Zion St. John
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Being the Body of Christ

November 2026 Vol. 32 No. 11

All Saints/ Christ the King/ Thanksgiving



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.



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1Thessalonians 5: 16-18

While we should be grateful always, as our reading from Thessalonians reminds us, when I think of November, Thanksgiving quickly comes to mind. A few weeks ago, Diane and I attended the Food Bank of Iowa's Annual Conference in Altoona. As I looked at the list of workshops for the day, I noticed that one of the presenters was from the Pella Food Pantry. When I served there, the pantry was housed in our church. I wondered if I knew her, so I attended this workshop. I recognized her as a member of Peace Lutheran and so after it was over I went up front to speak with her. Now, it's been over 17 years since I served there. I introduced myself and she greeted me warmly and said, "Pastor Kim, you baptized my children." Peace Lutheran will celebrate their 50th anniversary the weekend of November 15. Diane and I will be there and we look forward to celebrating with them. While we are in Pella, we will also tour the Food Pantry which now has its own building.



During this month of November, Diane and I are grateful that God sent us to two wonderful congregations to serve during our ministry. We have truly been blessed to serve at Zion St. John among such gifted and dedicated people. During this season we look back and think about what God has accomplished here during our partnership in the Gospel. The most rewarding thing has been to see people grow spiritually. One of the big changes I have seen is how we share the peace during worship. A few years back something changed. Instead of sharing the peace with those in their pew or seated in front or behind them, people actually go into the center aisle (gasp!) to greet those sitting on the other side of the church.

Working together with God's blessings we have made so many improvements to our building that will serve us well into the future. When we have people tour our church, i.e. former members here or people who like to tour churches, we hear time and again how well maintained our church home is. In this season of Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to God for all the many blessings showered down upon us every day. Thank you for being a blessing to me.

Gratefully, Pastor Kim



Thursdays, November 5, 12 & 19, 2-5 pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day
Saturday, Nov 7, 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. Thanksgiving meal bags with turkeys will be distributed on Thursday, November 19.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

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

Budgeted Income	**$168,360**
Offerings Received	**$147,012**
Current Deficit	**$ 21,348**
Expenses YTD	**$166,633**
Checking Balance	**$ 16,116**



During the past month we saw our budget deficit drop by over $2,700! Our expenses were higher than normal last month so our checking account balanced dipped by around $1,600. Thank you for your faithful giving!

ALL SAINTS WORSHIP



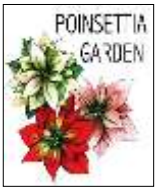
All Saints Sunday is November 1. As is our custom, during the prayers that day, the names of church members who have died in the past year, and those whose funerals Pastor Kim has performed, will be read and the bell will toll. This year we will remember *Louise K, Robert C, Jan L, Judy N, Gene B, Charles J and Norma M.* It is appropriate during this time for us to also remember our loved ones and friends who now rest in the Lord, and give thanks to God for the ways they have impacted our lives.

LION'S BREAKFAST



Join the Sheffield Lion's club at their Pancake Dinner on Sunday, Nov 1, 11 am– 1 pm @ the West Fork HS. The menu includes pancakes, biscuits and gravy, cinnamon rolls, milk, juice and coffee. A great way to share a delicious meal and support the Lions with a free will offering!

POINSETTIA GARDEN



Our traditional poinsettia garden is being planned for our sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to the garden, you may purchase one through the church office or directly from *Forever Yours* in Sheffield for $26. We would like to have the garden for the start of Advent on Nov 30. **Please place your orders by Sunday, Nov 22. Make your check payable to Forever Yours.**

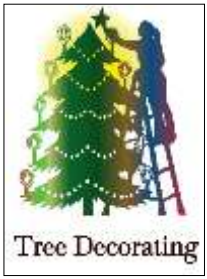




OFFICE CLOSED

NOV 26-28

TREE DECORATING



Sat Nov 28, we invite all to help with the decorating of the sanctuary for the Advent season. This will include decorating the tree and the sanctuary and is a fun morning for all ages. We will begin the decorating @ 9 am.

ADVENT EVENTS



1. Free Advent devotional books will be available in the narthex starting Nov 22.
2. Midweek Advent worship will be on Wed, Dec 2, 9 and 16 @ 7 pm. The Holden Evening Prayer Service is a beautiful candlelight service that brings peace during a very busy time of the year! Come and find the true meaning of Christmas!
3. Participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar for the West Fork Food Pantry. Each day add an item to a box and then bring it to the Food Pantry in December or January and help us fill the shelves! Here are some suggestions or create your own!

Dec 1 cereal
Dec 2 peanut butter
Dec 3 baked beans
Dec 4 boxed potatoes
Dec 5 mac and cheese
Dec 6 canned fruit
Dec 7 canned tomatoes
Dec 8 canned tuna or chicken
Dec 9 cake or brownie mix
Dec 10 canned applesauce
Dec 11 canned sweet potatoes
Dec 12 juice
Dec 13 jelly or jam
Dec 14 crackers
Dec 15 rice
Dec 16 ketchup, mustard, pickles
Dec 17 packaged pasta
Dec 18 spaghetti sauce
Dec 19 chicken noodle soup
Dec 20 tomato soup
Dec 21 canned corn
Dec 22 canned peas
Dec 23 canned carrots
Dec 24 canned green beans



4 Diane D
5 Hayes L
6 Don G, Tanner T, Allan K
Finley O, Arlo S
7 Lauren T
8 Sue R, Emily S
10 Jane E
11 Brad M, Jameson G
12 Cindy J
13 Sue K
14 Angie R, Jayla F, Ty S
16 Kyle O
17 Klayder W, Maci K
18 Lindsey E
20 Holly H, Gabi P
21 Craig O, Nate P
22 Kim M, Rory J
26 Carla N, Kinzli W, Tom S
29 Shyanne B, Libby T, Alyssa B
Sarah N-P
30 Merlin M



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
NOVEMBER 1

Head Usher: Don G



Altar Guild: Alice G, Marcia E

Lector: Alice G

	Greeters:	Fellowship:
1	Brad & Kim M	
8	Darwin & Lorna M	
15	Julie G & family	
22	Tony & Jessica R	
29	John & Shannon L	

	Acolyte:	Crucifer:
1	Sutton W	Renner H
15	Harper R	Kemlin H
22	Cooper W	Tenley S

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	Sue L
Marcy M	Sue K	Lavonne C
Crystal B	Wendy J	Bill N
Patricia S	Karla C	Sheryl T
Laurie G		

- The newly baptized, Lucas Matthew N-P
- The family of Cheryl R
- Newly Confirmed, Olivia R, Eli T & Lillian W
- Our call committee and council

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
1 All Saints  9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion & Bell Tolling 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School 11:00 am Sheffield Lions Pancake Breakfast  	**2** 6:00 pm Rebekah Circle Bible Study 	**3**  10:00 am Bible Study Video available
8 World Hunger 9:00 am Worship led by Praise Team 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School 10:30 am ZSJ Church Council Meeting WELCA Board Meeting 	**9**	**10**
15 Pentecost 25 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School Happy Birthday Jayla F!	**16** 1:00 pm  4:00 pm 	**17**  Happy Birthday Klayder W & Maci K!
22 Consecration/ Christ the King 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School   Happy Birthday Rory J!	**23**	**24**
29 Advent 1 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Fellowship Sunday School Happy Birthday Shyanne B & Sarah N-P!	**30**	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4  8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:15 pm 7-12 Youth Group 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	**5**  2:00 pm Happy Birthday Hayes L!	**6** Happy Birthday Arlo Sanders & Finley O'Connor!	**7**  10:00 am 11:00 am Zion Ref. Bazarre
11 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:15 pm 7-8 Conf. Class 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Happy Birthday Jameson G! 	**12**  2:00 pm	**13**	**14**
18 8:30 am ZSJ Piecemakers 5:15 pm 7-8 Scavenger Hunt 6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	**19**  2:00 pm	**20** Happy Birthday Gabi P!	**21**
25	**26**  Happy Birthday Kinzli W!	**27** Office Closed!	**28** 9:00 am Sanctuary Decorating 



Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

CALL TO ORDER: Kim M called the board meeting to order on Sunday, October 4, at 10:35 a.m. Those present were: Kim M, Diane W, and Pam M.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the September 2026 General Meeting minutes, Diane; second, Kim; carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: As of September 30, there is a checking balance of $493.51, and savings balance of $8,007.63, 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.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Heat & Eat fundraiser setup – 9 a.m. October 17
- Heat & Eat fundraiser-October 18
- Care Center birthday party-October 19
- Confirmation-Reformation Sunday, October 25th, hosted by Youth and Family
- Holiday Food Fair setup – December 12
- Holiday Food Fair – December 13

NEW BUSINESS:

- Thank-offering service will be online this year. It can be watched live on October 15 at 9:20 am, or accessed later.
- Thank-offerings will be due in November
- The next meeting will be held in November. We will ask Kari to come to familiarize her with the treasurer's accounts.
- Kim adjourned the meeting at 10:55.

Secretary, Pam M



Monday, Nov 16,
1 pm, fellowship hall

Check out their beautifully hand-crafted cards for sale in the narthex, $2 each.

Rebekah Circle
Monday, Nov 2, **6 pm**

Video Upload Available
Tuesday, Nov 3, **10 am**



BOXED CARDS



The Women of ZSJ have boxed and individual cards for sale in the narthex. There is a new supply of sympathy, Christmas, get well, birthday, thinking of you and blank cards. Prices range from $5– 6 per box, and individual cards are .50. Stop by and check it out!

THANK-OFFERINGS



Thank-offerings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received–and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? That's why we give Thank-offerings. This is your reminder, Women of ZSJ, that we will be gathering our thank offerings in November! Please drop off your offerings @ the church or send to:

Zion St John Lutheran Church
PO Box 269
Sheffield Iowa 50475 ATTN : Kari M

LWR DONATIONS



Thank you to Darwin and Lorna M for the use of their trailer, to the men of the congregation for loading and Roger and Marcia E for driving our fall LWR donations to Albert Lea. This shipment included 28 personal care kits, 128 school kits, 11 baby care kits and 32 quilts and $50 to help with shipping costs. The ZSJ Piecemakers meet every Wednesday morning, 8:30-11:30. There are tasks for everyone, including tying knots, threading needles, ironing, sorting, folding, or sewing.

COME AND JOIN US!

CHANGE FOR CHANGE (PENNIES FOR POVERTY)



Do you have a lot of loose change around your house? The Women of ZSJ have a collection jar on the narthex table! Any donations to the Change jar will be given to West Fork Wishes. Help us to fill the jar to make Christmas a little brighter for families in our area!



Thank you to all who cooked or purchased food for the Heat n Eat. We raised $1165 for new kitchen countertops!

HOLIDAY FOOD FAIR

Every year time goes faster, and this year is no different. The Holiday Food Fair is only a little over a month away. This year's event will be held on Sunday, Dec. 13th during fellowship hour and in the evening after the children's Christmas Program.

During fellowship hour, cinnamon rolls, coffee and juice will be served for a freewill offering. Other items also for sale will be cookies by the dozen, candies, snack items, Fair Trade items and cards (some made by the Cardian Angels.) Every member of the church can donate items or volunteer to help. If you are bringing items, please bring them to the fellowship hall by Friday, 9:00 am. Please label your items and containers.



The proceeds from the event will be divided between Wings of Refuge, an organization helping victims of human trafficking and projects in our own church. If you have any questions or want to volunteer, contact Carla , 641 892-4985. Come for fellowship and some shopping and a few surprises.

In His Service, Carla N

The meeting was called to order by President Daren M at 10:17 am on Sunday October 11, 2026, with Scott C, Daren M, Brad M, Nancy R, Shannon L, Josh S, Darwin M, Scott S, and Alice G present. Pastor Kim was absent.

The Secretary's Report was reviewed. Motion to accept the report, Scott C; second, Alice; carried.

Treasurer's Reports were reviewed.

Pastor's Report (presented by Daren M)

Grave Side Services Performed

- Sept 25, 2026 Norma M, Graveside at Hillside Cemetery
- Oct 3, 2026 Norma M, Visitation at ZSJ

Baptism Performed

- Thurs, Oct 8, 2026 Lucas N-P son of Skye N-P

Things I'm Working On

- Working with church members and groups regarding my transition into retirement.
- Confirmation ministry and plans for the Affirmation of Baptism Service.
- Organizing and playing in the Riverside Fall Golf Classic on Fri, Sept 18.

Items to Consider

- Submit for Council Approval three students who have completed all the requirements to receive the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on October 25. These candidates are Olivia R, Eli T and Lillian W. Motion to approve the following students for the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism on October 25: Olivia R, Eli T, and Lillian W, Darwin M; second, Brad M; carried.
- Diane has been working on converting files from Microsoft Publisher into Word documents. She has also gone through the Youth Computer and organized the files, which were a mess. She is also doing the same on pastor's computer, which was also a mess.
- Spoke to Kari about approving bills after retirement. She knows what accounts to charge for 80% of the bills. She will need someone to approve the other 20%. It would be a good idea for this to be the same person who handles credit card transactions.

- Pastor will be gone on November 15, November 29, and December 27. John S will lead worship on November 15th. Nancy Rwill lead worship on November 29 and December 27.

Committee Reports:

Property Management

- Discussed revision of the bathrooms in the narthex. They will get some numbers together and present those at an upcoming council meeting.

Worship & Evangelism

- Discussed ideas to get more people to sign up to be worship assistants: ushers, readers, greeters, and fellowship. We will ask Pastor (or the worship leader for the day) to remind people about the sign-up sheets. Also discussed passing around a clipboard during worship for people to sign up.

Parish Education

- Sunday School and Confirmation going well.
- Council will need to try to find someone to lead the Sunday School Choir following Diane's retirement.

Youth & Family

- Fall fundraiser has started and orders will be taken until October 21. Delivery will be in early November.
- Two ZSJ youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN next summer with St. Paul in Hampton.

Memorial/Legacy

- Open to ideas for where to use memorial monies.

Old Business

- Search Committee – No updates.
- Pastor's Wages – Pastor continues to work more than 60%. Daren is working with Pastor to ensure Pastor is being paid for the time that he is working.

New Business

- Retirement Celebration – Shannon L and Alice G will plan. Council will assist as necessary.
- Duties Assignments – The executive committee will meet with Pastor next Sunday to discuss who will be taking care of duties once Pastor has retired.

- Budget meeting will be at the November Council meeting (11/8)
- Portico Insurance – Daren will talk with Portico about how to proceed since we will be without a pastor beginning in January.
- Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, 1/24 with a weather date of 1/31.
- Council will meet on Saturday, 12/12 to assemble Christmas Bags.
- ~~A motion was made by Nancy R and seconded by Darwin M to explore the option of recommending Daren M to stay on in an administrative role until a new pastor is found. Motion carried.~~ *Amended motion to read: Council will explore allowing Daren M to remain on church council in a non-voting capacity in an administrative role until a pastor is found. Council will review the Church Constitution to ensure that this is allowable. Motion carried.*
- Money Counters for November – Darwin and Brad
- Next Meeting – November 8th
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Nancy R, Council Secretary

PRAISE TEAM MINUTE



Here is a list of the songs that will be sung on November 8. Have a listen on your favorite platform!

Christ is Enough by Hillsong
Cornerstone by Hillsong
Lord I Need You by Hillsong
Even So Come by Terry MacAlmon
10,000 Reasons by Matt Redman

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 Sunday School/ Fellowship