



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

June 2026

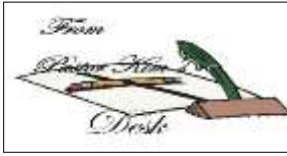
Vol. 32 No. 6

Season of Pentecost



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 gives to everyone ability for particular

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

I Corinthians 12: 4-7

At their May 10th meeting our next call committee was formed by the church council. Those serving will include John L as chair, Alice G, Holly W, Lori S, Darwin M, and Josh and Lindsay S will share a position. Kenden N will be the youth member. Daren M will be a non-voting member. I have agreed to serve in an advisory capacity if the committee so chooses. Please pray for these dedicated members as they begin their work.



Their first task will be to create a Ministry Site Profile. This document will contain key demographical information about our congregation. It will also define the spiritual gifts that the congregation is seeking in their next pastor. It will also list some of the strengths of our congregation as well as some of our challenges. Once this important document has been approved by the church council and submitted to the Synod, a member of the synod staff will meet with the call committee within a few weeks. Once this document has been finalized and this meeting has taken place, then the Synod will do their best to recommend a candidate that seems like a good fit, if there is one available.

The Call Committee will conduct the interviews. When they have a candidate that they believe is a good match, they will recommend that person to the council. If the council accepts their recommendation, then a congregational meeting will take place to discuss the candidate, and a vote will be taken as to whether to issue a call. Once the call has been issued, then they have several weeks to discern whether they will accept it.

Some calls are filled within a few months, however, the average length of time for an open call to be filled can range from one to two years or more. Please pray for the Call Committee as they begin this important work and for your next pastor, the one that God is preparing to serve you. This is a wonderful congregation. Thank you for being such a blessing to Diane and me.

Gratefully, Pastor Kim



Thursdays, June 4, 11, 18, & 25, 2-5 pm
Saturday, June 6, 10 am-noon
Mobile Distribution, June 13, 10 am-noon, St Peter Lutheran, Rockwell

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 cereal, cleaning 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 @ 106 Gilman. The pantry will begin mobile distributions this summer. Our first day will be Saturday, June 13, 10 am-noon, @ St Peter Lutheran in Rockwell. Using our new van, we are beginning this new program to reach those in need who may not be able to attend our regular pantry days or may not have transportation. If you know of anyone who might need our help, please let them know of these new opportunities. We will be bringing the mobile pantry to other communities in our area throughout the summer. Watch for more details on Facebook! We will also be celebrating two milestones on June 25. This year marks 10 years of service to our communities and 5 years in our new building! We will celebrate with a burger and rib cookout, with help from the Franklin County Cattlemen's Association. All are welcome to join us, 1-5 pm.

ZSJ CALL COMMITTEE

The ZSJ Church Council appointed the members of the Call Committee @ their May 10 meeting. Please prayer for these members and for our congregation as we begin this process!

John L, chair Alice G Holly W
Lori S Darwin M Kenden N, youth
Josh & Lindsay S will share a position
Daren M, non-voting member
Pastor Kim, advisor

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of April 30, 2026:

Budgeted Income	\$91,785
Offerings Received	\$64,740
Current Deficit	\$27,045
Total Expenses	\$69,670
Checking Balance	\$20,836



While our offering on Easter Sunday was wonderful, the rest of the month wasn't. This past month we saw our budget deficit nearly double. While it will be a struggle for us not to have a Director of Youth and Family Ministries in the immediate future, our monthly expenses will drop. The other good news is that our checking account balance is still over \$20,000. A reminder that while many of us will take vacations this summer, the cost of running the church does not. Please check your pledge and help us cut the budget deficit this month. Thank you for your faithful giving!

HOUSING NEEDED FOR VBS COUNSELORS



Again, this year we will have counselors on site from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp to lead Vacation Bible School. One of the requirements is that we provide housing for the counselors while they are here. This year the counselors will arrive on Sunday, July 5 and will either leave on Thursday, the 9th after the VBS program or on Friday morning. We are expecting a total of four counselors and looking for one or two homes to house them. Responsibility for this includes having a bed or air mattress for each individual. Host families are also asked to provide breakfast for them each day. The other two meals are covered by the church. If you would be willing to host either two or four of the counselors, please contact Kimberly W at 641-832-7416 or Pastor Kim.

CONNIE CLAUSEN SCHOLARSHIP

Connie Clausen, who was a very faithful member of this congregation, passed away on March 16, 2018. To honor her memory, her husband David, has established a scholarship fund. Awards of \$250 each are awarded to graduating seniors who are members of ZSJ Lutheran Church. To be considered, an application needs to be submitted.

This year's recipients are Keira H, Dax S and Abby S. These scholarships were presented at the Graduation Reception following worship on May 17th. We thank Connie's family for their generosity. If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, or apply for next year, please contact Roger M.



**Congratulations
Keira, Dax & Abby!**



Keira, Cale, Abby & Dax were also given beautiful quilts by the Piecemakers. We pray that these quilts will wrap you in God's love wherever you go!

Due to Pastor Kim and Diane's trip to Germany, Holy Communion will be offered on June 14 & 21. Watch for updates on their adventures during worship on May 31 and June 7!





Daily Grace is an online devotional available through Women of the ELCA. This excerpt was posted May 20, 2026, and seems particularly relevant to our current situation.

Submitted by Diane Wills, newsletter editor

My congregation is looking for a pastor, and I'm on the committee. The process is all about discerning God's will for our community, which sounds big and scary. How do we go about it? How long will it take, and can we make it go faster? How will we know if we're doing it right? What if we get it wrong?

Here's some of what I've learned about discerning God's will.

- Discerning God's will is going to take as long as it needs to take. We can't fit it into a schedule.
- In Evangelical Lutheran Worship, there are excellent prayers in the "Additional Prayers" section that begins on page 72.
- Do the homework. Work as if it depended on you alone and pray as if it depended on God alone.
- Examine your own feelings about the choices.
- Talk it over with a wise friend or among committee members.
- If you come to a conclusion, pray about that for a day or two before acting. If you feel a deep sense of calm and rightness, if you feel that this choice gives glory to God, then you just might have discerned God's will.

This message is excerpted from "Pray for openness to God's will" by Audrey Novak Riley from the May 15, 2019, blog of the Women of the ELCA.

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VBS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are trying some new ways to sign up to help and to sign up as volunteers. We will also continue to use the traditional ways, narthex bulletin board, email, text, newsletter and bulletins! Use whichever way is most comfortable and feel free to ask questions as needed!!!

The camp counselors from Ingham Okoboji will serve as leaders and planners for VBS. Our responsibility is to provide support staff to assist them. There are many opportunities to help including serving as a guides for various age groups, helping with clean up, working in the kitchen, decorating, setup, providing food and housing our guests from I-O Bible Camp. Helpers need to have finished 6th grade thru HS and any adults.

To sign up to provide food, use this link to sign up online or use the sign up sheet on the narthex bulletin board:

[Zion St. John: VBS Food Sign Up](#)

To help, use this link to sign up online or contact Kimberly directly using the email below:

[VBS Flyer 2026 - Google Docs](#)



Contact Kimberly W with questions, jkwiseman5@outlook.com

Head Usher: Daren M

Altar Guild: Marcia E, Marlene S



	Lector:	Greeters:	Fellowship:
7	Darwin M	Daren & Pam M	ZSJ Council
14	Alice G		ZSJ Council
21	Diane W	Diane & Barkley	Diane W
28	Darwin M		ZSJ Council

	Acolyte:	Crucifer:
7	Olivia R	Lillian W
14	Harper R	
21	Eli T	

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
Gary P	Crystal C	Jim M
Kay E	Lori M	Lindy M
Jon S	Steve H	Cheryl R
Marcy M	Keely S	Sue K
Crystal B	Wendy J	Jeri B
Patricia S	Karla C	Sheryl T
Lavonne C	Sara N	



- Our HS Graduates, *Keira H, Aaron I, Colson J, Cale M, Abby S and Dax S*
- Our 1st communion students, *Mia G, Cassidy E, Gemma I, Breanna P, and Landry L*
- The families of Judy N and Merna S

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>Happy Birthday Jensen R!</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>7 Pentecost 2</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Happy Birthday Landon R!</p>
<p>14 Pentecost 3</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>1:00 pm</p>  <p>6:00 pm Rebekah Circle Bible Study</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 am ISU Clover Kids 10:00 am Bible Study Video available</p>
<p>21 Pentecost 4/ Father's Day</p> <p>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship/ Sundaes with Dads</p> <p>Happy Birthday Owen P, Hudson B & Grayson L!</p> 	<p>22</p> 	<p>23</p>
<p>28 Pentecost 5</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Happy Birthday Hattlyn S!</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p data-bbox="47 121 69 154">3</p> <p data-bbox="106 186 292 251">Happy Birthday Oakely H!</p>	<p data-bbox="377 121 399 154">4</p>	<p data-bbox="606 121 627 154">5</p>	<p data-bbox="808 121 829 154">6</p> <p data-bbox="808 235 888 259">10:00 am</p> 
<p data-bbox="47 438 69 470">10</p> <p data-bbox="106 527 292 592">Happy Birthday Addison S!</p>	<p data-bbox="377 438 399 470">11</p> <p data-bbox="377 511 446 535">2:00 pm</p>  <p data-bbox="388 592 569 657">Happy Birthday Addy P!</p>	<p data-bbox="606 438 627 470">12</p>	<p data-bbox="808 438 829 470">13</p> <p data-bbox="808 495 978 592">11:00 am Merna Schroeder Graveside Service</p>
<p data-bbox="47 698 69 730">17</p> <p data-bbox="106 763 292 828">Happy Birthday Laney O!</p>	<p data-bbox="377 698 399 730">18</p> <p data-bbox="388 803 457 828">2:00 pm</p> 	<p data-bbox="606 698 627 730">19</p> 	<p data-bbox="808 698 829 730">20</p>  <p data-bbox="808 893 1000 941">8:00 am Our Saviour's Mason City</p>
<p data-bbox="47 974 69 1006">24</p> <p data-bbox="106 1039 292 1104">Happy Birthday Ian Christians!</p>	<p data-bbox="377 974 399 1006">25</p> <p data-bbox="388 1104 457 1128">2:00 pm</p> 	<p data-bbox="606 974 627 1006">26</p>	<p data-bbox="808 974 829 1006">27</p>   <p data-bbox="813 1161 1005 1226">Happy Birthday Lennyn B!</p>

CALL TO ORDER: Kim Mulford called the board meeting to order on Sunday, May 3, at 8:00 a.m. Present were Kim M, Lorna M, Diane W, and Pam M.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank yous were received from the Jan L family, Wings of Refuge, and New Beginnings House of Hope.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of April 30, there is a checking balance of \$1,639.97 and savings balance of \$7,317.77, of which \$5,253.72 are designated funds. The funeral / event cash donations balance is \$741.10. The report was placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The cost for shipping quilts and kits has increased, and we may need to adjust the budget for next year to allow for this. Diane will check into this to get additional details.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Kitchen countertop project: We viewed some samples for the countertop.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Graduation: We will be serving the graduation reception on May 17. Diane will order and pick up the cake. Pam will get peanuts and M&Ms. We have plenty of paper products.
- The next WELCA board meeting will be in August.
- The Rebekah circle will be meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 4, at the church. The meeting will be available online on May 5th.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Secretary,
Pam M



Monday, June 15, 1 pm, fellowship hall



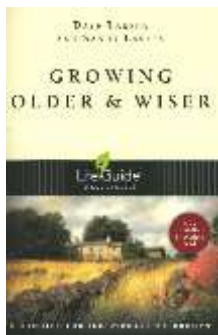
Rebekah Circle (new Bible study starts)

Monday, June 15, 6 pm

Video Upload Available

Tuesday, June 16, 10 am

BIBLE STUDY



The Women of ZSJ will be starting a new Bible study series, *Growing Older and Wiser*. This is a 9-month study, published by Lifeguide, that shares Bible stories of people who grew older and wiser, some who just got older and interactions between the generations, both good and not so good. Through all these stories you will be reminded of the constancy of God's love. All are welcome to join us starting Monday June 15 @ 6 pm. Books are available in the office, \$13.00.

NEIA WELCA GATHERING

The women of NEIA are invited to the bi-annual gathering on Saturday June 20 @ Our Saviour's in Mason City, 8 am-3 pm. For only \$30, you will be treated to morning coffee and treats, a noon meal, a variety of small group sessions and uplifting worship and fellowship! There is a group already registered to attend that will be carpooling. If you would like to join us, please contact Diane in the office.



ZSJ PIECEMAKERS



The Piecemakers were very busy this year. They assembled 28 Baby kits and made 123 quilts that were all sent to Lutheran World Relief on May 16th. Thank you to Darwin & Lorna M for the use of their trailer, 7-8th grade confirmation class for loading all the boxes and Roger & Marcia E for hauling everything to Albert Lea!

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!!



LWR KITS



The ZSJ Piecemakers need your help! If you are spring cleaning or garage saling in the next few months, please watch for these gently used items: Bed sheets or blankets, Baby sleepers or gowns without the feet, 6-24 months, hooded jackets or sweatshirts, 9-24 months, baby blankets, baby t-shirts, 6-24 months, and new light-weight dark colored bath towels and hand towels and bars of gentle soap in original wrapping. Treasures can be put in the Quilter's room in the basement.

We are also still accepting cash donations for school kit supplies by July 15, if possible. Donations can be given to Maxine H or Marcia E, or dropped off in the office.



The meeting was called to order by President Daren M at 10:27 am on Sunday May 10, 2026. Council members present were Scott S, Shannon L, Pastor Wills, Scott C, Josh S, Darwin M, Alice G, Nancy R, and Daren M (phone). Brad M was absent. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer.

Secretary's Report- A motion to approve the secretary's report as presented, Josh; second, Shannon; carried. A thank you note was shared from LSI for our continued support.

Treasurer's Report- The treasurer's report was reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Scheduled

- May 23, 2026 Judy N at Zion St John
- June 13, 2026 Merna S, graveside

Request for Membership Transfer

- Kayla (Tuttle) S to First Grace Lutheran (NALC) Osage, Iowa. Motion to approve the request for membership transfer of Kayla (Tuttle) S, Nancy; second, Darwin; carried.

Things Pastor is Working On

- First Communion Instruction
- Finishing Program Year without a Director of Youth and Family Ministries
- Working with Youth and Education Committee on Plans for VBS

Items to Consider

- Diane and Pastor have met with Attorney Art Cady to get the title to two of our lots changed to reflect the current name of our church. He will keep us updated. Daren and Nancy will have to sign the documents when they are ready.
- Daren and Pastor need to meet with an investment firm in Mason City to obtain some funds left to the church by Pam Harvey.
- The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis in June of that year. Caitlin Tauro is willing to have our youth and adults join St. Paul in Hampton, if we are interested in doing so.
- We have 3 applicants for the Connie Clausen Scholarship. Pastor's recommendation to Dave Clausen will be that we award 3 scholarships. Motion to award 3 students the Connie Clausen scholarships, Alice; second, Shannon; carried. If monetary assistance is needed for the third student, the money may be taken out of savings.

- Diane and Pastor leave for Germany on Friday, May 29 and will be back on June 10. Nancy Retz has agreed to lead worship on May 31 and June 7. She will also lead worship on June 28, so Pastor Kim can attend his 50th high school class reunion.

Committee Reports

Property

- Church clean up went well. Josh S cleaned out 2 gutters.
- The new tree was planted in front of the church.

Worship & Evangelism

- Daren will pick up cookies and lemonade for fellowship. He will send out a rotation for council to serve during the 3 summer months.
- Daren will be head usher for June.

Technology

- It is time to consider buying a new computer for streaming. Scott Conlon will present prices at the next council meeting.

Parish Ed/Youth and Family

- Pastor will set up a joint meeting to make sure things are set for VBS
- Discussion about posting the youth position, and summer programming.

Memorial/Legacy

- The countertops should be ordered in the next month or so for the kitchen. The cost of the countertops will be shared with the church.

New Business

- **Call Committee** – Members recommended for this committee include John L – chair, Josh S, Lindsay S, Darwin M, Lori S, Holly W, Alice G, and Kenden N (youth). Daren M (non-voting member). Motion to approve the members of this committee, Scott C; second, Nancy; carried.
- Money Counters for June – Nancy & Josh
- Next meeting will be June 14th.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 am, Shannon; second, Josh; carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy R, Council Secretary

ZSJ YOUTH PAGE

Congratulations to Abby, Dax, Cale Aaron, Colson and Keira as they celebrate their HS graduations!

May God's blessings always go with you on your future adventures!!



Sunday School

Thank you to everyone who helped the SS kids exceed their offering goal for this semester. We raised \$720 for ELCA Good Gifts and purchased 6 piglets, 6 flocks of baby chicks, 4 roosters, 6 goats and 6 hives of honeybees! These kids are amazing!



Celebrate DADS!!!

June 21st is Father's Day and Dads are super cool, so we are celebrating with Ice Cream Sundaes after worship @ 10:00 in the fellowship hall!



Sundaes with Dad

VBS Dates

Camp counselors from Lutheran Bible Camp Ingham-Okoboji will be joining us on safari, "To Know His Name," Psalm 135:13. Registration included in this newsletter, @ the church and online @



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeadQP7o6K3iL_QcICmFF1IKSJkSI dpIvNGzk_buIcibP5M6A/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=112577283549591558358!

The theme this summer will be seen in various apparel and safari themed gifts at the end of each day instead of T-shirts.

Monday-God the Father; God adopts us into his family and we can call him Abba (Papa).

Tuesday-God the Savior; God's heart aches when we are separated from him because of sin. He sent Jesus to make us right and save us!

Wednesday-God our Provider; God wants us to trust him to provide for our needs.

Thursday-God our Defender; God is our refuge, our fortress, our shield and our defender. He fights for us everyday!

Day	Theme	Supper	Bible Story
Mon	The Father	Sloppy Joes	Jesus and the Children
Tues	Our Savior	Walking Tacos	Pharisees and tax collectors
Wed	Our Provider	Hotdogs	Manna and Quail
Thur	Our Defender	Sub Sandwiches	Story of Jehoshaphat



In the month of May we welcomed five of our students to the Lord's table! Congratulations to *Mia G, Cassidy E, Gemma I, Breanna P, and Landry La*. We rejoice with you as you share in the love and grace of communion!



CALL PROCESS NE IA SYNOD

Here is what you can expect in this transition

-The synod staff will work with church council(s) to find supply pastors to serve your ministry needs. When available, an interim pastor may be recommended to the council to help in the transition.

-A call committee will be established according to the guidelines of your constitution.

-The call committee will compile a Ministry Site Profile with the help of the congregation and submit it through the ELCA system.

-The call committee will meet with a member of the synod staff and receive coaching on how to conduct an effective interview.

-The call committee will receive the names of pastors interested in your call from synod staff.

-The call committee will choose who to interview, will check references, and try to view sermons and worship services of candidates.

-After the call committee has voted to recommend a candidate to the congregation council(s), it will meet with the council(s) to share information about the recommended pastor.

-The executive committee or full council(s) will meet and speak with the candidate and will discuss compensation and benefits with the nominee.

**Through the whole process,
your prayers are essential.**

Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you,
your call committee, your council, and your synod
in discerning who God is calling
to serve as your next pastor.

-If the council votes to recommend the candidate to the congregation, the council will call a congregational meeting for the purpose of issuing a call.

-The congregation council will formally recommend that the congregation call the candidate to be your pastor.

-Members of the congregation will be given information about the nominee ahead of time, as appropriate.

-A congregational call vote takes place according to your constitution. Two secret ballot votes are held: one to approve the call of the pastor, and one to approve the compensation package.

-If the congregation approves the call and compensation by the necessary margins, a Letter of Call and Compensation Sheet are signed by the council president(s) and secretary(s) and forwarded to the bishop for signature. These forms are then sent on to the pastor.

-The candidate for call has 30 days to accept or decline the call.

-If the nominee accepts the call, an installation date is set. If the candidate declines the call, the call committee goes back to work with the synod staff to receive additional candidates.

-The call process officially ends after the pastor is installed.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

(Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org)

10:15 am Fellowship/ Sunday School