



Zion St. John

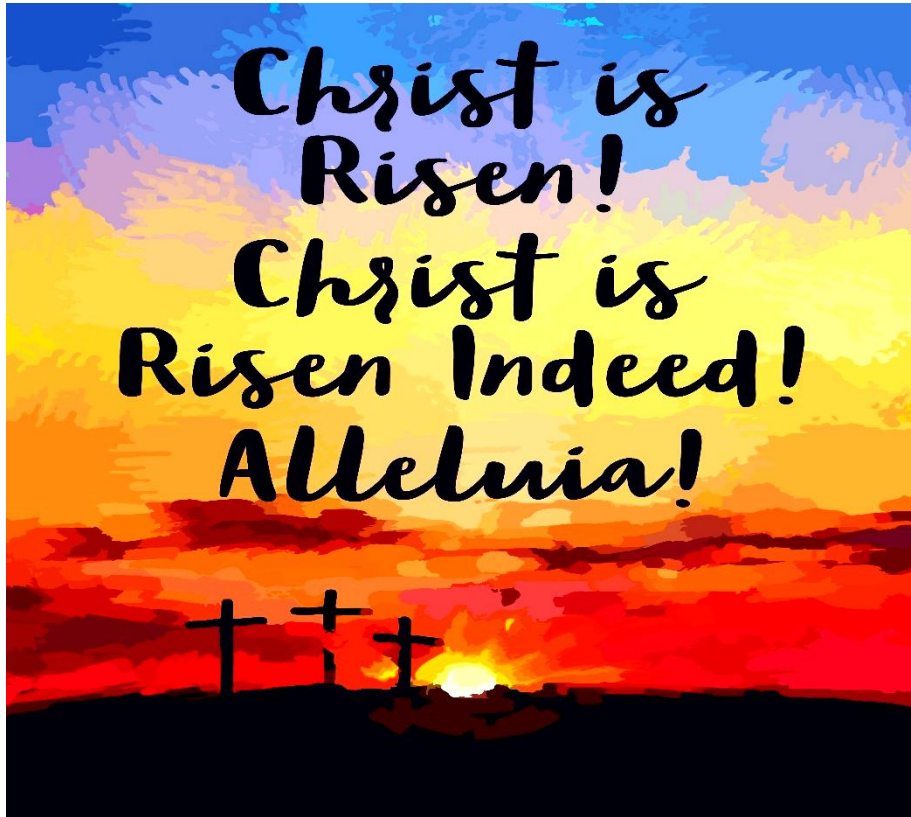
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

April 2025

Vol. 31 No. 4

Lent/ Holy Week/ Easter



**Christ is
Risen!
Christ is
Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!**

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 us and for our salvation, He came down
from heaven.*

Nicene Creed Article Two

During this season of Lent, I am using stories in some of my sermons from one of Max Lucado's latest books, *Stories for your Soul*. As we prepare to celebrate Easter I would like to share this story with you.

Dan Mazur considered himself lucky. Most people would have considered him crazy. He stood within a two-hour hike of the summit of Mt. Everest, a thousand feet from realizing a life long dream. Every year the fittest adventurers on earth set their sights on the 29,000 foot peak. Every year some die in the effort. The top of Everest isn't known for its hospitality. Climbers call the realm above 26,000 feet "the death zone."

Mazur and two colleagues were within eyesight of the top. Years of planning, six weeks of climbing, and now at 7:30 a.m., May 25, 2006, the air was still, the morning sun brilliant. Energy and hopes were high.

That's when a flash of color caught Mazur's eye; a bit of yellow fabric on a ridgetop. He first thought it was a tent. But he soon saw it was a person. His gloves were off, jacket unzipped, hands exposed, chest bare. Oxygen deprivation can swell the brain and stir hallucinations.

Mazur walked toward him and called out. "Can you tell me your name?" "Yes", the man answered. "My name is Lincoln Hall." Mazur was shocked. He recognized the name. Twelve hours earlier he'd heard the news on the radio: "Lincoln Hall is dead on the mountain. His team left his body on the slope." Mazur was face to face with a miracle.

He was also face to face with a choice. A rescue attempt had profound risks. The descent was already treacherous, even more so with



the dead weight of a dying man. Besides, how long would Hall survive? The three climbers might sacrifice their Everest for naught. They had to choose: abandon their dream or abandon Lincoln Hall. They chose to abandon their dream. The three turned their back on the peak and inched their way down the mountain.

Lincoln Hall survived the trip down Mt. Everest. Thanks to Dan Mazur, he lived to be reunited with his wife and sons in New Zealand. A television reporter asked Lincoln's wife what she thought of the rescuers, the men who surrendered their summit to save her husband's life. She tried to answer, but the words stuck in her throat as tears filled her eyes. Words were insufficient to express her gratitude.

Your eyes would fill with tears if someone did that for you or one of your loved ones. The truth is someone has. That man is Jesus Christ, who left the comfort and splendor of heaven. The Word of God, became flesh and lived among us. Jesus died on the cross to rescue you and me from our sins. One day he will come back for us again and take us to heaven to be with him forever.

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death, let us be truly thankful for the sacrifice of God's Son!

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Is this real spring or are we still in false spring? It seems like this time of year the Iowa weather really can't make up her mind. One day it's beautiful and 70

degrees then two days later it's a snowstorm. I think our weather is a good analogy for how our lives can be. Things can be great at one moment then change the next. But what is it that keeps us moving forward? Is it our strong will? Maybe it's that we have no other choice but to be strong and keep pushing forward? Perhaps really, it's having faith that God will provide us with another sunny beautiful day. It's easy to get caught up in our own personal storms and to think that God has forgotten about us. I recall the movie Grumpier Old Men, when Pop tells



his son John that he is so old that he thinks God has forgotten about him. Later in the film Pop passes away at his favorite spot, outside, on an old couch. John finds him and says "looks like God remembered you Pop." This is such a powerful message sent, we may not always feel the Holy Spirit in our presence but we are never forgotten. During this season of Lent and reflection, let us remember that God is always in corner.

Praise be the Holy Spirit
Leah Cruz

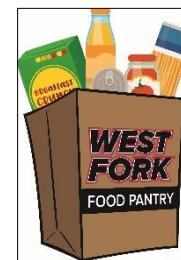
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry Adult Bible Study will continue on the last Sunday of the next two months, during the SS hour, 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,
Apr 3, 10, 17, 24
2-5 pm

Saturday, Apr 5
10 am-noon



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 pasta, 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. Easter meal bag distribution will be on Thursday, April 17 and will include hams.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

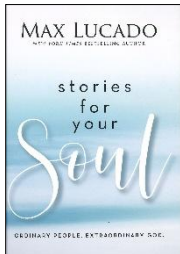
Here's a look at our finances as of February 28, 2025:

Budgeted Income	\$37,413
Offerings Received	\$27,708
Current Deficit	\$ 9,705
Total Expenses	\$34,662
Checking Balance	\$20,106



Giving in February improved compared to January. This resulted in our checking account balance dropping only \$1,500. Thank you for your faithful giving!

MIDWEEK WORSHIP



Midweek Lenten worship continue on Wednesday, 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.



LENTEN OFFERINGS

Our midweek offerings are designated for:

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 will be three remaining Lenten suppers scheduled for this Lenten season. Suppers on April 2 & 9 are 5:15-6:15 pm. April 17 supper will be 5:45-6:30. 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
Apr 2	Choirs	Stuffed Baked Potatoes, relishes, bars
Apr 9	ZSJ Youth	Breakfast, cinnamon rolls
April 17	ZSJ Women	Beefburgers, chips, relishes, bars



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Rebekah Circle

Mon, Apr 7 @ 6 pm

Recording

Tues, Apr 8, 10 am

NE IA WELCA GATHERING

Instead of our annual gathering in June, there will be a sharing party on June 14, 2025 @ Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein. This is for everyone and will include interest sessions and “new” circle sessions. There is no business meeting, only lively discussion, fun, and fellowship. Watch for more information as the time draws closer. We are also giving out educational scholarships. Check the webpage for more information @ [Women of the ELCA - Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA](#)



2026 TRIENNIAL



The next Triennial for the Women of the ELCA will be July 16-19, 2026, in **Des Moines!!** This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us, especially those who have not had been, to experience this national event, in our own backyard! Because it is so close, it makes it more affordable, even if you want to attend for just one day! The theme is *I am Worthy* and one of the speakers will be Martha Ambarangu, who is a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and a New Testament PhD Candidate at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Registration opens on July 15, 2025. You can find more information at [New Triennial Event Page - Women of the ELCA](#). Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance!!

CONNIE CLAUSEN SCHOLARSHIP



Connie Clausen was a very faithful member of this congregation. To honor her memory, her husband David, has established a scholarship fund. Two awards of \$250 each are awarded to graduating seniors who are members of ZSJ Lutheran Church. The applications for the Connie Clausen scholarship are due May 4. Questions? Contact Pastor Kim



Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Daren M at 10:17 am, March 9, 2025, with Daren M, Pastor Wills, Alice G, Al N, Scott S, Josh S, and Nancy R present. Guests included Fred R and Robert M. Pastor Kim

led the council in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve the minutes as presented, Al; second, Alice; carried. Thank you note was read from a seminary student for Zion St. John's contribution for seminary scholarships.

Treasurer's Report: The two savings accounts were opened as approved at February's meeting. Report was reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Scheduled April 12, 2025, Lois B at ZSJ

Baptisms Performed Feb 9, 2025, Hudson Henry G, Son of Tyler & Emily G

Things Working On

- ♦ Planning for the Season of Lent.
- ♦ Providing Home Communion to those who request it.
- ♦ Scheduling Temple Talks for Lent.

Items to Consider

- ♦ The Biennial Report with the state of Iowa. Has been filed.
- ♦ The electrical inspection of the church was completed by Brian T. The inspection went well. The report has been sent to our insurance company.
- ♦ Request to Fred R to get us a quote to replace Diane's computer. We would like to see it replaced soon after Easter.
- ♦ The table in the library is unstable. We need to have someone from the property committee determine whether it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced.
- ♦ Update on Cemetery Vandalism- Discussion held on replacing sign at the ZSJ Cemetery that had been stolen earlier this year. Suggestion was made to use a slab of granite instead of a metal type sign. This will be discussed further.
- ♦ Diane and Pastor are considering taking a few days off for vacation the second week in April.

Committee Reports

Property Management

- ♦ Pastor requested that the Property Management Committee look at the table in the library to see if it can be repaired or if it needs to be fixed.
- ♦ Robert Muller shared information about the ash trees on the property.

Stewardship

- ♦ Has not met.
- ♦ Temple Talks are set up for Lent.

Worship and Evangelism

- ♦ Has not met.
- ♦ Worship positions are filled for March, Alice will work on April.

Technology

- ♦ Fred Retz presented information on replacing Diane's desktop computer. Motion to approve Fred Retz purchasing a computer for \$550-\$700, Daren; second, Josh; carried.
- ♦ There are Thrivent dollars in the amount of \$700 available to be

used towards technology.

Parish Education

- ♦ Has not met.
- ♦ Adult Bible study continues the last Sunday of the month.

Youth and Family

- ♦ This committee has met and is working on Easter Breakfast and Good Friday.
- ♦ Pastor stated that a generous person has donated all of the eggs needed for the breakfast.
- ♦ Leah is working on a bowling outing during Spring Break and is working on setting up a Summer Jam program.

150th Anniversary

- ♦ Met in February. The first celebration Sunday went well.
- ♦ Apparel and Cups will be on sale from 3/16-3/31.
- ♦ The plan for the prayer garden at the cemetery has changed a little due to the recent thefts.
- ♦ Pastor stated that the cost of the keyboard will go up at the end of the month. It would be nice to have this in place for the concert in May. We will encourage the congregation to consider donating to the keyboard sooner rather than later.

Old Business

- ♦ Committees – Please try to meet monthly.
- ♦ Accounts at bank – have been opened, Daren needs to sign at the bank yet.

New Business

- ♦ Money Counters for April – Scott and Alice G.
- ♦ Next Meeting – April 13, 2025
- ♦ Motion to adjourn the meeting, Al; second, Alice; carried.
- ♦ Meeting adjourned at 11:03.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy R, secretary



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

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 June 1, 10:15 am.

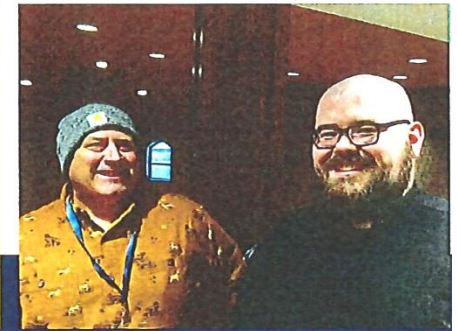
STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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

H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Recipients



"With two children in college and another starting in two years, there is no way I could have paid for seminary without the assistance of the H. George Anderson Fund for leaders. The fund has made it possible for me to answer God's call to ministry."

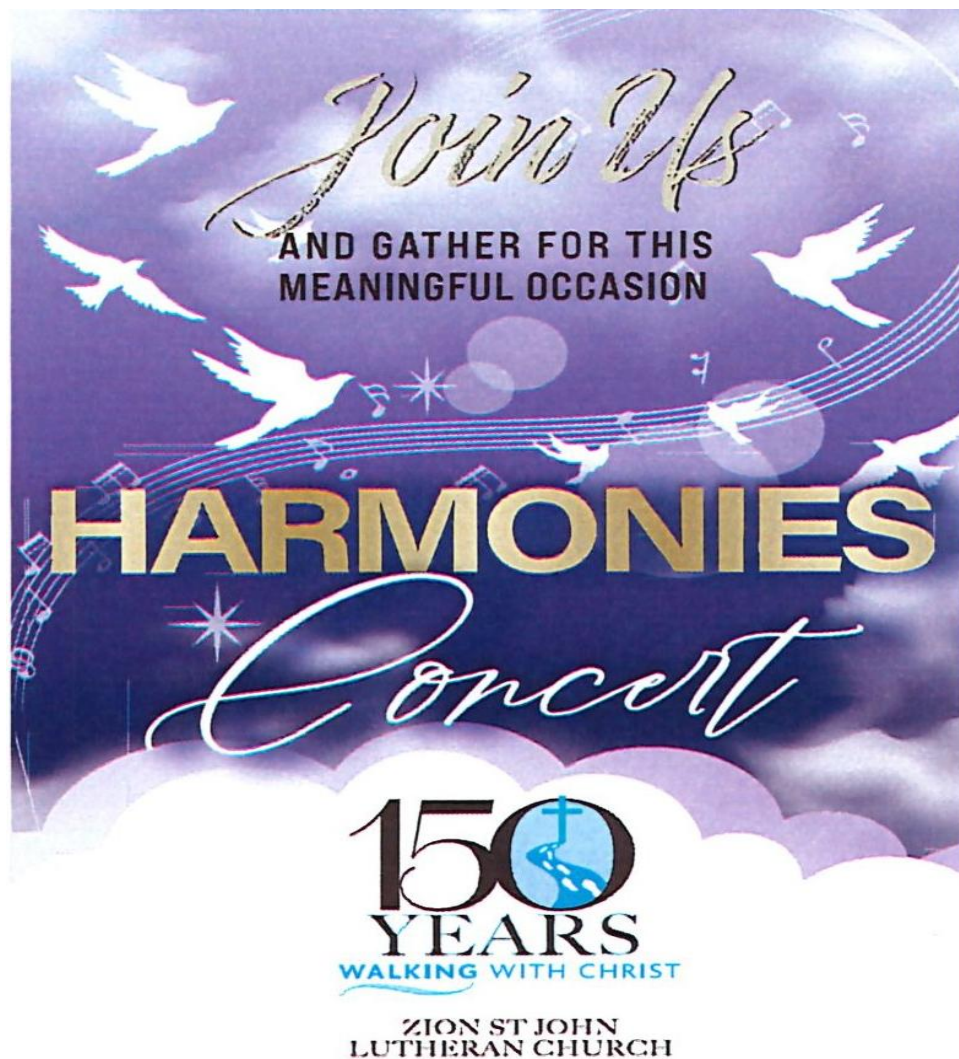
Chris Anderson, Northeastern Iowa Synod Candidate

thank you !

Chris Anderson
Leah Cruz
Gail Huet
Colleen Tanno
Beth Bell
Sergio Gomez
Pastor Jane Barclay
Craig A. Mon



Northeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Sunday, May 4, 3 pm

150TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT celebrating the wide and varying talents of our congregation! Featuring Sunday School, Handbell and Chancel Choirs, Praise Team and organist Charles Sukup.

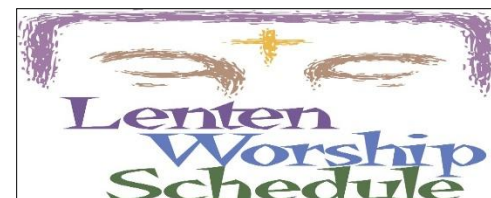
Also featuring the newly commissioned **HYMN** composed by **BROOKS JOYCE** from Luther College.



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 Pe	Ray R
Kay R	Doug D	Dusty M
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
Sue R	Steve H	Bishop Steve U
Darwin M		
" The family of Roger E		
" The family of Don H		
" The family of David E		



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	5:45 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by Women of ZSJ
	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

- 1 Mariellen V
Gordon G
Grady P
- 3 Adam S
Zach O
- 5 Seth B
Eli T
- 7 Jeff S, Elizabeth S
- 8 Mia T, Shaunda C
- 9 Amy M, Sara J
Kennedi O
- 10 Marcia E, Jim T
- 11 Zac C
- 12 Vicki T
- 15 Dale B, Katy L
- 16 Darin N
- 17 Joe M, Makenzii R
- 18 Greg R, Brinlee H
- 20 Emma M, Gary N
- 21 Curt C
- 23 Jan L
- 24 Sean C, Roger L, Kelix W
- 25 Vickie B, Jayden F
- 28 Madisyn H, Sarah R
- 29 Lisa H, Dawn G, Sutton W
- 30 Lonnie B, Adam T, Rachael H
Alberta C, Christin M, Elizabeth W
Remi O





SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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