



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

September 2024

Vol. 30 No. 9

Pentecost

Let the little children come to me ...
it is to such as these that the
kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14, NRSV



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.



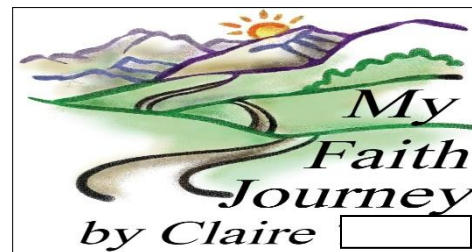
*Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.
Refrain WOV # 752*

I just returned from a wonderful week of vacation in Minnesota. We spent the week with my daughter, Amanda, her husband and their four children. We caught lots of fish and visited Itasca State Park where the kids had a blast crossing the head waters of the Mississippi River. As I stood there, it hit me that just over a month before I was on a paddle wheeler at the mouth of the Mississippi as it reached the Gulf of Mexico. An incredible experience!



Today is my first day back in the office and I received a call from Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp. They informed me that, at this point, they don't have any applicants for the YMT program which we have used in the past. Our past YMT's have been Daniel R and Bre H. We have a long history at ZSJ of having a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. The Council and I have begun working on ways to try and fill this position. If you are interested, please let me know. If you know of someone who might be interested, please let me know. The person we are looking for needs to be a strong Christian, be able to relate to our youth and they must possess strong computer and social media skills.

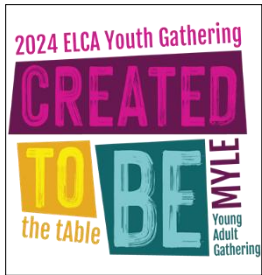
God's Blessings to You,
Pastor Kim



I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the spiritual and emotional growth that occurred while I got to experience a once in a lifetime opportunity. While in New Orleans, we prayed, sang, and loved the same God alongside 16,000 others. Words truly cannot describe how remarkable it is to be surrounded by people your own age who believe in the same God.

Upon our arrival in New Orleans we explored Jackson Square, giving us time to decompress from our flight and bond with one another. We went on a ghost tour later that night where we saw “touchdown Jesus” and heard ghost stories. It was a relaxing day preparing ourselves to be open to new people, experiences, and Jesus. We finished each night with a final 15 and a prayer.

Tuesday morning, Pastor and I got everyone registered and I had the opportunity to sit in on a chaperone meeting. This meeting helped me realize the time and effort put into this trip by Pastor and Brandy Huling. That afternoon we were able to go on a swamp tour where we were allowed to hold a baby alligator. Tuesday night was the opening night for mass gathering, filled with music, dancing, and speakers. We spent time bonding with each other and Jesus. It was truly breathtaking the first time we could hear all 16,000 of us coming together to sing our praises.



Wednesday was spent at the interactive center where the boys spent the majority of their day playing gaga ball with new friends. Keira and I explored the creative center and added our thoughts to a long poem created just for the gathering. The day ended at the mass gathering with more singing, dancing, and speakers. We bonded with other children of God going through the same exact thing that we were. We were able

to communicate without fear of judgment, and talk about how our faith is doing. We discussed the difficulties of being a Christian and ensuring that we keep Jesus close. This was one of the most beneficial days of the trip for me as we shared ideas of what we can do to make sure we do not lose sight of our faith, especially as the fall brings many new beginnings for me.

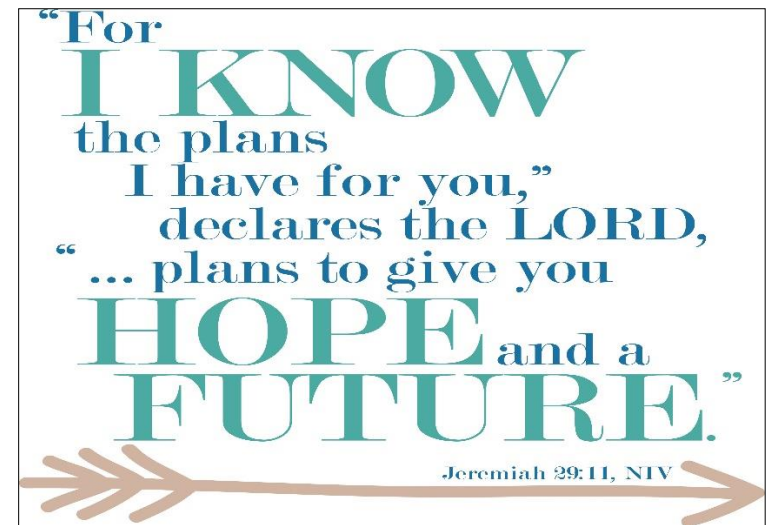
Thursday we helped families in need after a natural disaster by preparing flood buckets with supplies and then blessing them. Although we laughed and enjoyed our service time, we were able to keep the seriousness of our service project. We were able to reflect on where we were and how we could help others who weren't as fortunate as us. Mass gathering concluded the night with more singing, dancing, and speakers.

Friday was synod day where we had a smaller service with our synod as well a boat tour. On the tour, we were able to try some local

New Orleans favorites such as gumbo and rice and beans. This filled me with the realization that we are not the only youth from our area. It was cool to see how many of the 16,000 people were from our synod and it made me feel less alone in my faith. Again we ended the evening with even more singing, dancing, and speakers at the mass gathering.

Saturday early morning we had closing worship where we were chosen to help with communion. That evening, we were blessed with time with other youth, reflecting and sharing our highs and lows of the week filling me with happiness, but also fear. Being surrounded by 16,000 other people who believe the same things is magical, and it makes it easy to talk about my faith and our God. As we said our goodbyes, I realized that it won't be this simple when we're back to our everyday lives. However, this trip taught me ways to make sure that I keep true to myself. One way was to create a group chat with everyone in our hotel. We send daily prayers, songs, and bible verses, giving us a community to turn to if we are finding it hard to walk with Jesus.

I wholeheartedly believe that every youth in our congregation, and every other congregation, should be able to have this experience at least once in their life. The friends that turn into family, and the growth in my relationship with God will follow me throughout my life. I would like to personally thank every one of you that helped make this trip possible for us. I would like to leave you with a verse from Jeremiah 29



**Thursdays,
Sept 5, 12, 19, 26
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, Sept 7
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 personal care items, peanut butter, pasta sauce 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.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of July 31, 2024:

Budgeted Income	\$130,358
Offerings Received	\$111,194
Current Deficit	\$ 19,164
Total Expenses	\$117,941
Checking Balance	\$ 5,603



This month our checking account balance increased by nearly \$3,000 and our budget deficit grew by less than \$1,500. Thank you for your faithful giving!



RIVERSIDE GOLF



The twentieth annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic will be Fri, Sept. 27 at Ames Golf & Country Club! Come enjoy lunch, golf, fellowship, and ice cream to conclude the day. If you are interested in playing and supporting Riverside, please contact Pastor Kim. Registration begins @ 10:30 am, followed by lunch and shotgun start @ noon. The registration fee is \$125 per person.

BELL TOWER FUNDRAISER

As a result of the July 21 congregational meeting, we have started a fundraiser for the bell tower project. Our current goal is to raise \$10,000 to cover the cost of bell removal and replacement, tuckpointing and any minor repairs that may need to be done to the bell. Currently we have raised \$8,800 for this project. If you would like to donate, please indicate on the memo line of your check "bell tower repair."

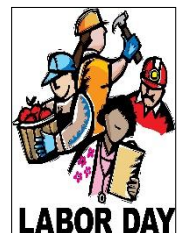


MUSICIANS NEEDED



Singers and bell players are needed for the ZSJ Adult and Handbell Choirs. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 18. This will be a very special year of music as we prepare for the 150th anniversary. If you have a love of music and want to share it, please contact Cindy H, 319-444-0623 or cjhemm56@gmail.com, for Adult Choir or Diane W, (641) 425-8628 or wills.dianes@gmail.com, for Handbell Choir.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPT. 2!



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO ORDER: President Alice G called the board meeting to order on Sunday, July 28, 2024, at 10:10 a.m. Those present, Alice G, Diane W, and Pam M.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the May meeting minutes, Diane; second, Alice; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank yous were received for donations given to Katie's Fund through the Women of the ELCA; Lutheran World Relief's Quilt Shipping Fund; and LSI's Immigrant and Refugee Community Services.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of June 30, there is a checking balance of \$1,488.94 and savings balance of \$2,738.18, of which \$111.72 is designated funds and \$530.41 is from funeral/event cash donations. The report was placed on file. The proposed budget for 2025 was reviewed. Motion to present the proposed budget at the General Meeting, Pam; second, Diane; carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The quilters have met once this summer. Weekly quilting will resume September 4th.

OLD BUSINESS:

⇒ The 150th Anniversary Committee is checking into having the Looney Lutherans group perform at one of the celebrations next year. We may consider a donation to support this venture.

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒ General Meeting – This will be held Tuesday, September 3, at 6:30 pm. The agenda will include the budget, electing a Treasurer and Cochair for 2025. Diane will lead the Bible study.

⇒ The bathrooms have been painted, and ideas for decorating were

discussed.

- ⇒ The Heat and Eat fundraiser will be held October 20th.
- ⇒ Diane will check into Advent by Candlelight.
- ⇒ We will be checking with Carla to see if she's willing to head up the Holiday Food Fair and if so, what date she would prefer.
- ⇒ Welca is in charge of the birthday party at the Care Center on October 21.
- ⇒ Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

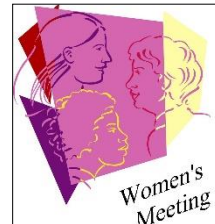
Secretary, Pam M

QUILTING RESUMES

The ZSJ quilters will resume quilting on Wednesday, September 4, starting at 8:30 am. There is something for everyone to do, even if you don't know how!!!



WOMEN OF ZSJ GENERAL MEETING



The Women of ZSJ will meet on Tuesday, September 3, 6:30 pm, for election of officers and approval of 2025 budget & Bible study led by Diane Wills. If you are in need of transportation, please let the church office know.



OCTOBER 20TH, after worship (about 10 am).

Mark you calendars now for the Women of ZSJ Heat 'n' Eat fundraiser! Come and find your favorite home cooked casseroles and entrees in a range of serving sizes!

LWR DONATIONS

The ZSJ Piecemakers wish to thank those who donated money for purchasing supplies for our mission projects. We were able to purchase needed items to fill 126 backpacks for LWR school kits. With your help we are able to share God's love all over the world!



150 YEARS: WALKING WITH CHRIST

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

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 September 22, 10:30 am.



The meeting was called to order by President Jim Bushkofsky at 10:00 am on Sunday August 11, 2024. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer. Members in attendance:

Judy Siems, Al Nickerson, John Latham, Gene Sheriff, Jim & Vickie Bushkofsky, and Pastor Wills. Members absent: Nancy Retz, Scott Sanders, and Daren Meints.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed: July 13, Betty Heginger, Zion St. John

Items Working On

- * Attended National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.
- * Vacation Bible School
- * Prayed the opening prayer at Relay for Life.
- * Provided In home Communion to those who requested it.

Items to Consider

- * Diane needs a new office chair. The arm fell off and can't be fixed. Cost should be \$150 to \$250 to replace. Council suggested using the chair in the Jericho room.

Caitlin Tauro has received her entrance approval from the Synod and has begun her duties at St. Paul Lutheran in Hampton. She will begin her studies at Wartburg Seminary in September. Recommendation that we * start sending our monthly missionary support, approximately \$184/ month to Wartburg Seminary designated for Caitlin beginning September 1.

- * Jim Bushkofsky will lead worship on August 18.
- * Pastor will be on vacation August 15-22. This is a no-refund trip, so he is unavailable those dates. He will be out of town September 4-5. Pastor Kim and Diane are returning Leader Dog puppy Stryder on Monday, September 23 and they will be returning home on Saturday, September 28.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the July secretary's report and July special meeting minutes, John; second, Gene; carried.

Treasurer's Report-No issues.

Committee Reports

Parish Education

- * VBS wrapped up with over 40 participants. Doreen may organize this endeavor for 2025. Plans are to continue to use Ingham-Okoboji

counselors for next year.

Property

- * Discussion on new exterior lighting for the west side of church. Council will request that this project be placed on Memorial list.
- * Murphy's Plumbing and Heating was called for sanctuary air conditioner. It was freezing up and a new computer motherboard was replaced. Freon was replaced and we will monitor its use.
- * The bell was removed Friday August 9th. It has been stored in the garage. Members were able to inspect it after worship. Lance has taken photos of it and discussed initial repairs with the bell company. Tuck pointing will be done the week of August 11th. To date over \$6,800 has been raised toward our \$10,000 goal.
- * The fire extinguishers were inspected and recertified.
- * Our boiler was inspected and was passed. Recommendations were to install a CO monitor and to monitor low water cutoff.

Stewardship: No new information

Technology

- * A few months ago Scott Conlon approached the council to consider upgrading our cameras so our live stream would be clearer. He suggested a second camera up front that would view the congregation. The council suggested he come to another council meeting with updated costs and plans.

Worship and Evangelism Daren (Sept), Judy (Oct), Vickie (Nov)

Youth and Family

- * Pastor has not heard from Riverside about utilizing an YMT for the coming year. Council was very happy with Bre's commitment the past 2 years.

150th Anniversary- Meeting in 2 weeks to finalize some plans.

Old Business

- * The funeral table has not been purchased yet. Pastor and Fred Retz are still working on this. Jim and Vickie will also look for a table.

New Business

- * Pastor reported some vandalism at the cemetery. A family reported that an Eagle Scout medallion was stolen from a grave. Discussion on security trail cams being used. Difficult to monitor surveillance in the country.
- * Discussion of new cameras for live streaming and the cost of 2 new cameras of \$2600. There is \$1500 available from memorial committee. Recommendation to have Scott visit with council with more details.
- * Money counters: August- Daren and Gene; Sept- Gene and Scott
- * Next meeting is September 8th.
- * Motion to adjourn at 11:06 am, Vickie; second, Judy; carried.

Al Nickerson
Secretary protem

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

- 1 MaKenna O
- 3 Jaelyn H, Tom S
Irelynn O, Ella H
- 4 Jacob H
- 5 Seth T
- 6 Dana N
- 7 Jacob K
- 8 Melvin B, Dawn G
- 9 Presley S, Joe P
- 10 Brandon S
- 11 Tyler K, Kalli T
- 13 Todd G
- 14 Mia G, Cale M, Dacia S
- 15 Nashaun B, Tyler L
- 16 Jacob E, Nicholas E
- 17 Cody H, Cindy H, Sue N
- 18 Kay E, Renner H
- 19 Barb G, Troy I, Kris L
- 21 Blake O
- 23 Haley H, Jill I
Glen H, Judy S
- 24 Chayton P
- 25 Keanna P
- 26 Zach S
- 27 Megan E
- 28 Bob C
- 29 Matthew H, Morgan M, Kara S



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	Kay R
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	Doug D	

⇒ The family of Pam H

⇒ Our SS and confirmation teachers and students