



# Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

February 2024

Vol. 30 No. 2

Epiphany/ Transfiguration/ Lent

 ...God's love  
has been poured  
into our hearts  
through the  
Holy Spirit  
who has been  
given to us.  


Romans 5:5

*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 said, "Truly I tell you, no one that has left house, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my sake, and the gospel's, that will not received a hundredfold now in this time houses, and*

*brothers and sifers and mothers and children and in the life to come eternal life."*  
Mark 10: 29-30

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, I will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination as a minister of word and sacrament. As I reflect on this journey of faith, I am very grateful to my wife Diane and our three children, Christopher, Amanda, and Nick for the sacrifices they made so I could answer God's call. Diane had to leave the two Christian preschools where she taught music, after having established herself as the most sought-after teacher in the Kansas City area. She also gave up a very successful piano studio.

My kids gave up their friends and the school they loved and changed schools five times in four years between our years in seminary, on internship and finally moving to Pella for my first call. These are not small sacrifices.

I have been blessed by the congregations I have served. I served my internship at Our Savior's Lutheran in Stanhope, Iowa. Our monthly stipend there was \$800 per month. But the congregation made sure that we were well cared for. People were constantly dropping off plates of kringla and our freezer was refilled regularly with pork and beef. I will never forget the day the kids came home after visiting the local dentist. They excitedly told me that the dentist there had the latest technology. They said, "rather than using a suction wand he has a round sink that has water swirling around in it and you actually get to spit in it!"



Our first call was at Peace Lutheran Church in Pella, Iowa. We were blessed to be called to a church that was young and growing. While we were there, they began a partnership in Tanzania that has lasted

twenty years. I was blessed to travel to Tanzania to see how they do ministry. Pella was a great place to raise our kids and all three thrived there. Diane had a great job working in both the Pella public and parochial schools.

After 10 years we moved to Sheffield and Zion St. John. Dean and Pauline Peter were instrumental in getting us the opportunity to interview here. I was very impressed with the members of the call committee.

In April I will celebrate serving here for 15 years. Together we have accomplished a great deal in that time. So many improvements to our building and we have continued the congregation's traditions of strong music and educational ministries and establishing and sustaining ministries which serve those in need through the founding of the West Fork Food Pantry.

What I like best about serving here are the people in our congregation. When people arrive on Sunday morning they are happy to see each other. The laughter and the conversations continue after worship in the entry way and down in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for making this such a wonderful place to serve.

Gratefully, Pastor Kim

## ORDINATION CELEBRATION



The ZSJ Council would like to invite all to celebrate Pastor Kim's 25th year of ordination on Sunday February 11, during worship @ 9 am and fellowship @ 10:15 am. There will be cake and lots of fun!



February is already here! That feels too fast! I am so excited for the season in store for ZSJ, for my family, and myself. The kids here continue to bring such fun to my Sundays and Wednesday nights! And I am excited to start diving into a class that I am very hopeful about. It is focused on practical and Biblical foundations for youth ministry and ways to practice that ministry as well. I am so looking forward to furthering my education to be able to teach kids in a better way! And my family is growing in numbers with a niece and a nephew on the way within just a few short months, my sister and my brother are both expecting babies and I could not be more excited to be an Auntie again! So excited to see what more God has in store for this year!!



With Love,  
Bre Hilton



**Thursdays,**  
**Feb 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**  
**2-5 pm**  
**Saturday, Feb 3**  
**10 am-noon**

We have seen a huge increase in our numbers since August of 2023. 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.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$222,285
Offerings Received	\$201,223
Deficit	\$ 21,062
Total Expenses	\$216,474
Checking Balance	\$ 20,991



We ended the year in much improved financial shape! Thank you for your faithful giving!

## PIE SALE



The Valentine's Day Pie Sale will be on February 11, starting @ 10 am. The Women of ZSJ are sponsoring this yummy event as a fundraiser for Women's ministries, including quilting and camperships. Preorders will be taken and orders can be picked up on the 11th. There will be a limited number of pies for sale that day. Order forms are available on the narthex table or in this newsletter!

## EASTER LILY GARDEN

An Easter lily garden will again decorate the sanctuary during the Easter season. A lily may be purchased for the garden through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$25.00. Make your check payable to *Forever Yours*. All orders must be in by Palm Sunday, March 24. If you are giving a lily in memory of someone or plan to bring a lily on your own, please let the church office know so that it can be noted in the Easter morning bulletin.

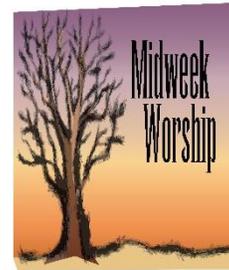


## ASH WEDNESDAY

The beginning of the 40 days of the Lenten season is Ash Wednesday, February 14. Worship that evening will begin @ 7 pm and include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. In person and on-line worship will be offered. At home communion and packets of ashes are available on the narthex table.



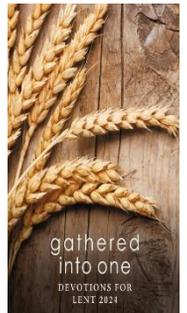
## MIDWEEK WORSHIP



Midweek Lenten worship will be on Wednesday, February 21, 28 and March 6, 13 & 20 @ 7 pm. This service includes the "Return to the Lord" liturgy that Pastor Kim wrote. The midweek offerings are designated for the Church of the Damascus Road, Lutheran Services in Iowa, the Sharing Shoppe, Riverside Bible Camp, Bridge of Hope and Access Inc. When giving, please make your checks payable to ZSJ and then indicate the ministry in the memo line. The donation tab on the church website also includes these ministries as a choice in the drop-down screen.

## DEVOTIONS

You are encouraged you to check out a new 2024 Lenten publication entitled "Gathered into One." This booklet is available on the Narthex table. It includes readings for the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Holy Saturday. Each day includes a short Bible passage, a brief reflection and ending with prayer. Pick one up and give it a try!



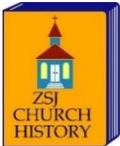
## LENTEN SUPPERS

There will be four Lenten suppers in Feb and Mar, @ 5:15-6:15 pm. There will be eat in or drive thru options. If you would like drive thru, please pull up to the east alley door and your food will be brought to you. Free will offerings will be gratefully accepted!



Date	Host	Menu
Feb 21	Music Ministries	Baked Potato Bar, relishes, bars
Feb 28	NYG Youth	Breakfast
Mar 6	ZSJ Council	TBD
Mar 20	WELCA	Beefburgers, chips, relishes, bars

## 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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Alice G called the board meeting to order on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. Present were Alice G, Diane W, and Pam M.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Diane, second by Alice to approve the October meeting minutes, carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thank yous for monetary donations were received from: Caring Pregnancy Center, YSS, Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless Shelters, LAMP Ministry Inc., Lutheran Services in Iowa, MercyOne North Iowa Hospice, Women of the ELCA, and Lutheran World Relief. Thank yous were also received from Eleanor M and Lindy M for the fleece throw and handmade Christmas cards.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

⇒ As of December 31, there is a checking balance of \$1,039.39 and savings balance of \$2,736.13, of which \$136.72 are designated funds, and \$369.88 are funeral/ event cash donations. The report was placed on file.

⇒ The audit committee reviewed the treasurer's records earlier this month.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

⇒ Shut In gifts of a fleece throw were delivered before Christmas, along with handmade cards.

⇒ Holiday Food Fair profits were \$1,264. Half was given to Wings of Refuge and half to the flooring project.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

⇒ Lenten Supper: Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year. We are planning to serve the supper on Wednesday, March 20. The menu will be beefburgers, relishes, chips, and a bar.

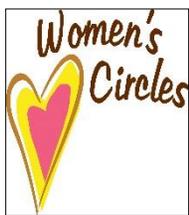
⇒ World Day of Prayer – Zion Reformed is hosting this year. We don't have specific details yet but it will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

⇒ Bold Women Sunday will be February 25<sup>th</sup>.

⇒ Rejoice and Renew Weekend at EWALU will be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

- ⇒ Care Center Birthdays will be April 15 and October 21.
- ⇒ Pie Sale will be held on Sunday, February 11. Members will be asked to donate pies in disposable pie tins, to be delivered to the church by Saturday, February 10th. Prices will be the same as for 2023: \$4 per slice, or \$20 per whole pie. We are requesting pre-orders when possible. Diane will include an order form in the bulletin and newsletter.
- ⇒ Mother-Daughter Tea- we are looking into some alternatives for this year, since it was not well attended in 2023.
- ⇒ The next WELCA board meeting will be March 3, 2024. Installation of officers will also be held that day.
- ⇒ Alice adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

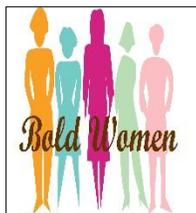
Secretary, Pam M



**Rebekah Circle**  
 Mon, Feb 5 @ 6 pm  
 Video upload by  
 Tues, Feb 6 @ 10am

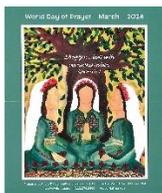
## BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY

During worship on Sunday, February 25, we will celebrate the amazing Bold Women in our congregation. The ministries of the Women of ZSJ are as varied as they are and reach those in our congregation, community and around the world. Please join us in thanking these wonderful, caring women who do so much for all of us!



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer Celebration will be held @ Zion Reformed Church on Saturday, March 2, 9:30 am. There will be a program based on the Women of Palestine, singing from the Sheffield Philharmonic and



light refreshments. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. It includes women from 170 countries using prayer as a powerful tool given to us by Jesus.



**Call to order:** President Jim B called the annual meeting of Zion St. John Lutheran Church to order at 10:00 AM on January 21, 2023. A quorum was declared. Devotions were led by Pastor Kim Wills.

### Review of 2023 Reports:

- ⇒ **Membership/Attendance Statistics** (p. 6) – 505 Baptized members, 406 Confirmed members. While working on the church directory, Diane contacted members for pictures and updated their membership status at that time so there were more changes in membership than usual.
- ⇒ **Secretary's Report** (p. 7-8) Motion was made by Darwin M to approve the report. Motion was seconded and carried.
- ⇒ **Treasurer/Financial Secretary's Report** (p. 8) Report was reviewed. Total giving for 2023 was \$203,217.98. Ending checking account balance was \$20,990.92 and ending savings account balance was \$73,543.67.

**Pastor's Report** (p. 9) Pastor thanked the council members who finished their term (Doug D, Darwin M and Dacia S). Pastor expressed his appreciation for ⇒ everyone that helped with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project to update the flooring and bathrooms in the basement. It was a huge project to get done in one year and with all the support from the congregation it went well. Pastor thanked Lorna for continuing to do a great job working to keep the church clean. He also thanked Scott and Fred for their help with the technology in the church and keeping things running smoothly. He was very thankful for the work Bre has done and that she was here for another year. Pastor was especially thankful for all of Diane's work this year and her extra work on the church directory.

- ⇒ **Director of Youth and Family Ministry's Report** (p. 10) Bre was thankful for how supportive the church has been.

⇒ **President's Report** (p. 9) Jim said thank you to everyone for giving toward the anniversary project and also helping meet the budget needs for the church throughout the year.

⇒ **Audit** - Cliff C, John L and Daren M reviewed the financial reports. All accounts were good.

#### **Committees:**

⇒ **Stewardship**- p.10 Daren thanked everyone who helped make the stewardship theme "What does our church, Zion St. John, mean to you?" a very special program this year.

⇒ **Property and Management**- p.11

⇒ **Technology** – p. 11

⇒ **Worship and Evangelism**- p.11-12

⇒ **Legacy/Memorial Fund** p.12

⇒ **Parish Education** p.13 Pastor thanked all the teachers, Bre and Diane for their work this year and the parents for bringing the kids to Sunday School and VBS.

⇒ **Youth and Family** p.13-14

#### **Organizations:**

⇒ **Lutheran Cemetery Association** p. 15 Dave thanked everyone for helping with the Cemetery clean up. They are going to work on a beautification project in 2024. If you have ideas, let him know.

⇒ **Riverside Bible Camp** p. 15

⇒ **WELCA** – p. 16-18 Dacia thanked everyone for helping support all the WELCA projects this year.

⇒ **West Fork Food Pantry** – p. 19-20 Diane noted that there is a large balance, but they will be paying for the new walk-in freezer which is a great addition for the food pantry.

#### **Elections:**

⇒ **Church Council** – Three members needed for 3-year terms. Daren M, Nancy R and Scott S were nominated. A motion to accept the nominations, Ron P; second; carried.

⇒ **Cemetery Financial Officer**- Dave S agreed to continue. A motion to approve the nomination, Daren M; second; carried.

⇒ **Nominating Committee**- Three outgoing members will be on the nominating committee: Jim B, Vickie B and Eugene S. Two congregational members are yet to be filled.

⇒ **Legacy/Memorial Committee**- Kathy M was nominated by Marcia E and Jill C was nominated by Dave S. Nomination was approved.

⇒ **Audit Committee** – Doreen D was nominated and approved.

#### ⇒ **Voting Members**

**Riverside Bible Camp**- Darwin M agreed to continue as the representative. Approved.

**Synod Assembly** – There will be no Synod Assembly this year as it was decided to move to a biannual format.

#### **Old Business:**

⇒ Diane W presented a request to close the Parish Education account that has been dormant for 3 years. The funding for Parish Education comes from the annual budget. The account has \$3783.79 in it. A motion to close the account and move the funds to the Youth and Family savings account to be used toward the National Youth Gathering, Scott C; second; carried.

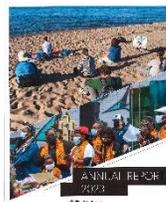
#### **New Business:**

⇒ Jim presented the 2024 Budget (p. 24-25) for adoption. Motion to approve the budget as presented, Al N; second; carried.

⇒ A motion to use the accrued interest from the Legacy Memorial fund for 2023 (\$181.92) for the unmarked grave project at the cemetery, Brad M; second; carried.

⇒ Motion to adjourn at 10:40 am; second; carried.

Respectfully submitted  
Dacia S



\*\* \*Copies of the 2023 Annual report are on the usher's table in the Narthex.

## **2024 ZSJ COUNCIL**

Jim B	President	
Daren M	Vice President	
Nancy R	Secretary	
Vickie B	Al N	John L
Scott S	Eugene S	Judy S

# LENTEN Worship

Feb 11 9:00 am Transfiguration Worship with Holy Communion  
& SS Choir sings

Feb 14 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy  
Communion & Imposition of Ashes

Feb 18 9:00 am Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion

Feb 21 5:15 pm Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Music Ministries  
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"

Feb 25 9:00 am Sunday Lenten Worship led by ZSJ Praise Team  
with ZSJ Bell Choir

Feb 28 5:30 pm Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Youth  
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"

Mar 3 9:00 am Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion

Mar 6 5:30 pm Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Church Council  
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"

Mar 10 9:00 am Sunday Lenten Worship

Mar 13 7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"

Mar 17 9:00 am Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion

Mar 20 5:30 pm Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Women  
7:00 pm Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"

Mar 24 9:00 am Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion  
& SS, Bell & Adult Choirs

Mar 28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy  
Communion

Mar 29 7:30 pm Good Friday Worship led by ZSJ Youth

Mar 31 6:30 am Sunrise Easter Worship with Holy Communion  
HB & Chancel Choirs

7:30 am Easter Breakfast by ZSJ Youth

9:00 am Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

2 Jake Swenson, Marvin H

4 Steve L

5 Zach G, Jason G

7 Chris H, Sara W

10 Jackson B, Xavier B

12 Jordan H, Courtney L

13 Taylor C

14 Abby S, Emily T

15 Cassidy E, Diane R, Cheri K

16 Todd H

17 Jordan L, Charles S

18 Macy D, Nancy R

19 Samantha M, Holly W

20 Marcia K

21 Breanna L

22 Amber H, Samantha H

24 Tyler G, Preston L, Judy N

25 Jen S

26 Elle L, Jennifer L

27 Jim M



## 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	Pat H
Patty B	Carolyn R	Jon S
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Doris M	Katlyn B	Crystal B
Maddie P	Doris E	Brian F

⇒ The family of Diana B  
⇒ The family of Michael J

## 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