President Jim B. In attendance were Pastor Kim Wills, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N, Judy S, Doug D, and Vickie B. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Report- Motion/ second to accept June's secretary's report; carried.

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

- ♦ Pastor Kim performed a double baptism on June 11. He has also performed 5 memorial services recently.
- ♦ Request for membership transfer for Ethan M to Prairie Lakes Church in Grinnell. Motion; carried.
- ♦ Request for membership for Chuck and Cindy J from Zion Lutheran

in Clear Lake. Motion; carried.

- ♦ Plans for the confirmation class trip to Minneapolis in August are being finalized.
- Pastor provides In-Home Communion for shut ins and others ♦ who request it.
- ♦ Zion St. John provided assistance to individuals in need.
- ♦ Pastor will be on vacation July 12 – 15 and Pastor and Diane will be on vacation July 23-28. No Sunday services will be missed.

#### Committee Reports

##### Parish Education

- ♦ Plans for VBS are being finalized.

##### Property

- ♦ Al has applied for three grants to help with the fellowship hall project, he was notified one grant was denied.
- ♦ The bathroom windows have been bricked up.
- ♦ Tuck point brick work is being done on the bell tower.
- ♦ Work scheduled to begin July 19th in the basement.
- ♦ The landscaping project is scheduled to begin soon.

Stewardship- Has not met.

##### Youth & Family

- ♦ Pastor has made the request to Riverside for Bre to return as our youth and family ministry leader for this fall, we should hear later this month.

##### Worship & Evangelism

- ♦ Summer fellowship continues, donuts will be provided. If anyone wants to help please let Judy, Darwin or Vickie know.

##### Technology

- ♦ Donated projector will need to be mounted in the fellowship area.
- ♦ The problem with integrating the Metronet internet and the phone system should be resolved soon.

##### Old Business

- ♦ Discussion for the church directory continues and Diane will work on creating a directory with considerable cost savings.
- ♦ Discussion on a Memorial table to be used during funeral services with cremation.

## New Business

- ♦ Diane presented idea to make VBS T-shirts for the volunteers and kids. Shirts will be ordered, and iron-on stencils will be used for considerable cost savings. Motion, carried.
- ♦ Next Council meeting will be August 13, 2023.
- ♦ Motion to adjourn at 11:00. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Doug D



- 1 Cora M
- 3 Jennifer B, Justin M, Angela N
- 4 Brandy F, Payton P
- 5 Mickee T, Sage S, Teresa S
- 6 Chuck J, Lon E, Jordan G, Tenley S
- 8 Doug H
- 11 Alexandra C
- 12 Kayla R
- 17 Brigid C, Grace S
- 18 Hayden E, Taj O, Hallie G
- 19 Gemma I
- 20 Taylor E, Mark R, Gene L
- 21 Ned B, Kay R, Isaac T, Dax S
- 22 Kaci H
- 23 Kellen C, Louise K, Peter N
- 25 Eric E
- 26 Leah L-C
- 27 Cliff C, Ron E, Kacee G, Steve H
- 29 Nick W
- 30 Sam C, Octavia D

## PRAYER LIST



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	Carolyn Ri
Jon S	Marcy M	Keely S
Parrish P	Sue K	Kathy V
Holly W	Al N	Maddie P

- ♦ Students, parents and teachers as school resumes
- ♦ Our Parish Ed and Youth Committees as fall programming is planned

## 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