



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

July 2024

Vol. 30 No. 7

Pentecost



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.



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

One of the hats I wear is dean of our Three River Conference. One of the responsibilities of that job is to attend quarterly meetings with the synod bishop. At these meetings the main thing we do is get updates on what is going on in the churchwide office and what the synod is working on. Our bishop is also eager to hear how things are going in the congregations in our conference.

At the May meeting one of the updates we received was on seminary graduation and enrollment rates, especially as they relate to congregations who are seeking to call a pastor or deacon. This past year our seminaries graduated a total of 144 candidates who are seeking a call. The number of full-time openings in the ELCA is approximately 260 and part-time vacancies is around 240. That is 500 openings and 144 people to fill them. Unfortunately, this situation, is going to get worse before it starts to improve. The number of students enrolled in seminary for this fall is 125. Beyond that, the estimated number of pastor's that will retire this year alone is 600. The number of retirements is expected to stay right around that level for the next 10 years.



The bottom line is this: We need more people to prayerfully consider entering the ministry. We need people of all ages. Our synod is working very hard on finding ways to train lay people to serve congregations in our synod. That will alleviate part of this issue. But not all of it. I believe congregation members will need to be trained to take on responsibilities that are normally done by pastors. Member visitation is one of them. Administration could be another.

I informed the Bishop and Pastor Steve Brackett, who oversees finding call candidates, that I am currently the only full time ELCA pastor in Franklin County. Everyone sitting in that meeting was stunned by that statement. Hopefully, some of the vacancies in our area will be filled soon. Given this situation, it is very important that moving forward we partner well with the other congregations in our area. As our

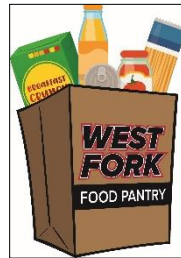
bishop stated so well at that meeting, “The Holy Spirit has a plan to provide for our pastoral needs, we just don’t know exactly what it is yet.”

If you feel a call to serve God’s people, I would love to talk with you about that. If you know young people who are looking for a career that has excellent job security, please tell them about our need for pastors and deacons.

God’s Blessings to You,
Pastor Kim

**Thursdays,
July 11, 18, 25
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, July 6
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. **The pantry will be closed on July 4.**

RELAY FOR LIFE



The Franklin County Relay for Life events will be on Friday, July 26, 5-8 pm @ the West Fork Wellness Center. Events include a raffle, Silent Auction, singing by the Sheffield Philharmonic, food, kids activities, the Survivors and Caregivers Lap and the Luminaria Ceremony. More information is available on their FB page

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

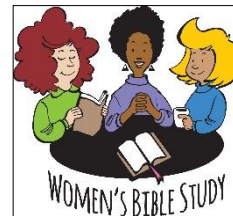
Here is a look at our finances as of May 31, 2024:

Budgeted Income	\$93,113
Offerings Received	\$80,403
Current Deficit	\$12,710
Total Expenses	\$88,599
Checking Balance	\$ 4,179



For the first time in the last three months we had a positive balance in the checking account at the end of the month! Thank you for your faithful giving!

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Rebekah Circle

Mon, July 8

@ 6 pm

Video upload by

Tues, July 9 @ 10am

WELCA GATHERING

The 36th annual gathering of the NE IA Women of the ECLA was held on Saturday, June 15 @ Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly. This will be our last annual gathering, since we will be going to a biennial format. The theme was Rejoice and Renew, based on Philipians 4:4.



Pastor Liz Bell from the synod office led a wonderful uplifting worship. During the business meeting new officers and 2026 triennial voting members were elected and a budget approved. Our own Alice G stepped up to lead the meeting when the president was feeling ill. Interest sessions about LSI, Global Health Ministries and Joni and Friends offered us new ways to help others. Our total offering for the day was \$2,235, 50% given to CW WELCA, 25% to ELCA World Hunger and 25% to Joni and Friends and a van full of in kind gifts for Global Health Ministries and LSI. We enjoyed great fellowship over lunch and everyone was blessed with a door prize! We were all reminded to *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!*

LWR KITS



The ZSJ Piecemakers need your help! If you are spring cleaning or garage saling in the next few months, please watch for these gently used items: Bed sheets or blankets, Baby sleepers or gowns without the feet, 6-24 months, hooded jackets or sweatshirts, 9-24 months, baby blankets, baby t-shirts, 6-24 months, and new light-weight dark colored bath towels and hand towels and bars of gentle soap in original wrapping. Treasures can be put in the Quilter's room in the basement.

We are also still accepting cash donations for school kit supplies. Donations can be given to Maxine H or Marcia E, or dropped off in the office.

Thank you to Lorna and Darwin M for the use of their trailer to haul our LWR projects to Albert Lea, MN and to those who helped load the boxes and to Roger and Marcia E for the trip to Albert Lea!

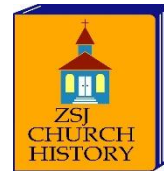


150 YEARS: WALKING WITH CHRIST

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:

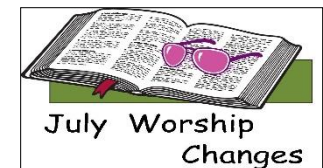
- ◆ Share a devotional <https://forms.gle/xQQnPjdDSc6KmcxAA>
- ◆ Written or verbal family stories
- ◆ Offer suggestions for events using the idea box in the Narthex
- ◆ St John Confirmation pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, & 1941
- ◆ Zion Confirmation picture from 1915

Our next committee meeting will be Sunday August 25 @ 10 am.



OFFICE CLOSED JULY 4-5

**HOLY COMMUNION
JULY 7 & 28**





The meeting was called to order at 10:24 am, June 9, 2024 by Council President, Jim B. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer. Members in attendance: Jim B,

Vickie B, Al N, Scott S, Gene S, Daren M, Nancy R, Judy S and Pastor Wills. Members absent: John L

Pastor's Report

- ◇ National Youth Gathering – Fund raising is going well. The Bunco Night had a very small turn out, but did raise somewhere in the vicinity of \$600-\$700. The Flamingos are on the loose. The final fundraiser will be a pie auction in July.
- ◇ Diane is going to make t-shirts for VBS.
- ◇ Reviewed Pastor's vacation/days off for the rest of the summer.

Correspondence – Letters received from LSI, Church of the Damascus Road, Bridge of Hope, and Riverside thanking us for our donations from our Lenten worship services.

Secretary's Report - Motion to approve the secretary's April report, Vickie; second, Daren; carried.

Treasurer's Report – No issues noted.

Committee Reports

Parish Education – Nancy, Al

- ◇ VBS will need more kitchen help
- ◇ Sunday School finished strong

Property – Gene, Jim, Al –

- ◇ Bell Tower Tuck Pointing – Chris Janssen is willing to take the bell down and set it on the ground until the tuck pointing is completed. The committee will contact the person that did the tuck pointing for

the rest of the building and get on his list to get the bell tower completed. A temple talk will occur in the future to inform the congregation and ask for assistance to pay for this project.

- ◇ 4 of the ash trees are starting to show signs of disease even though Jim has been treating the trees. The committee will monitor the trees for further signs of ◇ disease and decay.
- ◇ Council members were approached about putting a light on the west side of the church. No action taken on this request.
- ◇ A request was made to remove the grass between the alley and the north side of the church. When the lawn is being mowed, there are times that the mower kicks up debris and breaks windows. Gene has rock available and will replace the grass with rock.
- ◇ Gene reported that the eave spouts were cleaned out. The middle of the eave spout was sagging, so it was propped up.

Stewardship – Jim, Daren – will meet in fall

Technology – Gene, Scott

- ◇ Council suggested that we use some memorial gift money towards live stream improvements. A temple talk may occur later this summer to ask for donations towards this project.

Worship & Evangelism –Judy (July), Vickie (Aug), Daren-(Sept)

Youth and Family

- ◇ Youth gathering was discussed.

150th Anniversary – Nancy, Al

- ◇ Diane, Pastor, and Caitlin have worked on lyrics to the hymn that we are having written to commemorate the 150th year anniversary. Diane has been in touch with the composer about the details. Financial projects to commemorate the 150th Anniversary are still being determined.

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 R and will schedule a time to go shopping for a table.

- ◇ Landscape Plaque – Paul T has installed it. Dedication will maybe be the last week in June.
- ◇ LED lighting in Pastor’s office has been completed.
- ◇ Cemetery Clean Up – Went well. Most of the work was done to the north side of the cemetery. Gene stated that there is a very large pile of brush and logs that needs to be taken care of before it catches fire from a lightning strike and causes damage to the cemetery and trees. He would like to see if Sheffield Fire Department could burn this as a controlled burn. \$1500 was moved to the cemetery fund for mowing.

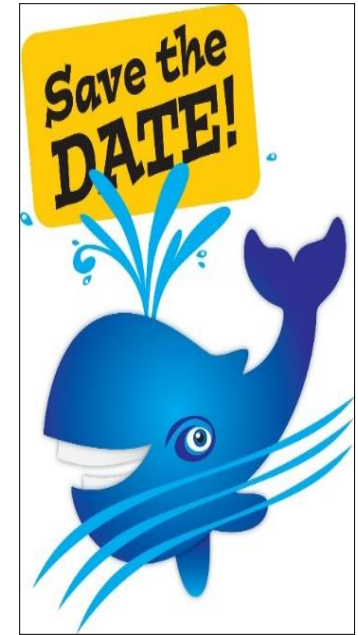
New Business

- ◇ VBS – Doreen has everything under control! Thanks Doreen!
- ◇ \$5000 transfer from savings – Pastor discovered that there was supposed to be a \$1000 transfer from savings to checking every month from January to May to help pay for the Youth Director. This was not done, so the \$5000 does not have to be replaced in savings, as it was already supposed to be in checking.
- ◇ Youth Director – Fall 2024, Pastor has contacted Riverside to utilize the YMT position again next year. We will need to look at housing as time approaches.
- ◇ Money Counters- June – Daren & Scott , July – Al & John
- ◇ Next Meeting Sunday, July 14th , Jim, Vickie, and Nancy will be absent.
- ◇ Adjourn, Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am Daren; second, Gene; carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy R, Secretary

2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

Sundaes with Dads	June 16
NYG	July 17-20
VBS	July 22-25
Riverside Quilt Auction	Aug 3
Blessing of Backpacks	Aug 25
7-9 Conf Meetings	Aug 28
WELCA Meeting	Sept 3
Quilting resumes	Sept 4
SS resumes	Sept 8
3rd Grade Bibles	Sept 8
7-8 Conf resumes	Sept 11
Music groups resume	Sept 18
Riverside Golf	Sept 27
JAM resumes	Oct 2
LWR Pickup	Oct 12
WELCA Heat n Eat	Oct 20
9th Confirmation	Oct 27
SS Christmas	Dec 15



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

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



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

1 Julian C, Gary S
 3 Jesse M
 4 Cadence N-P
 5 Jill C, Shannon L, Ava H
 8 Jeff C
 9 Jackie H
 10 Scott C
 11 Ron P
 12 Cole H, Lucas W
 15 Caleb C
 16 Payton K
 Trevor G
 17 Gene S
 19 Amanda F
 21 Cooper E
 Gail L, Shirley M
 22 Spencer H
 23 Megan M
 25 Joseph S
 26 Brandon K,
 Carolyn R, Colson J
 Taylor K
 28 Chad E
 30 Malachi R
 Aaron I, Jax K



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	Carol L
Christy M	Louise K	Pat H
Patty B	Carolyn R	Jon S
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Doris M	Crystal B	Drew H
Steve K	Sawyer A	Cheryl R
Dusty M		

◇ The family of John F
 ◇ The family of Betty H