



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

August 2025

Vol. 31 No. 8

Pentecost



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.



And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.
Acts 13:52

This verse comes at the end of Paul and Barnabas' visit to the City of Antioch. Their visit was a positive one for the most part. Paul's preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ was well received by many. But in the end the Jews and other city leaders organized to drive them out of town. But still they rejoiced because the seed of God's Word had been planted there.

Laughter is not a common word in the Bible; it appears a grand total of five times. But there are many instances where the word joy appears. On Sunday, August 3rd, as part of our 150th celebration we will have the opportunity to laugh at ourselves as Lutherans. I love comedies. I love to laugh. I love watching clips of Tim Conway cracking up his fellow cast members on the Carol Burnett show and watching out takes of Jerry Stiller cracking up the cast when he appeared on Seinfeld.



What makes many kinds of comedy funny is that there is an element of truth in it. On Sunday, August 3rd we will have the opportunity to laugh at some of the traditions that are unique to Lutheranism in America. The Looney Lutherans will be putting on a program in our sanctuary after we have enjoyed worship and a meal together. This will be followed by an Ice Cream Social in the fellowship hall.

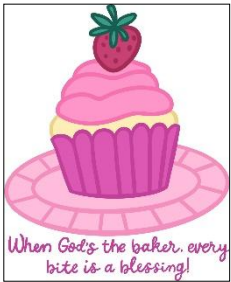
I hope you will be able to attend all of the events planned for this very special day. I pray you will experience laughter and joy. I want to thank the members of our 150th anniversary for all of their hard work that has made our first two events so memorable.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Life has a way of surprising us. Sometimes, what initially feels like a burden or setback ends up being a powerful blessing in disguise. The idea that blessings come in many forms is not just a comforting thought—it's a truth woven into the human experience, offering perspective and hope during both joyful and difficult times.

When we think of blessings, our minds often go to the obvious: health, love, family, financial stability, or personal achievements. These are clear and tangible gifts—milestones that make us feel safe, fulfilled, and supported. They're moments when life aligns with our hopes and dreams. These kinds of blessings are easy to celebrate and share.



But life isn't always so clear-cut. Then there are the blessings that arrive cloaked in difficulty. A lost job may lead to a career path more fulfilling than you ever imagined. A heartbreak might pave the way for deeper self-understanding and stronger relationships. Illness, while deeply challenging, can offer a renewed sense of gratitude, clarity, and connection.

These kinds of blessings aren't immediately recognizable. They require time, reflection, and a shift in perspective. In the moment, they may feel like anything but blessings. But with hindsight, many of life's hardest moments reveal themselves as turning points—crucibles in which we grow, mature, and redefine ourselves.

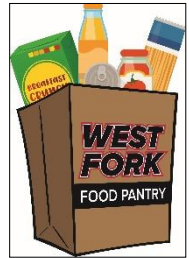
Blessings also come in the quiet, often unnoticed parts of life: a smile from a stranger, a moment of peace on a busy day, the resilience to get up when you don't feel like it. These small, daily miracles tend to slip under the radar, yet they're the glue holding us together.

Let go and let God, receive the blessings He sends.

Leah Cruz

**Thursdays,
August 7, 14, 21, 28
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, August 2
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, pasta 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 in Franklin County 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

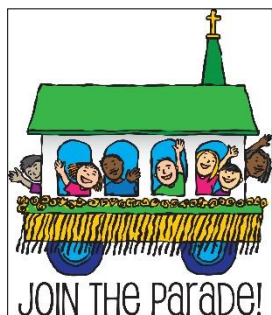
Here's a look at our finances as of June 30, 2025:

Budgeted Income	\$112,240
Offerings Received	\$101,030
Current Deficit	\$ 11,110
Total Expenses	\$104,274
Checking Balance	\$ 25,185



This past month our budget deficit grew by over \$4,000. Fortunately, we did a good job of controlling expenses so our checking balance is still healthy. Just a reminder, the work of the church continues even in the summer months. Thanks for your faithful giving!

PARADE FLOAT



This year, ZSJ is entering a float in the Sheffield People in the Park parade. 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 gather at the north parking lot at the West Fork HS by 10:30 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. Many hands makes for lighter work for all! Please contact Al N with questions or to help!



RIVERSIDE QUILT AUCTION

The Riverside Quilt Auction will be Sat Aug 2 @ Riverside Bible Camp. Here is the schedule:

- 8:30 am** 5K Walk/Run
- View quilts in Chapel
- 9:30 am** Pool open for 5K
- 10:30 am** Outdoor Worship
- 11:00** Live Quilt Auction
- 12:00 pm** Lunch freewill offering
- 1:00 pm** Pool open for all

For more information, www.riversidebc.org



FAIR QUEEN



Congratulation to Abby S for being named the 2025 Franklin County Fair Queen on July 10. She was quoted in the Chronicle as saying, "This means a lot to me. I love the community and I love the people of Franklin County," she said. "I am so excited to get to serve Franklin County this year." She is involved in softball, cheerleading, FFA and the National Honor Society, She was also named "Miss Outstanding Leadership." She is the daughter of Dave and Dacia S. This is two years in a row a ZSJ youth has been named queen! 2024 Franklin County Fair Queen Libby T gave an emotional speech, where she said, "I am so thankful for this experience, I will always carry it with me. But all good things must come to an end." (information and quotes from Jennifer Burnham, Hampton Chronicle)

Congratulations to these two amazing young women from our congregation!!!

RIVERSIDE GOLF

The 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.



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO ORDER: President Kim M called the board meeting to order on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at 10:10 a.m. Those present were: Kim M, Diane W, and Pam M.

MINUTES: Motion by Diane, seconded by Kim to approve the minutes from the last meeting, carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: The board had not met for a few months, so there were several pieces of correspondence. Thank yous were received from Carter B for the graduation quilt, Connie L for the prayer shawl, and from the Carolyn R family for the flowers and for serving at her funeral. Thank yous were also received from donations sent to Caring Pregnancy Center, LAMP Ministry Inc, Lutheran Services in Iowa, Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund, MercyOne North Iowa Hospice, Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless Shelter, Wings of Refuge, the Women of the ELCA and YSS.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of June 30, there is a checking balance of \$1,702.08 and savings balance of \$4,567.74, of which \$2,160.72 are designated funds, and \$357.58 are funeral/ event cash donations. The report was placed on file.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ♦ We have requested that the council consider matching funds for the countertop replacement work from Pam H's estate gift. We will continue to fundraise until we have approximately \$6,000.
- ♦ The WELCA General Meeting will be held September 8. A proposed budget was presented with the addition of a budget line of \$100 for the Cardian Angels. A motion to approve the proposed budget to be presented at the General Meeting, Kim; Pam, 2nd; carried.
- ♦ Baptism gifts need to be replenished as we have three baptisms scheduled for July. Diane will check with Marlene S. We will also need more boxes for bears.
- ♦ Teddy Bears – Diane will be sending more this week to flood

survivors in Texas.

- ♦ Triennial Registration opens July 15 for next year's event in Des Moines. There is a discount for early registration, and you can attend just one day if you wish.
- ♦ Heat & Eat – we may change this to October 12th (October 19 was in last newsletter)
- ♦ Care Center Birthday Party is October 20
- ♦ Holiday Food Fair – Diane will check with Carla to see if holding this on the same day as the children's Christmas program will work again this year.
- ♦ The Rebekah circle will be meeting on Monday, August 4th, at 6 pm at the church. The Bible study will be available to view online the next day.
- ♦ Kim adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M

Rebekah Circle

Mon, Aug 4 @ 6 pm

Recording

Tues, Aug 5, 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 opened 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,
August 18,
1 pm,
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



**WELCA
GENERAL MEETING
MON,
SEPT 8
6 PM**



CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am on Sunday July 20, 2025, by Daren M, president. Members Present: Daren M, Al N, Josh S, Scott S, and Pastor Wills. Members absent: Alice G, John L, Nancy R, Darwin M, and Judy S.

Pastor Wills led the group in prayer.

MINUTES: The secretary's report was reviewed. Motion to accept as presented, Josh; second, Scott, carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was reviewed.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Funerals

Thurs, July 3 Roger L @ ZSJ

Baptisms Scheduled

Sat, July 19 Noah & Rory, children of Silas and Megan (Mondt) J @ ZSJ

Pending Lillian W

Things I'm Working On

- ♦ Navigating the Air Conditioning Crisis
- ♦ Providing Home Communion to those who request it.
- ♦ Preaching at the Sheffield Care Center during the month of July
- ♦ Preparing for VBS

Items to Consider

- ♦ We need to complete an evaluation for Leah Cruz.
- ♦ We need to complete the paperwork regarding the estate of Pam H.
- ♦ Consider putting part of our savings into a CD.

- ♦ A discussion was held about increasing the approval cost for the council to \$15,000 from the current \$5,000 limit. Item will be added to the annual meeting agenda. Discussed the air conditioner repair and replacement process.
- ♦ Diane and Pastor will be visiting daughter Amanda and family August 5-12. Nancy is out of town so he will need to find someone to lead worship.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property Management:

- ♦ Mulch was added to the flower beds at the Church
- ♦ Repairs made to the front parking area
- ♦ Sidewalk repairs are scheduled for the front entry
- ♦ Motion to replace roof on the east door of the Church, Al N; second, Scott; carried.

Stewardship: no report.

Worship & Evangelism: no report.

Technology: no report.

Youth and Family:

- ♦ Summer JAM going well
- ♦ VBS is all set and ready to go
- ♦ Leah's evaluation needs to be completed.

150th Anniversary:

- ♦ August 3rd Celebration is set; final preparations are underway. Outdoor worship at 10 am, potluck, Looney Lutheran performance, and an ice cream social is planned for the day.

Old Business:

- ♦ Parking lot repairs
- ♦ Sidewalk repairs
- ♦ Roof repairs
- ♦ Pam H dollars

New Business:

- ♦ Update on ECLA proposed changes.
- ♦ Move of savings dollars to a CD
- ♦ Money Counters for August: Daren and Josh
- ♦ Next meeting – August 17th, 2025

- ♦ Motion to adjourn, Al; second, Josh; carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

Submitted, Daren M



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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
Jon S	Steve H	Cheryl R
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Crystal B	Dean D	Wendy J
Steve K	Kenden N	Patricia S
Lori M	Jim B	Jim M
Stan F	Karla C	

- ♦ The family of Patty B
- ♦ The family of Robert E
- ♦ The newly baptized, Rory Jean and Noah Scott J



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?

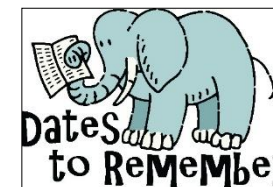
- * Pick up some save the date postcards and send to family and friends who may not be members
- ♦ Written or verbal family stories
- ♦ St John Confirmation pictures from 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, & 1941 & Zion Confirmation picture from 1915
- ♦ Donate to our anniversary projects, a wildflower memory 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 the People in the Park (August 23) parade. Wear your 150 apparel or a blue shirt
- ♦ Pick up a devotional booklet starting September 1

Our next committee meeting will be Sunday August 24, 10:15 am.

BBQ Chicken Dinner
Zion Lutheran
Rockford
August 24
Call 641-756-3850
to reserve by Aug 9



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



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

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

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY!!!!

1	Cora M
3	Jennifer B, Justin M, Angela N
4	Payton P
5	Mickee T, Sage S, Teresa S
6	Chuck J
7	Lon E, Jordan G, Tenley S
8	Doug H, Larry B
11	Alexandra C
12	Kayla S
17	Grace E
18	Hayden E, Taj O
	Hallie G
19	Gemma I
20	Taylor E, Mark R, Gene L
21	Ned B, Kay R, Isaac T, Dax S
22	Kaci H
23	Kellen C, Louise K
25	Eric E
26	Leah L-C
27	Ron E, Kacee G, Steve H
30	Sam C, Octavia D

