



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

September 2025

Vol. 31 No. 9

Pentecost



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14, NIV

**Sunday School starts
September 7, 2025, 10:15 am**

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.



How good it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forever.

Psalm 133

What a great day we had at Zion St. John on August 3! The day before we had more than 30 people from three different generations putting up the tents and the stage for outdoor worship and the meal that followed. The weather could not have been better! Leah's children sermon was one of the highlights of the worship service.

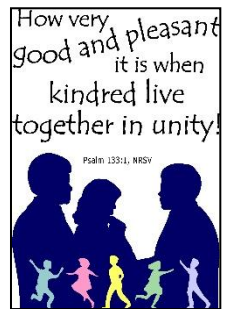
As worship ended, we could smell the burgers cooking on the grill that was manned by Josh S and his helpers. They were delicious, as were the side dishes that everyone brought to share.

Then it was time to transition indoors to be entertained by the Looney Lutherans! They were so funny and engaging. Lucas Wiseman did a great job of outsmarting me in the game show! Then it was down to the fellowship hall to enjoy ice cream sundaes.

Things flowed from event to event nearly perfectly. One of the things that impressed was how well attended all of the events were. We had 110 people for worship, nearly everyone stayed for lunch. Some people left before the Looney Lutherans but we had people from other churches come to see the performance and most of them stayed for the ice cream social.

Thanks to our 150th anniversary committee for all their work in organizing this great event! Al N did a great job recruiting helpers for set up and tear down; Scott C for providing the mobile sound system and setting it up; Fred R for making it possible for us to live stream our outdoor worship service.

If you see a member of the 150th anniversary committee please thank them for all of their work on this event. Nancy R reminded us at our August meeting of all the hard work our secretary Diane put in to make this possible. Thank you to everyone who showed up to participate in our August 3rd celebration.



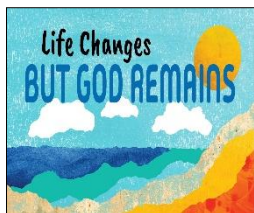
If you missed this one, please consider being here on Sunday, November 2nd for our celebration worship service. Our Bishop Kevin Jones, is scheduled to be here. All our music groups will be able to provide special music for this service and following worship there will be a catered meal to enjoy. Please watch the newsletter, bulletins and Facebook page for more information.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Some see God as the author of change — the one who nudges us forward when we resist, who opens new paths when old ones close, who breaks us open to help us

become more whole. Others understand God as the companion through change — not orchestrating every shift, but walking beside us, offering presence rather than control.



In scripture and sacred texts across cultures, transformation is a central theme: exiles become leaders, deserts become places of vision, doubters become saints. These stories don't ignore the pain of change; they elevate it into something meaningful, even holy.

Ultimately, the dance between change and God is a mystery. But in the whirlwind of change, faith can be a hand to hold — not to stop the storm, but to remind us we're not alone in it. And perhaps, in the end, the changes we fear are the very ones that shape us into who we are meant to be.

Leah Cruz



**CHURCH
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MON, SEP 1!**

**Thursdays,
Sept 4, 11, 18, 25
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, Sept 6
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, 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.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$130,947
Offerings Received	\$112,678
Current Deficit	\$ 18,269
Total Expenses	\$131,825
Checking Balance	\$ 16,644



We didn't have the best July from a financial standpoint. Our budget deficit increased by over \$7,000 and our checking account balance dropped by over \$8,500. Part of the reason was because our quarterly insurance premium was due. We will have increased expenses this month as we purchase curriculum and supplies for our education ministries. Please give as the Holy Spirit leads you. Thanks for your faithful giving!

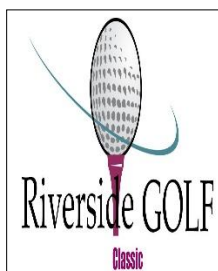
RIVERSIDE QUILT AUCTION



The ZSJ Quilters sent 6 quilts to the Riverside Quilt Auction on August 2. These 6 items raised \$740 for the camp that they use to give camperships for summer campers! Great job ZSJ Piecemakers!

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. Prayers would be appreciated!



MUSICIANS NEEDED



Singers and bell players are needed for the ZSJ Chancel and Handbell Choirs. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 17. Our 150th anniversary celebration will be Nov 2 and all voices and hands are welcome to share! Contact Cindy H, 319-444-0623 or cjhemm56@gmail.com, for Chancel Choir or Diane W, wills.dianes@gmail.com, or (641) 425-8628 or for Handbell Choir.

PEOPLE IN THE PARK PARADE PICTURES!

What a beautiful day for a parade! Thank you to Darwin Meyer who helped with setup and provided the vehicle for pulling the float, Josh Showalter for the trailer, Al Nickerson for the excellent driving and all those who helped with passing out candy and wrist bands!



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



WOMEN OF ZSJ GENERAL MEETING

The Women of ZSJ will meet on Monday, September 8, 6 pm, for election of officers and approval of 2026 budget & Bible study led by Diane W.

**OCTOBER 12TH,
after worship (about 10 am).**



Mark your calendars now for the Women of ZSJ Heat 'n' Eat fundraiser! Come and find your favorite home cooked casseroles and entrees in a range of serving sizes!

LWR DONATIONS



The ZSJ Piecemakers wish to thank those who donated money for purchasing supplies for our mission projects. We were able to purchase needed items to fill 126 backpacks for LWR school kits. With your help we are able to share God's love all over the world!

**Monday,
Sept, 15
1 pm,
fellowship hall.**



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!!



Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:19 am, on August 17 2025, by John L, Vice-President. Members Present, John L, Al N, Scott S, Josh S, Alice G, Darwin M, Judy S, Nancy R, and Pastor Wills, Members Absent, Daren M. Pastor led the council in

prayer.

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the Secretary's report as presented, Darwin; second, Alice; carried.

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

* Fri, Jul 25, Patty B @ ZSJ

Baptisms Scheduled

* Pending, Lillian W @ ZSJ

Baptisms Performed

* Rory Jean & Noah Scott Jr, July 19 @ ZSJ

Working On

* Providing home communion to those who request it.

* Providing care to grieving families

* Helping coordinate 150th anniversary events.

* Preached at the Sheffield Care Center in July.

Items to Consider

* A group of us will be playing in the Riverside Fall Golf Classic on September 19. The registration fee is \$125.00 per golfer. For \$50 more we can sponsor a hole in memory of Cliff C. Would the church be willing to cover this additional fee?

* The refrigerator in the Youth Room is in very bad condition. Suggestion is that we have Mid American energy pick it up and we will receive \$50 if it is still running. Then we should buy a new one as this refrigerator is still used on a regular basis. We might also have them pick up the mini-freezer that was in the kitchen as we have brought back the small chest freezer that we used to use for the Food Pantry. Currently the freezer has been removed from the kitchen and anything that needs to be kept frozen is being kept in the small chest freezer in the preschool Sunday School room. Motion to apply credit from MidAmerican Energy for turning in the two appliances towards the purchase of a new refrigerator for the youth room with remaining cost of the refrigerator split evenly between the church and the youth, Nancy; second, Darwin; carried.

* Leah is no longer working for H & R Block. She is now working for Kraft Food in Mason City. She wants to continue working here but her schedule here would need to be flexible as she will work a variety of hours.

* He is working on the evaluation for Leah Cruz.

* Consider putting part of our savings into a CD.

* Confirmation parent meetings will be held on Wednesday, August 20th at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Nancy will attend the meetings as the council representative.

Committee Reports

Property Management

* The tree that fell at the cemetery has been cleaned up. The fence will be repaired in the coming days.

* The sidewalk in front of the church will be repaired this week.

* The roof over the Sunday School entrance will be repaired this fall.

Stewardship

* Will meet in September

Worship & Evangelism

* The September signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

Technology

* Pastor will follow up with Metronet to find out why the internet

connection is intermittently not working in the morning and to get the equipment moved to a different location.

Parish Ed

* VBS went really well. We had about 39 kids that participated. Thanks to John and Shannon Latham for hosting the counselors. The counselors did a great job. Leah did an excellent job organizing VBS. There were about 100 people at the closing program.

* Parish Ed will meet Sunday, 8/24 at 8:00 am. Considering moving from 4 Sunday School classes to 3 due to student numbers.

Youth and Family

* Leah has been doing a great job.

* Summer JAM was a huge success with 6-8 kids attending each week.

150th Committee

* Outdoor worship and activities was a lot of fun. Great feedback and lots of good help setting up and tearing down.

* Next event will be the final event on Sunday, 11/2 during worship with a catered meal to follow.

Old Business

* ELCA Issues – Pastor and John will review outcomes from the Church Wide Assembly. New presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry was elected.

* Pam Harvey – Pastor and Daren will work on this during September.

New Business

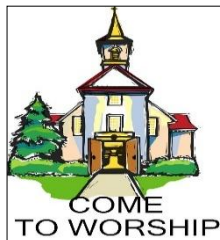
* Sheffield Parade – Saturday, 8/23 – line up at 10:30 and parade at 11:00

* Money Counters for September will be Al and John.

* Next Meeting will be Sunday, September 14th.

* Motion to adjourn the meeting, Al; second, Josh; carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Nancy R, Secretary



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org , Livestream)

10:15 am Fellowship & Sunday School

PRAISE TEAM MINUTE

Here is a list of the songs that will be sung on September 28.
Have a listen on your favorite platform!

Welcome In by Sovereign Grace

Forever by Chris Tomlin

Living Hope by Phil Wickham

Holy Forever by Chris Tomlin

For All You've Done by Hillsong



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 M	Stan F
Karla C	Arliss G	Crystal C
Kay E		

* The family of Jim B

* Our SS and Confirmation kids and teachers as they return to class



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

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.
- ♦ Pick up a devotional booklet starting September 1

The last opportunity to order 150th apparel will be September 7-15.

Check the history insert for more details!

Our next committee meeting is Sunday, September 21 @ 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

1 MaKenna O
 3 Jaelyn H, Tom S, Irelynn O, Ella H
 4 Jacob H, Carrie O
 5 Seth T
 6 Dana N
 7 Jacob K
 8 Melvin B, Dawn G
 9 Presley S
 10 Brandon S
 11 Tyler K, Kalli T
 13 Todd G
 14 Mia G, Cale M, Dacia S
 15 Nashaun B, Tyler L
 16 Jacob & Nicholas E
 17 Cody H, Cindy H, Sue N
 18 Kay E, Renner H
 19 Barb G, Troy I, Kris L
 21 Blake O
 23 Haley H, Jill I, Glen H, Judy S
 24 Chayton P
 25 Keanna P
 26 Zach S
 27 Megan E
 28 Bob C
 29 Matthew H, Morgan M, Kara S



Quilting	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
JAM resumes	Oct 5
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

