

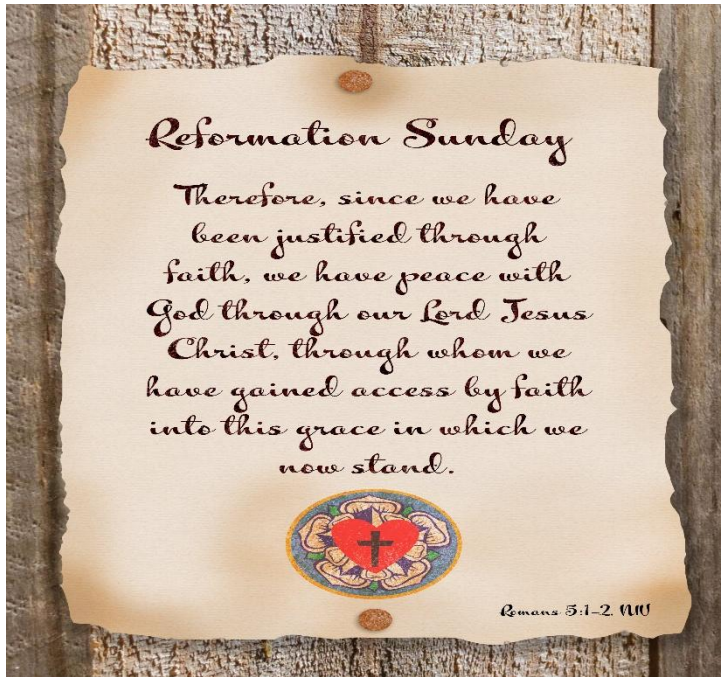


Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

October 2025 Vol. 31 No. 10
Pentecost/ Reformation



Sunday October 26, 9 am
Wear Red!

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.



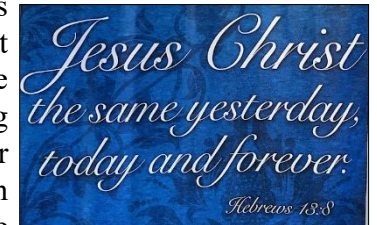
Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Hebrews 13:8

The culmination of our 150th Anniversary Celebration will take place on Sunday, November 2nd also All Saints Sunday.

The Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, Kevin Jones will be preaching the sermon. This special service will celebrate the gift of music among us as everyone one of our music ensembles will take part. If you were not able to be here for the concert in May, this will give you a chance to hear them.

Yet our main focus this day will be on Jesus Christ, who has guided this congregation through the many trials and joys that we have encountered over the past century and a half. During this service we will also remember our sisters and brothers in Christ who have passed away in the last 12 months. Their names will be read and handbells will toll.

Following worship a catered meal will be served. There will be no charge for this meal. We are in the process of finalizing details and the menu. I encourage every member of ZSJ to attend worship this day. I encourage you to stay for the meal as well. If you plan to attend, please contact our secretary, Diane Wills with your name and how many people will be attending with you. You can e-mail her at secretary@zionstjohn.org, or sign up on the clipboard on the 150 table in the narthex.



I would like to thank the members of the 150th anniversary committee for their dedication. The members of the committee are, Nancy R, Al N, Marcia E, Marlene S, Diane W, Lorna M, Kari M and Lynette M.

Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

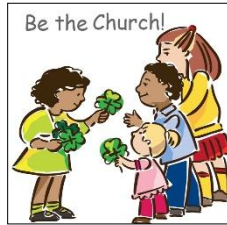
God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Be The Church

I was helping one afternoon at the food pantry when I saw a shirt that said, “be the church.” This got the wheels

in my mind turning. As a person who is at church every Sunday I really thought what does this mean, “be the church.” Church is learning about our awesome God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; how can I be the church? What else happens at church besides learning. First when we all arrive in the morning we are greeting each other, friendly hellos and genuine how are you, catching up from the prior week. Of course then we have worship, which made me think even harder about how we as a congregation are involved. We have sign ups to read the lessons and serve as greeters to make everyone who enters feel welcome. We have the altar guild who bring out the beautiful flowers and prepare the communion trays. We have our youth who carry the cross to the front of the church and light the candles. After service we have fellowship, again, volunteers to bring and serve refreshments while our members sit and discuss topics. This is all really great, but how do we be the church outside of the church?

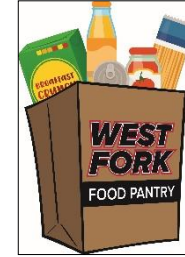


It's not that difficult when you really break it down to the simple yet impactful actions that we do inside the church and do them outside the walls! Be that greeter, a simple smile and hello to a neighbor walking down the sidewalk. It could change that person's day. Be the reader of the lessons, share the gospel with those around you. It's rewarding to talk about the Gospel with anyone who will listen. Plant the seed of faith in all those that you are able to. Carry your cross, light the spark of Christ in the hearts of those who may not yet know Him. Be the Church.

Leah

**Thursdays,
Oct 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, Oct 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 soup, 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.

RIVERSIDE GOLF RESULTS

ZSJ sent three foursomes to the Riverside Golf Classic on Friday, September 19. We played at Coldwater Golf Club and enjoyed a beautiful day to play, with great views of the ISU campus. Our church also sponsored a hole in memory of Cliff C who participated in many Riverside golf outings! Our 3 teams scored well for the day, but did not place in any of the flights. Don G, Angie & Ben R and John M shot -8, as did the team of Brad M, John L, Pastor Kim and Diane and the team of Tom & Marlene S, Al N and Mike N shot -5. The winning team shot a sizzling -20. Marlene, John and Ben also won door prizes! Over \$26,000 was raised for camperships @ Riverside!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$149,653
Offerings Received	\$129,360
Current Deficit	\$ 20,293
Total Expenses	\$147,828
Checking Balance	\$ 17,300



We didn't have a bad month financially for the last month of the summer. While our budget deficit grew by \$2,000, our checking balance actually increased by \$650. As fall programming ramps up so will our expenses. Thank you for your faithful giving!

*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

CALL TO ORDER: Kim M called the General Meeting of the Zion St. John Women of the ELCA to order on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:05 p.m. There were seven women present.

MINUTES: Minutes from the September 2024 General Meeting were previously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank yous were received from the Roger L family and from Lutheran World Relief.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The July and August reports were placed on file. As of August 31, there is a checking balance of \$1,603.21, and savings balance of \$4,538.90, of which \$2,160.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance as of August 31 is \$246.54. The report was placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ♦ Marlene has purchased baptismal gifts as well as confirmation gifts.
- ♦ Heat & Eat fundraiser-Oct 12th.
- ♦ Care Center birthday party-October 20.

- ♦ Confirmation-Reformation Sunday, October 26th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ♦ The new slate of officers for 2026 is Kim M and Judy S – 1 year co-chair; Lorna M 2 year co-chair; Diane W- treasurer; Pam M- secretary. Motion to approve the officer list as presented, Pam M; second, Diane W; carried.
- ♦ Diane presented the 2026 budget and 2025 Christmas gift list. Motion to approve the budget, Alice G; second, Lorna M; carried. Motion to approve the Christmas gift list with the possible addition of one service member and verification of locally used Hospice, Pam; second, Marlene; carried.
- ♦ The Heat and Eat fundraiser will be held after church on October 12. We will meet on October 11 to portion out the items. The proceeds will go towards replacing the kitchen countertops.
- ♦ The Holiday Food Fair will be held on Sunday, December 14, the same day as the children's Christmas program. Setup will be on December 13. The proceeds will be split with 50% going toward replacing the kitchen countertops, and 50% to Wings of Refuge.
- ♦ Pennies for Poverty will be donated to Spirit of West Fork.
- ♦ Altar Guild – Marlene has updated the instructions and photos and will be posting them in the altar guild room. We would like to encourage more people to help with this, especially those who have not served on Altar Guild in the past.
- ♦ Motion to donate \$450 to the 150th Anniversary Committee, from the unused Guest Night funds from the past few year, Alice; second, Lorna, carried. This would be to help cover the cost of having the Looney Lutherans, which WELCA had originally thought of doing for a guest night.
- ♦ Thankofferings are due in November.
- ♦ Additional items were discussed, including purchasing a taller step stool for the kitchen and wooden stackable high chairs, and replacing the cabinet in the fellowship hall.
- ♦ Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:55. Diane led the Bible study followed the meeting. The Bible study will be available to view online on Tuesday, Sept 9.

Secretary, Pam M



Rebekah Circle
Mon, Oct 6 @ 6 pm

Recording
Available by 10 am
Tues, Oct 7

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

Join us on Oct 12, 10 am, 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! Proceeds go to new kitchen countertops!



NE SWO TRIP

Drive through beautiful Clayton County and gather with friends from NE IA SWO. All women are invited; bring a friend. Schedule for the day:

10:00 am Froilech museum tour \$10

11:45 am Lunch in Elkader

Pay for own meal/ buffet.

1:30 p.m. Ceres Church tour,

Garnaville

(freewill offering)

2:30 p.m. Lockmaster House, DNR

Aquarium, Guttenberg

(freewill offering)

Optional: Promised Land Winery



If you want to join the ZSJ group, let Alice G know by October Sunday Oct 12.

**Tuesday,
Oct. 21
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!!



**Holiday Food Fair
Sunday, December 14**

**SS Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14
4 pm**



Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am on September 14, 2025, by Daren M, President. Members present, John L, Darwin M, Al N, Scott S, Josh S, Alice G, and Pastor Wills. Members absent: Nancy R and Judy S. Visitor: Robert M. Pastor Kim

opened the meeting with prayer. Robert gave an update on the condition of the ash trees along the parking lot and the growth of the trumpet vines planted there. He also gave recommendations about the wildflower garden in the church cemetery.

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

Treasurer's Report: Reviewed

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

- ♦ Fri, Sept 5, Arliss G @ ZSJ

Baptisms Scheduled

- ♦ Pending, Lillian W @ ZSJ

Things Working On

- ♦ Providing home communion to those who request it.
- ♦ Providing care to grieving families.
- ♦ Helping to coordinate 150th anniversary events.
- ♦ Getting things in place for Fall Program Year

Items to Consider

- ♦ The refrigerator in the Youth Room and the small freezer from the kitchen have been picked up by Mid American Energy. Both were still running so we anticipate receiving around \$100 for them. Pastor will go to McClusky in Mason City to check with them about a purchase from them.
- ♦ Daren and Pastor have completed Leah's evaluation.
- ♦ Currently we have raised \$2,606 towards a goal of \$4,000 to purchase new hymnals and Bibles. He would like to have the new hymnals in place by the end of October so they are in the pews for Confirmation Sunday. Members of the 150th anniversary committee will be at the table every Sunday until the goal has been met. Motion to order the new hymnals and other resource materials needed, Al; second, Darwin; carried.

- ♦ If we are going to use Ingham Okoboji for Bible School next year we need to get on their schedule. Down payment is \$300 with a total cost around \$2,000. Motion for Pastor to proceed with this, John; second, Josh; carried.
- ♦ Consider putting part of our savings into a CD. More information will be considered.
- ♦ He is working on getting the trip to Tanzania set up for early 2026. He has \$4,000 in continuing education line item for this. If he has not used that line item by the end of the year, he would like to roll it over into next year.

Committee Reports

Property Management

- ♦ Darwin and Eugene S looked at the cemetery fence repair. They will take care of it.
- ♦ The roof over the alley entrance has been replaced and looks good. \$3,600 was paid from the 'repair fund'.
- ♦ The front sidewalk has been leveled.
- ♦ Still checking into security lighting on the outside of the building - especially on the SW and NW corners and front of the church.

Stewardship-will set up a meeting.

Worship & Evangelism

- ♦ The October signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

Technology

- ♦ There were some difficulties but seems to be OK now.
- ♦ A new youth computer will be ordered.

Parish Education

- ♦ The committee met on Sunday, August 24, before church.
- ♦ There will be 3 SS classes instead of 4 (PreK, K and 1; 2,3,4; and 5,6). Leah found 2 teachers for each class and substitute teachers. Pastor or Leah will lead 7-12 grade SS, when there are students. Leah has ordered curriculum.
- ♦ Adult Bible Study: Pastor will lead adult Bible study October 5 and 19. There will be adult Bible study monthly from January - May. It

will focus on the parables of Jesus. Diane and Nancy will work on this.

- ♦ VBS: Many good comments were heard following VBS. A letter was received from Ingham Okoboji staff thanking ZSJ for hosting them.
- ♦ Rally Sunday: They worked with the 150th Anniversary Committee to have a history scavenger hunt. It was a big hit.
- ♦ Leah is looking into getting her Youth Certification.
- ♦ The committee will meet again in November or December.

Youth and Family

- ♦ Daren and Pastor completed Leah's review.
- ♦ Leah's pay was increased.
- ♦ They discussed her getting her Youth Certification.

150th Anniversary Committee

- ♦ AWESOME job!
- ♦ The next event will be November 2nd. The Bishop will be here.
- ♦ The Devotional Booklet was completed by Diane.
- ♦ The apparel order will be completed September 15.
- ♦ Diane is working on a History Book of the church.

Old Business:

- ♦ Pam H - ZSJ has received beneficiary funds and there are still some to be received.

New Business:

- ♦ Money counters for October will be Darwin and Alice.
- ♦ Next meeting will be Sunday, October 12th.
- ♦ Motion to adjourn, Al; second, Josh; carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:13 am. The council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice G

ALTAR GUILD HELP



Are you looking for a way to serve God? Are you already a member of the Altar Guild? If either applies, we are hosting an educational event on Tuesday, October 21@ 6:00 pm. We will have pizza for supper and then have a hands on training session where you can get some experience preparing the elements for Holy Communion and the Altar area for worship.

If you are already an Altar Guild member you will learn about a few minor changes we are making in the instructions. There will also be time set aside for questions and answers. Please come, learn and prayerfully consider joining this faithful group!

FALL STEWARDSHIP

Our Fall Stewardship Emphasis will begin a week later, on Sunday, November 9th due to our 150th Anniversary Celebration. Consecration Sunday will be Sunday, November 23. More information coming soon!



PRAISE TEAM MINUTE



ZSJ Praise
Team

Here is a list of the songs that will be sung on October 12. Have a listen on your favorite platform!

Blessed Assurance - Rock Springs
Wonderful Merciful Savior - Selah
Way Maker - Leeland
Healing is in Your Hands - Passion



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org , Livestream)

10:15 am Fellowship & Sunday School

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
Doug D	Dusty M	Laurie F
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	Patricia S	Sharon S
Lori M	Jim M	Zayne F
Karla C	Kay E	

♦ The family of Arliss G

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.
- ♦ **RSVP for the catered brunch following worship on November 2. Stop by the table in the narthex or email to secretary@zionstjohn.org by October 26.**

Our next committee meeting will be Sunday, October 19 @ 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

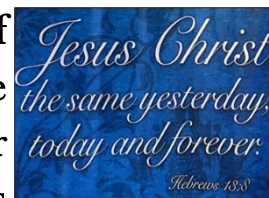
4 Alex S, Ethan S
 6 Dawn H
 7 Kevin B, Deb H
 9 Brody S
 11 Joel E
 12 Vicki M, Brett N
 14 Sydney K
 15 Roger M, Collin M, Lindy M, Logan P
 Brandy H
 16 Lillian E, Travis S, Noah S, Jill K
 17 Josh S, Nikki S
 22 Lauren D, Bailey S
 23 Pat M
 24 Lori H
 26 Noah J
 27 Lance L
 28 Jim E
 30 Barb K, Dave S, Jordan S
 31 Collin S



FINALE WORSHIP
SUNDAY, NOV 2, 2025
9:00 AM
FREE CATERED BRUNCH
10:30 AM

Worship will include SS, Chancel & Bell Choirs, Praise Team and Organ. NE IA Bishop Kevin Jones will be preaching, with former pastors also participating. Bell tolling will remember those who have passed away.

Please RSVP by Sunday, October 26, if you plan to enjoy the brunch. Sign the sheet on the 150 table in the narthex or let Diane know! This will help us



ensure enough food for everyone!!
Wear your 150th apparel or blue!