



# Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

February 2025 Vol. 31 No. 2  
Epiphany



## 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.*



*From*  
*Pastor Kim's*  
*Desk*  
*Jesus said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them...It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant."*  
Matthew 20: 25-26

On Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have the first of our four celebration Sundays to commemorate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. I think it's wonderful that we are starting off our celebration by doing service projects. There will be something for everyone to do! The ZSJ Piecemakers will have a quilt set up in the fellowship hall that will need to be tied. Another group will be making cards to be given out to people at the Sheffield Care Center. Another group will work on deep cleaning the pews in the sanctuary and if that gets completed, we will likely have a few other things for people to do. Another group will be transporting the condiments we have been collecting in January to the West Fork Food Pantry. While there, we will have things for people to work on. I will also be giving tours to people who would like one. After we have completed our work, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for lunch. We will be serving pulled pork sandwiches. I want to thank the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee for their hard work.



Doing these service projects is a very fitting way for us to celebrate. Did you know that the Sharing Shoppe and the West Fork Food Pantry were both started by members of Zion St. John? Having these ministries within 100 yards of each other on Gilman is a God thing. The presence of these two thriving caring ministries in our community is a vibrant sign that Sheffield is a caring community. Though both ministries are well supported by other communities in our area.

Please join us on Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> for Hands to Serve Sunday.

God's Blessings to You,  
Pastor Kim



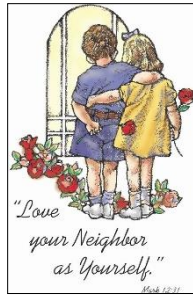
**Holy Communion will be served on Sunday Feb 9 & 16, to accommodate the Servant event on Feb 2.**



The month of love is here!  
 What better way to show our love of our church than to start celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Lots of acts of love starting with our beloved Sunday

school kids singing with the choir to food drives for our local food pantry. All generous acts of love and devotion to our fellow neighbors.

I reflect a lot during this month on love and caring. I think about the love that God has for us to send us his only Son to show us the way. The love, grace and compassion that Christ has shown to us, wow. How can we as simple sinners reciprocate that? In truth we can't. That is true love—Grace given to us when we do not deserve it! In response to that gift, we show the love of Christ in all we do. As Jesus said, we need to love our neighbor as ourselves. During this celebration of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary I challenge all of us to give with our whole heart.



Thanks be to God,  
 Leah Cruz

**Thursdays,  
 Feb 6, 13, 20, 27  
 2-5 pm**

**Saturday, Feb 1  
 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 cereal, peanut butter, and personal care 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 December 31, 2024:

Budgeted Income	\$223,470
Offerings Received	\$206,993
Ending Deficit	\$ 16,477
Total Expenses	\$201,618
Checking Balance	\$ 33,542



We had a very strong December. We cut our deficit nearly in half. We ended up the year with expenses coming in around \$5,000 less than offerings received. Our checking account balance reflects this.

Our insurance expense this year will increase \$5,000 more than last year. We will need to pay this on a quarterly basis rather than monthly basis so there will be months when our expenses will seem out of line. Thank you for your faithful giving!!

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

*Finding the Way Back to Mayberry* Adult Bible Study will continue on the last Sunday of the next four months, during the SS hour, Feb 23, Mar 30, Apr 27 & May 25. 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. The West Fork Food Pantry has requested that we donate

condiments – ketchup, mustard, bbq sauce, jelly, pickles, relish, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. With two weeks left, the adults have a commanding lead with 90 items. The youth are making a strong comeback with 51 items. Please bring your items and put them in the appropriately labeled crates in the narthex. We will announce at worship on February 2<sup>nd</sup> which age group won the contest!

## *Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Kim M called the board meeting to order on Sunday, January 5, at 10:35 a.m. Those present were: Kim M, Judy S, Diane W, and Pam M.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A thank you was received from KCMR Radio for the Christmas donation.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** As of December 31, there is a checking balance of \$971.95 and a savings balance of \$4,395.43 of which \$1,291.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance as of December 31 is \$664.35 The report was placed on file.

The audit committee will review the books before the annual meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Holiday Food Fair income was \$1,170.95 . Half will be used for the kitchen countertop replacement funds, with the other half for providing money for Pastor Kim to use when people request assistance with gas.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- World Day of Prayer – This year it is our turn to head up the World Day of Prayer. It will be held March 1 at Deerfield Place Assisted Living.
- Bold Women Sunday will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Mary and Martha Weekend will be February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at EWALU at Strawberry Point.
- Pie Sale – The pie sale will be held on Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.
- We will ask for pies to be delivered to the church by 10 a.m. Saturday, February 15.
- Diane will include pre-order forms in the bulletin and the February newsletter.
- We will meet to divide up preorders on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.
- Lenten Supper – Ash Wednesday is March 5 this year. Suppers will be held beginning March 19. We will discuss more at our next meeting.
- We will hold our next WELCA board meeting on February 15 after pie orders are filled.
- Kim adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M

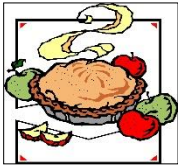


**Rebekah Circle**  
Mon, Feb 3 @ 6 pm

**Recording**  
Available by 10 am  
Tues, Feb 4



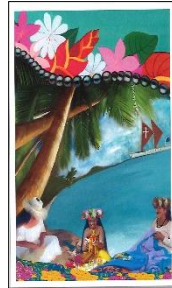
## PIE SALE



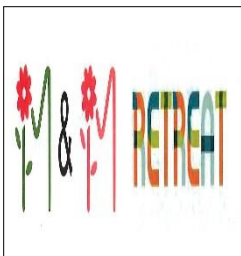
The Annual WELCA Pie Sale will be on February 16, starting @ 10 am. The Women of ZSJ are sponsoring this yummy event as a fundraiser for Women's ministries, including quilting and camperships. You can order by the slice or a whole pie. Preorders can be made in advance, to be picked up on the 16th. Order ahead to insure your favorites! There will be a limited number of pies for sale that day. Order forms are available on the narthex table or in this newsletter!

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer Celebration will be held @ Deerfield Assisted Living on Saturday, March 1, 9:30 am. There will be a program based on the Women of the Cook Islands, singing by the Sheffield Philharmonic and light refreshments. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. It includes women from 170 countries using prayer as a powerful tool given to us by Jesus.

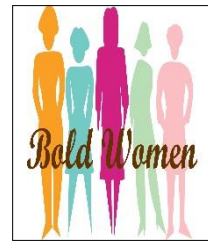


## MARY & MARTHA RETREAT



The NE IA Women of the ELCA will be gathering @ the EWALU Stone Center near Strawberry Point to enjoy some fellowship, learning, worship and good food on Friday and Saturday, Feb 21-2. This retreat starts on Friday @ 4 pm and ends by 3 on Saturday. Cost is \$35, which includes all meals, room with a bath and linens and a restful night! Along with bandage rolling, we will also learn about the National Alliance on Mental Illness from Pastor Susan Friedrich. Registration information can be found on the narthex bulletin board.

## BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY



During worship on Sunday, February 23, we will celebrate the amazing Bold Women in our congregation. The ministries of the Women of ZSJ are as varied as they are and reach those in our congregation, community and around the world. Please join us in thanking these wonderful, caring women who do so much for all of us!



**Call to Order:** President Jim B called the annual meeting of Zion St. John Lutheran Church to order at 10:00 am on January 19, 2025. A quorum was declared. Devotions were led by Pastor Kim Wills.

### Review of 2024 Reports:

- ◇ **Membership/Attendance Statistics** (pg. 6): 493 baptized members, 398 confirmed members.
- ◇ **Secretary's Report** (p. 7-8): Motion to approve the secretary's report, Daren M; second, John L; carried.
- ◇ **Treasurer/Financial Secretary** (p.8): Report was reviewed. Total giving for 2024 was \$208,862.75. Ending checking account balance was \$33,542.17. Ending savings account balance was \$85,249.54. Following the annual meeting, 2 separate savings accounts will be opened for the remaining funds for the Bell Tower and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary funds.
- ◇ **Pastor's Report** (p. 10): Pastor thanked the many additional people that help make sure the church continues to run smoothly. Special thanks were given to Jim B, Vickie B, and Eugene S for their three years of service on the church council. Pastor gave an update on the property insurance. He pointed out that our attendance for both Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day service, both in person and on-line totaled 430.
- ◇ **President's Report** (p.10)

- ◇ **Director of Youth and Family Ministry** (p. 10 – 11)
- ◇ **Audit** - John L, Daren M, and Doreen D reviewed the financial reports. All accounts were in order.

## Committees

- ◇ **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** (p.11): Nancy R shared that the committee was excited to get the celebrations under way after 12-18 months of planning. She also thanked Diane Wills for her many hours of work spent on the special projects for this year.
- ◇ **Legacy/Memorial Fund** (p. 11-12)
- ◇ **Property Management** (p. 12)
- ◇ **Stewardship** (p. 13): The stewardship drive was successful this year.
- ◇ **Worship and Evangelism** (p. 13): Thank you to all who assist with all aspects of the worship and evangelism of this church.
- ◇ **Technology** (p. 13 -14): Fred R stated that he had looked at some statistics on the Zion St. John YouTube channel and he discovered that people were watching our services from all over the world, not just the US and Canada.
- ◇ **Parish Education** (p. 14): Thank you to the Sunday School and Confirmation Teachers.
- ◇ **Youth and Family** (p.15)

## Organizations

- ◇ **Lutheran Cemetery Association** (p.16): money will be needed to help pay the mowing bill this summer.
- ◇ **Riverside Bible Camp** (p. 16-17)
- ◇ **WELCA** (p. 17-19)
- ◇ **West Fork Food Pantry** (p. 20-21): A discrepancy was discovered during the audit review. The treasurer of the food pantry was able to determine that it was a bank error that caused the discrepancy, and the financial records are accurate at this time.

## Elections

- ◇ **Church Council** – Three positions for three years are open. Nominations are Darwin M, Alice G, and Josh S. Motion to approve

the nominees for church council, Daren M; second, Nancy R; carried.

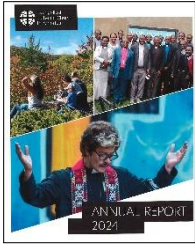
- ◇ **Cemetery Financial Officer** – Dave S will continue in this role
- ◇ **Nominating Committee** – Three outgoing council members (John L, Al N, and Judy S) and Pastor will serve on this committee
- ◇ **Memorial/Legacy Committee** Pam M and Barb S will be going off this committee. Kari M and Julie G volunteered to serve for three years.
- ◇ **Audit Committee** – John L volunteered to remain on the audit committee for another term.
- ◇ **Voting Members**
  1. **Riverside Bible Camp** - Darwin M volunteered to remain as the Zion St. John Representative.
  2. **Synod Assembly** – Nancy R and Leah C volunteered to represent Zion St. John.

**Old Business** – None

## New Business

- ◇ **Presentation and Adoption of the 2025 Budget** (p. 24-25)- Motion made by John Latham and seconded by Jill Conlon to accept the 2025 budget as presented. Motion carried.
- Legacy/Memorial Interest Dispersement**-Motion to utilize the interest from the Legacy/Memorial account (\$524.39) for marker updates at the cemetery and the creation of the prayer garden at the cemetery, Marcia E; second, Ron P; carried.
- ◇ Motion to adjourn the meeting, Daren M; second, Shannon L; carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy R  
Council Secretary



\*\*\*Copies of the 2024 Annual report are on the usher's table in the Narthex.

## 2025 ZSJ COUNCIL

- Daren M      President
- John L        Vice President
- Nancy R            Secretary
- Alice G
- Darwin M
- Al N
- Scott S
- Josh S
- Judy S

Special thank you to Jim and Vickie B and Eugene S for their last three years of service on the council!



## JANUARY MINUTES

Meeting called to order by Pastor Wills at 10:41 am after the annual meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025. New council members present: Daren M, Nancy R, John L, Scott S, Darwin M, Josh S, and Pastor Wills. Council members absent: Al N, Judy S, and Alice G

- ◇ Church council meeting time is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month following worship, (10:15-10:30) starting February 9, 2025.
- ◇ 2025 Church council officers
- ◇ President – Daren M

- ◇ Vice President – John L
- ◇ Secretary – Nancy R
- ◇ Designation of Pastor's Housing Allowance
- ◇ Motion to approve 50% of Pastor Will's salary to be designated as housing allowance, John; second, carried.
- ◇ Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

## 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     | Doug D         |
| 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   | Sue R     | Bishop Steve U |

- ◇ The family of Cliff C



## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:00 am Worship  
*Livestream @ [www.zionstjohn.org](http://www.zionstjohn.org) , Livestream)*
- 10:15 am Sunday School & Fellowship



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
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 February 23, 10:30 am.

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



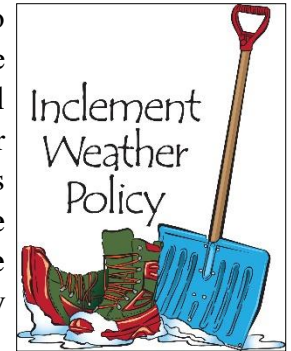
Table with 3 columns: Date, Time, and Event. Rows include Transfiguration Sunday Worship, Ash Wednesday Worship, Sunday Lenten Worship, Midweek Lenten Worship, Lenten Supper, Palm Sunday Worship, Maundy Thursday Worship, Good Friday Worship, Sunrise Easter Worship, Easter Breakfast, and Easter Festival Worship.

- 2 Jake S, Marvin H
- 4 Steve L
- 5 Zach G, Jason G
- 7 Chris H, Sara W
- 10 Jackson B  
Xavier B
- 12 Jordan H  
Courtney L
- 13 Taylor C
- 14 Abby S, Emily T
- 15 Cassidy E, Diane R  
Cheri K
- 16 Todd H
- 17 Jordan L  
Charles S
- 18 Macy D, Nancy R
- 19 Samantha M  
Holly W
- 20 Marcia K
- 21 Breanna L
- 22 Amber H  
Samantha H
- 24 Tyler G  
Preston L, Judy N
- 25 Jen S
- 26 Elle L, Jennifer L
- 27 Jim M



## WINTER WEATHER

If West Fork Schools cancel classes due to weather, all church activities will also be cancelled. For Sunday worship, the Council President and Pastor Kim make a decision whether Sunday services and SS will be held. If services are cancelled it will be **posted on the homepage of the website and the Facebook pages for the church and Youth and Family** and we will notify the following TV and radio stations:



TV: **KIMT, WHO, KCCI**  
 Hampton: **104.9 FM – KLMJ, 98.9 FM - KQCR**  
 Mason City: **1300 AM-KGLO, 1490 AM-KRIB, 97.9 FM-KCMR**