



# Zion St. John

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

September 2023

Vol. 29 No. 9

Season of Pentecost



*I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.* Psalm 121: 1-2

The Covid-19 pandemic hit churches hard. One of the areas hardest hit was youth and educational ministries. I must give our congregation credit, we kept at it, even when the numbers were very low. During the pandemic we still had Sunday School, one joint class in the basement, with less than five kids here and a few more attending online. Confirmation continued via Zoom and then we met in person with no meal served and youth sitting six feet apart. We tried high school youth group with no kids showing up, month after month. Jam attendance was 2 or 3 kids most months.

It was discouraging but we kept on pitching. And we kept on praying.

Things started to slowly improve. Last year we had a full slate of wonderful Sunday School teachers and most Sundays we had around 20 kids. The confirmation meal was reinstated, which helped, but the youth were very quiet. Bre and I made the decision to incorporate some fun activities each week and things started to improve. They improved to the point that when I announced this was the last class until January, one of them said, "But I don't want to take a break, I like confirmation!"

Then this summer we reinstated the confirmation trip. We had three of our students attend along with two adults. On Friday we went to Global Health Ministries and sorted donations. They send medical supplies and equipment overseas. Currently they are getting shipments ready for Madagascar and Ukraine.

On Saturday we went to Mary's Place. Although they no longer have the playground play time we used to help with, they still serve meals with volunteer help. We went early to drop off some donations and hoping to help. The group scheduled to help allowed us to also help, they were so gracious to us! It reminded me of something my internship supervisor told me, "Those who show up rule the world."

And more good news! We recently had a meeting to discern if youth from our congregation are interested in attending the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We have three youth that are very interested in attending, hopefully there will be more. We have also received official word that Bre Hilton will be returning for a second year



**Sunday School starts**  
**September 10, 2023, 10:15 am**

### 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.*

to serve part time here at Zion St. John and part time at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp! Bre will start on September 6. It is mid-August and we already have a full slate of Sunday School teachers! They are all wonderful, please thank them for their service!

It has been a long and difficult climb, but things are looking much brighter! Thank you to all who have contributed to this effort.

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



*Bre returns as our DYFM on  
Wednesday, Sept 6*

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$129,667
Offerings Received	\$110,778
Current Deficit	\$ 18,889
Expenses YTD	\$124,402
Checking Balance	\$ 589



We made it through another summer month with a positive checking account balance! Moving forward, please remember that Bre Hilton will be rejoining our staff on a part-time basis beginning September 6. Thank you for your faithful giving!

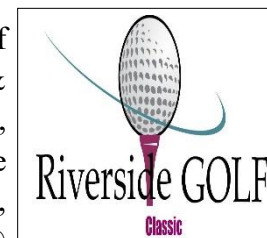


**Thursdays,  
Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28  
2-5 pm  
Saturday, Sept 2  
10 am-noon**

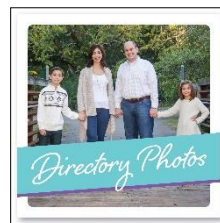
We are very appreciative for all donations of money, personal hygiene items, perishable and non-perishable food items, including garden produce. We are especially in need of juice, canned fruit and condiments. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry 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.



## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



Please send in your family pictures for the pictorial 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, no appointment**

**necessary!**

Please help us reach our goal to have a hard copy printing as well as an electronic version by the end of 2023.

## ON-LINE GIVING

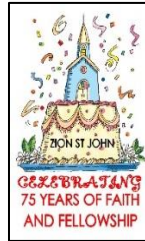


We have two ways to donate electronically to ZSJ, the Vanco Mobile app, found in your app store on your phone, tablet or computer or the church website, [www.zionstjohn.org](http://www.zionstjohn.org). On the homepage you will find a “Donation” button.

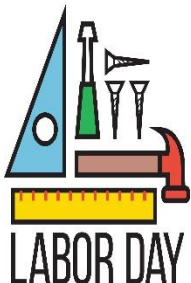
These methods allow you to give electronically whenever you choose. If you have questions or need help please ask Diane or Pastor Kim.

## PROPERTY UPDATES

The landscaping project for the courtyard is nearing completion. The bathroom and SS flooring have been completed and the bathrooms are nearing completion. We will continue to raise money to complete the flooring in the fellowship hall and kitchen. 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. As of August 31, our total to \$29,956.00. 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.



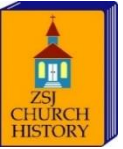
## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT OF THIS EXCITING PROJECT!



THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPT. 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

## *Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Dacia S called the board meeting to order on Sunday, August 6, 2023 at 10:05 a.m. Present were Dacia S, Diane W, and Alice G.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Thank yous for monetary donations were received from West Fork Food Pantry and Lutheran World Relief. Thank yous were also received from Doris E, Merna S, and Northern Lights Alliance.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Diane, second by Dacia to approve the April meeting minutes. Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Reports for May, June, and July were reviewed. As of July 31, there is a checking balance of \$1,853.96 and savings balance of \$2,664.45, of which \$461.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance through July was \$369.88. Reports were placed on file.

### OLD BUSINESS:

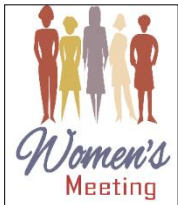
- The salt and pepper shakers, to be replaced, are still being investigated.
- Diane will take care of the offering for the Triennial Convention/Gathering (\$225).

### NEW BUSINESS:

- The General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 p.m. Election of Co-chair and Treasurer will need to take place. The Budget and Christmas gifts list will need to be approved. Bible Study will follow the business meeting.
- October 16, Care Center Birthdays celebrated. Rebekah Circle asked to lead.
- October 22, Heat 'n Eat fund raiser. Items to be dropped off on Saturday, October 21. Proceeds will be designated toward the 75th Anniversary Remodeling project.
- October 29, Confirmation Sunday. Gifts for the confirmands.
- November - Thankofferings gathered.
- December 3, Advent by Candle Light. Dessert 6:00, Program 6:30.
- December 9, Holiday Food Fair. Carla is still deciding about Saturday and/or Sunday
- Rebekah Circle will be meet at 6:00 on Monday, August 6, at the church with the live streaming of Circle on the following day for the Dorcas Circle to view.
- Dacia adjoined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Secretary pro-tem, Alice G

### WOMEN OF ZSJ GENERAL MEETING



The Women of ZSJ will meet on Tuesday, September 5, 6:30 pm, for election of officers and approval of 2024 budget. Business meeting and Bible study led by Diane W will be on the agenda. If you are in need of transportation, please let the church office know.

### RIVERSIDE QUILT AUCTION

The ZSJ Piecemakers submitted seven items to the Riverside Quilt Auction, held August 5. Marcia E, Maxine H, Helga B and Connie L attended the festivities. The five donated items sold for a total of \$400.00! All of that money goes directly to financial assistance for campers in need.

**WAY TO GO PIECEMAKERS!**

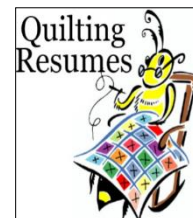


**OCTOBER 22ND,  
after worship (about 10 am).**

Mark your calendars now for the Women of ZSJ Heat 'n' Eat fundraiser! Come and find your favorite home cooked casseroles and entrees in a range of serving sizes! All proceeds will be donated to the 75th Anniversary Project.

### LWR DONATIONS

The ZSJ Piecemakers wish to thank those who donated money for purchasing supplies for our mission projects. We were able to purchase needed items to fill 126 backpacks for LWR school kits. Your donations also funded soap, towels, and baby care items, plus other items for future mission projects.



The Piecemakers meet every Wednesday morning 8:30-11:30, September thru April. All are welcome to join us!





### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order August 13, 2023, at 10:15 by President Jim B. In

attendance were Pastor Kim, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N, John L, Judy S, Dacia S, Doug D, and Vickie B. Pastor opened with a prayer.

### **Correspondence**

- ♦ Thank yous were received from Lutheran Services in Iowa, Riverside Bible Camp, The Sharing Shoppe, Access, Inc, and Bridge of Hope for donations they received from our Lenten offerings.
- ♦ A thank you was received from Luther Seminary for supporting Daniel R's studies.

**Secretary's Report-** Motion to accept the July secretary's report with the correction that John L was also in attendance. Second, carried.

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

### **Pastor's Report**

- ♦ Pastor Kim provided In Home Communion to those who request it.
- ♦ Pastor preached at the Sheffield Care Center twice in July and twice in August.
- ♦ He led the Confirmation Trip to Mary's Place, August 4-6.
- ♦ Pastor also recorded two weeks of devotions on KCMR radio in Mason City.
- ♦ Pastor and Diane will be out of town August 14-17.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Parish Education**

- ♦ The teaching staff is lined up and excited for the Kick Off of Sunday School in September! Rally Day is September 10!

#### **Property**

- ♦ The Bell Tower repair and closing of the windows in the basement bathrooms was completed, as was the installation of the new east door in the education wing.

- ♦ The remodeling of the basement bathrooms is in full swing as well as the basement flooring project. Donations are still needed to help cover the cost of the project. We are currently at \$28,956 toward the \$50,000 goal for the project.
- ♦ The landscaping project on the east side of the church will be starting in August.

### **Stewardship**

- ♦ Committee is planning to meet.

### **Youth & Family**

- ♦ Pastor has been following up with Riverside and is excited that Bre will be able to come back to our congregation starting in September.

### **Worship & Evangelism**

- ♦ Darwin is working on worship assistants for September. Anyone interested in helping for the fall/winter months, please sign up or let Darwin, Judy or Vickie know that you are interested.

### **Technology**

- ♦ The Metronet carrier contract was finalized. They are working on getting the new projector in the basement installed.

### **Old Business**

- ♦ They will be taking family or individual pictures for the church directory after church in September. There is no charge for it and no need to make an appointment. If you would like to submit a picture of your own, please send it to [secretary@zionstjohn.org](mailto:secretary@zionstjohn.org) (and please include names).
- ♦ Pastor is looking into having someone make a Memorial table to be used during funeral services with cremations.

### **New Business**

- ♦ A motion was made to transfer \$500 to the Cemetery fund for mowing. Second, carried.
- ♦ Next Council meeting will be September 17<sup>th</sup>.
- ♦ Motion to adjourn at 10:56. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Dacia S, secretary

## 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 B	Carolyn R
Jon S	Marcy M	Keely S
Parrish P	Sue K	Kathy V
Holly W	Al N	Maddie P
Doris E	Darwin M	Katlyn B
Jill C		

- ♦ The newly married, Tyler and Sydney L
- ♦ The familv of Landri Bur

## MUSICIANS NEEDED



Singers and bell players are needed for the ZSJ Adult and Handbell Choirs. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 20. If you have a love of music and want to share it, please contact Caitlin T, caitlinretz@outlook.com or (641) 494-6989, for Adult Choir or Diane W, (641) 425-8628 or wills.dianes@gmail.com, for Handbell Choir.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

10:15 am Sunday School & Fellowship

- 1 MaKenna O
- 3 Jaelyn H, Tom S, Irelynn O, Ella H
- 4 Jacob H
- 5 Seth T
- 6 Dana N
- 7 Jacob K, Austin N
- 8 Melvin B, Dawn G
- 9 Presley S, Joe P
- 10 Brandon S
- 11 Tyler K, Kalli T
- 13 Todd G
- 14 Mia G, Cale M, Dacia S
- 15 Nashaun B, Tyler L
- 16 Jacob E, Nicholas E, Lindsay R
- 17 Cody H, Cindy H, Sue N
- 18 Kay E
- 19 Barb G, Troy I, Kris L
- 21 Blake O
- 23 Haley H, Jill I, Glen H, Judy S
- 24 Chayton P
- 25 Keanna P
- 26 Zach S
- 27 Megan E
- 28 Bob C
- 29 Matthew H, Morgan M, Kara S



## 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