



# Zion St. John

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

January 2024 Vol. 30 No. 1  
Baptism of Jesus/ Epiphany



### 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.*



*So shall my Word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.* Isaiah 55:11

Though we are beginning a new year, last year was such a wonderful year in the life of our congregation that I believe we need to take a few minutes and look back at all that was accomplished through the Holy Spirit working in and among us.

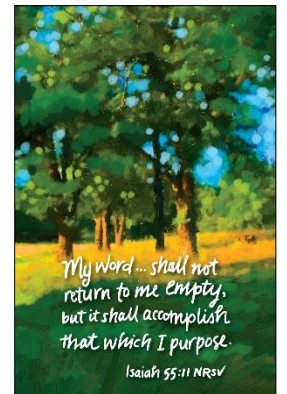
Don G pointed out that 2023 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Zion St. John in our current location. It was decided at the annual meeting that our goal would be to remodel both downstairs bathrooms and put new flooring in the lower level of the education wing, the kitchen, the fellowship hall and the hallway leading up to the front entry level of the church. It was decided that we would designate \$20,000 of the Memorial Funds given to us by Virginia Lease as seed money with a total goal of \$50,000.

We raised enough money by summer that we could go ahead with the bathroom remodel. But in July, my wife Diane and I were discussing the rest of the project and we wondered if the rest might not be realized until we celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation in 2025.

But as people saw the work being accomplished, we quickly moved toward meeting our goal. The week of Thanksgiving the new flooring was poured in the kitchen, fellowship hall and the other hallway. We still have some trim work to do in a few areas but we have completely funded this project! Many thanks to all who made these improvements possible.

One of the highlights for me was seeing everyone work together to move things out of the fellowship hall after worship so the work could be completed and then moving everything back the following Sunday.

This year we have seen in-person worship



attendance increase. Yet, we still have many views on our Youtube channel. Sunday school attendance has been very good! We have wonderful teachers who do a tremendous job of connecting with their students. Bre Hilton returned this fall working with our youth on a part time basis through a partnership with Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp.

This year we also completed a tuckpointing project on our bell tower. A landscaping project, which was made possible through a memorial gift from the family of Larry L, has been completed and is located in the east courtyard behind the offices.

In December we were contacted by KCMR radio about a contest they were sponsoring for area churches called "Christmas Blessings." Members were to nominate their congregation via e-mail and those entries would be put into a drawing. More than 100 churches in 21 communities participated. The winning entry was submitted by Julie G! We received a check for \$1,200! Thank you, Julie, and to everyone else who entered, for taking the time to nominate our congregation! Zion St. John had one of the largest numbers of entries.

So many blessings this year. May God continue to move in and among us in 2024.

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



Happy New Year!! Let's embrace 2024 with open arms, open minds, and open hearts! The past fall and winter were an absolute blast for me and so crazy busy. This church and congregation continued to support and welcome me! And I loved

being able to see the growth in the church and the youth from last year! Our SS kids did a fantastic job fundraising for their Fall 2023 project, which was to raise money for the North Iowa Humane Society to be able to buy toys and supplies for the animals there. I can't wait to see what those kiddos choose for their Spring 2024 project! Our confirmation



class has been providing a great time of fellowship and community for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, we even had a few bummed out we took a break for the holidays! Hopefully 2024 brings even more joy, excitement, and love to the youth of ZSJ!

With all of my Gratitude,  
Bre

**Thursdays,  
Jan 4, 11, 18 & 25  
2-5 pm  
Saturday, Jan 6  
10 am-noon**



We have seen a huge increase in our numbers these last five 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 and cereal. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry building @ 106 Gilman.

Here are a few ideas to ponder when donating to the pantry:

1. Lots of people donate Mac & Cheese, but it is not as good if made with water instead of milk.
2. Boxed (or shelf stable) or powdered milk is a treasure and can be used without giving up refrigerator space.
3. Some families do not have can openers for canned vegetables, fruit or soup.
4. Oil is a luxury and is used in lots of recipes and for boxed meals.
5. Spices, sugar, flour, salt and pepper are real treats!
6. Tea and coffee on the shelf can make someone's day.
7. Garden seeds and potting soil are a great idea for spring and summer.
8. Fresh produce is always a welcome sight!
9. Any donations of meat are a special gift.

10. Tuna or chicken with crackers is a filling meal.
11. Peanut butter and jelly are always welcome, but bread to go with them is even better.
12. Butter or margarine are a rare donation.
13. Cake or brownie mix and icing can make a child's birthday very special.
14. Soaps, cleaning products, paper products, personal care items and feminine hygiene products are additional luxuries.
15. Everyone loves to donate at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but the need is sometimes even greater in January and February.



Feel free to contact Diane Wills, site coordinator for the West Fork Food Pantry with any additional questions or other ideas for food drives or donations. [wfpantry@zionstjohn.org](mailto:wfpantry@zionstjohn.org) or 641-425-8628.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$203,762
Offerings Received	\$173,546
Current Deficit	\$ 30,216
Expenses YTD	\$196,396
Checking Balance	\$ 3,208



We had a very good month. Our budget deficit decreased by over \$1,400 and our checking account balance increased by \$2,800. Just a reminder that all offerings received by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be included in your year end giving statement for tax purposes. Thank you for your faithful giving!



*Thank you to all who sent in nominations for ZSJ! And special thanks to Julie G, whose name was selected!*

## WORSHIP CHANGES

Holy Communion will be served on January 14 and 21, instead of January 7. Pastor Kim and Diane will be celebrating with Daughter-in-law Molly W as she is ordained in the ELCA!



## 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



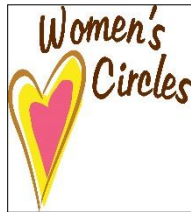
Believe it or not, we will be celebrating 150 years of being a church in 2025, only a few short years away. As we get closer to this huge milestone, we are in need of the following to make this day very special:

- ♦ Share your special Bible verses, songs or stories in a devotional <https://forms.gle/xQQnPjdDSc6KmcxAA>
- ♦ Written or verbal family stories
- ♦ Offer suggestions for events using the 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 Feb 18 @ 10:30 am.

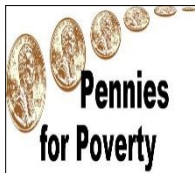
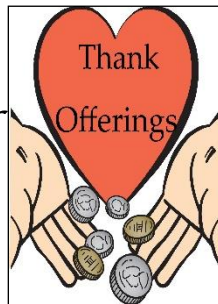


# Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Rebekah Circle**  
Mon, Jan 8 @ 6 pm  
Video upload by  
Tues, Jan 9 @ 10am

*Thank you to all who gave thank offerings this year! We were able to send nearly \$180 to our church wide organization!*



*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Penny Jar this year! We collected \$100 for the Sheffield Sharing Shoppe!*

## HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Thank you does not seem a strong enough word, but, thank you so much to all who made this year's Holiday Food Fair a success AGAIN!

Thank you to:

- ♦ All who provided items to sell.
- ♦ All who helped with the fair in any way, in the kitchen, pricers, confirmation students, sellers, and cashiers.
- ♦ All who helped with clean up, including the men for their help with the tables and chairs.

- ♦ All who came to shop!

We profited over \$1200 that was split between ZSJ flooring project and Wings of Refuge, a ministry that assists victims of human trafficking. We could not have done it without each of you!

We would like some feedback about the Sunday only sale, or if you have other suggestions about how to make it even better!

This past month we have been hearing letters for our stewardship campaign about what Jesus and this church means to us. Here is mine: You are always willing to help with any project that comes along and I see Jesus in all of you! Thank you again for everything!

In the service of our King, Carla



Jan.	Judy S, Pam M
Feb.	Jeri B, Lorna M
Mar.	Katy L, Marie L
April	Carla N, Marlene S
May	Kari M, Lynette M
June	Alice G, Kathy B
July	Dawn G, Vickie B
Aug	Sue L, Marcia E
Sept	Jackie H, Dacia S
Oct	Kim M, Marlene S
Nov	Carla N, Alice G
Dec.	Kari M, Kim O

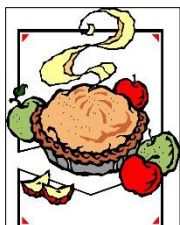


Sunday January 14, 9 am

Co-Chairs: Alice G  
Marie L  
Secretary: Pam M  
Treasurer: Diane W



### PIE SALE



The Women of ZSJ will be hosting our annual pie sale on February 11, after worship. Watch for order forms in the February newsletter and mark your calendars now!

### ADDRESS CHANGES

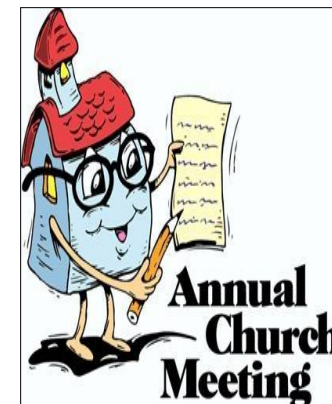
Have you changed your mailing address, email address or phone lately? If so, please take a few minutes to let the church office know by calling, 641-892-4010 or emailing [secretary@zionstjohn.org](mailto:secretary@zionstjohn.org)!



*We are ever reminded of the kindness and generosity of the people of ZSJ! Thank you for all the words of encouragement, gifts, cards, hugs and smiles through this Christmas season and into 2024!*

*Pastor Kim, Bre & Diane*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**ZSJ ANNUAL MEETING**  
**JAN. 21 2024, 10 AM**  
**(SNOW DATE JAN. 28) ALL**  
**CONFIRMED MEMBERS**  
**ARE**  
**ENCOURAGED TO**  
**ATTEND!**



**REPORTS DUE**  
**JAN. 9!**

### 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

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9:00 am Worship  
(Livestream @ [www.zionstjohn.org](http://www.zionstjohn.org),  
Livestream)  
10:15 am Sunday School & Fellowship

## WINTER WEATHER



If West Fork Schools cancel classes due to weather, all church activities will also be cancelled. For Sunday worship, the Council President and Pastor Kim make a decision whether Sunday services and SS will be held. If services are cancelled it will be **posted on the homepage of the website and the Facebook pages for the church and Youth and Family** and we will notify the following TV and radio stations:

TV: **KIMT, WHO, KCCI**  
 Hampton: **104.9 FM – KLMJ, 98.9 FM - KQCR**  
 Mason City: **1300 AM-KGLO, 1490 AM-KRIB, 97.9 FM-KCMR**

## 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	Crystal B	

- ♦ The family of Kristie B
- ♦ The newly baptized, Ifeoma R
- ♦ The newly ordained, Molly W

2	Josh D
4	Kiera H
5	Dusty M
6	Season C, Andrew S
7	Amanda W
9	Larry G
11	Emma
13	Ryan S, Claire T
15	Daren M, Frances W
16	Arliss G
18	Carter B, Brynn C, Fred R
19	Tyler C
20	Britne K
21	Heidi K
23	Jennifer C
24	Mason M, Lisa P
26	Mary Beth S
27	Brooke E, Lacy W
28	Will L, Eleanor O
29	Hunter W, Olivia T
30	Betty H, Janet L
31	Jonathan S, Olivia L

