



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

July 2026

Vol. 32 No. 7

Season of Pentecost

DAY CAMP

TO KNOW HIS NAME

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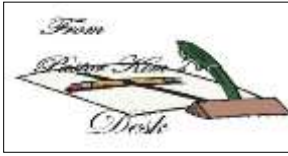
DATE: July 6-9, 2026

LOCATION: Zion St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield, IA

TIME: 5-8pm

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.



A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.

Diane and I recently returned from a 12-day trip to Germany. We traveled as part of an alumni group through Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. We had a wonderful group of people to travel with. We spent the majority of our time in Southern Germany, but finished up our trip in east central Germany, visiting Wartburg Castle which is located in Eisenach. Other cities we visited included Frankfurt, Cologne, Mainz, Stuttgart, Ulm, Munich, and Wurzburg.

A few of the highlights for me included our trip to Mainz. About two thirds of the way through our walking tour of the city we were told that instead of going to see the Guttenberg Bible we would instead be



going to see Chagal stained glass windows in another church. Diane strenuously objected to this because viewing the Bible was one of the highlights in our itinerary. We were given the option of choosing which place to visit. We chose to go and view the Bible and it was a great decision. The Guttenberg movable type printing

press was the invention that allowed Luther's 95 Theses to be reprinted and distributed throughout Germany and beyond its borders. Later this invention was used to print copies of the Bible. The copies of the Bible printed by Guttenberg contained pages that had been ornately and colorfully illustrated. There are very few original copies in existence so to see these in person was an experience we will never forget.

Visiting Wartburg Castle is the other highlight. I visited the Castle while on tour with the Wartburg College Choir in 1978. Diane visited while on a Wartburg College Band trip in 1981. Unfortunately, one of their buses was detained by East German police and by the time they arrived they were not allowed inside the castle. Fortunately, this time our visit went smoothly. I was very impressed with the restorations that have taken place. One of the famous former residents of Wartburg Castle was Elizabeth, who was later sainted because of her work with the poor. Her room has been exquisitely restored with hand painted walls and ceiling adorned with gold leaf. When we arrived for our tour, our guide asked us where we were from. When she found out we were connected with Wartburg College, she became emotional. No one had told her she would be leading a group with this connection. By the time we reached the

banquet hall of the castle, she had found out that several of us were musicians. She extended us an unusual invitation; we could sing something if we wanted to. We said yes and sang the college loyalty song.



This became one of the treasured memories of our trip. Following our tour, I led a communion service at one of the scenic overlooks outside the castle. There we sang, “A Mighty Fortress is our God.” When we began singing one of our tour guides was waiting by the front entrance to the castle. One of the other visitors wanted to know what was going on. When he told her, she wanted to know if we would care if she would join us. She did and that was an unexpected blessing.

Thank you for allowing me to have the time away to attend this continuing education event. This trip will be something we remember and draw upon for the rest of our lives.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Thursdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2-5 pm

Saturday, July 4-CLOSED

Mobile Distribution, July 11, 10 am-noon, St Paul Lutheran, Thornton

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 and juice. You can place items in the cart in the Narthex or in the drop box on the front of the pantry @ 106 Gilman. Our next mobile outreach will be Saturday, July 11, 10 am-noon, @ St Paul Lutheran in Thornton. Using our new van, we are continuing 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!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Here's a look at our finances as of May 31, 2026:

Budgeted Income	\$123,198
Offerings Received	\$ 85,306
Current Deficit	\$ 37,892
Expenses Year to Date	\$ 85,235
Checking Balance	\$ 25,598



Well, even though our budget deficit grew again this month our checking account balance increased by over \$4,500. Thanks for your faithful giving!

RIVERSIDE GOLF



The twenty-second annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic will be Fri, Sept. 18, at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames! Come enjoy lunch, golf, fellowship, and ice cream to conclude the day. If you are interested in playing and supporting Riverside, please contact Pastor Kim. Registration begins @ 10 am, followed by lunch and shotgun start @ noon.

The registration fee is \$125 per person.

VBS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There is still time to sign up to help or provide food for VBS!

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

[VBS Flyer 2026 - Google Docs](#)



Contact Kimberly W with questions, jkwiseman5@outlook.com

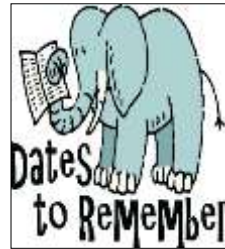


RIVERSIDE QUILT AUCTION

The Riverside Quilt Auction will be Sat Aug 1 @ Riverside Bible Camp. Here is the schedule, For more information, www.riversidebc.org

- 8:30 am** 5K Walk/Run
- View quilts in Chapel
- 9:30 am** Pool open for 5K
- 10:30 am** Outdoor Worship
- 11:00** Live Quilt Auction
- 12:00 pm** Lunch freewill offering
- 1:00 pm** Pool open for all/ Auction results

- VBS July 6-9
- Riverside Quilt Auction Aug 1
- LWR Trip Aug 6
- 7-9 Conf Meetings Aug 19
- Blessing of Backpacks Aug 23
- Quilting resumes Sept 2
- SS resumes Sept 13
- WELCA Meeting Sept 14
- 7-8 Confirmation Retreat Sept 16
- Music groups resume Sept 20
- 3rd Grade Bibles Sept 23
- 7-9 Confirmation Class Sept 23
- Riverside Golf Sept 18



- LWR Pickup Oct 10
- WELCA Heat n Eat Oct TBD
- 9th Confirmation Oct 25
- Holiday Food Fair Dec 13
- SS Christmas Program

STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

G Kim Wills, Pastor 641-425-9453 pastor@zionstjohn.org
9am-12pm, T, Th, F

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

LWR BUS TRIP



Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City is sponsoring a bus trip on Thursday, August 6, for anyone interested in touring the LWR Warehouse and Global Health Ministries in Minneapolis. Cost is \$45 for transportation and can be paid that day, lunch cost is on your own. The bus will leave Trinity @ 7 am and return before dark. Bring a water bottle, some snacks will be provided. There is a signup sheet on the narthex bulletin board. Although you do not need to pay in advance, it is important to sign up to reserve a spot on the bus!

- 1 Gary S, Julian C, Landry L
- 3 Jesse M
- 4 Cadence N-P
- 5 Jill C, Shannon L, Ava H, Lillian W
- 8 Jeff C
- 9 Jackie H
- 10 Scott C
- 11 Ron P
- 12 Cole H, Lucas W
- 15 Caleb C
- 16 Payton K, Trevor G
- 17 Gene S
- 19 Amanda F
- 21 Cooper E, Gail L, Shirley M
- 22 Spencer H
- 23 Megan J
- 25 Joseph S
- 26 Brandon K, Colson J, Taylor K
- 28 Chad E
- 30 Malachi R, Aaron I, Jax K



Head Usher: Don G

Altar Guild: Alice G

Lector: Alice G



5 **Greeters:** Roger & Shirley M

12

19

26

Fellowship:

Shannon L

Darwin M

Brad M

Nancy R

5 **Acolyte:** Renner H

19

Sutton W

Crucifer:

Cooper W

Olivia R

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

Gary P

Kay E

Jon S

Marcy M

Crystal B

Patricia S

Lavonne C

Zayne F

Crystal C

Lori M

Steve H

Keely S

Wendy J

Karla C

Sara N

Kay R

Jim M

Lindy M

Cheryl R







Sue K

Jeri B

Sheryl T



- Our 1st communion students, *Irelynn O, Addy P & Kinzli W*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; color: blue; margin: 0;">JULY</h1>		
<p>5 Pentecost 6</p> <p>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Birthday Lillian W!</p>	<p>6</p> <p>5:00 PM VBS</p> 	<p>7</p>  
<p>12 Pentecost 7</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship 10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 pm Rebekah Circle Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Birthday Lucas W!</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am Bible Study Video available</p> 
<p>19 Pentecost 8</p> <p>9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship Memorial Committee</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00 pm</p>  	<p>21</p>
<p>26 Pentecost 9</p> <p>9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Happy Birthday Julian C & Landry L!</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>8</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>   <p>7:30 pm VBS Program</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 am</p>  <p>In Thornton</p>
<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>  	<p>17</p> <div data-bbox="491 750 782 880" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>WELCA TRIENNIAL in Des Moines</p> </div>	<p>18</p>
<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>2:00 pm</p> 	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>2:00 pm</p>  <p>Happy Birthday Jax K!</p>	<p>31</p>	

Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America



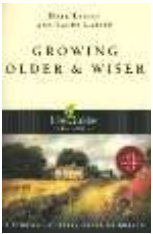
**Monday, July 20, 1 pm,
fellowship hall**



Rebekah Circle
Monday, July 13, 6 pm

Video Upload Available
Tuesday, July 7, 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 Monday July 13 @ 6 pm. Books are available in the office, \$13.00.

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.

WELCA GATHERING



On Saturday June 20, six women of Zion St John attended the bi-annual convention/ gathering of the NE IA WELCA @ Our Saviour's in Mason City. The morning began with breakfast treats and coffee (of course) and worship. After the quick business meeting, we learned how to create and use a prayer journal and more about the new mission of LSI and the on-going work of Northern Lights Alliance of Homeless Shelters. The day was relaxing and yet full of energy as the spirit moved among us! Congratulations to Alice G for finishing her term serving on the board!



Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by council president, Daren M on Sunday June 14, 2026 @ 10:30 am. Members present: Pastor Wills, Scott C, Daren M, Brad M, Josh S, Alice G, Scott S, Nancy R, and Shannon L. Member absent: Darwin M. Guest: John L, chair of the call committee. Pastor Kim led the

council in prayer.

John L presented the Ministry Site Profile that was completed at the end of May by the call committee. Motion to approve the Ministry Site Profile as presented, Shannon; second, Scott C; carried. The call committee will be meeting again on Wednesday, June 17, with Pastor Steve Brackett from the NE Iowa Synod Office and provide him with the Ministry Site Profile and determine what the next steps in the call process will be.

Secretary's Report/Correspondence

- Thank you letters were presented by Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp and Bridge of Hope.
- Motion to approve the secretary's minutes from the May meeting, Josh; second, Alice; carried.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

May 23, 2026 Judy N at Zion St John

Funerals Scheduled

June 13, 2026 Merna S, Graveside Service

Things Working On

- Participated in Memorial Day Services at Hillside Cemetery

- Continuing Education Trip to Germany
- Working with Youth and Education Committee on Plans for VBS

Items to Consider

- Daren and Pastor need to meet with an investment firm in Mason City to obtain some funds left to the church by Pam H.
- The 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis in June of next year. Caitlin T has agreed to partner with our congregation for this event.
- Brad M has taken over mowing our grounds. This was previously done by Doug D.
- A new programmable thermostat has been installed in the sanctuary. Diane has programmed it.
- Pastor will be leaving early on Tuesday, June 16 to attend his Uncle Neal's 95th Birthday party north of Minneapolis. His 50th High School Class Reunion is June 26-28. He is on the planning committee. Nancy R has graciously agreed to lead worship that day.

Committee Reports

Property Management

- Daren has been in communication with the person that the church purchased the new tree from to address the issues that have been identified with the tree.
- Brad and Josh have been in communication with Chris Janssen regarding a few repair issues that are being addressed.

Worship & Evangelism

- Council will be serving coffee during June and July. Daren emailed the schedule out following the May meeting.

Technology

- Motion to allow Scott C to spend up to \$1,500 to purchase a new laptop to be used for streaming, Scott S; second, Brad; carried.

Parish Education

- Kimberly W is working to get everything lined up for VBS. Daren asked that Diane send out an email to the congregation with food needs for the week of VBS. John and Shannon L have graciously agreed to host the VBS leaders from ILO.
- Pastor and Diane will take care of ordering Sunday School and Confirmation curriculum for the 2026/2027 school year.

Youth and Family

- working on figuring out the next steps

Memorial/Legacy

- Pastor received a memorial check from Merna S's family for the quilters. Pastor will make sure they receive the check.

Old Business

- Job postings (Secretary and Youth Leader) – Daren will meet with Nancy and Darwin to get this done following the call committee meeting with Pastor Brackett on Wednesday.

New Business

- Pastor Plan Review after July – Pastor will be tentatively working Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings once he goes part time. Pastor discussed tasks that will need someone to learn/take over as he goes part time.
- Pastor will plan to be off on July 26th. Nancy Retz will lead worship in his absence.
- Money counters for July will be Scott S and Shannon L.
- The next meeting will be Sunday, July 12.
- Motion to adjourn at 11:07 am, Pastor Kim; second, Brad; carried.

Nancy R, Church Council Secretary



Congratulations to our fellow Lutherans for being recognized in this year's 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of Sheffield! Roger M was selected to be Grand Marshal of the parade, Sue L as Outstanding citizen, and Sharon S and Mary S were recognized with the CC Gilman Award. These are truly giving and caring people who show Jesus' love everyday!

ZSJ YOUTH PAGE

Confirmation



Just a friendly reminder that 9th grade students should be working on their service projects and any memory work and sermon notes that need to be completed by October 14. Summer is a much easier time to finish up these tasks, before school starts again.

Confirmation Meetings

The **REQUIRED** informational meeting for 7-8th grade confirmation **STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS** will be on Wednesday, August 19. This meeting is important to help you and your student have a better understanding of the program and responsibilities. Please mark your calendars now!!!



7-8th grade 6 pm
9th grade 7 pm



In the month of July we welcomed three of our students to the Lord's table! Congratulations to *Irelynn O, Addy P and Kinzli W.* We rejoice with you as you share in the love and grace of communion!

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_QcICmFF1lKSJKSlDpIvNGzk_buIcibP5M6A/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=1125772835](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeadQP7o6K3iL_QcICmFF1lKSJKSlDpIvNGzk_buIcibP5M6A/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=112577283549591558358)

49591558358! 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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Bill Loeffelhardt
Deerfield Place
505 E. Gilman
Sheffield, IA 50475
MB

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship
(Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org)
10:15 am Fellowship