

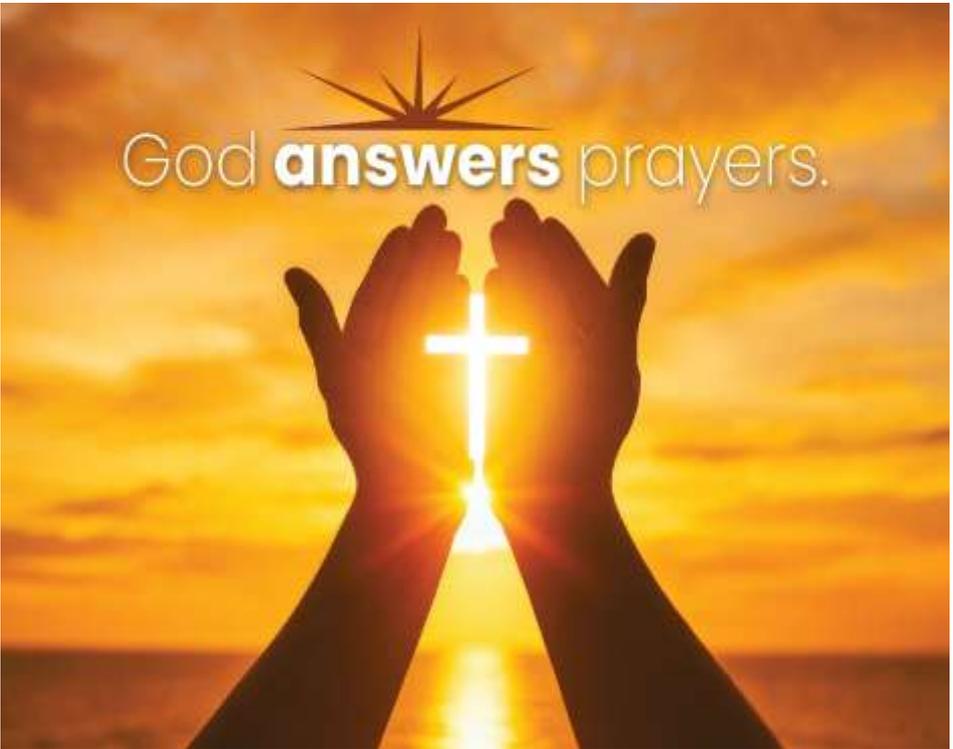


Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

March 2026 Vol. 32 No. 3 Lent



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 everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under
heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*



As our President Daren M announced in church on Sunday,

February 15th, after prayerful consideration the time has come for me to make the transition to retirement. I will serve in a full-time capacity until the end of June this year. After that, I am willing to work part-time until the end of 2026. I will lead my last worship service here on Christmas Day. This plan allows the congregation time to form a call committee, create a ministry site profile and hopefully begin the interview process. If a suitable candidate is found anytime between July 1 and the end of the year, I will retire to make room for the new pastor. Diane currently works 20 hours per week and is planning to work those same hours until the end of 2026, or until a new pastor is called.

The council and I are working on what my duties will be when I transition to working on a part-time basis. The bottom line is I won't be doing everything that I am currently doing now. Diane and I are EXTREMELY grateful for our time here at Zion St. John. Together we have accomplished so much. And there is still much to do before the end of the year.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry! This is a very good call. Diane and I are praying that with new leadership even greater things can be accomplished here in the name of the Lord. Please join us in praying for the person God will call to serve you and our community. Please welcome and support them the way you have supported us.



God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



***Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour!
Sunday, March 8***

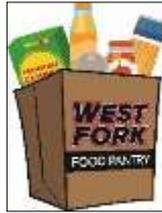


As the season changes, we feel it in our bodies and our hearts. Summer's warmth fades, leaves fall, and cold winds come. Life changes just as surely. Joy turns

to sorrow, strength to weakness, certainty to doubt We are reminded how fragile and changing we are. God does not change. Scripture tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." When our feelings shift and our faith feels small, God's promise remains firm. His forgiveness does not depend on how we feel, but on what Christ has done for us. In every season bright or heavy we rest in this truth: the same God who created the seasons also holds us in his grace. Though everything around us changes, His mercy is new every morning, and His love will not fail. In what season of life are you right now, and how can you lean on God's unchanging promise in this time?

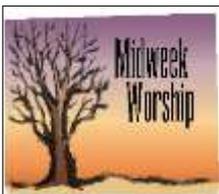
Thanks be to God
Leah Cruz

**Thursdays,
Mar 5, 12, 19, 26
2-5 pm
Saturday, Mar 7
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 pasta and sauce 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 Easter meal bags with hams will be on Thursday, April 2.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP



Midweek Lenten worship continues Wednesdays, Mar 4, 11, 18 & 25 @ 7 pm. Pastor Kim will be preaching on Max Lucado's book, *You are Never Alone*. This service includes the "Return to the Lord" liturgy that Pastor Kim wrote.

EASTER LILY GARDEN

An Easter lily garden will again decorate the sanctuary during the Easter season. A lily may be purchased for the garden through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for \$25.00. Make your check payable to *Forever Yours*. All orders must be made by Palm Sunday, March 29.



LENTEN SUPPERS

There are four Lenten suppers scheduled for this Lenten season. All suppers are @ 5:15-6:15 pm. There will be eat in or drive thru options. If you would like drive thru, please pull up to the east alley door and your food will be brought to you. Free will offerings will be gratefully accepted!



Date	Host	Menu
Mar 4	Youth	Breakfast, cinnamon rolls
Mar 18	Choirs	Stuffed baked potatoes, relishes, bars
Mar 25	Council	TBD

LENTEN OFFERINGS



Our midweek offerings are designated for:

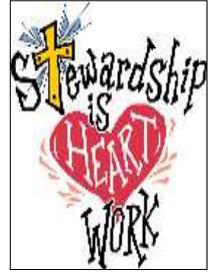
Riverside BC	Mar 4
Bridge of Hope	Mar 11
Ch of Damascus Rd	Mar 18
LSI	Mar 25

When giving, please make your checks payable to ZSJ and then indicate the ministry in the memo line, if you wish it to be credited to your giving statement. All checks payable to the recipients will be sent directly to them. The donation tab on the church website also includes these ministries as a choice in the drop-down screen. Although we have specific date designations, you are free to give any time during the Lenten season.

FINANACIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of January 31, 2026.

Budgeted Income	\$18,707
Offerings Received	\$13,385
Current Deficit	\$ 5,322
Total Expenses	\$16,638
Checking Balance	\$24,733



The extremely cold weather in January affected our attendance and our giving. Attendance so far in February has been better and hopefully our giving will also catch up. Thank you for your faithful giving!

PRAISE TEAM MINUTE



Feel free to look up the Praise team music for March on your device using your favorite platform!

I Will Wait for You - Shane & Shane

Holy Spirit Living Breath of God - Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Way Maker - Leeland

Days of Elijah - Robin Mark

My Lighthouse - Rend Collective

PRAYER LIST

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
Norman M	Crystal C	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	Sheryl T	

⇒ The family of Judy N

- 2 Libby J
- 3 Helga B, Ahna L
- 4 Bev B, Sharon S, Gavin O
- 5 Pam M
- 7 Tony R
- 9 Todd H, Nahla W
- 10 Jim B, Julie D, Sarah R
- 11 LaVonne C
- 13 Lori S
- 14 Kacy L, Cole M
- 15 Tara T
- 16 Ken B
- 17 Doreen D, Brandon M, Caleb T
- 18 Scott S, Jon S
- 20 Stephanie H, Steve H, Nolan S
- 21 Jadyn D, Lily D
- 22 Val L
- 23 Marie L, Ryan R
- 24 Taylor G
- 25 Roger E, Robert M, Kalynn W
- 26 Edward E, Tim K Jr.
- 28 Louise C, Camden H
- 29 Al N
- 30 Ciara H
- 31 Gene R, Nick J



WINTER WEATHER

If West Fork Schools cancel classes due to weather, all church activities will also be cancelled. For Sunday worship, the Council President and Pastor Kim make a decision whether Sunday services and SS will be held. If services are cancelled it will be **posted on the homepage of the website and the Facebook pages for the church and Youth and Family** and we will notify the following TV and radio stations:



TV: **KIMT, WHO, KCCI**
Hampton: **104.9 FM – KLMJ, 98.9 FM - KQCR**
Mason City: **1300 AM-KGLO, 1490 AM-KRIB, 97.9 FM-KCMR**

Head Usher: Daren M



Altar Guild:

	Lector:	Greeters:	Fellowship:
1	Shannon L		
4, 7 pm	Elle L	Deb & Doug H	
8	Katy L	Julie G	
11, 7 pm	Elle L		
15	Olivia R	Rothers	Jamie R
18, 7 pm	Elle L		
22	Olivia R	Rothers	Holly W
25, 7 pm	Elle L		
29	Dawn G	Guritzs	Tara T

	Acolyte:	Crucifer:
1	Caleb T	Cooper W
15	Harper R	Renner H
29	Eli T	Caleb T

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>1 Lent 2/ Bold Women</p> <p>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30 am WELCA Board Meeting 2:00 pm JAM</p>  <p>Happy Birthday Libby Johnson!</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>1:30 pm Rebekah Circle Bible Study</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Video available</p>
<p>8 Lent 3</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School 10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting</p>  <p>TIME CHANGE SUNDAY</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Happy Birthday Nahla Wilson!</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>15 Lent 4</p> <p>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School</p>	<p>16</p> <p>1:00 pm</p> 	<p>17</p>  <p>Happy Birthday Caleb Truex!</p>
<p>22 Lent 5</p> <p>9:00 am Worship led by ZSJ Praise Team 10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>29 Palm Sunday</p> <p>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion & Choirs 10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School</p>  	<p>30</p> 	<p>31</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>4</p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters 5:15 pm Lenten Supper by Youth 7-8 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship 7:45 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>  <p>10:00 am World Day of Prayer @ Zion Ref.</p> 
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters</p> <p>6:00 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship 7:45 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters</p> <p>5:15 pm Lenten Supper by Choirs 7-8 Confirmation Class 6:00 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship 7:45 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> 	<p>20</p>  	<p>21</p> 
<p>25</p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters 5:15 pm Lenten Supper by Council 7-8th Confirmation Class 6:00 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:00 pm Midweek Worship 7:30 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Happy Birthday Camden Henricks</p>





CALL TO ORDER: Co-chair Kim M called the board meeting to order on Sunday, February 1, at 10:40 a.m. Present were Kim M, Lorna M, Diane W, and Pam M.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank yous were received from the Bob C family, Wings of Refuge, and WELCA.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of January 31, there is a checking balance of \$1,073.33 and savings balance of \$6,314.47, of which \$4,025.72 are designated funds. The funeral / event cash donations balance is \$896.76. The report was placed on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Pie Sale: These will be delivered by 10 am on Saturday, February 7. We will meet to cut and label pies that morning. Prices will be the same as last year, \$5.00 per slice or \$25.00 for a whole pie.
- World Day of Prayer: The service will be held at Zion Reformed on Saturday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Lenten Supper: WELCA will be serving supper on Wednesday, February 25. Soups, bread, crackers, relish tray, bars and milk will be served. Donations will go toward countertop replacement.
- The next WELCA board meeting will be March 1, 2026.
- Kim adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Secretary, Pam M



Rebekah Circle

Monday, March 2, 1:30 pm

Video Upload Available

Tuesday, March 3, by 10 am

Monday, Mar 16, 1 pm, fellowship hall



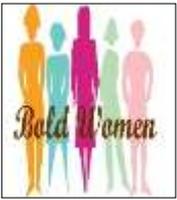
2026 TRIENNIAL

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

- * Experience uplifting worship
- * Connect and build relationships with women of all ages from your church and beyond
- * Be inspired by messages reminding you that you are a miracle
- * Learn about and live out the ministry & mission of WELCA
- * 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!!



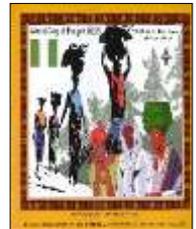
BOLD WOMEN SUNDAY



During worship on Sunday, March 1, we will celebrate the amazing Bold Women in our congregation. The ministries of the Women of ZSJ are as varied as they are and reach those in our congregation, community and around the world. Please join us in thanking these wonderful, caring women who do so much for all of us!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer Celebration will be held @ Zion Reformed on Sat, Mar 7, 10:00 am. There will be a program based on the Women of Nigeria, singing by the Sheffield Philharmonic and light refreshments. The 2026 program calls all to come closer to God and find rest. When we totally trust and have faith in God, our burdens become light, and we find rest. (Matthew 11:28-30). As we trust God, our Burden Bearer, we become one body in Christ, receiving and bringing rest to the world.



World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year. It includes women from 170 countries using prayer as a powerful tool given to us by Jesus.

NATIONAL QUILTING DAY



Saturday, March 21 is National Quilting Day. It is a day to marvel at the mastery of the talented quilters among us. The ZSJ Quilters meet every Wednesday, September–April, to fashion beautiful creations that are treasured by our graduating seniors, members of our community, across our state and around the world thru LWR. If you would like to see or even join in the fun, you simply need to come on Wednesday mornings starting @ 8:30 am.

PIE SALE

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual Valentine's Day pie sale. Whether you made a pie, bought a pie or two, or made a donation your support will help us continue the strong Women's ministries @ ZSJ! We raised \$1000 for the kitchen countertop project!



The meeting was called to order at 10:16 am, on Sunday February 8, 2026, by Council President, Daren M. Present were Daren M, Scott C, Scott S, Josh S, Shannon L,

Brad M, Nancy R, and Pastor Wills. Members absent were Alice G and Darwin M. Pastor Kim led the group in prayer.

Secretary's Report- A motion to approve the report as presented, Shannon; second, Scott; carried. A thank you note from the Carolyn R family was shared.

Treasurer's Report-reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

- Jan 14, 2026, Bob C at Hogan Bremer Moore in Mason City

Request for Membership

- Heather, Landry and Hayes L from Sheffield United Methodist Church. Motion to approve the request for membership of Heather, Landry, and Hayes L, Josh; second, Brad; carried.

Things Pastor is Working On

- Preaching at the Care Center during the month of February
- Preparing for Lent
- Preparing and submitting annual reports to the congregation and the ELCA

Items to Consider

- The evergreen tree that is a memorial gift from the Larry O family has died. We have replaced it several times. Suggest we determine if there is a problem with the soil in that area before we replace it.
- The hydraulics on pastor's office chair has quit working. He would like permission to purchase a new one.
- One of the dishwashers in the kitchen is not working. It needs to be replaced. The WELCA board is asking that the church cover the cost of replacement. It would be best to have it replaced before Easter Sunday. A motion to have the property committee purchase and install a dishwasher to replace the non-functioning one in the kitchen that is similar and in the mid-range of the price, Shannon; second, Josh; carried.
- Last year the council voted that we could use some of the Pam Harvey estate money as matching funds for replacing the counter tops in the kitchen. They are close to reaching their goal. They hope to have this accomplished this summer. They may be working with Larry Greimann on this project.
- Pastor will be using the \$4,000 in his continuing education budget later this month to help pay for a trip to Germany in late May and early June. Each year he is allowed two weeks for continuing education. He is requesting that this time off be counted as continuing education time.
- Diane and Pastor will attending oldest grandson's confirmation on Sun, Feb 15th. Nancy R will lead worship that day. They will also be gone Feb 23-27 visiting son Nick in Colorado. Nancy R will lead the mid-week Lenten service on Feb 25.

Committee Reports

Property Management

- will be looking at the procedure of snow removal for amounts less than 1"

Worship & Evangelism

- Please sign up to be a worship assistant on the board in the Narthex. Shannon will work on securing volunteers for March.

Technology

- Scott will be buying the camera that was approved at the annual meeting.

Youth and Family

- Confirmation continues to go well

Old Business

- Constitution changes
- Annual meeting review

New Business

- Nancy would like to work with Don G to make a stand for the old praise team keyboard so that it may be used in the fellowship hall. This stand would allow the keyboard to be moved safely and prevent it from tipping or falling. The piano that is currently in the basement will be disposed of, as it is not able to be tuned any more. Motion Latham to allow Nancy to move forward with this project, Brad; second, Shannon; carried.
- Closed meeting was held to discuss a personnel situation.
- Bell Tower – a family in the congregation would like to see the current cross on the bell tower replaced with a steel cross. This project was referred to the property committee.
- Banking – a motion to move \$50,000 from savings into a 12-month CD and \$25,000 from savings into a 6 month CD at United Bank and Trust, Scott; second, Nancy.; carried.
- Money Counters for March will be Nancy and Shannon.
- The next meeting will be Sunday, March 8th following worship.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, Brad; second, Scott; carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R, Council Secretary



Mar 1	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion
Mar 4	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Youth Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 8	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship
Mar 11	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 15	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship with Holy Communion
Mar 18	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Music Ministries Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 22	9:00 am	Sunday Lenten Worship led by ZSJ Praise Team
Mar 25	5:15 pm 7:00 pm	Lenten Supper hosted by ZSJ Church Council Midweek Lenten Worship "Return to the Lord"
Mar 29	9:00 am	Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion & SS & Adult Choirs
Apr 2	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship w/ Holy Communion
Apr 3	7:30 pm	Good Friday Worship led by ZSJ Youth
Apr 5	6:30 am 7:30 am 9:00 am	Sunrise Easter Worship with Holy Communion, HB & Chancel Choirs Easter Breakfast by ZSJ Youth Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Zion St. John Lutheran Church
422 Sherman St.
PO Box 269
Sheffield Iowa 50475

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

(Livestream @ www.zionsjohn.org)

10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School