



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

March 2024

Vol. 30 No. 3

Lent/ Easter



You should look for able ones among all the people, who fear God, are trustworthy and hate dishonest gain; set them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens.
Exodus 18:21



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.

In this passage, Moses' father-in-law gives advice to Moses who is exhausted because he is trying to meet the needs of everyone by himself. Jethro advises Moses to appoint people as helpers so he can more effectively do the work that God has called him to do.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has systems in place to manage the work God has called us to do together. In the ELCA we hold that there are three expressions of the church: congregations, synods, and churchwide. Congregations have pastors. Synods have bishops. Churchwide has a Presiding Bishop.

We are members of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The borders of our synod go from the Minnesota border to just south of Story City and just west of I 35 to the Mississippi River.

Though not an official expression of the church, ELCA synods are subdivided into geographic conferences. The purpose of the conference is to gather once a year to tend to business such as electing representatives to various committees in the synod and to elect churchwide assembly voting members. The rostered leaders in the conference are to meet monthly for worship, education, and support. The conferences also give opportunities for congregations to work together on certain projects.



We are part of the Three River Conference. Thornton is the westernmost congregation and extending east to Dike and Grundy Center. I currently serve as Dean of the Conference. It is my responsibility to make sure the rostered leaders have an opportunity to meet monthly. I also attend two or three meetings a year with other deans and chaplains to receive updates on what the Synod is doing and

to provide feedback to the Bishop about the joys and challenges our congregations are experiencing.

This year's annual Conference Assembly will be held Tuesday, March 19th from 9 to 11 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Clarksville. Our topic of conversation this year will be the Lay Training Program that the three Iowa synods are developing. This training program will empower lay people to serve congregations that are without a pastor or deacon.

I am looking for at least two people to attend this important meeting. If you would be interested, please contact me.

God's Blessings to You,
Pastor Kim



Happy March!! So much is happening in these short 4 weeks. Camp retreats are picking back up, so camp is alive with the Spirit again! I get to welcome a new nephew into the family and a niece to follow in another few months! So of course my family is busy! My new class is picking up and I'm learning a lot. I'm currently diving into the different cognitive and social development stages of kids and how those relate to their faith development. It is so insightful! And I am excited to continue to learn to be better equipped to minister to the youth and the church. And then I can't forget about the amazing opportunities I have this month to share the Gospel in a live performance at camp, as well as sharing the Good Friday story through our youth in the church. My only hope for those things is that even just one person walks away from them knowing just how unbelievably loved by God they are!

God Bless!
Bre

**Thursdays,
Mar 7, 14, 21, 28**

2-5 pm

Saturday, Mar 2

10 am-noon



We continue to see increasing numbers of families large and small at the pantry. 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. We will be distributing Easter meal bags and hams on Thursday, March 28.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of January 31, 2024.

Budgeted Income	\$18,414
Offerings Received	\$14,258
Current Deficit	\$ 4,156
Total Expenses	\$14,524
Checking Balance	\$ 4,677

We did an excellent job of controlling expenses in January so there was very little difference between income and expenses. Thanks for your faithful giving!



**Sunday
March 10**

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.



LENTEN OFFERINGS

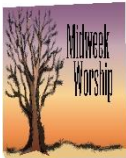
Our midweek offerings are designated for:

Riverside BC	Feb 21
Access, Inc	Feb 28
Sharing Shoppe	Mar 6
Bridge of Hope	Mar 13
LSI	Mar 20
Ch of Damascus Rd	Mar 28



When giving, please make your checks payable to ZSJ and then indicate the ministry in the memo line, if you wish it to be credited to your giving statement. All checks payable to the recipients will be sent directly to them. The donation tab on the church website also includes these ministries as a choice in the drop-down screen. Although we have specific date designations, you are free to give any time during the Lenten season.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP



Midweek Lenten worship will be on Wednesday, March 6, 13 & 20 @ 7 pm. This service includes the "Return to the Lord" liturgy that Pastor Kim wrote. The sermon series is based on the book of Jonah.

LENTEN SUPPERS

There are two remaining Lenten suppers in 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!



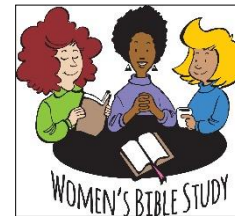
Date Host

Mar 6 ZSJ Council
Mar 20 WELCA

Menu

Soup, Crackers, bars
Beefburgers, chips, relishes, bars

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Rebekah Circle

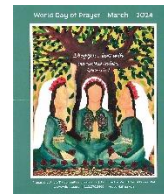
Tues, Mar 5

@ 6 pm

Video upload by

Wed, Mar 6 @ 10am

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.

PIE SALE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Valentine's Day pie sale. Whether you made a pie, bought a pie or two, or made a donation your support will help us continue the strong Women's ministries @ ZSJ! We raised over \$1000 again this year!



NATIONAL QUILTING DAY



Saturday, March 16 is National Quilting Day. It is a day to marvel at the mastery of the talented quilters among us. The ZSJ Quilters meet every Wednesday, September– April, to fashion beautiful creations that are given to our graduating seniors, members of our community,



across our state and around the world thru LWR. If you would like to see or even join in the fun, you simply need to come on Wednesday mornings starting @ 8:30 am.

THANK YOU



I would like to thank the congregation & council for the wonderful reception and all the expressions of kindness I received as I celebrated the 25th anniversary of my ordination. I am very grateful to serve the Lord Jesus and the people of Zion St. John.

Gratefully,
Pastor Kim

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 am, February 11, 2024, by Council President, Jim B. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer. Members in attendance: Jim B, Vicki B, Scott S, John L, Al N, Gene S, Daren M, Judy S, Nancy R, Pastor Wills

Pastor's Report

- ⇒ Transfer request of Mary Jane S to Geneva United Methodist Church, request to remove JT N from membership of Zion St. John. Motion to grant both requests, John L; second, Judy S; carried.
- ⇒ Use of Common Cup – Council recommended that Pastor continue individual communion cups instead of returning to the Common Cup because of concerns related to the passing of illnesses.
- ⇒ Request by Youth to hold a Bingo Fundraiser with proceeds going to the trip to the National Youth Gathering was approved, as long as the adults in charge of the fundraiser take care of the appropriate and required paperwork with the state.
- ⇒ Pastor would like some members of the council to attend the Three River Conference Assembly with him on Tuesday, 3/19 from 9-11 am at St. John Lutheran Church in Clarksville. Discussion topic will be Lay Training Program.

Correspondence

- ⇒ 2 letters read from Church of the Damascus Road. Zion St. John donated \$725 in 2023 to this ministry.
- ⇒ Letter read from ELCA World Hunger for the donation of \$195.

Secretary's Report

- ⇒ Motion to approve the Annual Meeting Secretary's Report as presented, John L; second, Daren M; carried.

Treasurer's Report

- ⇒ Discussion held regarding Murphy's charges on the report.
- ⇒ Question raised by Al about where the charges for Metronet are in the report.
- ⇒ Kari will fix the budget to show Pastor's mileage in the correct area.

Committee Reports/ Assignments



Parish Education – Nancy R, Al N, Pastor Kim

Property – Gene S, Jim B, Al N

- ⇒ Front door has been repaired
- ⇒ Judy brought the paint can for the basement bathrooms to the church so that additional paint can be ordered if necessary.
- The bell tower repairs need to be completed. Pastor will contact the contractor that started the project and get on his list to
- ⇒ finish this project. Will need to figure out how to get the bell out of the tower prior to this work.

Stewardship - Jim B, Daren M

Technology – Gene S, Scott S

Worship and Evangelism – Judy S, Vicki B, Daren M

- ⇒ Worship assistants have been secured for February.
- ⇒ Daren will work on finding assistants for March.

Youth and Family - John L, Daren M

- ⇒ Continue to plan for National Youth Gathering Trip
- ⇒ Easter breakfast preparations will begin soon. Daren will take care of this.

150th Anniversary – Al N, Nancy R

Old Business

- ⇒ Church Directory – completed; emailed to members; paper copies available in the narthex
- ⇒ Bathroom/Flooring Project – will ask WELCA if they would like to decorate the bathrooms so they are a little nicer
- ⇒ Landscape Plaque – Pastor will follow up with Paul Tauro on this.
- ⇒ KCMR Gift of \$1,200; Motion to use the money from this donation to go towards the 150th Anniversary Celebration, Daren Meints; second, Al Nickerson; carried

New Business

- ⇒ Council Lenten Supper - Wednesday, March 6th, 5:15 p.m.- 6:15 p.m.
- ⇒ Money Counters March – Judy, Daren; April – John, Al.
- ⇒ Pastor is looking at obtaining a Funeral Table that can be used for urns and flowers and a chair that can be used during visitations.
- ⇒ Al thanked Pastor for his dedicated service.
- ⇒ Next Meeting – Sunday, March 10, 2024
- ⇒ Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am; carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R, Council Secretary



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/ Time Change Sunday
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 Th Worship w 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

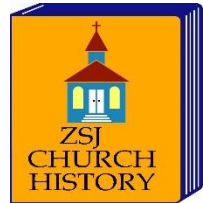


In the last 6 months the committee has determined the theme, “150 Year: Walking with Christ,” and established four events for the celebration year 2025. Our theme verse is Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow*. The celebration will begin on February 2 with a Mission-fest, celebrating our Hands of Service. On May 4, we will celebrate the Harmonies of the years with a concert featuring all our musical groups. August 3 will be themed around our Homes and we will celebrate with worship in the park, a potluck meal, old fashioned games and an ice cream social. The finale of our celebration will be All-Saints Sunday, November 2. Bishop Jones will preach and we hope to hear from former pastors.

Other ideas will include a history scavenger hunt on Rally Sunday, a history pamphlet for all members, and the commissioning of a hymn based on our church. 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 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 April 21 @ 10:30 am.



- 3 Helga Bobst, Ahna L
- 4 Bev Bohach, Sharon S
- Gavin O
- 5 Pam M
- 7 Tony R
- 9 Todd H
- 10 Jim B
- Julie D, Sarah R
- 11 LaVonne C
- 13 Lori S
- 14 Kacy L, Cole M
- 15 Tara T
- 16 Ken B
- 17 Doreen D
- Brandon M, Caleb T
- 18 Scott S, Jon S
- 20 Stephanie H, Steve H
- Nolan S
- 21 Jady D, Lily D
- 22 Val L
- 23 Marie L,
- Ryan R
- 24 Taylor G
- 25 Roger E, Robert M,
- Kalynn W
- 26 Edward E, Tim K Jr.
- 28 Louise C
- Camden H
- 29 Al N
- 30 Ciara H
- 31 Gene R, Nick J



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	Steve H	Doris E
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		

⇒ The family of Betty H
⇒ The family of Anita W
⇒ The family of Brian F

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



9:00 am Worship
(Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org,
Livestream)

10:15 am Sunday School & Fellowship

STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

G Kim Wills, Pastor	641-425-9453 pastor@zionstjohn.org 9am-3pm, T-F
Church Office	641-892-4010 mail@zionstjohn.org 9am-12pm, M-F
Bre Hilton, DYFM	515-520-0559 bre@riversidelbc.org 10am-3 pm, T-W