



Zion St. John

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

October 2026 Vol. 32 No. 10 Season of Pentecost/ Reformation



Sunday October 25, 9 am
Wear Red!

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.



Obey your leaders and respect them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing - for that would be harmful to you. (KWV)

Hebrews 13:17-18

October is Pastor Appreciation month. I don't bring this up so I will get a flurry of greeting cards. Personally, this falls into a category of holidays that I term "Hallmark Holidays", things created by marketers to sell products. But as this reminder came up on my calendar, and given our being in the call process, I thought I would address some things that pastors appreciate.

Reliable Volunteers: I have served here for over 17 years. In this time, I can recall only one instance, where someone had signed up to serve as lector (to read the lessons) and they didn't show up. That is amazing! Have there been instances here when volunteers have not fulfilled their commitments? I'd be lying if I said that had never happened. But by and large, this congregation does very well at that. If we don't have another pastor in place before I leave, it will be more important than ever that volunteers fulfill their commitments. Failing to fulfill commitments makes it harder on those who must scramble at the last minute and is a major cause of burn out.



Supportive Leadership: Having a president and church council that is there to help and support them. Are there times when pastors need constructive criticism? Absolutely. Pastors are flawed and sinful humans and need to be coached. One thing that pastors appreciate is if they are being treated poorly, that the congregational leaders step up and address this situation with the goal that healthy relationships can be reestablished.

Friendly, Welcoming Members: All churches, if asked, will say they are friendly and welcoming. A recent study showed that 80% of first-time visitors to a church will never go back again. Key contributing factors include: Not being greeted by more than three members. If they are greeted, those who do sometimes ask so many questions that they feel uncomfortable. Other factors include no follow up visit and not being invited to a future event at the church. I believe we have come a long way in this area, but always room for improvement.

This also includes how we relate to inactive members. How are they received? Is it with genuine welcome or with comments about how long it's been since they have been in the building? I once worked with an

inactive member for over a year to get them to come back to church. Within the first two minutes they were in the building, they were treated rudely and they never came back again. I have also worked with inactive members who are now here every Sunday, and church is an integral part of their lives. This is due, in large part, to the gracious way they were treated by you.

Thank you for making this a wonderful place to serve. May you extend the same grace you have shown me to your next spiritual leader.

God's blessings to you,
Pastor Kim



Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2-5 pm
Saturday, Oct 3, 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 soup, cereal, juice 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. We will be celebrating Halloween with costumes on Thursday, October 29. Trunk or Treat will be Saturday October 31.

RIVERSIDE GOLF

The twenty-second annual Riverside Fall Golf Classic was held Fri, Sept. 18, at Coldwater Golf Links in Ames, despite the rainy conditions! ZSJ was represented by 3 foursomes that all had a great time. The team of Tom & Marlene S and Pastor Kim and Diane shot +1 and Diane and Marlene each received a sleeve of balls in the door prize drawing. Don G, Angie, Ben and Jeff R shot 67 and Al N, Brad M, Darryl P and Doug H shot a sizzling 59. The winning team for the day shot -19 and over \$30,000 was raised for camperships!



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	\$149,653
Offerings Received	\$125,574
Current Deficit	\$ 24,079
Expenses YTD	\$136,671
Checking Balance	\$ 17,741



This month of budget deficit grew by over \$4,000. Fortunately, we controlled expenses well and our checking account balance grew by over \$1,000. Thank you for your faithful giving!



PRAISE TEAM MINUTE



Here is a list of the songs that will be sung on October 18. Have a listen on your favorite platform!

Undone (by Sovereign Grace)
Great is Thy Faithfulness (Shane & Shane)
Oceans (Hillsong United)
Turn Your Eyes (by Sovereign Grace)
Be Thou My Vision (Rend Collective)

ZSJ YOUTH



Please keep Olivia R, Eli T and Lillian W in prayer as they affirm their baptisms on Oct 25 @ 9 am worship. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall after worship. All are invited to

honor & celebrate our youth!

CONFIRMATION CLASS

7-8th Grade students

Class	Oct 14	5:15-7 pm
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Class	Oct 28	5:15- 7 pm
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9th Grade students

Class	Oct 14	7 pm
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Rehearsal/ supper	Oct 21	5 pm
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Worship/ Rec	Oct 25	8-11 am
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Sunday School meets every Sunday @ 10:15 am, except Oct 25. Our offering project this fall is Northern Lights Shelters in Mason City. Our goal is \$700

along with gently used clothing, socks and hygiene items. There is a box in the narthex for items, and all are welcome to contribute to our project!

SS Kids will sing October 18. Please have your child to church by 8:45 to rehearse before worship. Christmas Program Dec 13



2 Pat H, Junior N
4 Alex S, Ethan S
6 Dawn H
7 Kevin B, Deb H
9 Brody S
11 Joel E
12 Vicki M, Brett N
14 Sydney K
15 Roger M, Collin M
Lindy M, Logan P
Brandy H
16 Lillian E, Travis S
Noah S, Jill K
17 Josh S, Nikki S
22 Lauren D, Bailey S
23 Pat M
24 Lori H
26 Noah J
27 Lance L
28 Jim E
30 Barb K, Dave S, Jordan S
31 Collin S



STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 25**



Head Usher: Doug D

Altar Guild: Kim O, Kari M

Lector: Doreen D



Greeters:

4 Daren & Pam M
11 Al & Sue N

Fellowship:

18
25 Confirmation Reception

Acolyte:

4 Kemlin H
18 Tenley S
25 Landry L

Crucifer:

Eli T
Harper R
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

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

Bill N

Patricia S

Karla C

Sheryl T

Sue L



- The newly baptized, Arlo Edward S
- The family of Kelli M
- The family of Norma M
- The family of Cynthia H

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
4 Pentecost 19 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 am WELCA Board Meeting 5:00 pm Fire Dept. Pork Supper 	5 6:00 pm Rebekah Circle Bible Study 	6 10:00 am Bible Study Video available
11 Pentecost 20 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting	12 	13
18 Pentecost 21 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion with SS choir, Chancel Choir and Praise Team 10:00 am Heat 'n' Eat Fundraiser 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School 	19 1:00 pm 	20
25 Reformation/ Confirmation 9:00 am Reformation Worship with Affirmation of Baptism and Chancel Choir 10:30 am Confirmation Reception 	26 Happy Birthday Noah J!	27

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers	1 2:00 pm 	2	3 10:00 am  10:00 am Norma M Visitation
7 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 2:00 pm 	9	10 8:00 am LWR Ingathering @ Albert Lea
14 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 	15 2:00 pm 	16  Happy Birthday Lillian E & Noah S!	17
21 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:00 pm 9 Conf. Rehearsal 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22 2:00 pm  Happy Birthday Bailey S!	23	24
28 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:15 pm 7-8 Conf. Class 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	29 2:00 pm 	30	31 



CALL TO ORDER: Kim Mulford called the General Meeting of the Zion St. John Women of the ELCA to order on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. There were seven women present.

MINUTES: Minutes from the September 2025 General Meeting were reviewed, having been previously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you was received from the Women of the ELCA.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The July and August reports were placed on file. As of August 31, there is a checking balance of \$614.18, and savings balance of \$8,005.66, of which \$5,478.72 are designated funds. The funeral cash donations balance as of August 31 is \$719.42. The report was placed on file.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Heat & Eat fundraiser-October 18th.
- Care Center birthday party-October 19th.
- Confirmation-Reformation Sunday, October 25th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Currently there are no new officers to present. We will continue to look for someone to serve as a 2 year co-chair with Lorna M. Pam M will continue as secretary. Since Diane is retiring, Kari M has agreed to handle the treasurer's role for WELCA in addition to being church treasurer.
- Confirmation gifts, Marlene will purchase for 3, 2 girls and 1 boy.
- The 2027 budget and 2027 Christmas gift list was presented. Motion to approve the budget and Christmas list, Marlene S; second, Alice G; carried.
- The Heat and Eat fundraiser will be held after church on October 18. We will meet on October 17 to portion out the items.
- The Holiday Food Fair will be held on Sunday, December 13, the same day as the children's Christmas program. Setup will be on December 12. The proceeds will be split with 50% going toward church projects to be determined later, and 50% to Wings of Refuge.

- Funeral workers and food donations: As Diane is retiring, Marlene S will take over texting people for food donations and workers when needed for funerals.
- Kim adjourned the meeting at 6:35. Bible study was held followed the meeting. The Bible study will be available to view online on Tuesday, September 15.

Secretary, Pam M



**Monday, Oct 19,
1 pm, fellowship hall**

Rebekah Circle

Monday, Oct 5, 6 pm

Video Upload Available

Tuesday, Oct 6, 10 am



**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!

**Holiday Food Fair
Sunday, December 13**

**SS Christmas Program
Sunday, December 13, 4 pm**



Travel Fun Fall field trip with NE IA Women of ELCA

Saturday October 17, 2026

Come Join us on an Adventure.

Exploring Waterloo/ Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County

WHO: Anyone can come. Bring a friend, spouse, Children and grandchildren

RSVP by Oct. 1 (for reservations at Barn Happy)

10am Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum & Grout Museum of History & Science

(enter top of the hill)

Museum Only Cost: \$15 Adults, \$8 Veterans & Children 4-13, 3 & Under & Museum Members Free

Or add the planetarium show

Museum & Norris Corson Family Planetarium Cost: \$20 Adults, \$13 Veterans & Children 4-13, 3 & Under & Museum Members Free



1pm

Lunch at **Barn Happy** 11310 Univ. Ave. Cedar Falls, IA

They have a gift shop of antiques and Iowa made products (pay your own way)

2:30pm

ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries 2422 College St, Cedar Falls, IA (free learning about campus ministries at UNI)

We end our day together here.



Optional on your own:

John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum

500 Westfield Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701

(free admittance) They are open until 5pm.



RSVP by Oct. 1 so we can put reservations in at Barn Happy

RSVP TO: Chris VanDeventer cdvandeveni@gmail.com 515-320-2877

Note all activities are pay as you go.



CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:29 am, on Sunday, September 13, 2026 by President Daren M. Pastor Kim, Scott C, Brad M, Josh S, Shannon L, Darwin M, and Nancy R were present. Daren M attended virtually. Scott Sanders and Alice G were not present. Pastor led the council in prayer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary's report was reviewed. Motion to accept the report as presented, Josh; second, Brad; carried. Thank you notes from the Sharing Shoppe and LSI were shared.

TREASURER'S REPORT: reviewed

PASTOR'S REPORT

Funerals Scheduled

October 3, 2026 Norma M, Visitation 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Things Working On

- Pastor has been working on education programming for the fall with assistance from Diane.
- Blessings of religious objects for those who request it
- Being on call for other Lutheran clergy when they are on vacation

Items to Consider

- Daren and Pastor met with the people from Stifel investments regarding the Pam Harvey Estate. These funds have been received. Daren is working on one more account and then it should be finished.
- The boiler was inspected on Tuesday, September 8th and it passed. A member of the property committee will need to complete the test log each month once pastor retires.
- After Pastor's retirement the council will need to change out the name on the church credit card. He has used his Amazon Prime account so the church could get free shipping. Council will need to decide who will approve bills for Kari to pay.
- Murphy's fixed the leaky faucet in the men's room. Suggested items for replacement: Sink in the men's room – main floor; sink and counter tops in main floor women's bathroom; carpeting on steps and entry area into the sanctuary.
- There are three foursomes playing in the Riverside Fall Golf Classic on Friday, September 18. We were asked to sponsor a hole for an additional \$50 and we did. Every year we bring more players than any other church/organization. Camp Director, Chris Dahl asked if he could be at church on September 20th to give us an update on camp.
- Portico, our employee benefit insurance company, has announced that rates will go up 15% over last year. In the next month, a decision on benefits for next year needs to be made.
- The past two weeks Pastor worked about 80% time rather than 60%.

- Pastor will be gone 9/14, 9/15, and 9/27. Nancy R will lead worship on 9/27.
- Advertising for Secretary / Youth Director position.
- Pastor asked Nancy to share about the Lay school program. A motion to reimburse Nancy for the cost of tuition for Lay School, approximately \$225/semester, Shannon; second, Darwin; carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property Committee

- working on a list of repairs/upgrades that need to occur around the church and will present that at the next council meeting so these can be prioritized and repairs can start.

Stewardship- will meet next month.

Worship and Evangelism

- Daren will schedule a meeting in the next few weeks. This committee will need to be more active once Pastor and Diane have retired. Nancy, Diane, and Cindy will be invited to the meeting.

Technology

- Continue to find small issues in the technology from the power outage during the summer.

Parish Ed

- Sunday School curriculum will be Holy Moly this year from Augsburg. PreK-4th Grade will be all together, and 5th and 6th grade will have a separate class.
- There are currently 7 students in confirmation – 3-7th graders and 4-8th graders. There are currently 3 students in 9th grade confirmation.

Youth and Family

- will be meeting to ensure that the youth program is continued to the best of their ability in the absence of a youth director.
- The youth have been invited to attend the National Youth Gathering with Caitlin T and St. Paul Lutheran Youth in Hampton.

Memorial/Legacy

- A donation from the Johnson family has been donated to be used at the church's discretion.

OLD BUSINESS

- Search Committee – in a holding pattern for now.
- Pastor's Pay – Motion to pay Pastor for the actual hours he is working, to be retroactive, Nancy; second, Shannon; carried. The council requests that Pastor email Daren his hours at the end of each pay period for approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- Executive Committee will meet soon to work with Pastor about all the duties that he performs so that these duties can be assigned to other members prior to Pastor's retirement.
- Plans for Pastor's Retirement Reception are in the works.
- Money counters for the rest of September are Josh and Daren. October is Shannon and Josh. Nancy and Brad can fill in if necessary.
- Next meeting will be October 11, 2026, at 10:30 am
- Motion made to adjourn, Scott; second, Brad; carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

Nancy R, Council Secretary

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



The ZSJ Call Committee has been waiting for names from the synod to start the interview process. Because of the nation-wide shortage of pastors, this process could be lengthy. We ask for your prayers and patience as we wait for God's answers and direction.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Steve & Marie Lubkeman
13107 130th St.
Rockwell, IA 50469
MB

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Worship

(Livestream @ www.zionstjohn.org)

10:15 am Sunday School/ Fellowship