



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

November 2024

Vol. 30 No. 11

All Saints/ World Hunger/ Consecration/ Christ the King



OUR VISION STATEMENT

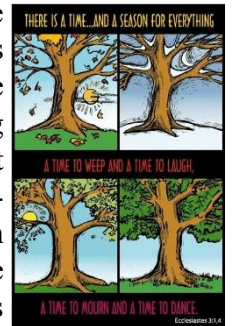
At Zion St. John Lutheran Church, we are committed to being the body of Christ until He returns. Led by the Holy Spirit and gathered around God's Word and Sacraments, we join in worship, fellowship, learning, spiritual nurture, outreach, and service, as we grow in faith and invite others to experience Christ's presence.



For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

I attended a Rostered Leader's conference in Cedar Falls, October 13-15. During the conference we heard two speakers from Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary. Together we explored the texts from Luke's Gospel that we will be preaching on next year. The people who volunteer their time to serve on the planning for this event, go above and beyond to make this an enjoyable event. The round tables we sat at had chocolates, mints and even some small stress-relieving toys on them. We begin with worship each day and on Tuesday morning our first topic was preaching during Christmas. So that morning we had a combination Christmas Eve-Christmas Day service. It was so wonderful. As much as I enjoy leading worship, it is nice once and a while to be a participant. The singing at these events is always great, which added to the worship experience.



There is so much division in our world, even in the holy catholic church these days. So, I found it very hopeful to sing about peace on earth and goodwill among all people. The author of Ecclesiastes states the truth, "For everything there is a season." But I also believe there are times when doing something "out of season" can be refreshing. On that Tuesday morning, I needed a little Christmas, even though I didn't realize it. On Sunday, November 3rd we are going to sing a Christmas hymn during worship. We all need to be reminded, in season or not, of what is truly important, Jesus Christ, God's Son our Lord, sent to save us and redeem us.

God's Blessings to You,
Pastor Kim



OFFICE CLOSED

NOV 28-29



This is the season of giving and of gratitude. I had already written this article but after a spiritual moment I deleted what I had written and started over.

Moments before writing this I was in the sanctuary on my knees praying. I was thanking God for all that he has done in my life to make it better. My life was so different before I found faith. I was a lost sheep. Words cannot express my gratitude towards the church and to my found faith. As I was praying my thanks I began crying, crying for thankfulness that the Lord found me and saved not only me but my children as well. It's so easy to pray in times of strife but to pray in thanks is sometimes less thought over. It's even more challenging to pray for thanks when your life is in turmoil. I get it, I've been there. I cannot sing the praises of God and the power of prayer enough. Philippians 4: 6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God."

Leah Cruz

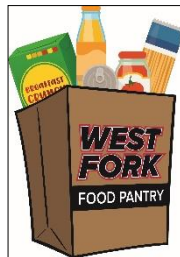
Thursdays,

Nov 7, 14, 21

2-5 pm

Saturday, Nov 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, 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. We will be distributing Thanksgiving meal bags on Thursday November 21. We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 28.

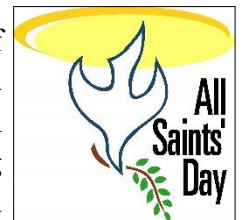
THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



Our Thanksgiving Eve worship will be on Wednesday, November 27 @ 7 pm. We will also celebrate our Women's ministries this night. Please take time to attend worship and be thankful for all the blessings God provides every day for you and your family.

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP

All Saints Sunday is November 3. As is our custom, during the prayers that day, the names of church members who have died in the past year, and those whose funerals Pastor Kim has performed, will be read and the bell will toll. It is appropriate during this time for us to also remember our loved ones and friends who now rest in the Lord, and give thanks to God for the ways they have impacted our lives.

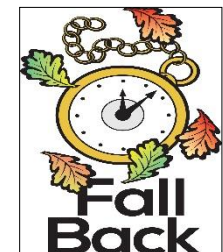


TREE DECORATING



Saturday Nov 30, we invite all to help with the decorating of the sanctuary for the Advent season. This will include decorating the tree and the sanctuary and is a fun morning for all ages. We will begin the decorating @ 9 am.

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 3**



POINSETTIA GARDEN

Our traditional poinsettia garden is being planned for our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to the garden, you may purchase one through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$25. We would like to have the garden for the start of Advent on December 1. **Please place your orders by Sunday, November 24. Make you check payable to Forever Yours.** If you are giving a poinsettia on your own, please let the church office know so that it can be noted in the Christmas bulletins.



ADVENT EVENTS

1. Free Advent devotional books and Advent calendars will be available in the narthex starting November 24.
2. Midweek Advent worship will be on Wednesday, December 4 11 and 18 @ 7 pm. The Holden Evening Prayer Service is a beautiful candlelight service that brings peace during a very busy time of the year! Come and find the true meaning of Christmas!
3. Participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar for the West Fork Food Pantry. Each day add an item to a box and then bring it to the Food Pantry in December or January and help us fill the shelves! Here are some suggestions or create your own!



- Dec 1 cereal
- Dec 2 peanut butter
- Dec 3 baked beans
- Dec 4 boxed potatoes
- Dec 5 mac and cheese
- Dec 6 canned fruit
- Dec 7 canned tomatoes
- Dec 8 canned tuna or chicken



- Dec 9 cake or brownie mix
- Dec 10 canned applesauce
- Dec 11 canned sweet potatoes
- Dec 12 juice
- Dec 13 jelly
- Dec 14 crackers
- Dec 15 rice
- Dec 16 ketchup, mustard, pickles
- Dec 17 packaged pasta
- Dec 18 spaghetti sauce
- Dec 19 chicken noodle soup
- Dec 20 tomato soup
- Dec 21 canned corn
- Dec 22 canned peas
- Dec 23 canned carrots
- Dec 24 canned green beans

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of September 30, 2024:

Budgeted Income	\$167,603
Offerings Received	\$138,561
Current Deficit	\$ 29,042
Total Expenses	\$152,013
Checking Balance	\$ 5,532



We saw our financial picture improve during the month of September. Our budget deficit only grew by \$2,500. Our checking account balance increased \$7,172. Most of this was due to our borrowing \$5,000 from savings to pay for mowing at the church cemetery and other end of the month expenses. Thank you for your faithful giving!

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO ORDER: President Alice G called the board meeting to order on Sunday, October 6, at 10:35 a.m. Alice G, Kim M, Diane W, and Pam M were present.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the September general meeting minutes, Diane; second, Kim; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A thank you was received from Marcia H for the donation in memory of her sister Pam.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of September 30, there is a checking balance of \$1,528.85 and a savings balance of \$2,739.22 of which \$186.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance as of September 30 is \$494.75. The report was placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

• The Heat and Eat fundraiser will be after church on October 13. Those who can attend will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday to put them into smaller containers. The proceeds for this will be donated to the kitchen countertop project.

• Advent by Candlelight – We are still considering whether to hold this or not. Diane will contact Judy to get her opinion.

• Holiday Food Fair will be held on Sunday, December 15, following church. We will still need to meet on Saturday to price items. We will serve cinnamon rolls for fellowship that day for a free will donation. Half of the proceeds will go to replacing the kitchen countertops, with the other half to proving money for Pastor to use when people request assistance with gas.

• The Care Center birthday party will be October 21.

• Thankofferings are due in November

NEW BUSINESS:

• Confirmation is October 27. The Youth and Family Committee oversees the reception.

• For the kitchen countertop project, we will need to consider whether we want to replace just the countertops (including the island countertop), or if we want to do the countertops plus replace the sinks and faucets in the island. Gary N is drawing up an estimate for both options.

• Alice adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M



Rebekah Circle
Mon, Nov 4 @ 6 pm
Recording
Available by 10 am
Tues, Nov 5



150 YEARS: WALKING WITH CHRIST

Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

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

Our commissioned hymn is now complete and will be introduced in the next few months.

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 November 17, 10:30 am.

THANK OFFERINGS



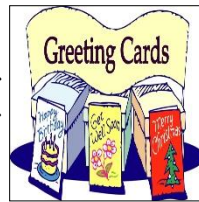
Thank Offerings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thank Offerings.

This is your reminder, Women of ZSJ, that we will be gathering our thank offerings in November! Please drop off your offerings @ the church or send to:

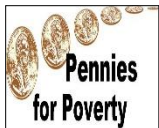
Diane W
1399 Beeds Lake Dr
Hampton Iowa 50441

BOXED CARDS

The Women of ZSJ have boxed and individual cards for sale in the narthex. There is a new supply of sympathy, Christmas, get well, birthday, thinking of you and blank cards. Prices range from \$5– 6 per box, and individual cards are .50. Stop by and check it out!



PENNIES FOR POVERTY



Do you have a lot of loose change around your house? The Women of ZSJ have a collection jar for all your loose change on the narthex table! Any donations to the Penny jar will be given to Wings of Refuge. Help us to fill the jar to make Christmas a little brighter for families in our area!

LWR DONATIONS

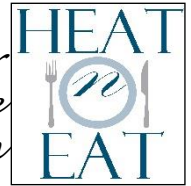
Thank you to Darwin and Lorna M for the use of their trailer, to the confirmation youth for loading and Roger and Marcia E for driving our fall LWR donations to Albert Lea. This shipment included 26 personal care kits, 126 school kits, 24



baby care kits and 46 quilts. The ZSJ Piecemakers meet every Wednesday morning, 8:30-11:30. There are tasks for everyone, including tying knots, threading needles, ironing, sorting, folding, or sewing.

Come and join us!

Thank you to all who cooked or purchased food for the Heat n Eat. We raised almost \$1100 for new kitchen countertops!



HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR



It is already November and time to start thinking about the holidays. At ZSJ's, it is time to start planning for the Holiday Food Fair. Again this year we will have cookies, candy, jar mixes, snack mixes, and a few surprises. There will also be Fair Trade items and Rada cutlery.

The Fair will again be on the Sunday of the children's Christmas program, Dec. 15th. The fair will take place during fellowship hour after church and also after the children's program in the evening. There will be cinnamon rolls and coffee during fellowship.

The cookies are sold by the dozen and everything else is priced individually. Everyone is invited to participate whether it be making and donating items, shopping, joining fellowship or volunteering to help.

More information will be coming in the bulletins each week. If you have questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Carla N, 641 892-4985.



The meeting was called to order on Sunday Oct 13 at 10:14 a.m. by Council President, Jim B. Members Present: Jim B, Vickie B, John L, Al N, Scott S, Gene S,

Daren M, Nancy R, and Pastor Wills. Members Absent: Judy S; Pastor Kim led council in prayer.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

- ◆ Friday, Sept 13 Bill N @ St. Peter Lutheran, Rockwell
- ◆ Friday, Sept 20 Cora R @ Our Saviors, Mason City

Funerals Scheduled

- ◆ Saturday, Oct 12 Carol L @ Zion St. John
- ◆ Saturday, Nov 9 Mavis S @ Zion St. John

Things Pastor's been working on

- ◆ Providing support to families experiencing grief.
- ◆ Training Leah Cruz as our new Director of Youth and Family Ministries.
- ◆ Preparing 9th grade students for Confirmation Sunday.
- ◆ Presurgical and hospital Visitation.
- ◆ Providing In home communion to those who request it.

Items to Consider

- ◆ Recommendation that the council approve the following four students for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism, on Sunday, October 27 – provided they complete their remaining requirements. Those students are Chayton P, Jensen R, Landon R and Nahla W. Motion to approve students as recommended, Daren; second, John; carried.
- ◆ After conferring with Jim B, Pastor submitted the health plan choice for 2025 to Portico.
- ◆ Pastor will be attending the NE IA Fall Professional Conference in Cedar Falls, October 14-15.
- ◆ The bathrooms have now been redecorated. Gary N made a Noah's Ark Display piece that is now hanging in the library to house ceramic figures donated by Sue K. Please thank Gary, Diane, Judy S and Lorna M for all their work on this project.

Secretary's Reports

- ◆ Motion to approve the September council and special meeting minutes, Vickie; second, John; carried.

Treasurer's Report

- ◆ Motion to approve the transfer \$5,000 from saving to checking to pay the cemetery bill and salaries, Gene; second, Daren; carried.
- ◆ Motion to ask Kari M to open a savings account for the remaining bell tower project money. This money will be put into the special account after the project bills are paid and will be saved for future repairs to the bell and/or tower, Gene; second, Al; carried.
- ◆ Discussed mission support of Church of the Damascus Road. We have not sent money to this mission project since Lent. Decision made to wait until the November council meeting to decide if and how much money to send.

Committee Reports

Parish Ed

- ◆ Scott C will be starting an adult Bible study entitled "The Return to Mayberry." This Bible study will be held on the last Sunday of the month from January through May and then will resume in September to complete the Bible study. Each session will last 30-40 minutes.

Property

Don G will work on tightening the bell yoke after he is finished with harvest. He does not anticipate it being a difficult project. There was a request to move the ornamental grass in the landscaping of the courtyard. It was felt that since the grass was right in front of the bench, it was obstructing the view.

Stewardship

- ◆ Met recently. Stewardship Sundays will be November 10, 17, and 24. The theme will tie in to the 150th Anniversary.

Technology No report

Worship & Evangelism

- ◆ Vickie has her volunteers for November. Daren and Judy are working on December and January.

Youth & Family

- ◆ Preparing for Confirmation Sunday on October 27th.
- ◆ BEC Fundraiser is going on now.
- ◆ Will work with Pastor to review and update the guidelines surrounding confirmation attendance.

150th Anniversary

- ◆ Nancy shared that the committee is recommending fundraising for three special projects to commemorate the 150th Anniversary:

- ◇ Purchase ELW Hymnals (3 per pew) and Bibles (1 per pew) – Cost approximately \$4,000
- ◇ Purchase a small baby grand digital piano for the sanctuary – Cost approximately \$6,000
- ◇ Create a prayer labyrinth at the church cemetery within the foundation of the old church. This would have a path people could walk through to pray. Landscaping of this area would include wildflowers and other minimal/no-care flowers and plants. Cost for this is approximately \$2,000.
- ◆ Nancy will be doing a temple talk on November 3 to share the plan of celebration of the 150th Anniversary.
- ◆ There will be an opportunity for church members to purchase Zion St. John apparel and coffee cups with the 150th logo on it.

Old Business

- ◆ Motion to approve the purchase of the new camera for the balcony to improve our livestreaming, Nancy; second, John; carried.

New Business

- ◆ Transfer Out - Motion to approve the transfer of membership of Joe Peter from ZSJ to Hampton Church of Christ, John; second, Vickie; carried.
- ◆ Council replacements for Gene and Vickie B have been secured and are Darwin M and Alice G. Jim B is waiting for a reply for his replacement.
- ◆ Money Counters- Oct, Nancy R and Judy S; November, John L and Al N.
- ◆ Next Council Meeting- Sunday Nov 10th following worship. Will include a short business meeting and then a budget work session. Budget information will be emailed out ahead of time.

Adjourn- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 am, John; second, Vickie; carried.

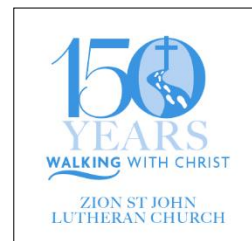
Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R, Secretary

FALL STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

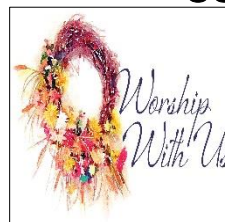


Our Fall Stewardship Emphasis will begin on Sunday, November 10th and conclude with consecration Sunday on November 24. This year's theme is 150 Years of Faithful Stewardship. This theme looks ahead to our celebrating our congregation's 150th anniversary in 2025.

Each week we will remember and explore how our church has adapted and thrived through the years. This year we are asking our members to consider increasing their pledge for this historic year in a way that reflects our congregation's age. Could you give \$1.50 more per week? Could you give 15% more? Could you give \$150 more per month? We ask you to come and learn about our congregation's rich history and about how God has blessed us in so many



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
Leah Cruz, DYFM	641-373-7015 youth@zionstjohn.org 8am-12 pm, T; 8am-8pm, W
Church Office	641-892-4010 mail@zionstjohn.org 9am-12pm, M-F

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	Dean D
Cliff C	Al N	

.. The family of Carol L
.. The family of Mavis S

4	Diane D
5	Don G, Tanner T Allan K, Finley O
7	Lauren T
8	Sue R, Emily S
10	Jane E
11	Brad M, Jameson G
12	Cindy J
13	Sue K
14	Angie R, Jayla F Ty S
16	Kyle O
17	Klayder W, Maci K
18	Lindsey E
20	Holly H, Gabi P
21	Craig O, Nate P
22	Kim M
26	Carla N, Kinzli W Tom S
29	Shyanne B, Libby T Alyssa B, Sarah N-P
30	Merlin M

