



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

March 2025 Vol. 31 No. 3
Transfiguration/ Ash Wednesday/ Lent



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.



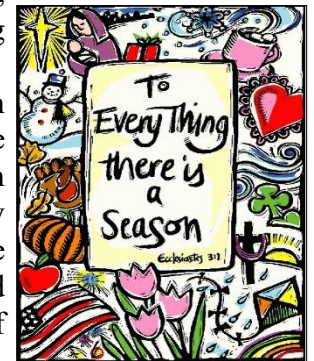
For everything there is a season, and time for every matter under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent is March 5, very late this year. The beginning of Lent varies each year due to the Hebrew calendar, which is based on the phases of the moon. We will celebrate Easter on April 20.

I have now celebrated 26 years of serving as an ordained minister. One of the constants through all those years is that on Ash Wednesday, in the flower beds outside the church, I have always found plant buds. They are typically from tulips or daffodils. No matter the weather they always seem to appear. For me, they are a welcome sign of hope after enduring another Iowa winter.

My first call was Peace Lutheran in Pella, home of the famous tulip festival. As the tulips began to emerge, the energy in the town climbed in anticipation of the beauty they would bring to the annual Tulip Festival. These tiny buds brought so much hope and encouragement even in the waning time of winter.



The season of Lent is a time for us to prune our souls and draw closer to God. During Lent we examine our lives in the light of the 10 Commandments and Luther's explanations of them. It is a time to practice the disciplines of Lent so we are truly prepared to celebrate the joy of Easter. The disciplines of Lent include, worship, prayer, fasting and giving.

One of our Lenten traditions here at Zion St John is dedicating our Mid-Week offerings to several non-profit organizations. My prayer for you is that you will embrace the disciplines of Lent. We do have devotional materials available here at church to assist you during this penitential season.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Time marches on, here we are in March already! I have been reflecting on the great things that happened here so far this year at ZSJ. We kicked off our 150th

anniversary celebrations on February 2. Such a great day seeing the kids and the adults all working together making the cards, cleaning the sanctuary, helping at the pantry or tying quilts. Then, the very next week was the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year we had over 100 more food/personal care items donated than last year! Let's see if next year we can have over 250 items donated! And we have lots more great things coming in March and April. In March the youth group will go bowling and I could use a volunteer to help chaperone. If you would like to help out with the youth please reach out to me or Pastor. And in April of course, we will have our Good Friday and the Easter breakfast. I can't wait to see what God has in store for the next two months!

God Bless,
Leah Cruz

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry Adult Bible Study will continue on the last Sunday of the next three months, during the SS hour, 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!



Thursdays,
Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
2-5 pm

Saturday, Mar 1
10 am-noon



We are so grateful for all the support especially the Souper Bowl of Caring donations! If you want to 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 packaged meals, snacks, 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 January 31, 2025:

Budgeted Income	\$18,707
Offerings Received	\$13,507
Current Deficit	\$ 5,200
Total Expenses	\$19,772
Checking Balance	\$21,613

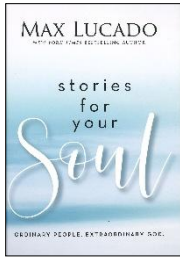


Financially we were blessed with an extremely strong December. This provided us with some cushion as we began the year. Hopefully we will have a better February. Thanks for your faithful giving!



**Sunday
March 9**

MIDWEEK WORSHIP



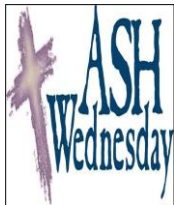
Midweek Lenten worship will be on Wednesday, March 5, 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9 @ 7 pm. This service includes the “Return to the Lord” liturgy that Pastor Kim wrote. The sermon series is based on the Max Lucado book entitled *Stories for the Soul*.

EASTER LILY GARDEN

An Easter lily garden will again decorate the sanctuary during the Easter season. A lily may be purchased for the garden through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$25.00. Make your check payable to *Forever Yours*. All orders must be in by Palm Sunday, April 13. If you are giving a lily in memory of someone or plan to bring a lily on your own, please let the church office know so that it can be noted in the Easter morning bulletin.



ASH WEDNESDAY



The beginning of the 40 days of the Lenten season is Ash Wednesday, March 5. Worship that evening will begin @ 7 pm and include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. In person and on-line worship will be offered. At home communion and packets of ashes are available on the narthex table. Also available are free

Lent devotional booklets, found on the Narthex table.

LENTEN OFFERINGS

Our midweek offerings are designated for:

Sharing Shoppe	Mar 12	Riverside BC	Mar 19
Access, Inc	Mar 26	Bridge of Hope	Apr 2
Ch of Damascus Rd	Apr 9	LSI	Apr 17



When giving, please make your checks payable to ZSJ and then indicate the ministry in the memo line, if you wish it to be credited to your giving statement. All checks payable to the recipients will be sent directly to them. The donation tab on the church website also includes these ministries as a choice in the drop down screen. Although we have specific date designations, you are free to give any time during the Lenten season.

LENTEN SUPPERS

There are four Lenten suppers scheduled for this Lenten season. All suppers are @ 5:15-6:15 pm. There will be eat in or drive thru options. If you would like drive thru, please pull up to the east alley door and your food will be brought to you. Free will offerings will be gratefully accepted!



Date	Host	Menu
Mar 19	WELCA	Beefburgers, chips, relishes, bars
Mar 26	150 Comm.	Pulled Pork, chips, coleslaw, bars
Apr 2	Choirs	Stuffed baked potatoes, relishes, bars
Apr 9	ZSJ Youth	Breakfast, cinnamon rolls

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

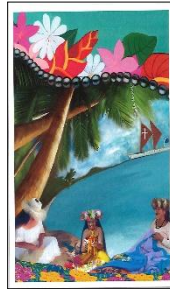


Rebekah Circle
Mon, Mar 3 @ 6 pm

Recording
Available by 10 am
Tues, Mar 4

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.



NATIONAL QUILTING DAY



Saturday, March 15 is National Quilting Day. It is a day to marvel at the mastery of the talented quilters among us. The ZSJ Quilters meet every Wednesday, September– April, to fashion beautiful creations that are given to our graduating seniors, members of our community, across our state and around the world thru

LWR. If you would like to see or even join in the fun, you simply need to come on Wednesday mornings starting @ 8:30 am.

PIE SALE



Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Valentine's Day pie sale. Whether you made a pie, bought a pie or two, or made a donation your support will help us continue the strong Women's ministries @ ZSJ! We raised nearly \$1000 again this year!



The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. on February 9, 2025, by President Daren M. Members present: Daren M, Alice G, Al N, Josh S, John L, Judy S, Nancy R, Darwin M, and Pastor Kim Wills. Pastor Kim led the council in

prayer.

Secretary's Report:

- ◇ Motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, January 19 (Annual Meeting), and January 19 (Council meeting); John; second, Darwin; carried.
- ◇ Correspondence was received from Church of the Damascus Road and ELCA for Zion St. John's donations.

Treasurer's Report:

- ◇ The treasurer's report was reviewed. Pastor pointed out that our insurance premiums are now paid quarterly and while still less expensive than Church Mutual, the premium is still more expensive than what we have paid in the past.

Pastor's Report:

- ◇ Pastor's report was reviewed.
- ◇ Pastor explained the role that Lutheran Social Service (LSI) plays in immigrants that are here legally.

Committee Reports:

- ◇ Committees should select a chair of the committee and strive to meet monthly.

Property Management –

- ◇ Property Management Members: Al N, Josh S, Lance L, Gary N, and Don G
- ◇ Al recommended having the air conditioner looked at this spring to see if there are any issues with it and to see if this is something to budget for or if it is good shape.

Stewardship –

- ◇ Stewardship Members: John L, Daren M, Darwin M, and Jim B

Worship and Evangelism

- ◇ Worship and Evangelism Members: Daren M, Judy S, and Alice G
- ◇ February volunteers have been found, Daren will find volunteers for March

Technology

- ◇ Technology Members: Scott S, Nancy R, Fred R, and Scott C

Parish Education

- ◇ Parish Education Members: Nancy R, Al N, Darwin M
- ◇ Adult Bible study on January 26 went well with about 10 people in attendance. This program will continue on the last Sunday of the month through May.

Youth and Family

- ◇ Youth and Family Members: Daren M, John L, Leah C, Dave S, Megan E, and Jessica R

150th Anniversary

- ◇ 150th Anniversary Members: Nancy R, Al N, Diane W, Kari M, Lynette M, Marcia E, Lorna M, and Marlene S.
- ◇ Mission Sunday went well last week. There were approximately 50 people that helped with the projects and ate lunch. The concert is next on May 4th. In August, we will have outdoor worship, picnic and program by the Looney Lutherans. We will wrap up the celebration year with worship on Sunday, November 2.

Old Business:

- ◇ **Lenten Offering Recipients** – Pastor is going to send a letter to the organizations that we have donated money to in the past. If the organizations are not willing to do a temple talk (in person or video), then the Stewardship Committee will assist pastor in selecting a different organization to donate money to in the future.

New Business:

◇ Banking Information

1. A motion to appoint Treasurer Kari M and Council President Daren M as signers on the Zion St. John Lutheran Church bank accounts, Darwin; second, Alice; carried.
2. A motion to open a new bank account for the funds that were donated for the Bell Tower Repair, with Kari M and Daren M as approved signers, Nancy; second, John; carried.
3. A motion to open a bank account for the funds for the 150th Anniversary, with Kari M and Daren M as approved signers, Darwin; second, John; carried.

◇ **Pam Harvey Estate**– Pastor gave an update. There are some details that Pastor is working on to get the money released to the church.

◇ **Electrical Inspections** – The new insurance company requires an insurance inspection to be completed within the first 90 days after the insurance has gone into effect. Pastor is coordinating.

◇ **Cemetery Vandalism** – Darwin will put up and maintain a trail camera at the cemetery. The council will investigate replacing the sign that was stolen.

◇ **Money Counters**, February – Darwin and Daren; March – Nancy and Josh; Lenten Services – Darwin, Alice, or Nancy will ensure that the money gets put into Kari’s drawer following worship.

◇ Next Meeting, Sunday, March 9th.

◇ Adjourn- Motion to adjourn, Darwin; second, Judy; carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy R, secretary

150th MEMORIBILIA



There will be another opportunity to order 150th anniversary memorabilia coming the end of March. Watch Facebook and the church bulletin for order dates for apparel, cups and mugs!!!



**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 March 16, 10:30 am.

150TH CELEBRATION KICKOFF, FEB 2, 2025

Thank you to everyone who had a part in making the kickoff of our 150th Anniversary celebration a huge success!! Here are a few pictures of all the fun! Check out the Facebook page for more!



Worship with choirs



Mission Meal



Food Pantry



Card Making



Meal preparations





SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship
Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org , Livestream)

10:15 am Sunday School & Fellowship



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 Elaine W
- ◇ The family of Lois B
- ◇ The family of Eugene P

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



Mar 2	9:00 am	Transfiguration Sunday Worship with Holy Communion & SS Choir sings
Mar 5	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes
Mar 9	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship
Mar 12	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 16	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion
Mar 19	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by Women of ZSJ
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 23	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship
Mar 26	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Church Council
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 30	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship led by ZSJ Praise Team
Apr 2	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Music Ministries
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Apr 6	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion
Apr 9	5:15 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Youth
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Apr 13	9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion & SS & Adult Choirs
Apr 17	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion
Apr 18	7:30 pm	Good Friday Worship led by ZSJ Youth
Apr 20	6:30 am	Sunrise Easter Worship with Holy Communion, HB & Chancel Choirs
	7:30 am	Easter Breakfast by ZSJ Youth
	9:00 am	Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

- 2 Libby Johnson
- 3 Helga Bobst, Ahna Larson
- 4 Bev Bohach, Sharon Sanders
Gavin O'Connor
- 5 Pam Meints
- 7 Tony Rother
- 9 Todd Hall, Nahla Wilson
- 10 Jim Bushkofsky
Julie Dhondt, Sarah Rummens
- 11 LaVonne Conlon
- 13 Lori Schmale
- 14 Kacy Larson, Cole McKee
- 15 Tara Truex
- 16 Ken Berding
- 17 Doreen Dohlman
Brandon Mondt, Caleb Truex
- 18 Scott Sanders, Jon Swanson
- 20 Stephanie Hanig, Steve Hemm
Nolan Shreckengost
- 21 Jady Dirksen, Lily Dirksen
- 22 Val Lillibridge
- 23 Marie Lubkeman,
Ryan Rolling
- 24 Taylor Greimann
- 25 Roger Etnier, Robert Muller,
Kalynn Washington
- 26 Edward Etnier, Tim Kelley Jr.
- 28 Louise Cameron
Camden Henricks
- 29 Al Nickerson
- 30 Ciara Hansen
- 31 Gene Riles, Nick Johnson



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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**