



# Zion St. John

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

December 2023

Vol. 29 No. 12

Advent/ Christmas



*Midweek Worship, Dec 6, 13, 20 @ 7 pm*  
*Christmas Eve Worship, 9 am, 5 pm & 10 pm*  
*Christmas Day Worship, 10 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.*



*Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday today and forever. Hebrews 13: 8*

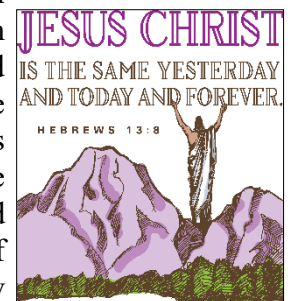
What wonderful news this is for us who live in this age where we are trying our best just to keep up with the changes that we are faced with from day to day. What a gift this truly is!

Our Fall Stewardship theme this year is "Dear Church of Jesus". For the past several weeks we have heard from our members about what Jesus and His church, Zion St. John means to them. A number have shared what they have experienced going back many years. People have shared moments of great joy such as baptisms and weddings. They have also shared moments when they have been brought low by devastating loss and the grief that follows. We still have more letters to read and we will continue to read one letter per Sunday until all who wish to share have been heard.

And then we heard the wonderful news that we were nearing our goal of \$50,000 (utilizing \$20,000 in memorial money given to us the family of Virginia Lease) so that the downstairs bathrooms could be remodeled, and new flooring laid throughout the lower level of the church. On Sunday, November 19 we heard we were at \$48,606 dollars. I am pleased to report that we have now reached our goal!

After worship on the 19<sup>th</sup>, members of all ages worked together to remove everything from the fellowship hall and kitchen so the work could begin on Monday. It was amazing to see all the tasks completed in less than 40 minutes! Thanks to everyone who helped. Special thanks to Lance L and Jim B for preplanning where things would be stored. As I write this the week of Thanksgiving, workers are here installing the new flooring. It will be ready to be used by the first week in Advent.

Advent is a season of preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent is also a time to look forward. We look forward to the new year. The flooring project was part of our celebration of being in this church home for 75 years. The upgrades that we have made will



serve us well into the future! I think about the ministry that will be done on those new floors for years to come. Every Wednesday they will support the work of our quilters and the study of our confirmation students and occasionally the fun of our JAM students. Every Sunday people gather in the fellowship hall to share a treat and support each other. Every Sunday children will walk on those beautiful floors as they make their way to their Sunday School classes. And then there are the various community groups who use our building as a safe place to gather.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to provide the infrastructure for our future ministries!

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim

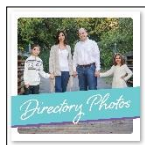


Merry Christmas! And yes, it is December, I can say that! I love this time of year and all the family traditions that tend to come forth from out of nowhere.

For my family we have this pair of green bells that look like they are more of an old cat toy than a decoration that goes on a gift, but every year, someone new gets the green bells and it always good for a smile and a laugh as now we watch whoever gets them take them off their gift without breaking them. Another tradition we have is getting themed ornaments for everyone. Here's a helpful tip about that one, someone in the family may not love Fourth of July themed Christmas ornaments. Anyway, I hope that whether you are continuing a long family tradition or starting a new one, that your Christmas is filled with the love and joy of the Christ child.



Merry Christmas and God Bless, Bre



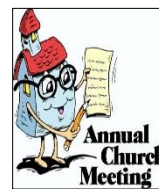
**Coming Soon,  
ZSJ Pictorial  
Directory**

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



We have seen a huge increase in our numbers these last three 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 distributing Christmas meal bags on Thursday, Dec 21.

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS ZSJ ANNUAL MEETING**



**JAN. 21 2024, 10 AM  
(SNOW DATE JAN. 28)  
REPORTS DUE JAN. 9!**

## **FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

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

Budgeted Income	\$185,238
Offerings Received	\$158,944
Current Deficit	\$ 26,294
Expenses YTD	\$178,879
Checking Balance	\$ 6,642



We had a very good month! Our budget deficit decreased by over \$5,000! The checking balance reflects this as well. Please prayerfully consider your giving for 2024. Pledge cards are available if you haven't filled one out. You can stop by the church or we would be happy to mail one to you. Thank you for your faithful giving!

## 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



### ELCA GOOD GIFT TREE

The Christmas tree in the narthex contains ornaments from ELCA Good Gifts. If you are looking for a way to give a gift twice, this is a great idea. Not only can you give a gift to the one you love, but also share the gift of an animal with a family in need somewhere around the world! Just take an ornament and follow the directions to order on line, or if you need assistance, talk with Diane in the office.

## MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Midweek Advent worship will be on Wednesday, December 6, 13 & 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!

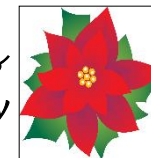


## KLMJ BROADCAST



Our 10 pm Christmas Eve worship will be broadcast on KLMJ radio @ 9 am on Christmas Day. Thank you to a very generous anonymous donor for this special gift!

*Thank you to all who provided poinsettias for this Advent and Christmas season! You may pick up your flowers any time after Christmas Day.*



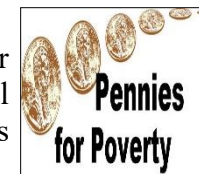
## TREE DECORATING



Saturday Dec 2, we invite all to help with the decorating of the sanctuary for the Advent season. This will include decorating the tree and the sanctuary and is a fun morning for all ages. We will begin the decorating @ 9 am.

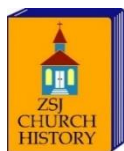
## PENNIES FOR POVERTY

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.





## 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/xQQnPjdDSc6KmcxAA>
- ♦ 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 committee meeting will be Sunday Dec 3 @ 10:30 am.

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

### HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Just wanting to remind everyone of all the happenings with the 2023 Holiday Food Fair, December 10. There are so many ways to participate!



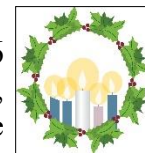
Those who wish to donate items, please have them to the church by 10 am on Saturday, December 9. The church will be open until 6 pm on Friday evening and early on Saturday. When dropping off your items, please label the kind and if you have a price in mind. Labels will be on the table in the fellowship hall. Leave any cookies in containers and we will take care of the display for Sunday. Your containers will be available for pickup on Sunday after the sale.

Those wanting to help with the sale in the morning, come to the fellowship hall after worship. Those willing to help in the afternoon, come down after the Christmas program.

Everyone is welcome to shop and eat during the fellowship hour or after the Christmas program. There is always a variety of items, including cookies by the dozen, snacks, candles, mixes, Rada cutlery, Fair Trade items and other surprises. As always there will be cinnamon rolls for a free will donation. 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.

### ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Advent by Candlelight will be Sunday, Dec 3 @ 6 pm. The program will be in person and livestreamed, beginning at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend the program!



### 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!

**Rebekah circle will not meet for Bible Study, until January 8, 6 pm. The video will be available for download by 10 am on January 9.**





The meeting was called to order at 10:30, on Sunday November 12, 2023, 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 prayer.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

- ♦ Request for Transfer of Membership: as part of the work Diane has been doing in creating the new church directory, several members have been contacted and requested their memberships be transferred, those are listed below. Motion to approve, second, carried. Michael S, Bill P, Ashley D, Aaron, Lindsay and Hunter R, Jim, Chris, Alyssa, Kelsey, and Zane R, Craig N, Jenna W O, Nicholas W, Michelle, Blake, Devyn and Kylie B requested to be removed from membership; Ray & Terri M transfer to Rhythm Church in Mason City; Alexander B, transfer to Immanuel United Church of Christ, Latimer; Peter N, notified mother, Carla N, to transfer to Lutheran Church of Hope in Grimes; Dana Z, notified mother, Carla N, to transfer to St John (LCMS), Hubbard; Madison S N, transfer to United Methodist Church, Rockwell.

#### **Other Activities:**

- ♦ Providing In Home Communion to those who request it.
- ♦ Participated in Veteran's Day Services on November 10.
- ♦ Attended the Deans and Chaplains Meeting at Synod Office on November 9.
- ♦ Working on Fall Stewardship Emphasis.
- ♦ We received word that ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will be taking a 4 to 6 month leave of absence. Mike Burke, former Bishop of the SE Iowa Synod, has been appointed Presiding Bishop, pro-tem in her absence.
- ♦ Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Pastor proposed that we have worship that day at 9:00 am, 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Christmas Day service will be at 10:00 am. Motion, second, carried.
- ♦ The Synod is putting together a task force to look at procedures for the election of a Bishop. Since we sent a letter requesting the Synod to investigate this, Pastor has agreed to be on the task force.

Thanks to Lance L the bench has been put in place in the landscaped area that was ♦ made possible by a memorial gift of the family of Larry L. A family dedication will take place soon.

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

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

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Parish Education**

- ♦ Sunday School continues to have good attendance.

##### **Property**

- ♦ Very close on funds for the flooring project and work on the floor will begin Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. A few minor items need to be completed in the bathrooms.

##### **Stewardship**

- ♦ Dear Church of Jesus is this year's focus. Lots of letters have been received.

##### **Youth & Family**

- ♦ The ELCA Youth Gathering will be held in July 2024 in New Orleans, 5 kids have shown interest.

##### **Worship & Evangelism**

- ♦ Volunteers for greeting and fellowship are always appreciated.

##### **Technology**

- ♦ Pastor's laptop was repaired and is working better.
- ♦ The projector has been installed in the Fellowship Hall and works well.

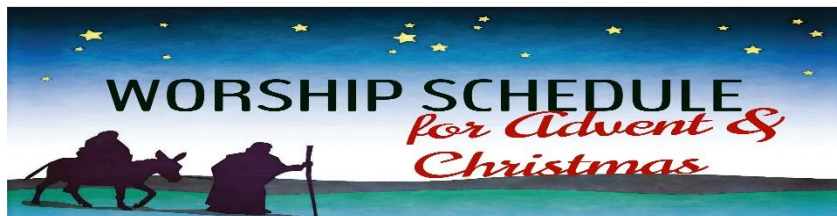
##### **Old Business:**

- ♦ Church Directory group pictures were discussed, we would like to get as many as possible in the coming months.
- ♦ Offering Counters for December, Doug & Judy. January, John & Gene

##### **New Business:**

- ♦ Christmas sacks – Dec. 9 10 a.m.. Gene will get supplies.
- ♦ The annual meeting date will be January 21<sup>st</sup>, snow date January 28<sup>th</sup>.
- ♦ Council replacements were discussed. Doug, Darwin & Dacia are coming off council this year.
- ♦ Church decorating will be December 2, 9 a.m.

Submitted by Doug D



- Dec 2 10 am Family Tree/ Sanctuary Decorating
- Dec 3 9 am Sunday Advent Worship with Holy Communion  
6 pm Advent by Candlelight Worship
- Dec 6 7 pm Midweek Worship, "Holden Evening Prayer"
- Dec. 10 9 am Sunday Advent Worship with SS Children singing  
10 am Holiday Food Fair  
4 pm SS Christmas Program with light supper following  
5 pm Holiday Food Fair
- Dec. 13 7 pm Midweek Worship, "Holden Evening Prayer"
- Dec. 17 9 am Sunday Advent Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 20 7 pm Midweek Worship, "Holden Evening Prayer"
- Dec. 24 9 am Sunday Advent Lessons and Carols Worship  
4 pm Family Choir Rehearsal  
5 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
with children in mind  
10 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Dec 25 10 am Christmas Festival Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 31 9 am Sunday Christmas Lessons and Carols Worship

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

♦ The family of Kathy V

## 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

1 Marvin K  
2 Cruz W  
3 Jesse E, Michael R, Preslee C  
4 Colin C, Kenden N  
6 Rebecca H, Joseph K  
8 Doug D  
14 Connie L  
15 Brittany M  
16 Grant N  
20 Georgi S  
21 Doug D, LeAnn E, John T  
22 Kathy B, Colten H  
23 Mary Jane S, Sue R  
24 Colleen B  
25 **JESUS!**  
26 Deb B, Kelly K, Steve K  
27 Alex B, Gene B, Tina H-L, Dakota R, Gage P  
29 Hayden F, Cooper W  
30 Brett B  
31 Pam H, Norah T

