

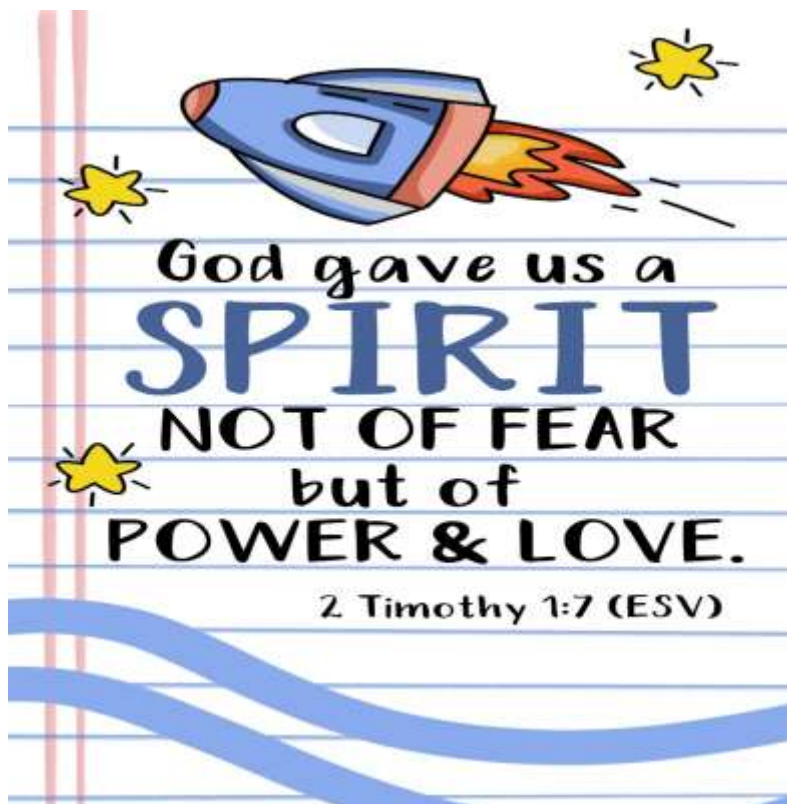


Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

August 2026 Vol. 32 No. 8 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.



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

The original plan was for me to go to part-time status as of July 1. Given the fact that we had Vacation Bible School, it was my month to preach at the care center and numerous funerals in consultation with the church council we decided to delay this change until August 1. The plan is for me to work 60% of my normal hours and to be paid accordingly. At the July council meeting we decided that at the end of each month, President Daren M and I will decide the percentage I should be paid. I will fully retire at the end of the year, with my final service on Christmas Day.



What does this look like and what does this mean for you? My office hours will be cut back. I will be in the office Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, 8:30 to 12:30. Once Fall programming begins, I will work Wednesdays and take Fridays off. I will continue to lead worship three Sundays per month. Nancy R will hopefully cover the other Sundays. I will be available for funerals, baptisms and weddings until December 25.

Diane will also be retiring from her church duties here on December 25. Included in this newsletter is information on her position and the Director of Youth and Family Ministries position. We hope to have these positions filled in the very near future.

The call committee has reached the point where they will be able to interview candidates to fill my position. Please pray for the call committee, Diane and me during this time of transition.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim

ORGANIST / PIANIST NEEDED



One of our organists has informed us that they want to play only one Sunday per month. This being the case we are looking for someone who would be willing to play for worship one or two Sundays per month as needed. This person would also likely be asked from time to time to play for funerals or weddings. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this paid position, please contact Pastor Kim.



Thursdays, August 6, 13, 20 & 27 2-5 pm

Saturday, August 1, 10 am-noon

Mobile Distribution, Aug 22, 10 am-noon, Dougherty

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, pasta sauce and soup. 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, Aug 22, 10 am-noon, @ Dougherty. 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 June 30, 2026:

Budgeted Income	\$114,074
Offerings Received	\$ 94,933
Current Deficit	\$ 19,141
Expenses Year to Date	\$104,237
Checking Balance	\$ 21,809



This past month we figured out that our computer software had a glitch that had overstated our budgeted income. So, the great news is that our budget deficit was cut nearly in half once this was corrected! Our checking account balance dropped over \$4,000 last month.

We will have increased expense this month with a \$4,000 insurance payment and the ordering of materials for fall educational programs. Thank you 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.

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

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



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

- 1 Cora M
- 3 Jennifer B, Justin M, Angela N
- 4 Payton P
- 5 Mickee T, Sage S, Teresa S
- 7 Lon E, Jordan G, Tenley S
- 8 Doug H, Larry B
- 11 Alexandra C
- 17 Grace E
- 18 Hayden E, Taj O, Hallie G
- 19 Gemma I
- 20 Taylor E, Mark R, Gene L
- 21 Ned B, Kay R, Isaac T, Dax S
- 22 Kaci H
- 23 Kellen C
- 25 Eric E
- 26 Leah C
- 27 Ron E, Kacee G, Steve H
- 30 Sam C, Octavia D



Join Our Ministry Team at Zion St. John Lutheran Church

Part-Time Church Secretary (20 hours/week)
Part-Time Youth Director (20 hours/week)

Zion St. John Lutheran Church, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregation, is seeking caring, organized, and faith-filled individuals to help support the ministry of our church. We are currently accepting applications for Church Secretary and Youth Director. These positions are each 20 hours per week with flexible scheduling. Qualified candidates with the appropriate skills and experience may be considered to serve in both roles.

Church Secretary

- Greeting members and visitors with warmth and hospitality.

- Preparing worship bulletins, newsletters, and other church communications.
- Managing the church calendar, correspondence, office and parish records.
- Providing administrative support to the pastor, staff, and church committees.
- Maintaining confidentiality and helping ensure the smooth operation of the church office.

Youth Director

- Planning and leading youth fellowship, service, and faith formation opportunities.
- Building caring relationships with youth and their families.
- Recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers.
- Collaborating with the pastor and congregational leaders to strengthen youth ministry.
- Encouraging youth participation in worship, service, and the life of the congregation.

Qualifications

- Demonstrate excellent organizational, computer and social media skills.
- Communicate effectively and work well with people of all ages.
- Can work independently while collaborating with staff and volunteers.
- Are dependable, flexible, and able to maintain confidentiality.
- Support the mission and values of Zion St. John Lutheran Church and the ELCA.

If you are passionate about serving others, helping the church thrive, and sharing Christ's love through your gifts and talents, we invite you to apply. Please submit a résumé and a brief letter describing your interest and qualifications to the church office. Applications will be reviewed as they are received and will continue until the positions are filled.

Mail to:
 Zion St John Lutheran Church
 422 Sherman Street, PO Box 269
 Sheffield Iowa 50475

Email to:
pastor@zionstjohn.org

Head Usher: Doug D

Altar Guild: Barb S, Marlene S

Lector: Doreen D



	Greeters:
2	Scott S
9	Josh S
16	Daren M
23	Diane & Barkley
30	

Fellowship:
Scott S
Josh S
Daren M
Diane W

	Acolyte:
2	Lillian W
16	Eli T

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



- ❖ The family of Chuck J
- ❖ The family of Bishop Steven U
- ❖ The family of Gene B
- ❖ The family of Eric T
- ❖ The family of Jim K
- ❖ Our students and teachers as school begins anew

[illegible]

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 am  11:00 am Riverside Quilt Auction Happy Birthday Cora M!
5	6 7:00 am Bus trip to LWR 2:00 pm 	7 Happy Birthday Tenley S!	8
12	13 2:00 pm 	14	15 10:00 am  In Dougherty
19  6:00 pm 7-8 th Confirmation 7:00 pm 9 th Confirmation Happy Birthday Gemma I!	20 2:00 pm 	21	22
26	27 2:00 pm 	28	29

Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America



**Monday, Aug 17, 1 pm,
fellowship hall**



Rebekah Circle

Monday, Aug 3, 6 pm

Video Upload Available

Tuesday, Aug 4, 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 Aug 3 @ 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.

**WELCA
GENERAL MEETING
MON, SEPT 14, 6 PM**



ZSJ Piecemakers will resume quilting on Wednesday, September 2, 8:30 am. Come and Join us! No experience needed!!

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!



**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



The meeting was called to order on Sunday, July 12, 2026, by Council President, Daren M at 10:17 am. Scott C, Scott S, Brad M, Daren M, Pastor Kim , Alice G, Josh S, Nancy R, and Darwin M present. Shannon L was absent. Pastor Kim led the council in prayer.

Secretary's Report- Motion to approve the report as presented, Josh; second, Darwin Meyer; carried.

Treasurer's Report- reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Funerals Performed

June 13,2026

Merna S, Graveside Service

July 2, 2026

Gene B, Sietsema Atkinson, Meal at ZSJ

Weddings Scheduled

July 31, 2026

Assisting Vicar, Jason G, St. Peter,
Rockwell

Things Pastor is Working On

- ❖ Vacation Bible School
- ❖ Preaching at the Sheffield Care Center during the month of July
- ❖ Walking beside grieving families.

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.
- ❖ Vacation Bible School is going well. Kimberly W is doing a fabulous job. We have great counselors this year from Ingham Okoboji and lots of youth and adult helpers. We have 50 youth registered and at least 70 people eating supper together every night. Special thanks to Shannon and John Latham for hosting the counselors and to Darwin Meyer for taking them to lunch each day. It's nice to end VBS experiences on such a high note.
- ❖ There are a lot of weeds growing on the south side of the education wing. The weeds growing along the building in the courtyard will be taken care of.
- ❖ After several phone calls, Murphy's did change out the furnace filters on Monday and fortunately, no problems during VBS.
- ❖ It would be a good idea to see if we can find another organist/pianist to fill in occasionally on Sundays when our current musicians are unavailable.
- ❖ Pastor will be taking Sunday July 26th off and on vacation and unavailable August 8-15. Nancy will lead worship these days.

- ❖ Discussion about part-time hours in August.
- ❖ Advertising for secretary / youth director position.

Committee Reports

Property

- ❖ Need to investigate the roof leak.
- ❖ The tree on the southwest corner of the church looks better.
- ❖ Josh is going to get a price to have the sidewalks in the courtyard go all the way to the building to aid with drainage and get rid of the weeds.
- ❖ Discussed the ash trees.

Technology

- ❖ Some of the cameras were not working following the power outage. Scott C is working on this.
- ❖ Discussion about using Easy Worship for the screens on Sunday. We will continue to use this program until the computer it is on needs to be replaced. Fred R is looking into options for the future so that we are prepared for the change.

Parish Ed and Youth and Family

- ❖ Both groups need to organize soon to start planning for the upcoming school year. Nancy will schedule a Parish Ed meeting, and Daren will schedule a Youth and Family meeting.

Memorial Committee – meets next week.

Old Business

- ❖ Call Committee Update- All paperwork required by the synod has been submitted by the committee. The next step is to wait and see if there are any pastors interested. The committee is going to work on creating a video to help promote our congregation and the community.

New Business

- ❖ Secretary and Youth Director positions – a job posting will be placed in the August newsletter. We will need to look at other avenues of advertising this position in the upcoming weeks.
- ❖ Money Counters for August – Alice & Darwin
- ❖ Next Meeting – September 13th. No meeting in August.

Nancy R, Council Secretary

ZSJ YOUTH PAGE

9th Grade 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



Sun, Aug.23, 9 am Worship

Bring your backpacks, laptops, I-pads, or other school-related items for a special blessing!



Thank you to everyone who made VBS 2026 such a success! All efforts were greatly appreciated, including food donations, helpers, decorators, set-up and clean-up, hosting and feeding of counselors and all your prayers! We had an average of 47 kids in attendance and over 20 helpers!! Special thanks to Kimberly W for coordinating this great safari adventure, "To Know His Name!"



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*)
10:15 am Fellowship