



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

September 2026

Vol. 32 No. 9 Season of Pentecost



**Sunday School starts
September 13, 2026, 10:15 am**

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.



Train up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:6

September will soon be here and with it the beginning of another year of educational ministries. It is an exciting time of the year, yet August and early September are one of the busiest and most stressful times of the year for those who work in the church. This surprises most people because they assume that Lent and Advent would top the list. Those are certainly busy times, but getting everything ready for the program year takes a lot of planning.

We are doing it this year without a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Thankfully, our Youth and Education committees are stepping up to help. We are currently in need of a volunteer or two to help me with the JAM youth group for students in grades 5 & 6. Our church has a policy that two adults need to be present at all activities. If volunteers can not be found, this ministry will not continue.

We are also in need of Sunday School teachers. Our most urgent need is for someone to teach 7th and 8th grade Sunday School. We also need one or two people to team teach Sunday School. This is not an every Sunday commitment. If you would like to help please contact me or Daren M.

Our educational programs here at Zion St. John have a long history of providing meaningful spiritual guidance to young people who are members of our congregation and youth that are not officially members here. This is due in great measure to the number of caring adults who volunteer their time and show genuine care to our youth.

Regarding confirmation ministry, I will be the lead teacher for the first semester. After I retire at the end of December, Darwin M and Doreen D will team teach, unless a new pastor is called here before the end of the year.

Please prayerfully consider giving your time to help us bring God's light and love to the young people of this church. Thank you to our faithful volunteers who continue to step up to the plate to help us year after year.

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, September 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2-5 pm
Saturday, Sept 5, 10 am-noon
Mobile Distribution, September 12, 10 am-noon, St Peter in 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 soup, pasta sauce and canned fruit. 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, Sept 12, 10 am-noon, @ St Peter in Rockwell. 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!

RIVERSIDE QUILT AUCTION

The ZSJ Piecemakers have done it again! With the two items donated to the auction, they raised \$650 for camperships to Riverside Bible Camp. In total, \$41,596 was raised at the 2026 quilt auction!



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.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$130,947
Offerings Received	\$111,475
Current Deficit	\$ 19,472
Expenses YTD	\$123,900
Checking Balance	\$ 16,380



This past month our deficit grew by less than \$500, but our checking account balance decreased by over \$5,000. This was due in large part to a large insurance payment that was paid. Thank you for your faithful giving!

MUSICIANS NEEDED



Singers and bell players are needed for the ZSJ Chancel and Handbell Choirs. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 16. Contact Cindy H, 319-444-0623 or cjhemm56@gmail.com, for Chancel Choir or Diane W, wills.dianes@gmail.com, or (641) 425-8628 for Handbell Choir.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



The ZSJ Call Committee has been very busy the last few months. They have completed and submitted all the necessary paperwork to the synod office and met with synod representative Steve

Brackett twice. As of the end of August, they are now prepared to begin the interview process when candidates become available.

Sept 2	Quilting resumes
Sept 13	SS resumes
Sept 14	WELCA Meeting
Sept. 16	7-8 Confirmation Class 9 th Confirmation Class Music groups resume
Sept 23	7-9 Confirmation Retreat
Sept 18	Riverside Golf
Sept 20	3rd Grade Bibles
Oct 10	LWR Pickup
Oct 18	WELCA Heat n Eat
Oct 25	9th Confirmation
Dec 13	Holiday Food Fair SS Christmas Program



**CHURCH
OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
ON MON, SEP 7!**

- 1 MaKenna O
- 3 Jaelyn H, Tom S, Irelynn O, Ella H
- 4 Jacob H, Carrie O
- 5 Seth T
- 6 Dana N
- 7 Jacob K
- 8 Melvin B, Dawn G
- 9 Presley S
- 10 Brandon S
- 11 Tyler K, Kalli T
- 13 Todd G
- 14 Mia G, Cale M, Dacia S
- 15 Nashaun B, Tyler L
- 16 Jacob & Nicholas E
- 17 Cody H, Cindy H, Sue N
- 18 Kay E, Renner H
- 19 Barb G, Troy I, Kris L
- 21 Blake O
- 23 Haley H, Jill I, Glen H, Judy S
- 24 Chayton P
- 25 Keanna P
- 26 Zach S
- 27 Megan E
- 29 Matthew H, Morgan M, Kara S



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

Head Usher:

Altar Guild: Lynette M,
Marlene S

**Lector:**

6 Diane W
13 Diane W
20 Diane W
27

Greeters:

Diane & Barkley

Fellowship:**Acolyte:**

6 Cooper W
20 Olivia R

Crucifer:

Sutton W
Lillian 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

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

Kelly M

Patricia S

Karla C

Sheryl T

Bill N

Mickee & Scarlett T



- The newly baptized, Eloise Dru K
- Our education staff, as a new SS and Confirmation year begins
- The ZSJ Call Committee

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1 Happy Birthday MaKenna O!
6 Pentecost 15 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship	7  LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	8
13 Pentecost 16/ Rally Day 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting 	14 6:00 pm WELCA General Meeting & Bible Study  Happy Birthday Mia G!	15 10:00 am Bible Study Video available
20 Pentecost 17 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 3rd Grade Bibles, led by Praise Team 10:15 am Fellowship Bible 101/ Sunday School  	21 1:00 pm 	22 
27 Pentecost 18 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship	28	29

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 	3 2:00 pm  Happy Birthday Irelynn O & Ella H!	4	5 10:00 am 
9 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers Happy Birthday Presley S!	10 2:00 pm 	11 	12 10:00 am St Peter In Rockwell 
16 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:15 pm 7-8 Conf. Class 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm 9 Conf Class 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  	17 2:00 pm 	18 11:00 am   Happy Birthday Renner H!	19
23 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 4:00 pm 7-9 Conf. Retreat 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	24 2:00 pm  Happy Birthday Chayton P!	25	26
30 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:15 pm 7-8 Conf. Class 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm 9 Conf Class 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 			



CALL TO ORDER: President Kim Mulford called the board meeting to order on Sunday, August 2, at 10:25 a.m. Those present: Kim M, Lorna M, Diane W, and Pam M.

MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting, Diane; second, Lorna; carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you notes were received from Abby S and Dax S for their graduation gifts, the family of Judy N, and two from Lutheran World Relief for donations to assist with shipping quilts and kits.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of June 30, there is a checking balance of \$527.28 and a savings balance of \$7,951.61, of which \$5,653.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance as of May 31 is \$741.10. The report was placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Quilting will begin again on Wed, Sept 2.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ✓ Heat and Eat: We will plan to have this on Sunday, October 18, meeting on the 17th to package items.
- ✓ Countertops have been ordered and will hopefully be installed before fall programming begins.
- ✓ We will oversee Care Center birthdays on October 19.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ✓ The WELCA General meeting will be September 14, at 6 p.m.
- ✓ We reviewed the proposed 2027 budget. Motion to approve as presented, Pam; second, Lorna; carried. We will discuss at the general meeting whether to continue to provide a gift subscription to new female church members, since we are no longer using the magazine for Bible Study.
- ✓ Diane will be checking with someone to take her place as treasurer. The position will officially start in January but she hopes to help them for a couple months at the end of the year and with the annual WELCA report. Lorna will be working to find another co-chair.
- ✓ Holiday Food Fair is scheduled for December 13.
- ✓ Diane has gotten additional baptismal gifts. Darwin is working on more baptismal boxes.

✓ Kim adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Secretary, Pam M

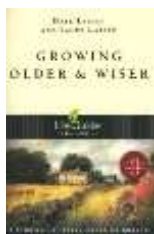


**Monday, Sept 21,
1 pm, fellowship hall**

The Women of ZSJ will meet on Monday, September 14, 6 pm, for election of officers, approval of 2027 budget & Bible study led by Diane W.



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 Sept 14 @ 6 pm. Books are available in the office, \$13.00.

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



**OCTOBER 18TH,
after worship (about 10 am).**



Mark you calendars now for the Women of ZSJ Heat 'n' Eat fundraiser! Come and find your favorite home cooked casseroles and entrees in a range of serving sizes!

LWR KITS THANK YOU



The ZSJ Piecemakers wish to thank those who donated money for purchasing supplies for our mission projects. We were able to purchase needed items to fill 125 backpacks for LWR school kits. With your help we can share God's love all over the world!

**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

ZSJ YOUTH PAGE

Confirmation



1st-2nd year students (grades 7-8)

Class	Sept 16	5:15-7 pm
Retreat	Sept 23	4-9 pm
Class	Sept 30	5:15- 7 pm

3rd year students (grade 9)

Class	Sept 16	7 pm
Retreat	Sept 23	4-9 pm
Class	Sept 30	7 pm
No Class	Oct 7	
Class	Oct 14	7 pm
Rehearsal/ supper	Oct 21	5 pm
Conf. Worship/ Rec	Oct 25	8-11 am

Just a reminder that **all** service projects, memory work, sermon notes and service project reports need to be completed by October 14 for 9th grade students to participate in the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) on Sunday October 25.



The 7-9th Confirmation retreat to Darwin's Pond will be Wednesday, September 23. Plan to leave the church @ 4 pm and return by 9 pm. Supper is provided. Please

remember to dress for the weather and bugs.

Sunday School begins Sept 13, Rally Day @ 10:15 am. We will share some Bible time, a craft, games and a snack and we get to know our teachers!!!



Watch for dates when the SS Kids will sing.
Christmas Program Dec 13



Our 3rd graders will receive their Spark Bibles on Sunday Sept, 20 @ 9 am worship. Please pray for Hudson B, Hayden E and Kelix W as they reach this milestone.

The day and time for the start of JAM (youth group for 5-6th grade students) has yet TBD. Please watch the bulletin and FB page for more information when it becomes available.



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