



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

May 2025

Vol. 31 No. 5

Easter



***“Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here but has risen.”***

Luke 24:5

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.



The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

Luke 24:5

In my first call, the Senior Pastor taught me that newsletters should always be forward looking. But I am going to break that rule this month and instead go over some of my favorite things that happened during Holy Week.



Palm Sunday: The choral reading was very powerful this year. Our readers did a great job, and what was really exciting were the responsive readings that the congregation spoke. They were loud and spoken with the same energy as the readers. Well done. The congregational singing was also tremendous.

Maundy Thursday: at 3:30 the power went off in Sheffield and Rockwell. The women of the church were scheduled to host a meal. Rather than cancel it, they took the meat to the Food Pantry (which has a generator) and warmed it up. We had a wonderful meal by candlelight. We were busy readying candles for worship when the lights came on. The whooping and hollering from the fellowship hall was wonderful to hear. It was a wonderful reminder to me of how resourceful and resilient our congregation can be.

Good Friday: Our youth did an excellent job with the service. This was Leah's first time writing, organizing, and leading this service and she did a wonderful job. The youth and family committee did an outstanding job of providing us with a meal and great support. Darwin M, who works with our confirmation program, stayed with us from 3:00 p.m. until the service was over. One of my favorite moments happened during supper. At confirmation we put tables together so we sit together family style.

Though the tables were already set up for Easter Breakfast, on their own the youth pushed tables together so they could all sit together.

Easter Sunday: The music was glorious! Thanks to our music directors and the members of the ensembles for all their hard work. The sanctuary was beautiful! Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Easter Lily Garden. The breakfast was delicious! Thanks to Daren M and Leah C for organizing the breakfast. Thanks to everyone who showed up at 5 a.m. to cook.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our church secretary, Diane W, for seeing to so many details during Holy Week.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



This year has been amazing working with all the youth and families here at ZSJ. It is a blessing to see the children grow in faith. I would like to say how

proud I am of the youth for creating such a meaningful Good Friday service. They did such a great job! I went home and watched it on YouTube (thank you Fred and Chayton). Having the help of the youth committee John L, Megan E, Daren M and of course Dave S made the process so much smoother. They provided supper and a lot of support to this ministry. I would like to thank the congregation for your support of this ministry. You all have shown love and support by purchasing items from our fundraisers, donations and your time. Without the support of all you this ministry would not be what it is.



With the summer approaching, Sunday School and confirmation class will end. This year on top of having VBS we will also be starting a SUMMER

JAM!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I am very excited about this new exciting program.

Join us this Summer for SUMMER JAM! This new summer program is for kids going into 4th grade through 8th grade. We will meet

on Wednesdays 2-4, snack provided. Games and SUPER fun activities even a service project! Sessions start on June 4th!

Leah

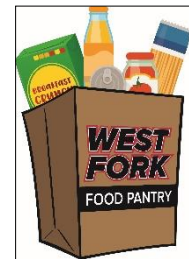
ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Finding the Way Back to Mayberry Adult Bible Study will conclude during the SS hour on 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,
May 1, 8 15, 22, 29
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, May 3
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.



**ZSJ CHURCH
OFFICE CLOSED ON MON,
MAY 26, 2025!**

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of March 31, 2025:

Budgeted Income	\$56,120
Offerings Received	\$47,969
Current Deficit	\$ 8,151
Total Expenses	\$51,333
Checking Balance	\$26,866



What a great month of supporting our mission! Our deficit decreased by over \$1,500. Our checking account balance grew by over \$6,500! Thank you for your faithful giving!

LENTEN OFFERINGS



Thank you to all who contributed to the Lenten offering recipients for 2025. The totals for this year are:

Access of Hampton	\$256
Bridge of Hope	\$225
Church of Dam Rd	\$165
LSI	\$721
Riverside	\$365
Sharing Shoppe	\$558

SYNOD ASSEMBLY



This year's theme, *Created To Be Connected*, emphasizes the ways we are all one in Christ and ties in with the Bible verse John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

June 6

Everyone is invited to the 7 p.m. worship service on Friday at Fredsville Lutheran, Pastor Lee Gable will preach, and a reception with refreshments will follow. Registration is not required to attend. The Fredsville congregation invites those attending to view displays about their 150-year history and ministry, learn about their new solar energy system and explore the grounds. Youth are encouraged to join in fellowship after the worship.

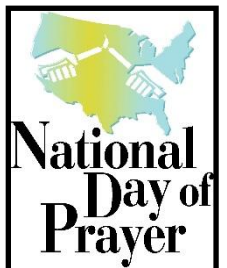
June 7

Check-in on Saturday starts at 7:30 a.m. at the Bien VenU Event Center at [7400 Hudson Rd.](#), Cedar Falls. Opening worship is at 8:30 a.m. The day will include three plenary sessions, ministry exhibits, lunch and closing worship with Bishop Kevin Jones preaching. The assembly will conclude by 5 p.m. Voting members will elect members for synod committees and the Synod Council, including a secretary and vice president. The keynote speaker will be **Pastor Emily Harkins**, lead pastor and founding developer of [The Dwelling](#), a mission congregation that builds community with the housing insecure in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She is a nationally recognized speaker known for her storytelling, humor and theological insights.

Please pray for Pastor Kim, Nancy Retz and Leah Cruz as they represent ZSJ.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The National Day of Prayer is a day of religious observance in the US when people are called upon to pray for their country. The first official day of prayer was in 1775, when the Continental Congress called for the public to fast and pray for the leadership of the Colonies. After that time, Presidents have called the nation to pray during times of war or other hardships. In 1952, Conrad Hilton (founder of Hilton



Hotels) and Senator Frank Carlson of Kansas, encouraged by Billy Graham, initiated a bill calling for the President to designate one day a year as a National Day of Prayer. In 1952, President Harry Truman signed a joint resolution into law.

In 1988, Congress chose the first Thursday of each May as the National Day of Prayer, and the bill was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

It is biblical and we are blessed to publicly pray for healing, forgiveness, and guidance for our nation and its leaders, now more than ever. This year the National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 1.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rebekah Circle

Mon, May 5 @ 6 pm

Recording

Tues, May 6, 10 am



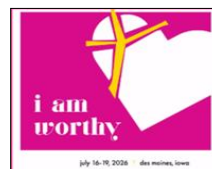
NE IA WELCA GATHERING



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!!



CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:55 am on April 13, 2025 by council president, Daren M. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer. Present: Daren M, Al N, Nancy R, Darwin M, Alice G, John L, Josh S, and Pastor

Kim. Absent: Scott S, Judy S

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion to approve the minutes as presented; Josh; second, Darwin; carried. Thank you note shared from a seminarian who received scholarship money.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No questions or concerns

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- * Funeral conducted on 4/12/25 for Lois B.
- * Motion to approve membership transfer of Paul and Caitlin T and family to St. Paul Lutheran in Hampton; Darwin; second, John; carried.
- * Motion to allow Pastor to move forward with purchasing the digital keyboard from Dewey Kruger Music, Al; second, Darwin; carried. The Anniversary Committee has raised over \$4,200 with more

monies expected to come in. Money can be used from the church savings account to pay the difference and the Anniversary Committee will reimburse the savings account once the money has been received.

- * Robert Muller has spent time cleaning up around the church yard this month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property

- * Clean Up Day is scheduled for 4/26, rain date is 5/3 at 9:00 a.m. Pastor will ask Diane to send out an email due the 4/26 being the weekend after Easter. There are indoor and outdoor tasks to be completed.

Stewardship

- * Access did not respond to give a Temple Talk during Lent. Next year, Access will be removed from the Lenten charity list and another organization will be chosen.

Worship and Evangelism

- * Still need greeters for early service on Easter. Daren will work on securing volunteers for May.

Technology

- * Fred R purchased new computer for Diane. There are still some issues with switching from the old computer to the new computer, but these will be taken care of following Easter.

Parish Ed

- * Adult Bible Study had 9 attendees in March. There are two Sundays left in this series.

Youth and Family

- * Good Friday and Easter Breakfast are ready to go!
- * VBS will be led by staff from Ingham/Okoboji.

150th Anniversary

- * Concert – May 4th
- * Still raising money for the 150th Anniversary projects.
- * Outdoor Worship in August

NEW BUSINESS

- * Suggestion was made by Pastor Kim to have quarterly property committee walk throughs.
- * Suggestion was made to look into getting the front parking area resurfaced if the city is resurfacing the street on Sherman Street.

- * Suggestion made to paint lines in the parking area on Sherman Street.

- * Suggestion was also made to consider replacing the sidewalk from the front door of the church and the sidewalk going to the east, as there are several areas that are uneven and this is a tripping hazard.

- * Money Counters for May are Darwin and Al

- * Next Meeting – Sunday, May 11 following worship

- * Motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

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, and new Bibles & ELW hymnals" **Update on the grand piano: it is now fully funded and in our 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



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	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	Dean D	Wendy J
Steve K	Cheryl R	Patricia S
Steve H	Gerry H	Bishop Steve U

* The family of Drew H

* The family of Wes E

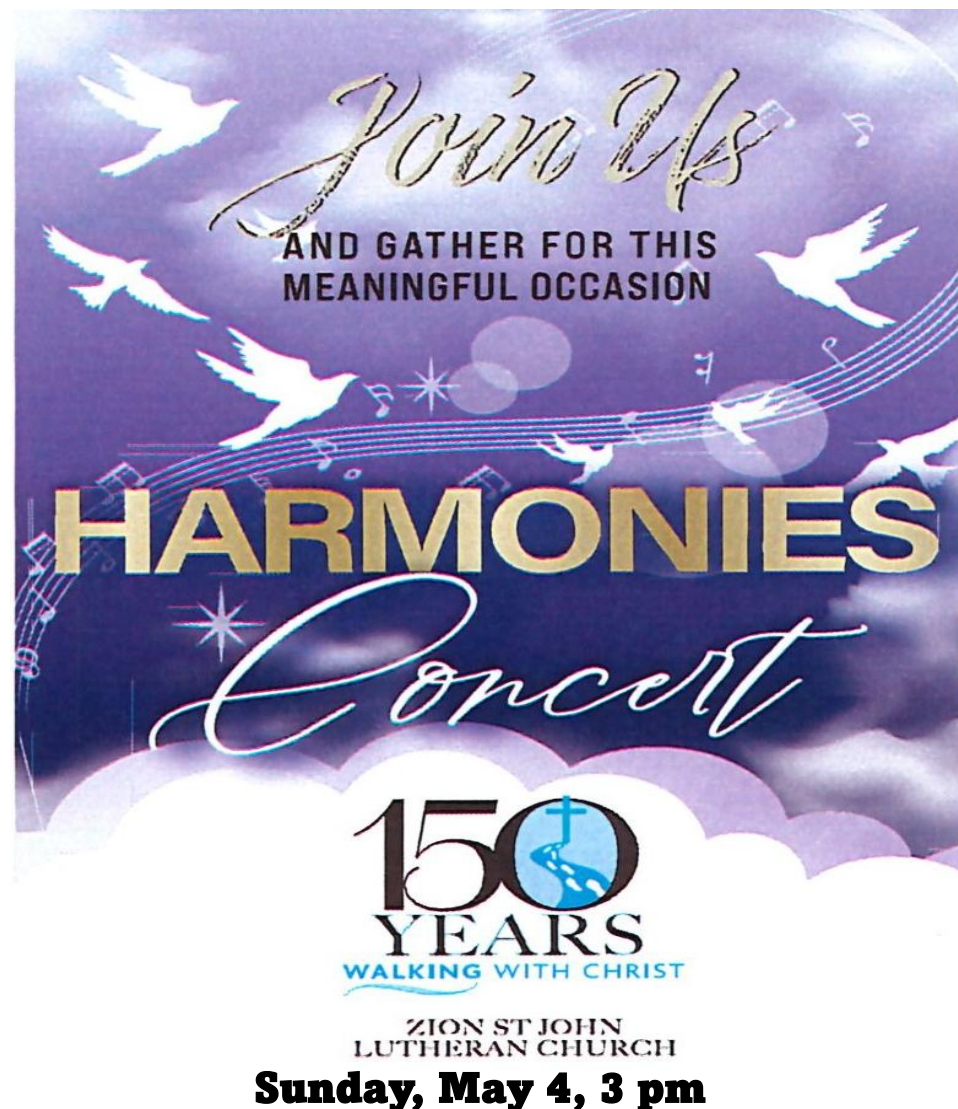


SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org , Livestream)

10:15 am Sunday School & Fellowship



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 **BROOKE JOYCE** from Luther College.



VBS 2025

July 21-24

Let's get Captivated

Psalm 121: 1-2

I Lift My Eyes To the Mountain

Camp counselors from Ingham-Okoboji will once again lead us in VBS activities. Registration forms are available in the narthex, in this newsletter and on the website and FB page. Get your kids and grandkids registered by July 6! Anyone one interested in helping, please contact Leah.

Monday-God is with us; God guides us in life and promises never to leave us.

Tuesday-Grace; Jesus forgives and heals us when we sin and his grace is a gift that continues every day.

Wednesday-Distractions; Too many things in life can distract us from keeping our eyes on Jesus.

Thursday-Fully Captivated; God's glory and who he calls us to be is much more than we can imagine.

- 1 Olivia R
- 2 Dean H, April S
- 3 Tim K
- 4 Grant P
- 5 Shelby T
- 6 Lane L, Kathy Mi
Tate S
- 7 Jameson O
- 8 Mark N
- 9 Julie G, Darwin M
Shelley VS
- 10 Cindy R, Barrett H
- 11 Bill N, Barb S
- 12 Stephen S
- 13 Marlene S
- 15 David S
- 19 Nate H, Bob K
- 22 Brett B, Nick N
Shannon O
- 24 Kimberly W
- 26 Dallas E
Lindsey S
Sammie W
- 27 Jerry R
- 28 Breeana P
Kiefer H
- 29 Val B, Kemlin H, Diane W, Emily A

