



# Zion St. John

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

November 2023      Vol. 29 No. 11  
All Saints/ Stewardship/ Christ the King



*I will thank you in the great  
congregation; in the mighty throng I will praise  
you.*  
Psalm 35:18

As a pastor I often hear from grieving family members and friends. “I never got a chance to tell that person how much they meant to me.” As the pastor of Zion St. John Lutheran Church, I also am privy from time to time to learn how much our congregation means to certain people; some of whom, have either moved out of the area or haven’t attended regularly in years. As well as some people in our community who never officially joined our congregation but still consider us as “their church.”

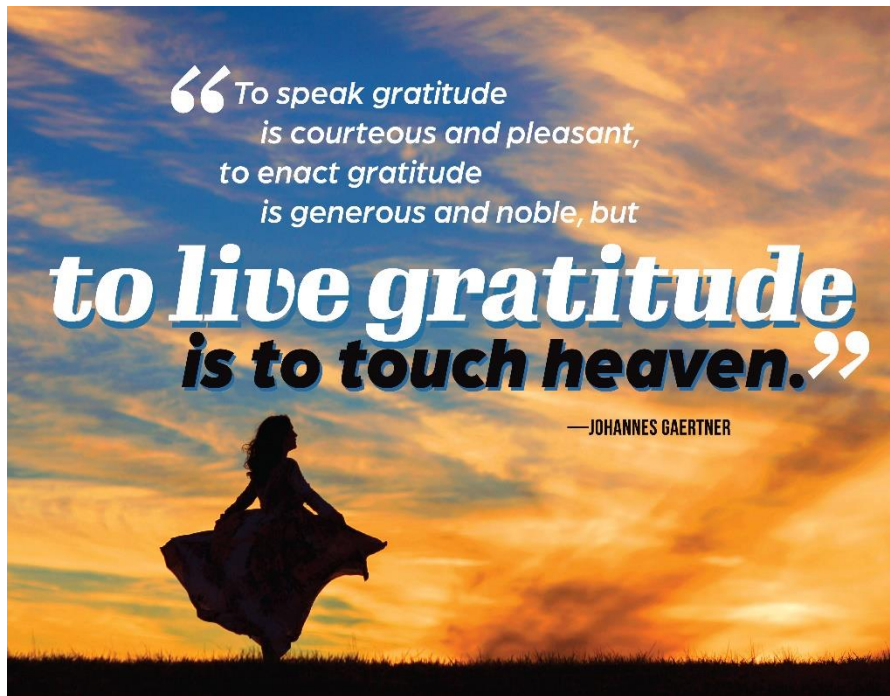
Our Fall Stewardship Emphasis theme this year is “Dear Church of Jesus”. We are asking members of our congregation to write a one-page letter about what ZSJ means to them. These letters can be read by the person that writes them or a member of the Stewardship Committee will be glad to read them.

There are no perfect churches or pastors. Last night I had a great conversation with one of our members. They said to me, “You know, we have a lot to be thankful for here at ZSJ.” While we have our challenges, we have many reasons to be thankful.

Some recent highlights include: Sunday School attendance continues to bounce back after the pandemic. This is not the case in many churches. We have wonderful teachers who are making a difference. We were able to take students on the Mary’s Place trip this year. We have youth interested in attending the National Youth Gathering next summer. Bre Hilton is back for her second year as our Director of Youth and Family Ministries. We are making steady progress on our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. And the list goes on.

I ask you to prayerfully consider writing a letter to be shared with our congregation. A letter to publicly thank Jesus for what He has done for you. A letter to share what the people and ministries of our congregation mean to you.

Our Fall Stewardship Emphasis begins on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Consecration Sunday will be on November 19. Please prayerfully consider what your financial commitment to our congregation will be in



### 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.*

2024. Our members want to continue support of our youth by having a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. If we are going to continue our partnership with Riverside then we will all need to step up. Thank you for your dedication to our congregation!

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



Thank you! How often do you say "Thank you"? How often do you feel grateful? If I was being transparently honest, I feel grateful everyday, multiple times a day; but I don't think about how often I actually voice my gratitude. As I sit here and write this, I can't help but think about how many times I do thank people I interact with. But how many times did I thank God today?

I am reading a book that has brought forth a new perspective on just how amazing God's love is for us. And every time I open the book I express my thankfulness to God, but I definitely need to work on expressing it more frequently. And what better time to start than the month of November? I hope and pray that everyone has a great Thanksgiving and will continue to give thanks to God for all that we have learned, loved, seen, heard and all that God provides!



Giving Thanks!  
Bre.



**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 5**

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$166,713
Offerings Received	\$135,035
Current Deficit	\$ 31,678
Expenses YTD	\$159,060
Checking Balance	\$ 428



This last month our deficit grew by over \$7,000 and our checking account balance fell by over \$1,800. The good news is that we have a positive balance in our checking account and we are current on all of our bills. Thank you for your faithful giving!

## THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



Our Thanksgiving Eve worship will be on Wednesday, November 22 @ 7 pm. Please take time to attend worship and be thankful for all the blessings God provides every day for you and your family.

## SOUP SUPPER

St. Paul Lutheran in Thornton is hosting a Veteran's Day Soup Supper, November 11, 4:30-7:30 pm. Menu includes chili, chicken noodle and cheddar chowder soups and a dessert. A free will offering to benefit the West Fork Food Pantry and other charities will be gratefully accepted, all veterans eat free.



## LION'S BREAKFAST

Join the Sheffield Lion's club at their Pancake Dinner on Sunday, November 12, 10:30 am– 1 pm @ the West Fork HS. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, milk, juice and coffee. A great way to share a delicious meal and support the Lions with a free will offering! All proceeds benefit the Digital Sign Project.



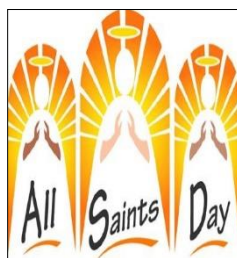
## CHURCH OF THE DAMASCUS RD



The Prison ministry @ the Church of the Damascus Road will be hosting a celebration of their ministry on Sunday, November 12, 4-7 pm @ St Olaf Lutheran Church, 239 N 11th St in Fort Dodge. The evening includes worship, a presentation, and of course dinner and fellowship. Please RSVP to [codroffice23@gmail.com](mailto:codroffice23@gmail.com)

## ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

All Saints Sunday is November 5. As is our custom, during the prayers that day, the names of church members who have died in the past year, and those whose funerals Pastor Kim has performed, will be read and the bell will toll. It is appropriate during this time for us to also remember our loved ones and friends who now rest in the Lord, and give thanks to God for the ways they have impacted our lives.



## POINSETTIA GARDEN

Our traditional poinsettia garden is being planned for our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like

to donate a poinsettia to the garden, you may purchase one through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$25. We would like to have the garden for the start of Advent on December 3. **Please place your orders by Sunday, November 26. Make your check payable to Forever Yours.** If you are giving a poinsettia on your own, please let the church office know so that it can be noted in the Christmas bulletins.



## ADVENT EVENTS

1. Free Advent devotional books will be available in the narthex starting November 26.
2. Midweek Advent worship will be on Wednesday, December 6 13 and 20 @ 7 pm. The Holden Evening Prayer Service is a beautiful candlelight service that brings peace during a very busy time of the year! Come and find the true meaning of Christmas!
3. Participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar for the West Fork Food Pantry. Each day add an item to a box and then bring it to the Food Pantry in December or January and help us fill the shelves! Here are some suggestions or create your own!

Dec 1 cereal	Dec 13 jelly
Dec 2 peanut butter	Dec 14 crackers
Dec 3 stuffing mix	Dec 15 rice
Dec 4 boxed potatoes	Dec 16 ketchup, mustard, pickles
Dec 5 mac and cheese	Dec 17 packaged pasta
Dec 6 canned fruit	Dec 18 spaghetti sauce
Dec 7 canned tomatoes	Dec 19 chicken noodle soup
Dec 8 canned tuna or chicken	Dec 20 tomato soup
Dec 9 cake or brownie mix	Dec 21 canned corn
Dec 10 canned applesauce	Dec 22 canned peas
Dec 11 canned sweet potatoes	Dec 23 canned carrots
Dec 12 juice	Dec 24 canned green beans

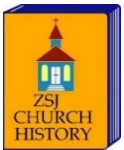




**Thursdays,  
Nov . 2, 9, 16, 30  
2-5 pm  
Saturday, Nov 4  
10 am-noon**

We have seen a huge increase in our numbers these last two months. If you can help, 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, pasta 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. We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Nov 23 and Thanksgiving meal bags will be distributed on Thursday, Nov 16.

## 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:

- ♦ Share your special Bible verses, songs or stories in a devotional <https://forms.gle/xQQnPjdDSc6KmexAA>
- ♦ Written or verbal family stories
- ♦ Offer suggestions for events, idea box in the Narthex
- ♦ St John Confirmation pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, & 1941
- ♦ Zion Confirmation picture from 1915

Our next 150th anniversary committee meeting will be Sunday November 15 @ 10:30 am.

**OFFICE CLOSED  
NOVEMBER 23-24**



## PROPERTY UPDATES

We will continue to raise money to complete the flooring in the fellowship hall and kitchen. This part of the project will be completed when adequate funding has been reached. 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 October 26, our total is \$40,106.00. 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!

## STEWARDSHIP & CONSECRATION WORSHIP

**DEAR CHURCH OF JESUS** is the theme of this year's Fall



Stewardship Emphasis. For the first three weeks in November, we will hear from people in our congregation what Jesus and His Church, Zion St. John, means to them. Consecration Sunday will be November 19<sup>th</sup>. Please prayerfully consider what your financial and time commitments will be to Zion St. John in 2024. Some people are reluctant to make a pledge because they are unsure of their income in the next year. That is certainly understandable. Still, we encourage people in this situation to fill out an estimate of giving card. Then, if your income changes, you can always give less (or more!). We are asking people to write a one-page letter that can be shared either by the author or by a member of the Stewardship Committee.

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Dacia S called the board meeting to order on Sunday, October 8, at 8:00 a.m. Present were Dacia S, Diane W, and Pam M.

**MINUTES:** Motion to approve, Diane; second, Dacia; carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A thank you for the monetary donation was received from Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** As of September 30, there is a checking balance of \$1,926.96 and savings balance of \$2,665.12 of which \$161.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance as of September 30 is \$369.88. The report was placed on file.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- \* The Heat and Eat fundraiser will be after church on October 22. Diane will send texts asking for casseroles or soups, as well as people to help put the food into containers. Food will need to be delivered to the church by 10 am on Saturday, October 21. The proceeds for this will be donated to the Fellowship Hall flooring project.
- \* Advent by Candlelight will be on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The same format as last year will be used, with Diane coordinating the program. She will ask Judy Siems to help with the tables again.
- \* Holiday Food Fair will be held on Sunday, December 10, following church and then again after the children's program in the afternoon. We will still need to meet on Saturday to price items. We will serve cinnamon rolls for fellowship that day for a free will donation. Half of the proceeds will go to Wings of Refuge, with the other half to the flooring project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- \* Confirmation is October 29. Marlene Severe is getting gifts for the confirmands.
- \* Thankofferings are due in November.
- \* Installation of new WELCA board members will be January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- \* We picked new salt and pepper shakers to replace the old ones that aren't working very well. Diane will get salt and pepper and we will fill the shakers on October 21.
- \* Dacia adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M

**Rebekah Circle**  
Mon, Nov 6 @ 6 pm  
**Video Recording**  
Available by 10 am  
Tues, Nov 7



## THANK OFFERINGS



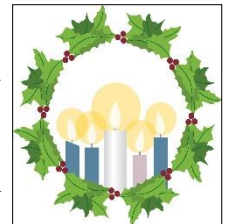
Thank Offerings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thank Offerings.

This is your reminder, Women of ZSJ, that we will be gathering our thank offerings in November! Please drop off your offerings @ the church or send to:

Diane W  
1399 Beeds Lake Drive  
Hampton Iowa 50441

## ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Advent by Candlelight will be Sunday, Dec 3 @ 6 pm. The program will be in person and livestreamed. Sign up sheets for hostesses and guests have been posted in the narthex. Questions? Please contact Judy S @ [siems.greeninc.judy483@gmail.com](mailto:siems.greeninc.judy483@gmail.com)



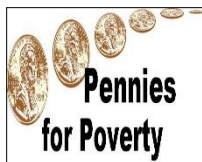
## BOXED CARDS



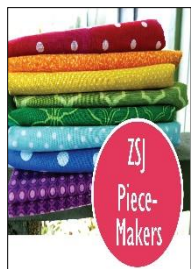
The Women of ZSJ have boxed and individual cards for sale in the narthex. There is a new supply of sympathy, Christmas, get well, birthday, thinking of you and blank cards. Prices range from \$5– 6 per box, and individual cards are .50. Stop by and check it out!

## PENNIES FOR POVERTY

Do you have a lot of loose change around your house? The Women of ZSJ have a collection jar for all your loose change on the narthex table! Any donations to the Penny jar will be given to the Sharing Shoppe. Help us to fill the jar to make Christmas a little brighter for families in our area!



## LWR DONATIONS



Thank you to Darwin and Lorna M for the use of their trailer, to the confirmation youth for loading and Roger and Marcia E for driving our fall LWR donations to Albert Lea. In total, there were 26 boxes, with 22 personal care kits, 125 school kits, 23 baby care kits and 40 quilts. The ZSJ Piecemakers meet every Wednesday morning, 8:30-11:30. There are tasks for everyone, including tying knots, threading needles, ironing, sorting, folding, or sewing.

Come and join us!

## HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Plans are in the works for our annual Holiday Food Fair. **We have made one big change, the date and times.** We will be hosting the fair only on Sunday December 10, during the fellowship hour and after the Children's program. We will still have cinnamon rolls, available for fellowship, and cookies by the dozen, snacks, candles, mixes, Rada cutlery, Fair Trade items and other surprises.

All are encouraged to participate, whether by donation or shopping or both! If you would like to donate, please have items to the church, Saturday, Dec 9, by 10 am, when we will be setting up and pricing items, also an opportunity to help. We will also need help with the actual sale on Sunday @ 10 am and 5 pm. All proceeds will be divided between



Wings of Refuge in Ames and the fellowship hall flooring project. Please call Carla N with questions, 641-892-4985.

*Thank you to all who cooked or purchased food for the Heat n Eat. We raised over \$800 for the flooring project!*



**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:30, on Sunday October 8, 2023, by President Jim B. In attendance were Pastor Kim Wills, Gene S, Darwin M, Al N, John L, Judy S, Dacia S, Doug D, and Vickie B. Pastor opened with prayer.

### Pastor's Report

- \* Pastor Kim performed a funeral for Dorothy O at ZSJ on September 18, 2023.
- \* There is a baptism scheduled for Bailey S on October 22, 2023.
- \* Pastor Kim provides In Home Communion to those who request it.
- \* Pastor will be at the NE Iowa Synod Fall Professional Conference in Cedar Falls on Oct 16 & 17.

**Secretary's Report-** Motion to accept the September Secretary's Report; second; carried.

### Treasurer's Report

- \* The treasurer's report was reviewed and discussed.
- \* On September 26, 2023 a motion was made via text message to move \$1000 from the Savings account to the Checking account to cover the monthly bills; second; carried.

### Committee Reports

#### Parish Education

- \* Sunday School has had good attendance. There were 26 students the previous Sunday.

### Property

- \* Donations are still needed to help cover the cost of the fellowship hall

project. We are currently at \$38,156 toward the \$50,000 goal for the project. Much progress has been made on the bathrooms. They will be getting soap dispensers and shelves and hooks on the doors.

- \* The committee repaired the new back door and checked the west side rain gutter.
- \* There was a report of people having problems with keys in the front door. They will be checking into getting that fixed.

### **Stewardship**

- \* Committee will meet Oct 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Youth & Family**

- \* The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in July 2024 in New Orleans. There are at least 3 students that are interested in going.

### **Worship & Evangelism**

- \* Darwin is currently looking for worship assistants for the month of December. Please let him know if you are interested.

### **Technology**

- \* Internet service provided by Metronet has been working well.

### **Old Business**

- \* Doug and Doreen D took the pictures for the Church Directory in September.
- \* They are looking into getting a bench for the new landscaping project.

### **New Business**

- \* Motion to transfer membership for Brandy F to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Latimer; second; carried.
- \* Motion to remove Michael S from the membership roster since he lives out of state; second; carried.
- \* Pastor Kim presented the list of candidates to receive the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, October, 29, 2023 provided they have completed all their requirements: Brett B, Lillian E, Braylon S, Adam T and Norah T. Motion to approve; second; carried.
- \* Doug, Darwin and Dacia will be going off the council in January. If you are interested in being on the council, please let one of them know.
- \* Next Council meeting will be Sunday November 12, 2023 and the Budget meeting is scheduled for November 14.
- \* Motion to adjourn at 11:15. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Dacia S

## **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
Maddie P	Doris E	Brian F
Darwin M	Katlyn B	Doris M

- ⇒ Our newly confirmed, Brett B, Lillian E, Braylon S, Adam T and Norah T
- ⇒ All veterans and their families
- ⇒ The family of Beverly E

## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



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

10:15 am Sunday School & 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
Bre Hilton, DYFM	515-520-0559 <a href="mailto:bre@riversidelbc.org">bre@riversidelbc.org</a> 10am-3 pm, T-W

5 Don G,  
Tanner T  
Allan K  
Finley O  
7 Lauren T  
8 Sue R, Emily S  
9 Bill P  
10 Jane E  
11 Brad M, Jameson G  
12 Cindy J  
13 Sue K  
14 Angie R, Jayla F  
Ty S  
16 Kyle O  
17 Klayder W, Maci K  
18 Lindsey E  
20 Holly H, Gabi P  
21 Craig O, Nate P  
22 Kim M  
26 Carla N, Kinzli W  
Tom S  
29 Shyanne B  
Alyssa B, Libby T  
Sarah N-P  
30 Merlin M

