



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

June 2025

Vol. 31 No. 6

Easter/ Pentecost/ Holy Trinity



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.



**“Music is a fair and glorious gift of God.”
Martin Luther**

Growing up as an only child, music was a very important part of my life. I had a little record player that played 45's. I recently had lunch with my cousin Craig who reminded me of how annoyed he would get from my constant playing and singing songs by Alvin and the Chipmunks.

I also sang the songs of faith from an early age. I can still remember my SS teacher, Mrs. Glime teaching us “We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder.” As I grew older my musical tastes changed. I remember getting my first Panasonic cassette tape player and wearing out tapes that contained songs of The Carpenters and The Association. Now, I subscribe to Sirius XM radio, so I have easy access to my favorite songs.

Music helps us express our emotions. It can brighten our day or bring to the surface emotions that have been suppressed. The music of the church is very important. We all have hymns that we love. My favorites include hymns that are hundreds of years old and contemporary Christian praise songs. Today I am preparing for a funeral and it includes two hymns that are old standards and two contemporary songs.

Two of our fundraising projects for our 150th anniversary involve music. Our new digital piano has been purchased and been in use since our 150th anniversary concert. Another project is the purchase of new hymnals and pew Bibles. As of today we stand at \$2,044 received towards our goal of \$4,000. These books can also be given in memory or honor of loved ones.

The new cranberry hymnal does not include every song that is in the green LBW, but it contains several wonderful new hymns. Many we have already sung because we have access to them through the Sundays and Seasons software we purchase through our publishing house Augsburg Fortress. The good news is that all the hymns in the LBW are available to us through this software, so we can still include our favorites in the order of worship from time to time.

I thank God every day for the gift of music. It makes my life



richer and improves my mental health. I am thankful for the songs of the church, that enhance our ability to worship God.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Summer is finally here! This means vacations, time at the pool, BBQs with friends, maybe even camping. Summer can be such a great time for families. In the

summer I love the extra time to spend with my kids. We take day trips hiking at state parks. We pack a cooler full of sandwiches, drinks and snacks. We drive a few hours to our destination, have lunch and hit the trails. My son's favorite memory was a trip to Backbone State park with another family. Chayton took the lead and the real adventure began. We had gone off trail to go down by the river and take a rest on the beach. After walking around on the sand for a while we quickly realized we had lost the trail. With no idea of where we really were we decided to trek through the river to get back to civilization. Thank goodness it was not too deep! It was AWESOME! Imagine two moms plus four kids making their way down a river trying to find their way back. Eventually after a least an hour of water walking we spotted a few men fishing, we knew we had to be close. Soon we got out of the river and actually spotted our car just 30 feet away, talk about luck!



My family is very blessed that we are able to do little things together that make big memories. Not every family in our community gets the chance to enjoy summer the way we do. Some families struggle with how they will feed their children during the time off school.

Perhaps they wonder how to afford daycare services since school isn't in session and parents have to work. We may not be able to fix all the issues, but the one big thing we can do in our church is donate to the local food pantry. A few boxes of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, etc, could make the difference for a struggling family. I urge everyone to reach deep into your heart the next time you are at the grocery store and pick up a few items to donate to the West Fork Food Pantry. Your donations make a difference.

Leah

**Thursdays,
June 2, 12, 19, 26
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, June 4
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, peanut butter, juice 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. Our annual summer cookout with burgers and brats cooked by the Cattlemen's Association will be on Thursday June 26. Stop in and have a bite!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of April 30, 2025:

Budgeted Income	\$74,827
Offerings Received	\$64,618
Current Deficit	\$10,209
Total Expenses	\$70,296
Checking Balance	\$24,177



During the month of April our budget deficit rose by \$2,000 and our checking account balance dropped by just about that same amount. Still, we are in good shape going into summer. Please remember that while this is a season for vacations and time away, our expenses here at church continue as always. Thank you for your faithful giving!



**SUNDAY
June 8, 9 am**

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 7

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.

CONNIE CLAUSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Connie Clausen, who was a very faithful member of this congregation, passed away on March 16, 2018. 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. To be considered, an application needs to be submitted.

This year's recipients are Libby Trewin and Nolan Shreckengost. These scholarships were presented at the Graduation Reception following worship on May 18th. We thank the family of

Connie Clausen for their generosity. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, or apply for next year, please contact Roger Madsen.



*Congratulations
Libby & Nolan!*

Libby and Nolan were also given two beautiful quilts by the Piecemakers. We pray that these quilts will wrap you in God's love wherever you go!



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rebekah Circle

Mon, June 2 @ 6 pm

Recording

Tues, June 3, 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. Forms are on the narthex bulletin board. We are also giving out educational scholarships. Check the webpage for more information @ [Women of the ELCA - Northeastern Iowa Synod](#).

ELCA

An in kind gathering school supplies for Shepherd of the Hills Ministry is being collected. If you can help, please bring items to the church by June 12.

Mechanical pencils	Pink erasers
Dry erase markers	Pencil boxes or cases
Index cards	Kleenex
1" Binders	Wide & narrow spiral notebooks
Wide & narrow composition books	Wide & narrow filler paper
Thin and wide colored markers	Blunt youth scissors
Adult backpacks	



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!!



ALTAR GUILD HELP

Some extra help is needed to staff the altar guild for the next few months. Some of the tasks include preparing communion, replacing altar paraments, cleaning the altar after worship. If you have never helped before, or maybe need a refresher course, we are more than willing to help you learn how. All ages and genders can help! Help is especially needed in June, August and September. Please contact Carla N, 641-892-4985 or the office if you can help!

ZSJ PIECEMAKERS



The Piecemakers were very busy this year. They assembled 23 Personal Care Kits, 32 Baby kits and made 125 quilts that were all sent to Lutheran World Relief on May 17th. Thank you to Darwin and Lorna M for the use of their trailer, 7-8th grade confirmation class for loading all the boxes and Roger and Marcia E for hauling everything to Albert Lea

CARD-MAKING



In 2020 a group of ZSJ women decided to make greeting cards to cheer up our shut-ins during covid. They have continued and expanded this mission, and today are making about 150 cards per year for every occasion and hope to do more. These “Card-ian Angels” are now meeting monthly and invite anyone who would like to help to join them Monday, June 16, at 1 pm in the fellowship hall.

LWR KITS

The ZSJ Piecemakers need your help! If you are spring cleaning or garage saling in the next few months, please watch for these gently used items: Bed sheets or blankets, Baby sleepers or gowns without the feet, 6-24 months, hooded jackets or sweatshirts, 9-24 months, baby blankets, baby t-shirts, 6-24 months, and new light-weight dark colored bath towels and hand towels and bars of gentle soap in original wrapping. Treasures can be put in the Quilter's room in the basement.



We are also still accepting cash donations for school kit supplies. Donations can be given to Maxine H or Marcia E, or dropped off in the office.



CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 10:31 am on Sunday May 11, 2025, by Daren M. Members present: Daren M, Josh S, Scott S, Pastor Wills, Alice G, Al N, Darwin M and Nancy R; members absent: Judy S, John L. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT- Motion to approve the secretary's report, Josh; second, Alice; carried. Thank you letters were received from LSI, Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp, Bridge of Hope, and Church of the Damascus Road.

TREASURER'S REPORT- No questions or concerns voiced.

GUEST REPORT – Robert M updated the council about the 6 trumpet vines planted in the church yard as discussed in April. He will return soon to fertilize the plants.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Things Working On

- ♦ Completed First Communion Instruction for two students.
- ♦ Providing Home Communion to those who request it.
- ♦ 150th Anniversary Planning.
- ♦ End of school year education and youth events

Items to Consider

- ♦ WELCA request regarding countertop project.
- ♦ Recap of 150th Anniversary Concert. Pastor complimented the church musicians on the success of the 150th Anniversary concert held last Sunday.
- ♦ Pastor recommends giving away the acoustic piano if someone would like it as long as the receiving party is responsible for moving the piano.
- ♦ We received a letter from the Franklin County Assessor's Office addressed to the German Evangelical Lutheran Church. We may need to hire an attorney to get the name of our church corrected.
- ♦ We need to complete an evaluation for Leah Cruz.
- ♦ Consider putting part of our savings into a CD.

- ♦ Diane and pastor have vacation plans for May 23-26, visiting family. He may stop at visitation for Dick M on the way to St Cloud. Also on vacation from Saturday, June 14 through Saturday, June 21. This is a non-refundable trip so he won't be available. Nancy R has graciously agreed to lead worship on Sunday, May 25 and Sunday, June 15.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Property Management

- ♦ Clean Up Day – 11 adults and 4 youth were present for church clean-up day.
- ♦ Overhang over the east door needs to be repaired/replaced. Lance is going to talk with Chris Janssen to get a quote to replace the overhang with a pitched roof.
- ♦ A request has been made to install security lights on the west side of the church at both the north and south ends of the building. Pastor and Lance will follow up on this.
- ♦ The dishwasher on the north side of the kitchen stopped working. Brian T will be working on this.
- ♦ One of the breakers is not working appropriately. Brian T will be working on this as well.
- ♦ Pastor recommends that new mulch be placed in front of the church.

Stewardship – nothing to report this month

Worship and Evangelism

- ♦ The committee is struggling to find volunteers for assisting with lecturing, ushering, greeting and providing fellowship. A suggestion was made to see if Diane could put a link in the monthly newsletter to allow people to sign up electronically.

Technology

- ♦ Good comments about the placement of the cameras around the organ for the concert.

Parish Education

- ♦ Will meet on June 1st following the 150th Anniversary Committee meeting.

Youth and Family

- ♦ Easter breakfast and Good Friday went very well. Kudos to the Youth and Family committee for their extra help with the events Easter week.

150th Anniversary

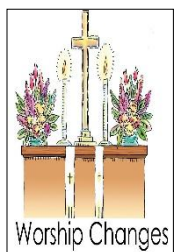
- ♦ Digital piano has been purchased and was used for the concert.
- ♦ Will concentrate fundraising efforts on prayer garden and hymnals/bibles.
- ♦ Next event is the first Sunday in August – Outdoor Worship, Grill Out, Looney Lutherans, and Ice Cream Social.
- ♦ Beginning to plan more for the final celebration on the first Sunday in November.

Old Business – None

New Business

- ♦ Outside cameras on south side of building. Daren will talk with Fred to research more information.
- ♦ Roof Damage – small amount of hail damage to the roof. The roof is 14-15 years old. Most likely, the damage is small enough that a claim will not be filed. The property committee will get the roof looked at to determine the extent of the damage and the direction to go.
- ♦ Money Counters June – Nancy & Alice
- ♦ Next Meeting – June 15
- ♦ Motion to adjourn, Al; second, Darwin; carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:12

Nancy R
Secretary



Holy Communion will be offered on June 1 & 8, to accommodate Pastor Kim's vacation time!



Remember to tune in for worship and send your offerings while on vacation!!!

LOONEY LUTHERANS

For our third anniversary celebration, on Sunday August 3, we will be hosting the Looney Lutherans from St Paul Minnesota. The



Looney Lutherans are a trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy and some help from the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long, happy life **the Lutheran way**. Ginger is the resident food expert, Looney life coach, and mastermind of the Lutheran Food Wheel, and loves food so much she

married a man named Herb. Bella is Italian by birth, Lutheran by marriage, and owner, operator, CEO, personal trainer, and client at a local exercise franchise. Her exercise routine can be performed anytime, anywhere. Lois is the emcee of the group, passionate about recycling and excited to share with you some of her Lutheran beauty tips that use items from your very own kitchen. Their original material is musical, interactive and family friendly — **and you don't have to be Lutheran to love it!** The day will include: Outdoor Worship, a BBQ potluck (meat provided, bring a salad) and Ice Cream Social with a performance by the Looney Lutherans! Watch for more details next month!

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



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

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!**
- ♦ Watch for our church float in the fair parade and People in the Park parade

Our next committee meeting will be Sunday July 20, 10:15 am.

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.

Sarah P

Ray R

Bishop Steve U

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

" The family of Cindy R

" The family of Arlene C

" The family of Jim S

" The family of Dick M

" The family of Lyle E

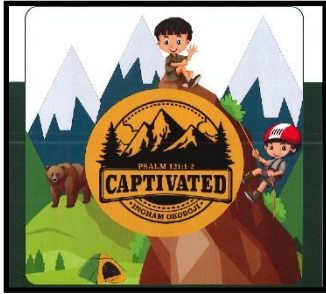


SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org , Livestream)

10:15 am Fellowship



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 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 Athena L
- 2 Jensen R
- 3 Holly C, Oakley H
- 4 Norma M, Brad G
Lucas F
- 5 Jake W
- 6 Carla B, Hannah M
- 9 Todd B, Landon R
Cheyene P
- 10 Cassidy R, Kim O
Addison S
- 11 Addy P
- 12 Ken B, Pastor Kim Wills
John L, Andy O
Jakob W
- 14 Lorna M
- 15 Jacob R, Deb H
- 16 Jason R
- 17 Laney O
- 18 Maxine H
Todd H
- 19 Heaven H
- 21 Owen P, Hudson B
Grayson L
- 22 Kristle C, Ian L
Shane W, Sr.
- 23 Lori O
Hayden S
- 24 Ian C, Lori S, Jessica R
- 27 Alice G, Lennyn B
- 28 Kari M, Morgan N
- 30 Carter N

