



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

January 2025 Vol. 31 No. 1
Christmas/ Epiphany

*Nations shall come to your
light, and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60:3, 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.

Blessed to be a Blessing



It is finally here! As the calendar turns to 2025 we begin celebrating the 150th anniversary of Zion St John Lutheran Church! Our committee has been busy making plans for this year's celebration. When I arrived at my first call in Pella, Iowa, the church there was preparing to celebrate their 35th anniversary. Their committee decided to have special events on 35 different weeks to celebrate the 35 years. The committee did a great job, but I can tell you most of us felt way burned out three quarters of the way through. Our committee has wisely chosen to go with four main events.

The first one will be held on Sunday, February 2. It is entitled "Hands to Serve." Following worship we will be working on a number of service projects, something for all ages.

The second will be held on Sunday, May 4th at 3:00 p.m. It is the *Harmonies* concert. One of the things our church is known for is the musical talent of our members. On December 8th our handbell choir participated in a special holiday concert at the United Methodist Church in Hampton. As their featured piece they played a jazzy rendition of *Go Tell It On the Mountain*. This piece showcased numerous playing techniques. The crowd enjoyed it so much that they began applauding even before the piece was completed!



Sunday, August 3rd is our *Home and Family* Celebration. We are planning an outdoor worship service that will be set up in the courtyard. We will have a picnic style meal and some games and then go indoors to be entertained by a group called the Looney Lutherans.

Sunday, November 2nd will be "Hearts to Worship" Sunday. Our Bishop Kevin Jones is scheduled to preach. There will be a great deal of special music. Following worship we will have a celebration banquet in the fellowship hall.

Please mark you calendars to attend these special celebrations. God has richly blessed our congregation for the past 150 years.

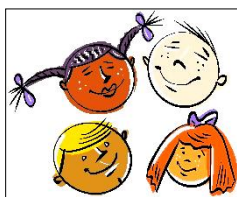
Generations of members have given sacrificially and dedicated so much time to make this year possible. Today we continue to *Be the Body of Christ* to others through worship and the many other ministries we are engaged in. Thank you for your service!

God's Blessings to You,
Pastor Kim



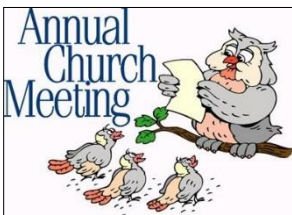
Welcome in the New Year! Truly every day is a new start, but with the new year comes new goals, new resolutions, new habits. This year instead of making some outrageous unattainable goal, how about instead we keep it simple. Let's be better than we were the day before. Do one small thing every day to make the world a little brighter. Just a genuine smile or a "how are you" can make a big difference in someone's day.

During the Christmas season the donation of over \$800 to Toys for Tots by our Sunday School Kids made a world of difference. A spark of light and love brought to the hearts of many children. We are very blessed to have generous kids in our congregation.



The confirmations teens will continue to learn and study the Bible. This past year they have expressed great interest in fully understanding. It has really been incredible to hear their questions and have discussions with them. I pray that continues into the new year.

Let each day be a gift to share with the world,
Leah Cruz



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ZSJ
ANNUAL MEETING JAN. 19, 2025,
10 AM
(SNOW DATE JAN. 26)
REPORTS DUE JAN. 7!



Thursdays,
Jan 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
2-5 pm

Saturday, Jan 4
10 am-noon



We are so grateful for all the support during the holiday season, but the need continues all year! 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 condiments, 4 peanut butter, packaged meals and snack items. 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 is a look at our finances as of November 30, 2024.

Budgeted Income	\$204,848
Offerings Received	\$172,918
Current Deficit	\$ 31,930
Total Expenses	\$185,622
Checking Balance	\$ 6,682



The good news this month is that our budget deficit only grew around \$1,500 and our checking account balance grew by over \$2,200. Thank you for your faithful giving!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry Adult Bible Study will be the last Sunday of the next five months, begin during the SS hour on January 26. This class will be a fun look back at the classic Andy Griffith TV show and how it relates to our faith today. All are welcome to come and enjoy!




150th ANNIVERSARY FOOD DRIVE



To prepare for our first 150th Anniversary Event, “*Hands to Serve*”, we will be collecting items for the West Fork Food Pantry. We will collect these items throughout the month of January and donate them at our event on Sunday, February 2nd. The West Fork Food Pantry has requested that we donate condiments – ketchup, mustard, etc.

To add some excitement to this project, we will be holding a contest to see if the Sunday School kids, or the adults can bring the most condiments by the beginning of worship on February 2nd. Please bring your items and put them in the appropriately labeled crates in the narthex. We will announce at worship on February 2nd which age group won the contest!

Office Closed Jan 1  **HAPPY
New Year!**

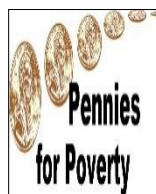
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Rebekah Circle
Mon, Jan 6 @ 6 pm

Recording
Available by 10 am
Tues, Jan 7

Thank you to all who gave thank offerings this year! We were able to send nearly \$200 to our church wide organization!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Penny Jar this year! We collected \$185 for Wings for Refuge!

This year thank you has a special meaning! The weather did not cooperate so you all had to make a special effort to come out to the food fair. The turnout was wonderful considering the conditions. Special thank you to those who donated items, volunteered, shopped and enjoyed the fellowship. It was very much appreciated and made for another successful event. We raised over \$1100 which will be divided between new kitchen countertops and money for Pastor to use when emergencies arise. Thank you again and hope to see you next year.



In His service, Carla N



Sunday January 5, 9 am

Co-Chairs: Kim M

Secretary: Pam M

Treasurer: Diane W

Jan Judy S, Pam M

Feb, Katy L,
Lorna M

March

April Carla N
Marlene S

May Kari M
Lynette M

June Kathy B

July Jeri B
Alice G

Aug Marcia E

Sept

Oct Kim M
Dacia S

Nov Carla N
Alice G

Dec Kari M
Kim O



As you can see, we still have a need for volunteers to help with the worship preparations for 2025. This includes preparing communion, changing altar paraments, putting out flowers (not lilies or poinsettias) and preparing for baptisms. You work with a partner, so more hands makes for lighter work. If you can help, please contact Carla Nelson @ 641-892-4985.

PIE SALE



The Women of ZSJ will be hosting our annual pie sale in February. Watch for more details and order forms in the February newsletter!



We are ever reminded of the kindness and generosity of the people of ZSJ! Thank you for all the words of encouragement, gifts, cards, hugs and smiles this Christmas season and into 2025!
Pastor Kim, Leah, Lorna & Diane

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	Kay R	Cliff C
Christy M	Louise K	Pat H
Patty B	Carolyn R	Jon S
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Crystal B	Drew H	Dean D
Steve K	Sawyer A	Cheryl R
Dusty M	Doug D	

* The family of Doris M
 * Prayers of Thanksgiving for 150 years of ZSJ!

2 Josh D, Braylon S
 4 Kiera H
 5 Dusty M
 6 Season C, Andrew S
 7 Amanda W
 9 Larry G
 11 Emma O
 13 Ryan S, Claire T
 15 Daren M, Frances W
 16 Arliss G
 18 Carter B, Fred R
 19 Tyler C
 20 Britne K
 21 Heidi K
 23 Jennifer C
 24 Mason M, Lisa P
 26 Mary Beth S
 27 Brooke E, Lacy W



28 Will L, Eleanor O
 29 Hunter W, Olivia T
 30 Janet L
 31 Jonathan S
 Olivia L



Zion St John Lutheran Church
1875-2025
Save the Dates!!



Sunday February 2, 2025, 9 am Hands to Serve

Sunday May 4, 2025, 3 pm Harmonies Concert

Sunday August 3, 2025, 10 am Home & Family

Sunday, November 2, 2025, 9 am Hearts to Worship

What can you do?

- * Pick up some save the date postcards and send to family and friends who may not be members
- ♦ Write a devotional <https://forms.gle/xQQnPjdDSc6KmcxAA>
- ♦ Written or verbal family stories
- ♦ St John Confirmation pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, & 1941 & Zion Confirmation picture from 1915
- ♦ Donate to our anniversary projects, a wildflower memory garden @ the cemetery, new Bibles & ELW hymnals and/ or a new digital baby grand piano for the sanctuary.

Our next committee meeting will be Sunday January 12, 10:30 am.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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