



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

July 2025

Vol. 31 No. 7

Pentecost



VBS July 21-24, 2025
5-8 pm

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.



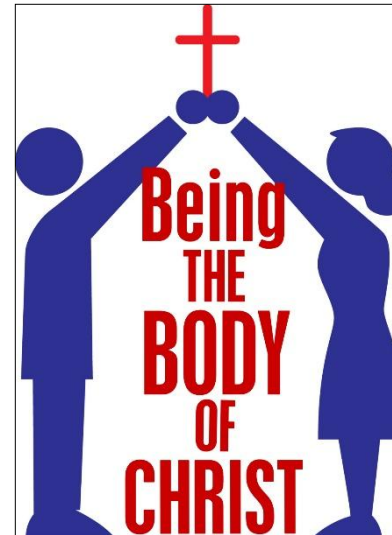
If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it..

I Corinthians 12:26

In this 12th chapter of Corinthians, Paul is teaching what it means to be a Christian.

When we are baptized, we become part of the body of Christ. Just as a body has different parts that perform different functions, so we have been given unique spiritual gifts that are to be shared with others to make the body function as it should.

When one member suffers, the others suffer with it. Recently, I have heard several stories of people who have had a hip or knee injury and since they have favored the one leg, problems and pain develop in the other leg because it has endured more stress.



Zion St. John has a wonderful mission statement. Both the entire mission statement and the shortened version appear on the cover of this newsletter. The shortened version is *Being the Body of Christ*.

So how do we live this out in our daily lives? I see wonderful examples of this every week. I hear about caring conversations and visits that have taken place. We all have busy lives. We have work and things to get done at home and if we have kids or grandkids we have their activities.

There are just so many demands on our time.

But what I would ask is this: If we have celebrations like baptisms or confirmations, or occasions where a family has lost a loved one and they are having a funeral, can't we be more present for them?? I know not every occasion will work for every family. But there is great comfort in being surrounded by Christian sisters and brothers during

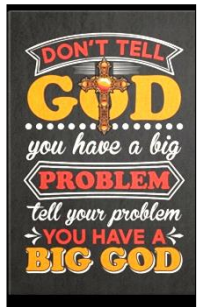
these times of joy and sorrow.

When we show up, we live out our mission statement: *Being the Body of Christ*. Thanks for all the ways you live this out in your daily lives.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Life has a way of throwing curveballs when we least expect them. Whether it's personal loss, financial struggles, health issues, or the overwhelming weight of uncertainty. Tough times can shake our foundation. In these moments, keeping faith may seem like an impossible task. But the truth is, it's precisely in times of hardship that our faith—whether spiritual, personal, or in the goodness of life—becomes a powerful anchor.



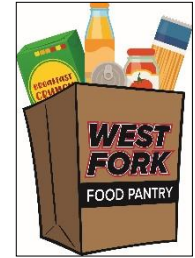
What does it mean to keep faith? Faith is not just about belief in a higher power; it's about trust, hope, and perseverance. It's the ability to hold on when everything around you feels like it's falling apart. Keeping faith during hard times doesn't necessarily mean denying pain or pretending everything is okay. It's about trusting that there is a purpose to your journey, even when you can't see the end goal.

Faith is the inner conviction that no matter how tough life gets, there's something greater than the struggle—whether it's the strength within you, the people around you, or belief in our all-powerful God. Keeping faith is about believing in the possibility of brighter days, even when those days feel far out of reach.

Don't tell God you have a big problem, tell your problem you have a big GOD.

Leah

**Thursdays,
July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
2-5 pm
Saturday, July 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 soup, peanut butter, cereal 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.



The pantry was selected to be one of the two sites for the new Healthy Kids Iowa program offered through the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and the Food Bank of Iowa. Any family who has received free or reduced meals for their school age children is eligible for this new program. Each family can receive an additional bag of food (valued @ \$40) for each child once per month in the summer.

If you have questions, please contact Diane @ 641-425-8628

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

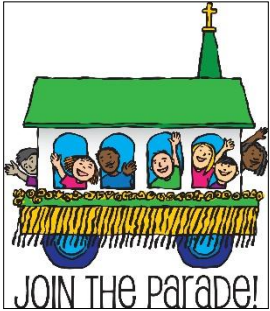
Here's a look at our finances as of May 31, 2025:

Budgeted Income	\$93,534
Offerings Received	\$85,617
Current Deficit	\$ 7,917
Total Expenses	\$88,749
Checking Balance	\$25,549



We had a great May! Our budget deficit dropped by over \$2,000 and our checking balance increased by nearly \$1,400. Please remember your offering throughout the summer. Our programming continues, including VBS, Thank you for your faithful giving!

PARADE FLOAT



This year, ZSJ is entering a float in the Franklin County Fair and Sheffield People in the Park parades. We are so excited to share our 150th anniversary celebration with all of our communities. We encourage all of our congregation to join us! Wear your 150th anniversary apparel or a blue shirt.

If you want to participate, please meet on 12th Ave in front of the Hampton-Dumont HS by 4:30 pm on July 8th for the Franklin County Fair parade. For the People in the Park parade we will gather at the north parking lot at the West Fork HS by 9:30 am on August 23rd. Any questions can be directed to Al N.

AUGUST 3 HELP NEEDED

The 150th anniversary committee could use some extra strong muscles to help with the set up for the August 3rd outdoor worship. We have rented tables and tents from the Aredale Fire Department and they will be bringing them on Saturday August 2, starting @ 10 am. They have people who will help in the direction of the set up, but we need to supply the laborers. We will also be moving some chairs from the basement. All ages are welcome to come and help, since many hands makes for lighter work for all! Please contact Al N with questions or to help!

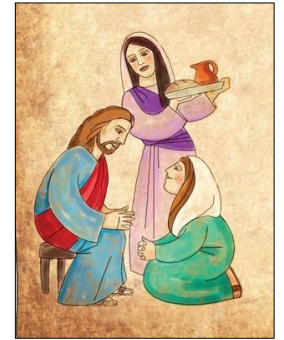


BEING PRESENT

Have you ever eaten a meal with someone who was busy scrolling on her cell phone while (half-heartedly, perhaps) participating in the meal? Or maybe you've been in a meeting or Bible study – in-person or online – where a participant's attention was on her phone and not on the group's discussion? That "present-but-not-really-present"

phenomenon isn't limited to situations involving a cell phone.

The opposite phenomenon is being present in the moment. Your own agenda is of no immediate consequence when you are present in the moment. You are there, listening to and focusing on the friend across the table. You are there, giving your full attention to the family member on the other end of the phone. You are there, setting aside your worry over what has happened or what might happen. You are there, just as Mary sat at the Lord's feet, hanging on every word that Jesus spoke. You are present.



It is hard and holy work to be present. We see Jesus in one another, don't we? Then we want to be like Mary, hanging on every word.

This message is excerpted from "Here and present" by Linda Post Bushkofsky in the June 2021 Gather magazine. Reprinted with permission,



**OFFICE CLOSED
JULY 4**

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rebekah Circle
Recording
Tues, July 8, 10 am



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 altar guild for the month of September. 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. All ages and genders can help! Please contact Carla N, 641-892-4985 or the office if you can help!



**Monday, July 20, 1 pm in
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 to fill 125 school kits with supplies. Donations can be given to Maxine H or Marcia E, or dropped off in the office, or mailed to:

Maxine H
PO Box 356
Sheffield, Iowa 50475



Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:20 am, June 15, 2025, by Daren Meints, Council President. Members Present: Daren M, Alice G, Scott S, Al N, Josh S, John L, and Nancy R. Members Absent: Darwin M, Judy S, and Pastor Wills. Nancy led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report- was reviewed. Motion to accept the report as presented, John L; second, Alice G; carried. A thank you card was read

from Caitlin T and then posted on the narthex bulletin board.

Treasurer's Report-was reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

- May 27 Cindy R at ZSJ
- June 7 Carolyn R at ZSJ

Baptisms Scheduled

- July 13 Lillian W at ZSJ

Membership Requests

- Renee Z, Former Member of ZSJ
- Larry B, First United Methodist, Plymouth, Iowa

Things I'm Working On

- Helping Leah with Summer Jam
- Providing Home Communion to those who request it.
- Providing Care to grieving families

Items to Consider

- WELCA request regarding countertop project. They would like to use \$6,000 in funds from the Pam Harvey Estate gift as matching funds. The fundraising would begin after all 150th Anniversary Projects are fully funded. A decision would be appreciated by the women as soon as possible.
- We received a call from Franklin Co. Attorney Andrea Miller. They would like an estimate on the replacement value of the bronze marker on the fence that was stolen. I'm not sure how to get that. The sentencing for one of the perpetrator's is coming up soon. We can send a representative if we want to, " to express our feelings about this loss.
- 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. Do we have approval to proceed with this?
- We need to complete an evaluation for Leah Cruz.
- Consider putting part of our savings into a CD.
- Diane and I are planning to visit our son Nick and his wife Emily July 11-17 in Colorado. Thanks to Nancy R for leading worship today!

Committee Reports:

Property Management

- Al will work with Josh to get new mulch put down in the front of the church.
- A quote was received to put a sloped roof over the overhang at the back door. This will be tabled until Pastor Kim returns.
- It has been brought to the attention of the property committee that a member is willing to donate the money to install lighting on the west side of the property. Al will work with this member to determine details and report back at the next meeting.

Stewardship – Nothing to report.

Worship & Evangelism

- June is completed, July and August are partially completed. Please sign up in the narthex if you can help.

Technology – Nothing to report

Parish Education

- Met in early June and another meeting is scheduled for July.
- Next year, the plan is to hold one adult Bible study in the fall that will correspond with the 150th Anniversary. Another adult Bible study series will occur January – May as was done this year.
- Leah is doing a great job with summer JAM
- VBS is under control.
- Leah will take care of securing Sunday School teachers.

Youth & Family

- Daren will work with Pastor Kim to set up a time for Leah's evaluation.

150th Anniversary

- ZSJ will have be in the Franklin County Fair Parade and the People in the Park Parade in Sheffield. The outdoor anniversary sign will be placed on a trailer. Any member of ZSJ is invited to walk with the float. We will have bracelets to hand out.
- The next big event is August 3rd – Outdoor Worship, Grill Out, Looney Lutherans and Ice Cream Social. Fundraising efforts are

going well and all the goals have been met or will be met soon.

Old Business

- Outside cameras – Daren will talk with Fred & Scott about this.
- The sidewalk needs to be repaired.

New Business

- Motion to approve the WELCA request regarding the countertop project, Nancy; second, Josh; carried.
- Discussed the information from the Franklin County Attorney regarding the cemetery thefts. According to Fred Retz, the approximate cost to replace the bronze marker that was stolen from the cemetery is approximately \$700.
- Motion to hire an attorney to get the name of our church corrected, Alice; second, Al; carried.
- Paving – Daren will talk with Heartland Asphalt to see if there is still time to add the parking area on the south side of the church to their agenda. He will report back to council with what he finds out.
- Money Counters for July: Daren and Josh
- Next Meeting – July 13, 2025
- Motion to adjourn the meeting , John; second, Scott; carries. Adjourned at 10:49 a.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Nancy R, Secretary



We have new banners for the sanctuary! Thank you to the memorial committee and the families of Evelyn S, Anna Mae M and Marilyn S!



RIVERSIDE GOLF



The twenty-first annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic will be Fri, Sept. 19 at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames! Come enjoy lunch, golf, fellowship, and ice cream to conclude the day. If you are interested in playing and supporting Riverside, please contact Pastor Kim. Registration begins @ 10:30 am, followed by lunch and shotgun start @ noon. The registration fee is \$125 per person.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org , Livestream)

10:15 am Fellowship



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

Sunday August 3, 2025, 10 am Home & Family



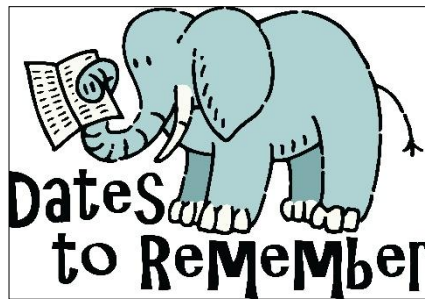
Sunday, November 2, 2025, 9 am Hearts to Worship

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.
- ♦ Volunteer to help with tent and table set up for August 3 outdoor worship.
- ♦ Join the ZSJ float for Franklin County Fair (July 8) and People in the Park (August 23) parades. Wear your 150 apparel or a blue shirt

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

VBS	July 21-24
Riverside Quilt Auction	Aug 2
7-9 Conf Meetings	Aug 20
Blessing of Backpacks	Aug 24
Quilting/ JAM resumes	Sept 3
SS resumes	Sept 7
WELCA Meeting	Sept 8
7-8 Confirmation Retreat	Sept 10
3rd Grade Bibles	Sept 14



Music groups resume	Sept 17
7-9 Confirmation Class	Sept 17
Riverside Golf	Sept 19
LWR Pickup	Oct 11
WELCA Heat n Eat	Oct 19
9th Confirmation	Oct 26
150th Anniversary Worship	Nov 2
Holiday Food Fair	Dec 14
SS Christmas	Dec 14

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	Jon S	Steve H
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Crystal B	Dean D	Wendy J
Steve K	Cheryl R	Patricia S
Lori M	Kenden N	Jim B
♦ The family of Carolyn R		
♦ The family of Gerry H		

AUGUST 3RD OUTDOOR CELEBRATION



For our third anniversary celebration, on Sunday August 3, we will be enjoying the beauty of God's creation and our families. We will begin the day with outdoor worship in our courtyard @ 10 am. Please note the time change! There will be tents and some chairs, but you are welcome to bring your lawn chairs as well. The ZSJ Praise Team will lead worship and there will be Holy Communion. Around 11:15 am, following worship we will have a potluck picnic. The meat will be provided by the committee and grilled by Josh Showalter. Please bring a side dish to share. Dinnerware and drinks will also be provided. During this time, there will also be a variety of games and fun activities for all to join, including bags, hula hoops, sidewalk chalk, four square, and jump ropes. Around 12:15 pm, following the potluck, we will move inside to the fellowship hall and enjoy the entertaining ladies from **Looney Lutherans**. This group comes from St. Paul Minnesota and is 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*. Their original material is musical, interactive and family friendly — **and you don't have to be Lutheran to love it!** After our entertainment we will end our time together with an ice cream social, complete with Franklin County Fair Homemade Ice Cream and all the toppings you could possibly want! We hope everyone can come and join us and wear your 150th apparel or a blue shirt! (in case of inclement weather, we will use the sanctuary as our backup.)

10 am	Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion
11:15 am	Potluck Picnic, meat and drinks provided
12:15 pm	Looney Lutherans Performance
1:00 pm	Ice Cream Social



1	Gary S, Julian C
3	Jesse M
4	Cadence N-P
5	Jill C, Shannon L, Ava H
8	Jeff C
9	Jackie H
10	Scott C
11	Ron P
12	Cole H, Lucas W
15	Caleb C
16	Payton K Trevor G
17	Gene S
19	Amanda F
21	Cooper E, Gail L, Shirley M
22	Spencer H
23	Megan M
25	Joseph S
26	Brandon K, Colson J, Taylor K
28	Chad E
30	Malachi R, Aaron I, Jax K



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