



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

November 2025 Vol. 31 No. 11
150th Finale Worship/ All Saints/ Christ the King

All Saints' Day



150th Finale & All Saints Worship
Sunday, Nov 2, 9 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.

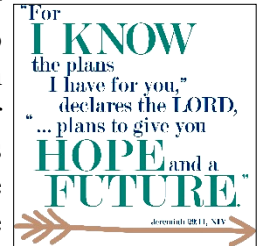


*For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not
for harm, to give you a future with hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

We have spent 2025 celebrating 150 years of ministry. We have celebrated the good heritage we have as a congregation, thanks to the sacrifice of the generations who have gone before us. We have also celebrated the ministries our congregation is currently engaged in, thanks to the gifts and sacrifices of our current members. But now it is time to look to our future.

November is also the month of our annual stewardship appeal so we are using this time to focus on the future. Our stewardship theme this year is "Blessed and Sent to Thrive." The Stewardship Appeal will begin on Sunday, Nov 9. On Sunday, Nov 16 two of our youth will be sharing why they are active members of our congregation. Consecration Sunday will be on Sunday, Nov 23. I encourage you to attend these important services.



Here are some of the reasons I am optimistic about our future.

- ⇒ We have very dedicated members who use their gifts to serve God, the people of our congregation and our community.
- ⇒ Our building has been not only maintained but improved in so many ways. Our church is an inviting place to enter and our sanctuary is beautiful.
- ⇒ We continue to improve our technology, including our livestreaming capabilities, website, social media presence and electronic giving.
- ⇒ Our education programs continue to thrive. This year we have students who are not members of our congregation attending confirmation for the 17th straight year.
- ⇒ Our music ministries are very high quality. We have wonderful organists, and very gifted directors for our Chancel, Bell, and Sunday School Choirs.
- ⇒ We are a congregation who serves our community. The Sharing Shoppe and the West Fork Food Pantry were started by members of our congregation and many of our members are leaders in civic

minded organizations. Our Women's ministries continue to reach out across the globe to bring comfort and love.

Thanks for all you do for our congregation and community.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim

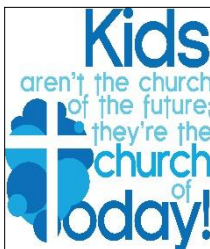


Too often, youth are spoken of as the only future of the church. While that is true, more importantly they are an essential

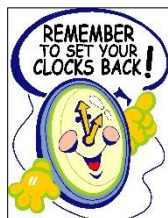
part of the church's present. When we empower our young people to assist in worship, help with decisions, or serve in any way, we are affirming that they are an active part of the body of Christ.

Young people see the world differently, with different social issues and culture. Their perspectives can help us to stay relevant and connected to the community. Listening to the voices of the youth can guide our church to reach others and grow stronger.

They ask hard questions about faith. These questions are a beautiful gift. It gives us the opportunity to show them our wisdom and knowledge of our history and traditions as well as knowledge of Christ Jesus. When we share this with our youth, they spread it. They tell their friends, who then ask more questions. More questions, more conversations, it spreads, just as Christ wanted the word to be spread. The more the young people ask about our faith and church, the better.



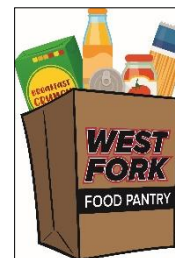
Spread the Word, Leah



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 2

Thursdays,
Nov 6, 13, 20
2-5 pm

Saturday, Nov 1
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 juice, condiments 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 Thanksgiving meal bag distribution, with turkey, will be Thursday, Nov 20. The pantry will be closed Nov 27 for Thanksgiving.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$168,360
Offerings Received	\$147,012
Current Deficit	\$ 21,348
Total Expenses	\$166,633
Checking Balance	\$ 16,155

We had a good month overall. Our deficit grew by just over \$1,000 and our checking account balance decreased by almost the same amount. Our Fall Stewardship Emphasis – “Blessed and Sent to Thrive” begins on Sunday, Nov 9. Consecration Sunday is Nov 23. Thanks for your faithful giving!



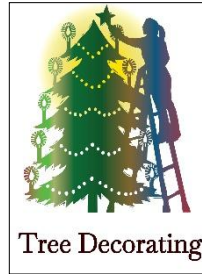


THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

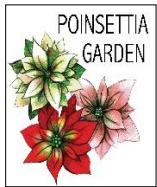
Our Thanksgiving Eve worship will be on Wed, Nov 26 @ 7 pm. Please take time to attend worship and be thankful for all the blessings God provides every day for you and your family.

TREE DECORATING

Sat Nov 29, we invite all to help with the decorating of the sanctuary for the Advent season. This will include decorating the tree and the sanctuary and is a fun morning for all ages. We will begin the decorating @ 9 am.



POINSETTIA GARDEN



Our traditional poinsettia garden is being planned for our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to the garden, you may purchase one through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$25. We would like to have the garden for the start of Advent on Nov 30. **Please place your orders by Sunday, Nov 23. Make you check payable to Forever Yours.** If you are giving a poinsettia on your own, please let the church office know so that it can be noted in the Christmas bulletins.

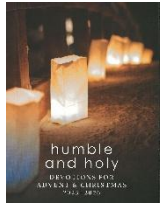
LION'S BREAKFAST

Join the Sheffield Lion's club at their Pancake Dinner on Sunday, Nov 16, 11 am– 1 pm @ the West Fork HS. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, milk, juice and coffee. A great way to share a delicious meal and support the Lions with a free will offering!



ADVENT EVENTS

1. Free Advent devotional books will be available in the narthex starting Nov 23.
2. Midweek Advent worship will be on Wed, Dec 3 10 and 17 @ 7 pm. The Holden Evening Prayer Service is a beautiful candlelight service that brings peace during a very busy time of the year! Come and find the true meaning of Christmas!



3. Participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar for the West Fork Food Pantry. Each day add an item to a box and then bring it to the Food Pantry in December or January and help us fill the shelves! Here are some suggestions or create your own!

- Dec 1 cereal
- Dec 2 peanut butter
- Dec 3 baked beans
- Dec 4 boxed potatoes
- Dec 5 mac and cheese
- Dec 6 canned fruit
- Dec 7 canned tomatoes
- Dec 8 canned tuna or chicken
- Dec 9 cake or brownie mix
- Dec 10 canned applesauce
- Dec 11 canned sweet potatoes
- Dec 12 juice
- Dec 13 jelly
- Dec 14 crackers
- Dec 15 rice
- Dec 16 ketchup, mustard, pickles
- Dec 17 packaged pasta
- Dec 18 spaghetti sauce
- Dec 19 chicken noodle soup
- Dec 20 tomato soup
- Dec 21 canned corn
- Dec 22 canned peas
- Dec 23 canned carrots
- Dec 24 canned green beans



FALL STEWARDSHIP



This year's theme is "Blessed and Sent to Thrive." After celebrating our past and present for the first part of this year, we will look forward to our future. This year's program kicks off on Sunday, Nov 9. On Sunday, Nov 16 we will hear from two of our youth members about why they are active

members of our congregation. Consecration Sunday will be on Nov 23.

We encourage you to attend each of these Sundays and to prayerfully consider what portion of next year's income you will give to God so that His work continues to be done in this place and beyond our doors.

*Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

CALL TO ORDER: President Kim M called the board meeting to order on Sunday, Oct 5, at 10:40 a.m. Those present were: Kim M, Diane W, and Pam M.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the September general meeting minutes, Diane; second, Kim; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: A donation

toward the quilting projects was received from Bob and Marcia K in memory of Arliss G.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

⇒ We reviewed a corrected August statement, on which the savings balance ending 8/31/25 was corrected to \$4,568.90, not \$4,538.90 as was presented at the last meeting. There were no other changes. The corrected report was placed on file.

⇒ As of Sept 30, there is a checking balance of \$1,230.10 and a savings balance of \$4,569.46 of which \$2,160.72 are designated funds. The funeral and event cash donations balance as of Sept 30 is \$213.03. The report was placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

⇒ The Heat and Eat fundraiser will be after church on Oct 12. Those who can attend will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct 11 to put items into smaller containers. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to the

kitchen countertop project.

⇒ Holiday Food Fair will be held on Sunday, Dec 14, following church. We will need to meet on Saturday, Dec 13 to price items.

⇒ The Care Center birthday party will be Oct 20.

NEW BUSINESS:

⇒ Confirmation is Oct 26. The Youth and Family Committee oversees the reception.

⇒ We have been gifted with a beautiful quilt top to use as a fundraiser. The quilting ladies have worked to restore the quilt top, and have had it quilted. They are currently putting a binding on it. About \$300 has been spent so far. We would like to encourage people to give donations, for which they will receive tickets to put into a drawing for the opportunity to be the person to take the quilt home. We hope to select the ticket on the day of the Holiday Food Fair.

⇒ Kim adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M



Rebekah Circle
Monday, Nov 3 @ 6 pm

Recording
Available by 10 am
Tuesday, Nov 4

**Monday,
Nov. 17
1 pm,
fellowship hall**



BOXED CARDS



The Women of ZSJ have boxed and individual cards for sale in the narthex. There is a new supply of sympathy, Christmas, get well, birthday, thinking of you and blank cards. Prices range from \$5– 6 per box, and individual cards are .50. Stop by and check it out!

THANK OFFERINGS

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? That's why we give Thank Offerings. This is your reminder, Women of ZSJ, that we will be gathering our thank offerings in November! Please drop off your offerings @ the church or send to:



Diane Wills
1399 Beeds Lake Dr
Hampton Iowa 50441

LWR DONATIONS



Thank you to Darwin and Lorna M for the use of their trailer, to the confirmation youth for loading and Roger and Marcia E for driving our fall LWR donations to Albert Lea. This shipment included 25 personal care kits, 126 school kits, 39 baby care kits and 30 quilts. The ZSJ Piecemakers meet every Wednesday morning, 8:30-11:30. There are tasks for everyone, including tying knots, threading needles, ironing, sorting, folding, or sewing.

COME AND JOIN US!

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

Oh my goodness, how time flies!! November is here and the Holiday Food Fair will be here soon. The year's event will take place on Sun, Dec,14, 2025 after the morning worship service in the fellowship hall and also after the Children's Christmas Program in the afternoon,

We will have the same format, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and juice with a freewill offering plus sales of cookies, candies, mixes, dips, snack items, cards, Rada cutlery and Fair Trade items. Those donating cookies please leave them in containers with a label on them. Containers will be left in the kitchen for pick up after the event. Other items will be individually priced. Please label those items also. All these items need to be at church by 9:00 am on Dec. 13.

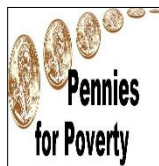
The proceeds will be divided between the kitchen countertops fund and Wings of Refuge. All helpers would be greatly appreciated. Lots of hands make easy work.

Everyone is welcome to donate, shop, and eat during fellowship or after the Children's Program. There is always something for everyone, and some surprises too. Start your baking plans now and mark your calendars. It's a fun day for all, Thanks in advance and watch for more reminders.

In His Service, Carla N, 892-4985

PENNIES FOR POVERTY

Do you have a lot of loose change around your house? The Women of ZSJ have a collection jar on the narthex table! Any donations to the Penny jar will be given to West Fork Wishes. Help us to fill the jar to make Christmas a little brighter for families in our area!



Thank you to all who cooked or purchased food for the Heat n Eat. We raised \$1265 for new kitchen countertops!



Starting Nov 2

Buy a chance to win this beautiful, handcrafted quilt!

\$5/ ticket, drawing Dec 14,

need not be present to win!

Proceeds to benefit the

ZSJ Quilters &

WELCA ministries!



The meeting was called to order at 10:32 am on Sunday October 12, 2025, by President Daren M. Daren M, John L, Alice G, Nancy R, Pastor Kim, Josh S, Al N, Scott S and Darwin M were in attendance. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer.

Secretary's Minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes, John; second, Darwin M; carried.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Inurnment Performed

Sept 24, 2025 Gerry H @ Hillside Cemetery

Inurnment Scheduled

Oct 18, 2025 Lois B @ Hillside Cemetery

Baptisms Scheduled

Oct 19, 2025 Hattlyn Rose S @ ZSJ

Nov 9, 2025 Lillian W

Things I'm Working On

⇒ Preparing for 150th Anniversary Worship Service on Nov 2

⇒ Providing home communion to those who request it.

⇒ Preparing 9th Grade Confirmation Students for Affirmation of Baptism

Items to Consider

⇒ Keifer H was baptized @ ZSJ on June 27, 2010. This event was not recorded in the church records. Motion to amend the church records to reflect Keifer H's baptism on June 27, 2010, as it was omitted from the records, Darwin; second, Alice; carried.

⇒ Recommendation to approve the following candidates for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism, provided they have met their requirements: Camden H, Keifer H, Kenden N and Jameson O. Motion to approve listed candidates for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism, pending completion of requirements, John; second, Nancy; carried.

⇒ It is time to make our selection for health insurance and other benefits

for 2026. Wording has changed. Instead of Platinum, it is Select Copay 2000. Cost stays the same no matter what level we choose, so recommendation to choose the top level. The total benefit cost for 2026 will be \$20,757.03. This is up from \$19,900 last year. So, the total increase is \$857.03. Before Diane and Pastor were eligible for Medicare, the benefit cost for year was \$34,000 per year. Motion to approve Pastor to select the Select Copay 2000 Health Insurance (equivalent to Platinum level from last year), John; second, Josh; carried.

- ⇒ The Three River Conference which ZSJ was a part, has been disbanded. All congregations in the synod need to belong to a conference. Suggestion that we join the Living Waters Conference so all three of the Lutheran congregations who are involved in the West Fork Food Pantry are in the same conference. Motion to join the Living Waters Conference, Darwin; second, Al; carried.
- ⇒ Nancy R will lead worship on Thanksgiving Eve, as Pastor will be out of town Nov 26-28.

Committee Reports

Property Management

- ⇒ The fence at the cemetery was repaired by Darwin and Gene S. Darwin donated the needed materials.
- ⇒ Al is working with Brian Truex to get exterior lights installed on the west side of the building.

Stewardship

- ⇒ Will meet 10/14 at 6:00 pm

Worship & Evangelism

- ⇒ Youth have been helping with ushering and bell ringing.
- ⇒ Signup sheets are on the board. Everyone is encouraged to sign up when they are able to help.

Technology

- ⇒ The matrix switch was replaced, after it had malfunctioned. The cost was \$3-\$400.
- ⇒ Fred R has done some work on the youth computer and it is working better.

Parish Ed

- ⇒ met with Leah on Thursday.
- ⇒ Leah has developed a written process for confirmation students that do not have parental involvement.

Youth and Family

- ⇒ Will meet to finalize Confirmation plans.
- ⇒ Confirmation is going well. There are 6 7th/8th grade students and 4 9th grade students. This is the 17th consecutive year with students that are not members of ZSJ that have been a part of confirmation.

150th Anniversary

- ⇒ requested that council assist with the brunch following worship on 11/2.
- ⇒ We are still in need of approximately \$2,000 to complete the special anniversary projects.
- ⇒ Working to secure monies to assist in paying for the brunch.

Old Business

- ⇒ ELCA – no updates
- ⇒ Pam H monies – Motion to allow Pastor Kim W and Daren M, ZSJ Church Council President to sign the required paperwork to transfer the money from Pam H's accounts to Zion St. John, Darwin; second, John; carried.

New Business

- ⇒ Thanksgiving Eve Service – This service will be added to the annual meeting agenda.
- ⇒ Budget Plans – due in Nov
- ⇒ Motion to allow Pastor and Diane to bring Barkley to church, Josh; second, John; carried. Barkley is a certified therapy dog and some members have requested that he be allowed to attend church while Pastor and Diane do not have a puppy from the Leader Dogs for the Blind.
- ⇒ Money counters for Nov are Daren M and Nancy R
- ⇒ Next Meeting – Nov 23, business meeting followed by budget meeting
- ⇒ Meeting adjourned and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R

PRAISE TEAM MINUTE

Here is a list of the songs that will be sung on November 30. Have a listen on your favorite platform!



I Will Wait for You - Shane & Shane
Blessed Assurance (My King is Coming) - Matthew West
You Are My King (Amazing Love) - Christy Nockels
Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground) - Chris Tomlin
From the Day - I Am They



OFFICE CLOSED
NOV 26-28

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

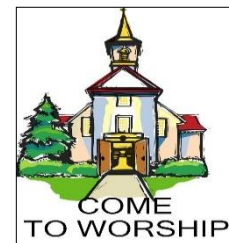
Church Office 641-892-4010 mail@zionstjohn.org
 9am-12pm, M-F



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	Kay E
Jon S	Steve H	Cheryl R
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Crystal B	Dean D	Wendy J
Lavonne C	Patricia S	Sharon S
Lori M	Jim M	Zayne F
Karla C	Crystal C	Jeri B

⇒ The newly baptized, Hattlyn Rose S
 ⇒ The newly confirmed, Camden H, Keifer H, Kenden N, & Jameson O
 ⇒ The family of Leland D

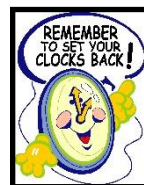


SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

PRAYER LIST

- 4 Diane D
- 5 Don G, Tanner T, Allan K
Finley O
- 7 Lauren T
- 8 Sue R, Emily S
- 10 Jane E
- 11 Brad M, Jameson G
- 12 Cindy J
- 13 Sue K
- 14 Angie R, Jayla F, Ty S
- 16 Kyle O
- 17 Klayder W, Maci K
- 18 Lindsey E
- 20 Holly H, Gabi P
- 21 Craig O, Nate P
- 22 Kim M, Rory J
- 26 Carla N, Kinzli W
Tom S
- 29 Shyanne B, Libby T, Alyssa B
Sarah N-P
- 30 Merlin M



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!

