



# Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Being the Body of Christ*

April 2026

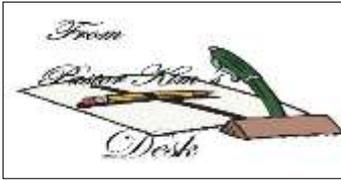
Vol. 32 No. 4

Holy Week/ Easter



## **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.*



*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God give to **EVERYONE** ability for particular service.*

*The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all.*

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

We received the sad news in March that our Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Leah Cruz, is stepping down from her responsibilities effective April 6, 2025. This change is due to Leah beginning a new job that makes her unavailable to work on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the day. Leah and her family will remain members of our congregation. I wish to thank Leah for her work with us over the past 20 months. Diane and I enjoyed working with her in the office.

Leah's leaving means that we will need members of the church to help if we are going to continue our JAM ministry and Vacation Bible School which is scheduled for July 6-9. Our church policy states that we must have two adults at all youth activities, including JAM (Jesus and Me ministry for kids in grades 5-6). We have two sessions of JAM left – Wednesday, April 9 and Wednesday, May 6. JAM meets from 2:45 p.m. until 4 p.m. If you would be willing to help, please let me know. If no one is found the sessions will be canceled.

We are also in need of someone, or a group of people, to coordinate VBS or this too will be canceled for this year. We do have counselors from Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp that will be leading VBS. Our main responsibility would be handling registrations and planning menus and snacks. The Youth and Family and Education Committees are planning to meet the week after Easter to try and come up with a plan for this. If you would be willing to help with either JAM or VBS please contact either Daren M or myself.

We will begin the search for a new Director of Youth and Family Ministries position soon. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Daren M or me. As Paul reminds us, all of us have God given gifts to share. Now is the time.



God's blessings to you,  
Pastor Kim



Easter is a joyful reminder that God brings hope even in the darkest moments. On the first Easter morning, Jesus' friends were sad and afraid after His death. But when they came to the tomb, they

discovered the amazing truth—Jesus was alive! The empty tomb showed that death did not win. God had raised Jesus from the dead.

For Lutherans, this is the heart of our faith. As taught by Martin Luther and confessed in the Augsburg Confession, Jesus' resurrection means that our sins are forgiven and that we have the promise of new life with God.



Because Jesus lives, we have hope. When we feel worried, lonely, or afraid, Easter reminds us that God is with us and His love never fails. The risen Jesus gives us peace today and the promise of eternal life forever!

Leah

## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL



Help us say thank you to Leah for her service as Director of Youth and Family Ministries! We will be celebrating during the fellowship on Sunday April 12. Join us for cake, coffee, juice and celebrating!

**Thursdays,  
Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
2-5 pm  
Saturday, Apr 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 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.



## PRAISE TEAM MINUTE

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

*I Will Fear No More* - The Afters

*Eye of the Storm* - Ryan Stevenson

*Shelter Me* - Michael Joncas

*Psalm 23 (Surely Goodness, Surely Mercy)* - Shane & Shane

*This is Amazing Grace* - Phil Wickham

## FINANACIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of February 28, 2026:

Budgeted Income	\$39,803
Offerings Received	\$32,750
Current Deficit	\$ 7,053
Total Expenses	\$34,436
Checking Balance	\$23,450



We had a much better month than January. Our budget deficit only grew by a bit over \$1,700 and our checking balance only dropped a little over \$1,000. We had to cancel church services on March 15<sup>th</sup> due to a blizzard. So that will be a challenge for us. Thank you for your faithful giving!



## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

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	Sunrise Easter Worship with Holy Communion, HB & Chancel Choirs
	7:30 am	Easter Breakfast by ZSJ Youth
	9:00 am	Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

## EASTER LILY THANK YOU



Thank you to everyone who shared Easter lilies with us this Easter season! You can pick up your lily after worship on Sunday April 12.

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Our newest members are Heather, Landry and Hayes L. They joined ZSJ in March and we are so happy they are part of our serving community!



## CONNIE CLAUSEN SCHOLARSHIP



Connie Clausen was a very faithful member of this congregation. To honor her memory, her husband, David, has established a scholarship fund. Two awards of \$250 each are given to graduating seniors who are members of ZSJ Lutheran Church. The applications for the Connie Clausen scholarship are due May 3. Question? Contact Pastor Kim.

**Spring Clean Up Day will be Sat, April 11 @ 9am. Please bring your own gloves and tools. There will be donuts!**



**SPONSORED BY THE SHEFFIELD LIONS SUNDAY April 12, 11 AM-1 PM SPAGHETTI DINNER FREE WILL DONATION WEST FORK HIGH SCHOOL**

- 1 Gordon G, Grady P
- 3 Adam S, Zach O
- 5 Seth B, Eli T
- 7 Jeff S, Elizabeth S
- 8 Shaunda C
- 9 Amy M, Sara J, Kennedy O
- 10 Marcia E, Jim T
- 11 Zac C
- 12 Vicki T
- 15 Dale B, Katy L
- 16 Darin N
- 17 Joe M, Makenzii R
- 18 Greg R, Brinlee H
- 20 Emma M, Gary N
- 21 Curt C
- 24 Sean C, Kelix W
- 25 Vickie B, Jayden F
- 28 Madisyn H, Sarah R, Heather L
- 29 Lisa H, Dawn G, Sutton W
- 30 Lonnie B, Rachael H, Alberta C  
Christin M, Elizabeth W, Remi O



## **STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION**

G Kim Wills, Pastor    641-425-9453    [pastor@zionstjohn.org](mailto:pastor@zionstjohn.org)  
9am-3pm, T-F

Church Office            641-892-4010    [mail@zionstjohn.org](mailto:mail@zionstjohn.org)  
9am-12pm, M-F

**Head Usher:** Don G



**Altar Guild:** Carla N  
Dacia S

	<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Greeters:</b>	<b>Fellowship:</b>
<b>2, 7 pm</b>	Alice G	X	X
<b>3, 7:30 pm</b>	ZSJ Youth	ZSJ Youth	X
<b>5, 6:30 am</b>	Alice G	Hulings	Easter Break.
<b>5, 9 am</b>	Alice G	Cindy H	Easter Break.
<b>12</b>	Dacia S	Dacia S	
<b>19</b>	Al N	Nickersons	Nickersons
<b>26</b>	Alice G	Kimberly & Jake W	

	<b>Acolyte:</b>	<b>Crucifer:</b>
<b>2, 7 pm</b>	Cooper W	Sutton W
<b>5, 6:30 am</b>	Olivia R	Lillian W
<b>5, 9 am</b>	Renner H	Harper R
<b>19</b>	Sutton W	Cooper W

## 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	Lindy M



⇒ The family of Jan L

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
<p data-bbox="47 435 172 464"><b>5 Easter</b></p>  <p data-bbox="65 490 436 672">           6:30 am Easter Sunrise Worship with Holy Communion &amp; Choirs            7:30 am Easter Breakfast hosted by Youth            9:00 am Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion  <b>Happy Birthday Eli T!</b> </p> 	<p data-bbox="466 435 484 464"><b>6</b></p> <p data-bbox="491 500 695 548">6:00 pm Rebekah Circle Bible Study</p>	<p data-bbox="819 435 837 464"><b>7</b></p> <p data-bbox="821 500 1004 571">10:00 am Bible Study Video available</p> 
<p data-bbox="47 695 212 724"><b>12 Easter 2</b></p> <p data-bbox="57 753 440 948">           9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion            10:15 am Fellowship/ Thank you Celebration            Sunday School            10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting            11:00 am Lions' Spaghetti Dinner            6:00 pm West Fork 4-H         </p> 	<p data-bbox="466 695 501 724"><b>13</b></p>	<p data-bbox="819 695 854 724"><b>14</b></p>
<p data-bbox="47 982 204 1011"><b>19 Easter 3</b></p> <p data-bbox="57 1040 410 1112">           9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion            10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School            1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class         </p> 	<p data-bbox="466 982 501 1011"><b>20</b></p> <p data-bbox="497 1089 567 1112">1:00 pm</p> 	<p data-bbox="819 982 854 1011"><b>21</b></p>
<p data-bbox="47 1258 212 1287"><b>26 Easter 4</b></p> <p data-bbox="57 1323 421 1421">           9:00 am Worship led by ZSJ Praise Team            10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School            1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class            1:00 pm Retz/ Tauro Piano Recital         </p> 	<p data-bbox="466 1258 501 1287"><b>27</b></p>	<p data-bbox="819 1258 854 1287"><b>28</b></p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters 6:15 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Grady P!</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>2:00 pm </p> <p>7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion</p> 	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>3:00 pm Youth Good Friday Rehearsal 7:30 pm Good Friday Worship led by Youth</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:00 am </p>
<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters  2:45 pm JAM 5:15 pm 7-8 Confirmation Class 6:15 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>2:00 pm </p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Kennedi O!</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:00 am </p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters 5:15 pm 7-8 Confirmation Class 6:15 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>2:00 pm </p>	<p><b>17</b></p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>8:30 am Cluster Gathering @ Elk River <b>Happy Birthday Brinlee H!</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters 5:15 pm 7-8th Confirmation Class 6:15 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>2:00 pm </p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Kelix W!</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Jayden F!</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>8:30 am ZSJ Quilters 4:00 pm 7-8th Confirmation Trip 6:15 pm ZSJ Handbell Rehearsal 7:15 pm ZSJ Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Sutton W!</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>2:00 pm </p> <p><b>Happy Birthday Remi O!</b></p>		



**Rebekah Circle**  
Monday, April 6, 6 pm

**Video Upload Available**  
Tuesday, April 7, by 10 am

**Monday, April 20, 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!!



**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:32 am on Sunday March 8, 2026, by Council President Daren M. Members present: Daren M, Scott C, Alice G, Shannon L, Darwin M, Nancy R and Josh S and guest Pastor Steve

Brackett from the NE IA Synod office. Pastor Kim led the group in prayer. Pastor Brackett shared the trend report for our congregation.

1. Transition process for the council:
  - Exit interview with Pastor Kim

- Sign the certification of completion of all obligations
  - Plan a farewell celebration
2. Interim process:
- Consider having a Transition Team in place to organize worship and plan services in advance of Pastor's retirement.
  - Most congregations in transition are using supply pastors and lay people. We can use supply pastors to fill in or contract with that pastor for certain duties and/or number of hours per week.
  - Congregation does not need a formal agreement with a supply pastor.
  - Lay person cannot preside over holy communion, baptism or perform weddings inside the church. Lay person can perform funerals and doesn't have to be from your own congregation. However, a lay person can become a synod-authorized lay pastor to perform sacraments in one location. For more information, Neiasynod.org for more information
3. Synod Guidance:
- One reason to involve the synod in call process is to vet candidates.
  - Candidate names can come to us from another synod. Pastors can move to another call within our synod. Call Committee doesn't reach out to anyone directly. The synod will reach out to other pastors if we know of someone from another church that we'd like to call from another church. Pastors can self-submit when they hear of an open call.
  - Seminary graduates. If we agree to take a seminarian, we would have to agree to be a learning congregation for a new pastor.
  - Synod rarely recommends more than one candidate at a time. You don't have to interview a candidate if you don't think they're a good fit for your congregation.
4. Interview Process:
- Phone or Zoom or in-person is acceptable for first interview
  - Candidacy committee should meet in person
  - Meet the congregation
5. Other details to consider:
- Former pastors are not allowed to come back.
  - Use ZSJ constitution for details about call committee. The model is six members. Should be a diverse group: equal men and women; new members and older members; active members; people who are positive; no one with an agenda. Be open to where the Holy

Spirit is leading. Representative in terms of ages. Constitution may allow a seventh member as a youth. Youth can have a very different but very helpful perspective. There might be people who volunteer for the committee and you can feel free to say “no” to them.

- Council will decide compensation. Most pastors are looking to be paid at synod guidelines. Compensation guidelines are available on the synod website. We’re currently paying within synod guidelines.
- Ministry site profile (email and password) Pastor Kim can be one of our references for the congregation. Pastor will meet with the Call Committee once they’re selected.
- Can have congregation approve a summary of the congregational profile.
- Positives about not having a parsonage; Pastors can build equity and natural boundary between pastoral duties and personal space. Congregation should consider providing rental properties/ housing options for Sheffield to assist new pastor and family in the process. Some pastors may choose to live in a larger community nearby where houses sell faster.

**Secretary’s Report-** A motion to approve the report as presented, Scott; second, Josh; carried.

**Treasurer’s Report-** reviewed. Daren had one question about the bank service charge. The \$31.31 is charge for electronic giving processing.

## **Pastor’s Report**

### **Funerals Scheduled**

- May 23,2026                      Judy N @ Zion St John

### **Things I’m Working On**

1. Preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter
2. Arranging for Lenten Temple Talks

### **Items to Consider**

1. The memorial plaques for the new piano and for the cemetery projects have been ordered. These will be paid out of 150th Anniversary Funds. The plaque for the cemetery is made of granite. Total cost for both is around \$250.00.
2. Leah Cruz has given her notice as our DYFM. Her last day will be Good Friday. We will need to make decisions about JAM for April and May and a coordinator for VBS.

3. A replacement dishwasher has been purchased from McCluskey Appliance. Brad M will install it. The cost of the dishwasher was less than \$600. It will have a stainless-steel front since those were cheaper than white.
4. Diane and Pastor may be taking a few days off during the week in April sometime after Easter. They leave for trip to Germany on Friday, May 29 and will be back on June 10. We will need to find pulpit supply for May 31 and June 7.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Property Management**

- Josh has the CD information; he needs copy of annual minutes and minutes from last meeting. The bank agreed to match at 4%.
- April 11 is scheduled date for church cleanup, 9 am with rain date or April 18.

### **Stewardship – No report**

### **Worship & Evangelism**

- Alice is taking April

### **Technology-no concerns**

### **Parish Ed | Youth and Family**

- Daren will meet with these groups after Pastor makes VBS announcement
- Leah and Pastor will take care of Good Friday Service.
- Daren will coordinate Easter breakfast.

### **Memorial /Legacy**

- Meeting March 15.

### **Old Business**

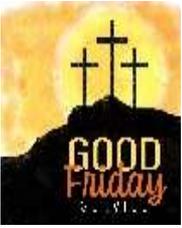
- Basement piano-Nancy talked with Don G
- Tower Cross- Property is still working on this

### **New Business**

- Executive Committee (Daren, Nancy, Darwin & Pastor) will review the constitution and then present to the council at next Council meeting
- Next council meeting is April 12
- Motion to adjourn, Shannon; second, Josh; carried.

Shannon L

## GOOD FRIDAY/ EASTER



ZSJ Youth will begin Good Friday, **April 3rd** with a worship rehearsal @ **3 pm**. At **5:30 pm** we will set up the fellowship hall for Easter Breakfast and then lead **worship @ 7:30 pm**.

We will also prepare, serve, and clean up the Easter breakfast on **Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**. Youth will need to be there @ **:00AM**.



Graduating Seniors will be honored on **May 17th** during **9 am** worship.  
Reception @ **10:30 am**.

Please watch for an email from Diane with information on the service and info/pictures needed, deadline is **May 10**. All seniors planning to continue their education are eligible for the **Connie Clausen** scholarship, due **May 3**.

**Next JAM will be  
Wed, April 8,  
2:45-4 pm!  
Bring Friends!**



### **1<sup>st</sup> Communion**

5th graders **AND** their parents will have 1st communion classes **April 19 & 26**.



# Confirmation

April 3	3 pm	GOOD FRIDAY PRACTICE
April 3	7:30 pm	Good Friday Service
Apr 8	5:15pm	Class
Apr 15	5:15pm	Class
Apr 22	5:15pm	Class
April 29	4 pm	TRIP TO THE GROTTTO
May 6th	5:15 pm	End of Year Celebration



# Sunday School

Last day of SS is May 10<sup>th</sup>. Children will sing for 9 am worship. Please have your child here by 8:45 am. We are also still working toward our \$500 offering goal for Good Gifts a cause that helps families all over the world to earn income and feed their family.

All are welcome to donate!



# VBS Dates

Mark your calendars now for 2026 VBS. Camp counselors from Lutheran Bible Camp Ingham from Okoboji will be joining us **July 6-9th** "To Know His Name," Psalm 135:13.



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.zionstjohn.org](http://www.zionstjohn.org))*

10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School