



# Zion St. John

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

January 2026

Vol. 32 No. 1

Epiphany



### 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.*



*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

John 1:5

The light John refers to here is the light of Jesus Christ. We celebrate Jesus' birth during a time when the days are as brief as they will ever be. But by now the days are starting to grow longer, if only by a minute or two each day. During winter we celebrate the gift of light. Sometimes we can go a week without a sunny day and people's moods darken without being able to see the sun.

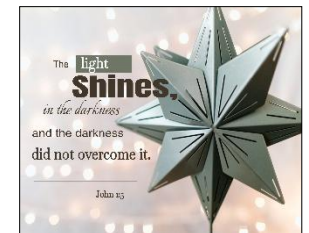
We know there is much darkness in our world. The reports of violence in our country and around the world remind daily. Jewish people attacked in Australia around Hanukkah, which is also a festival of light, quickly comes to mind. It's easy, especially this time of year, to focus on the darkness instead of the light. But that is not what Jesus would have us do. January 6<sup>th</sup> is Epiphany, the day we celebrate the Magi meeting the baby Jesus and his family after their long journey. With their arrival we learn that the light Jesus was bringing into the world wasn't just for the Jewish people, but for people of every tribe and nation.

As I look out my office window this morning the rising sun is shining on the snow and it is sparkling. I see thousands of little points of light. It reminds me that each one of us is like one of those points of light, sent by Jesus to bring His light into this dark world.

Here are a couple examples of how I've seen these points of light in action in the past week.

At a recent church event, something happened that upset one of our young members. Within seconds they were surrounded by three of our Sunday School teachers, who comforted them with words and embraced them in love.

On December 18<sup>th</sup> we gave out Christmas bags at the Food



Pantry. A woman named Chelsea from the Faith United in Rockwell contacted DelRay M. She wanted to bring coats and other winter supplies for our distribution that day. She brought in a lot of coats and other items. We filled two portable coat racks with them. Diane's experience working in the men's department at Wal-Mart came in handy as we displayed these items. I wasn't sure how much would be taken. But so much of it was gratefully accepted. Among the highlights for me was finding a warm coat for a man who was a veteran and used a walker. Another woman saw the coats and went straight for them. She will be giving birth soon but she found a coat that would fit her. She put it on and didn't take it off. It reminded me of how Mary must have felt when they finally had a place to get in from the cold on the night she gave birth to Jesus. I realized as I helped distribute this unexpected blessing that this moment was my Christmas. How wonderful to help bring warmth and joy to others!

Thank you for the many ways that you shine God's light into the lives of others.

God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



Welcome to the New Year. This is the time of year where we all make those new year's resolutions to stop doing this or to start doing that. The most common resolution is to lose weight. Now I understand wanting to be healthier but let's think about that in a different light. We can shed the weight of sin, after all isn't that weight the heaviest. But how do we go about that? What does that look like to us? Let me tell you, like all other changes in the world we must begin by admitting that we do sin. Yeah, of course nobody wants to admit that they fall short of how God wants us to be and it isn't fun owning that we are bound to sin. Nevertheless, this is something that we must overcome to be better for ourselves and our neighbors. Start with a little self-reflection. Think about the things that you have done that could have been done in a more

Christ centered way. Next is the not so easy part, applying it to our life. I know it is easier said than done. Practice makes permanent with this. It will start off small but will snow ball into a huge transformation in your life. Changing the way we respond to be more like Christ will have such a positive impact on not only ourselves but those around us. It will grow and bring more peace to our world. That my friends is how we will lose the weight of sin this year and be more like Christ.

Leah

**Thursdays,  
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29  
2-5 pm**

**Saturday, Jan 3  
10 am-noon**

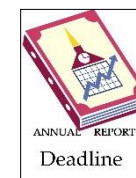


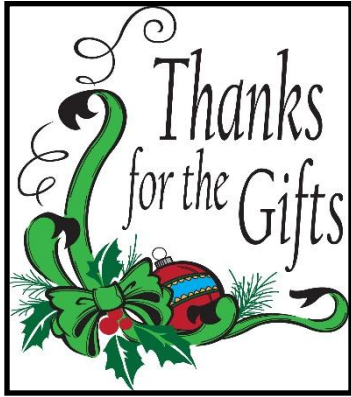
If you want to help, we are very appreciative for all donations of money, personal hygiene items, perishable and non-perishable food items. We are especially in need of condiments, soup and personal care items. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry building @ 106 Gilman. Thank you to everyone who has donated during the holidays! It was much appreciated and needed. The pantry will be closed January 1.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
ZSJ ANNUAL MEETING  
JAN. 25 2026, 10 AM  
(SNOW DATE FEB 1)**

**REPORTS DUE JAN. 13!**





*We are ever reminded of the kindness and generosity of the people of ZSJ! Thank you for all the words of encouragement, gifts, cards, hugs and smiles this Christmas season and into 2026!*  
**Pastor Kim, Leah, Lorna & Diane**

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of November 30, 2025.

Budgeted Income	\$205,773
Offerings Received	\$184,318
Current Deficit	\$21,455
Total Expenses	\$196,170
Checking Balance	\$17,030



We had a very good month in November. We cut our budget deficit by close to \$400 and our checking account balance increased by over \$1,000. Thank you for your faithful giving! Please note: Offerings received by December 31, will be credited to your 2025 giving report for tax purposes.

## PIE SALE



The Women of ZSJ will be hosting our annual pie sale in February. Watch for more details and order forms in the February newsletter!

## BELGIAN WAFFLES



Dad's Belgian waffle supper sponsored by the Sheffield Lions will be Thursday, January 15, 2026, 4:30-6:30 pm @ WFHS. Tickets are \$8 in advance; \$10 @ the door, cash, check or Venmo accepted, Children 5 & under---free! See any Lion's member. All proceeds to projects and scholarship fund.

Zion Reformed Church  
 2029 Jonquil Avenue  
 rural Sheffield.

Take out orders are available



## PRAISE TEAM MINUTE

Here is a list of the songs that will be sung on January 25. Have a listen on your favorite platform!

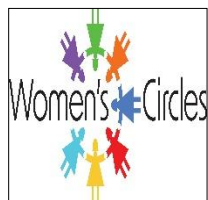
*Living Hope - Phil Wickham*  
*Endless Lights - Hillsong*  
*God of Brilliant Lights - Aaron Shust*  
*What a Beautiful Name - Hillsong*  
*From the Day - I Am They*



**Office Closed**  
**Dec 31- Jan 1**



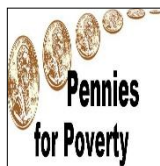
# Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**Rebekah Circle**  
Mon, Jan 5 @ 6 pm

**Recording**  
Available by 10 am  
Tues, Jan 6

**Monday,  
Jan 19  
1 pm,  
fellowship hall**



*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Penny Jar this year! We collected \$165 for West Fork Wishes!*

**Sunday January 11, 9 am**

Co-Chairs: Kim M  
Lorna M  
Secretary: Pam M  
Treasurer: Diane W



## 2026 TRIENNIAL

Come to the Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa  
July 16-19, 2026!

- \* Experience electrifying worship
- \* Connect and build relationships with women of all ages from your church and beyond
- \* Be inspired by messages from speakers who remind you that you are a miracle
- \* Learn about and live out the ministry and mission of WELCA
- \* Participate in service and advocacy
- \* Run, Walk and Roll with our 5K Fun Run to raise money for women and girls.
- \* Enter a quilt in the Quilt competition.
- \* Learn more & Register at [New Triennial Event Page - Women of the ELCA](#).
- \* Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance!!

## HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR



Thank you ! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you to all the people who donated items, Thank you to all the volunteers who made the event go so smoothly. Thank you to those who attended and shopped, Once again there was such a wonderful variety of items. We raised over \$1000 again this year which I consider a wonderful success.

This event could not happen without everyone's help. It makes the season more special/ Thank you all again and see you next year.

In His Service, Carla N

Jan	Pam M, Carla N
Feb	Lorna M
Mar	
April	Carla N, Dacia S
May	Kim M, Deb H
June	Marcia E, Marlene S
July	Alice G, Jeri B
Aug	Barb S, Marlene S
Sept	Lynette M, Marlene S
Oct	Kim O, Kari M
Nov	Alice G, Marcia E
Dec	Kari M, Kim O



## 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.

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

As you can see, we still have a need for volunteers to help with the worship preparations for 2026. This includes preparing communion, changing altar paraments, putting out flowers (not lilies or poinsettias) and preparing for baptisms. You work with a partner, so more hands makes for lighter work. If you can help, please contact Carla Nelson @ 641-892-4985.

### STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

G Kim Wills, Pastor	641-425-9453	<a href="mailto:pastor@zionstjohn.org">pastor@zionstjohn.org</a> 9am-3pm, T-F
Leah Cruz, DYFM	641-373-7015	<a href="mailto:youth@zionstjohn.org">youth@zionstjohn.org</a> 8am-12 pm, T; 8am-8pm, W
Church Office	641-892-4010	<a href="mailto:mail@zionstjohn.org">mail@zionstjohn.org</a> 9am-12pm, M-F

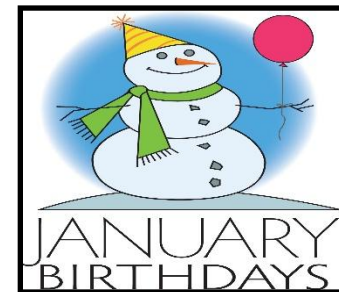


### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship  
 Livestream @ [www.zionstjohn.org](http://www.zionstjohn.org) , Livestream)  
 10:15 am Fellowship & Sunday School

#### • The family of Jeanette W

2	Josh D, Braylon S
4	Kiera H
5	Dusty M
6	Season C, Andrew S
7	Amanda W
9	Larry G
11	Emma O
13	Ryan S
14	Renee Z
15	Daren M, Frances W
18	Carter B, Fred R
19	Tyler C
20	Britne K
21	Heidi K
24	Mason M, Lisa P
27	Brooke E, Lacy W
29	Hunter W
31	Jonathan S, Olivia L



23	Jennifer C
26	Mary Beth S
28	Will L, Eleanor O
30	Janet L