



# Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

May 2024 Vol. 30 No. 5  
Easter/ Pentecost/ Holy Trinity

*freely  
forgiven*

## 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.*



*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.*  
Psalm 133:1

Synod Assembly used to be an annual event, but will now be a biannual event. Something has been added for those “in-between” years. This event is the Creative Collaborative Congregations Ministry Fair or, as it will be more commonly referred to, C3.

The initial event will be held at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa on Saturday, June 1. The Ministry Fair will include more than 20 workshops on a wide variety of topics. Diane and I have been asked to lead a workshop on Food Pantries and Food Rescue. Our workshop is entitled: “Jesus said, you feed them. How?” It will be offered twice, one in the morning and again in the afternoon. Diane and I will also be leading a table discussion on food pantries during lunch.

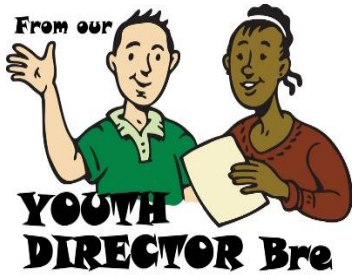
I am very excited that our Synod is offering this event. When I served in Southeastern Iowa they had a similar event entitled: “Congregations Together in Mission (CTIM). This was a great way for congregational volunteers to learn what other churches are doing and get some ideas to take back home with them. It is also a wonderful way to meet people from other congregations who share similar interests.



The event begins at 9:00 a.m. Everyone who goes will be able to attend two workshops in the morning. After a break for lunch (a box lunch will be provided) you will be able to attend two workshops in the afternoon. Our time together will end with a worship service and will conclude at 3:45 p.m.

Cost to attend this event is \$50 per person. Registration is online at [www.neiasynod.org/ministry-fair](http://www.neiasynod.org/ministry-fair). Registration deadline is Friday, May 24. If you would like to carpool please contact me.

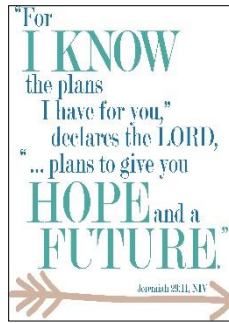
God's Blessings to You,  
Pastor Kim



*For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*  
Jeremiah 29:11

*You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in You.*  
Isaiah 26:3

The verse from Jeremiah has always been a verse I have found comfort in, knowing that God has something He specifically created me for. I mean it's hard to read that and not find it full of hope! Recently, as I have been trying to process my time here and figure out what I'm doing next, I have also found a lot of comfort in the verse from Isaiah. Staying firm in my purpose, or at least in figuring out what my purpose might be, and trusting God with it has been a little bit of struggle. However, coming back to a place in my heart that knows I am living my life for Christ, brings so much peace in conflict.



Yeesh! That feels like a lot to unpack, and all I can say is that having a place to feel God's presence and love as I have been discerning so much, has been so comforting and means so much more than I will ever be able to express. Whatever God has planned for me next; I know I wouldn't be able to do it without the time I spent here! So, as April comes to an end and May (and summer) starts to roll around, my YMT year is coming to an end also. And to everyone at Zion St John, thank you so much for welcoming me into the family here!

God Bless!  
Bre



**SUNDAY  
MAY 19, 9 am**



**Bre's last day with us will be May 7. She will be returning full time to Riverside Bible Camp serving as day camp coordinator and then on to where God is leading! Take some time to thank her for blessing us in so many ways!**

**Thursdays,  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, May 4  
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, garden produce, perishable and non-perishable food items. We are especially in need of cereal and soup. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry building @ 106 Gilman.



**ZSJ CHURCH  
OFFICE CLOSED ON MON,  
MAY 27, 2024!**

## LENTEN OFFERINGS

Thank you to all who contributed to the Lenten offering recipients for 2024. The totals for this year are:

Access of Hampton	\$285
Bridge of Hope	\$235
Church of Dam Rd	\$195
LSI	\$375
Riverside	\$275
Sharing Shoppe	\$410



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here is a look at our finances as of March 31, 2024:

<b>Budgeted Income</b>	<b>\$55,868</b>
<b>Offerings Received</b>	<b>\$46,426</b>
<b>Current Deficit</b>	<b>\$ 9,442</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$54,321</b>
<b>Checking Balance</b>	<b>-\$ 61</b>



The good news is that we did not need to borrow from savings as enough came in after the report to pay all of our bills. Please check your pledge and, if possible, make sure it is up to date. Thank you for your faithful giving!

## LWR GIFTS

The ZSJ Piecemakers will be sending 121 quilts, 27 personal care kits and 28 Baby kits to Lutheran World Relief on Saturday, May 18!



**GREAT JOB!!!**

## C3 MINISTRY FAIR

All congregation members from the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to attend the synod's first "Creative Collaborative Congregations (C3) Ministry Fair" Saturday, June 1, at Wartburg College, Waverly. This new event is an opportunity for lay people, pastors and deacons from across the synod to gather in fellowship, learn together, share ideas and get inspired with skills to strengthen their congregational ministries. This year's Ministry Fair will happen in alternating years with Synod Assembly. The ministry fair will feature a variety of workshops, round table discussions and displays to support congregations in their ministries and administrative activities. Everyone will be able to attend two workshops in the morning beginning at 9 a.m. and two in the afternoon, concluding at 3:45 p.m. Check-in for the fair will begin at 8:30 a.m.



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is a day of religious observance in the US when people are called upon to pray for their country. The first official day of prayer was in 1775, when the Continental Congress called for the public to fast and pray for the leadership of the Colonies.

After that time, Presidents have called the nation to pray during times of war or other hardships. In 1952, Conrad Hilton (founder of Hilton Hotels) and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas, encouraged by Billy Graham, initiated a bill calling for the President to designate one day a year as a National Day of Prayer. In 1952, President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution into law.



In 1988, Congress chose the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer, and the bill was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

It is biblical and we are blessed to publicly pray for healing, forgiveness, and guidance for our nation and its leaders, now more than ever. This year the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 2.

# Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Alice G called the board meeting to order on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 10:50 a.m. Those present were: Alice G, Kim M, Diane W, and Pam M.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Diane, seconded by Kim to approve the March meeting minutes, carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Thank yous were received from the Harper and McKee families for serving the meal after Gary S's funeral, and from LSI for the donation of five quilts.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** As of March 31, there is a checking balance of \$2,412.26 and savings balance of \$2,737.15, of which \$136.72 are designated funds, and \$541.83 are funeral/ event cash donations. The report was placed on file.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- ◆ Care Center birthdays: WELCA is responsible for the Care Center birthday treats in April. This will be held on April 15 at 2 pm. Graduation will be May 19.
- ◆ There are eight graduates this year. Diane will take care of ordering cake for the reception.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- ◆ The last day for quilting will be April 24. The quilts will ship on May 18.
- ◆ The WELCA General Meeting will be held in September.
- ◆ Alice recently saw a performance of "The Looney Lutherans" and she will check into what it would cost to have them perform here, possibly for a guest night, etc.
- ◆ In-kind offering items will be accepted for Bremwood at the June gathering. Diane will put information in the newsletter, and a box

out for donations in May.

- ◆ We decided to send a donation of \$250 to the Synodical Women's Organization and \$250 to Katie's Fund – used for women's educational scholarships and grants.
- ◆ Triennial in 2026 will be held in Des Moines.
- ◆ The next WELCA board meeting will be held May 5<sup>th</sup>. Unless unexpected items come up, we will meet again on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ Alice adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Secretary,  
Pam M

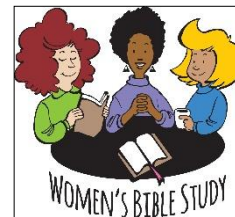
**Rebekah Circle**

Mon, May 6

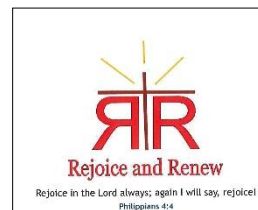
@ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, May 7 @ 10am



## **WELCA GATHERING**



Our Annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 15 @ Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Our theme is *Rejoice and Renew*. Registration forms are available @ [www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca](http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca) or in the church office. Along with normal business there will be interest sessions and always fellowship and worship. If you are interested in serving on the SWO board, nominating committee or as a Triennial Voting member, you can also find those forms on the website as well. And lastly, there are educational scholarships available for women wanting to improve their employment status.



The meeting was called to order at 10:24 a.m. by Council President, Jim B. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer. Members in attendance: Jim B, Vickie B, Al N, Scott S, John L, Gene S, Nancy R, and Pastor Wills.

Members absent: Judy S and Daren M.

### **Pastor's Report**

- ◇ Removal from Membership Request: Tim, Brigid, Delaney and Brynn C. Motion to approve request, Al ; second, John; carried.
- ◇ Lenten Offerings 2025: Pastor will send a letter when the checks are mailed to the organizations that we supported financially during Lent explaining the process for next year. In the weeks leading up to Lent, Pastor will contact these organizations to plan for a representative to come and do a temple talk during worship. If Pastor does not get a response back from the organization within a week, he will remove them from the rotation immediately.
- ◇ The repair of the window to the youth room has been completed. During the replacing the window, the trim was cracked. Pastor will talk with Gary N about repairing this.
- ◇ Lorna and Diane have offered to paint the main floor bathrooms. Council agreed and expressed their appreciation.

**Secretary's Report** - Motion to approve the March 2024 secretary's report, John; second, Gene; carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – No issues.

### **Committee Reports**

**Parish Education** – Nancy, Al; The committee has not met. Pastor commented that our Sunday School numbers are up. The kids are working on a cantata for Mother's Day.

**Property** – Gene, Jim, Al; Clean up at church went well. Clean up at the cemetery is April 20.

**Stewardship** – Jim, Daren; Did not meet

**Technology** – Gene, Scott; a presentation by Scott C regarding purchasing of two cameras to improve the quality of the livestream. Scott will prepare an official proposal that will be presented to council at a later date. Discussion was held. Council likes the improvement of the picture with the new camera, however there are some council members concerned with the placement. Further discussion will be held when the proposal is presented to council.

**Worship & Evangelism** – Vickie (May), Daren (June), Judy (July)

**Youth and Family** – National Youth Gathering Meeting scheduled immediately following council meeting. Bingo is planned.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Nancy, Al; have not met since last council meeting.

### **Old Business**

- ◇ Funeral Table – after speaking with Gary N, Pastor has determined that it would be more cost effective to purchase a table for this purpose instead of building one. Pastor will talk to Fred Retz and will schedule a time to go shopping for a table.
- ◇ Landscape Plaque – Paul T is working on this.
- ◇ Ash Trees – Jim will treat the trees today.
- ◇ Lighting in Pastor's Office – He has talked with Brian T. There is a light issue at the Food Pantry and Pastor would like that repaired prior to working on the lights in his office.
- ◇ Cemetery Clean Up – Sat, 4/20, 8:30 am. Gene will bring doughnuts from the 210<sup>th</sup> St Bakery.

### **New Business**

- ◇ Administrative Professional Day – April 24<sup>th</sup> – Pastor will pick up gift cards from Block 10
- ◇ Money Counters
  - April – John & Al
  - May – Daren M & Nancy
  - June – Daren M & Scott
- ◇ Next Meeting, Sunday, June 9, There will be no meeting in May, as it

is Mother's Day. Any important business will be communicated via email.

- ◇ Motion to allow the treasurer to move up to \$5,000 from savings to checking if necessary to pay bills in May, Gene; second, John; carried.
- ◇ Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 am, Vickie; second, John; carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy R



## 2024 Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars. We are happy to announce that we have day-camp counselors from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp directing us through VBS on July 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Our main theme this year is, "Cultivate Life," John 15:5. We will focus on cultivating our faith by growing peace, renewing our minds, and finding our purpose.

Please watch for registration information and more details that will be available on our church website, Facebook as well as emails will be sent out soon.

If you would like to be a part of this fun-filled week, please contact me. Not only will you help our children grow in their faith, but yours as well. It's very rewarding.

**Thank you in advance for your support.**

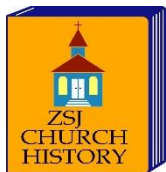
Doreen D, 641-425-5033, [doreen.dohlman@gmail.com](mailto:doreen.dohlman@gmail.com)

## 150 YEARS: WALKING WITH CHRIST

Our theme verse is Hebrews 13:8, *Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow.*

Celebrations:

- ⇒ February 2, Missionfest, celebrating our Hands of Service.
- ⇒ May 4, a concert, celebrating the Harmonies of the years
- ⇒ August 3, outdoor worship and picnic, celebrating our Homes
- ⇒ November 2, Finale All-Saints Worship, celebrating our Hearts



Other ideas: a Rally Sunday history scavenger hunt, a history pamphlet for all members, and a hymn commissioned based on our church.

Also needed:

- ◆ Share 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 June 23 @ 10:30 am.

## 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	Sarah P	Maddie 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
Steve K	Ron E	Carol L
Sawyer A		

- ◆ The family of Guy B
- ◆ The family of Marcella W

- 1 Olivia R
- 2 Dean H, April S
- 3 Tim K
- 4 Grant P
- 5 Shelby T
- 6 Lane L, Kathy M, Tate S
- 7 Jameson O
- 8 Mark N
- 9 Julie G, Darwin M, Shelley V
- 10 Cindy R, Barrett H
- 11 Bill N, Barb S, Evelyn T
- 12 Stephen S
- 13 Marlene S
- 15 David S
- 18 Caitlin T
- 19 Nate H, Bob K
- 22 Brett B, Nick N, Shannon O
- 24 Kimberly W
- 26 Dallas E, Lindsey S, Sammie W
- 27 Jerry R
- 28 Breeana P, Kiefer H
- 29 Val B, Kemlin H, Diane W, Emily A



## 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