

Zion Lutheran Church
439 3rd Avenue South
Clinton, Iowa 52732
Phone 563-242-7391

THE

COURIER

Vol. 96 No. 4

April 2026

A Message from Pastor Barbara

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

How to begin this article? You are probably reading this prior to the glorious celebration of Easter, so I hesitate to start it with the usual Easter greeting. (A##e#ua! \$*%i@^ i@ %i@e&!) No, those aren't swear words. Anyone good at cryptograms?

The true joy of the season is that we are merely remembering that which is true each and every day! Death has been put in its place. It is merely a deception that would leave us in despair. Condemnation has been annihilated. God offers new life instead of judgement. Hatred has lost its power. Love becomes the ultimate victor. ALWAYS!

Even all of nature rejoices in these truths. The bulbs we buried under the dirt reach up with new hope and beauty. The birds sing their songs to invite new life. And the trees seem to resurrect from the depth of winter. It is the season where death is put in its place.

It is also the season that reminds us that new life doesn't always look like we thought it should. Small bumps on branches, strange green heads poking through the dirt, and best of all, one who looks like a gardener not the Son of God. New life brings glorious surprises if we watch. The Spirit is like that, laughing at the deception of death.

So perhaps it is not wrong to include the season's greeting in this article. For if it is true throughout the year, then should we not shout those words every single day of our lives? Shout them loud enough that death will know it has been put in its place! Let's do it!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I am so very blessed to celebrate this season with you!

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Pr. Barb

Noisy Offering

"Hear the pennies dropping, Listen while they fall, Every one to Jesus, He will get them all....."

How many of us remember singing this offering song at Sunday School?

Well, the pennies are now dropping during worship and the kiddos are making a Joyful Noise! Those pennies (and a few dollar bills) are making a GREAT impact on food insecurity. Last week when we "emptied" the bucket it was holding \$376.21!! That's AMAZING!!

Since the "Noisy Offering" started, you have dropped \$3,105.42 in the bucket! WOW! Half of this Noisy Offering is given to the local food pantry at IRAS, the other half is given to World Hunger.

A HUGE thanks to all the kiddos for collecting this very important offering!!! Keep the pennies coming!!



*May the glory
and the promise
of this joyous time of year
bring peace
and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear.*

*And may Christ,
Our Risen Saviour,
always be there by your side
to bless you
most abundantly
and be your loving guide.*

Zion Child Care & Preschool

March was a super busy month! In March our focus colors were white and black and our shape was a star. We also enjoyed getting outside a little more with the warming temps.

Our building celebrated Dr Seuss for a week this month. We chose a book each day for our theme. We had fun dress up days for the week and lots of activities! We wore stripes and had hat day for Cat In the Hat; silly socks for Fox In Sox; wear green day for Green Eggs and Ham; pajama day for The Sleep Book; and wear red and blue for 1 Fish, 2 Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish.



3-year-old preschool made a visit to the Sawmill Museum. 4-year-old preschool held their spring conferences. Both 3 and 4-year-old preschool had their spring pictures taken in March.

Our preschool classes enjoyed Spring Break along with Clinton Schools. The child care was still open so we had some fun dress up days: comfy clothes day, wear green (St Patrick's Day), favorite sports team, crazy socks and pajama day!

We are getting ready to start our preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year.

Our 3-year-old program meets on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. We have an AM class that meets 7:45-10:45 and our PM class meets 11:45-2:45. Children must be 3 by September 15, 2026.



Our 4-year-old program meets Monday – Thursday. Our current AM class meets 7:45-10:45 and our PM meets 12:15 - 3:15. Children must be 4 by September 15, 2026. We participate in the Voluntary Preschool Grant with the CCSD and State of Iowa. Any 4-year-old that lives in Iowa qualifies for FREE tuition. We do have private pay tuition for children that attend from out of state or are 5 years-old.

Please call us at 243-9393 if you would like us to add you to our waiting list and we can let you know when registration opens.

Kelly Bork, Director



Ladies Night Out



Mark your calendar for Ladies Night out on Thursday, May 14th. It will be a night of "Peace and Joy" hosted by the Evangelism and Fellowship committees. All are invited to attend, and encouraged to bring your mothers, daughters, neighbors and friends. Need not be a Zion member to attend.

Doors will open at 5:00 with the potluck beginning at 5:30. There will be a signup sheet in the narthex two weeks prior to the event. Ham will be furnished by the committees. In order to have an idea of how much ham to furnish, as well as give an idea of what dishes will be brought, there will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex beginning May 2nd. There will be activities for your enjoyment.

We hope to see you there!

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Worship services are:

Saturdays	5:30 pm
Sundays	9:00 am

Mid-week Lenten services are: Wednesdays in March at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm.

Video services are offered via Facebook (www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton) **and posted on Zion's website** (www.zionlutheranclinton.org) on Monday.

Our Sunday morning radio broadcast is on KROS, 105.9 FM and 1340 AM, Sunday mornings at 10:30 am.

Faith Foundations

Faith FUNdations begins April with exploring the Bible story, Fruit of the Spirit. During this time the children will enjoy stories, art, drama and games that connect with the monthly theme. We continue to enjoy learning new songs and singing with Ms. April!

During the month of March the children in Grades 2-5 were thrilled to experience the tone chimes learning from Mr. Mike and Ms. Marilyn. This was a huge hit with the kids!!!! Thank you to Mike and Marilyn Fee for their leadership and sharing their passion of music with the children!

Throughout the year, our oldest children, Grades 4-5, have been opening each class time by sharing their ROSE (something good for them), THORN (something that was hard) and BUD (a hope they have).

This has been such a powerful tool to build relationships and also a safe way to share good things and any concerns. One boy said, "I think all week of what I am going to share in class and I'm glad when I don't have a thorn to share."

Give ROSE, THORN and BUD a try at the end of your day/week, you will be pleasantly reminded of your blessings and identifies opportunities for prayer.

Families are reminded that our program year ends April 29. The children and entire staff thank all of you for your continued support of FAITH FUNdations!



The wonderful Faith FUNdations kitchen crew!





Holy Week & Easter Services

March 28 & 29: Palm/Passion Services

Thursday, April 2 @ 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3 @ 7pm: Good Friday Service

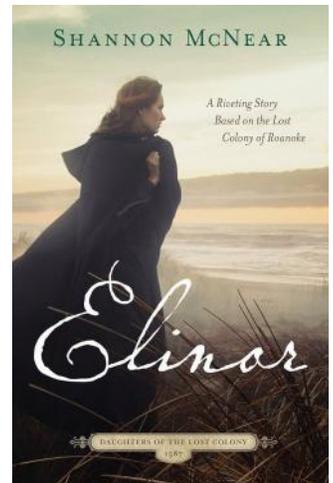
Saturday & Sunday, April 4 & 5: Easter Services

Book Club News

Our next book club selection is *Elinor*, by Shannon McNear

The novel is a historical fiction account of the Lost Colony of Roanoke, told through the perspective of Elinor Dare. It follows her journey from England to the New World in 1587, detailing the hardships, faith, and survival of the settlers as they attempt to establish a permanent home while facing internal struggles and complex relationships with the local indigenous tribes.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 10:00 for discussion. All are welcome to pick up a book off the cart and return before the next meeting.



Memorial Gifts to Zion's Ministries

One of the ways we can fondly remember our loved ones is to designate gifts in their memory to Zion Lutheran Church. These memorial gifts are used to further the desired ministries of the donor and the family of the memorialized individual - the ministry of Zion as a whole (within the congregation and/or through the ELCA) or to a particular designated aspect of our ministry.

Between 12/20/2025 and 3/20/2026, the following individuals have had memorial gifts given in their memory and directed to and through Zion Lutheran Church.

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| ♥ Diane Pillers | Forward in Faith, Greatest Needs, Sack Lunches |
| ♥ Carol Camp | Children's Bibles |
| ♥ Dorothy Truninger | Sack Lunches |
| ♥ Doris Cook | Greatest Needs |
| ♥ Laurie Kuehl | Forward in Faith, Greatest Needs, Sack Lunches |

Thank you for remembering the ministries of Zion as your loved ones are remembered.

The Light of CHRIST

Sharing CHRISTmas in July

St Paul/Zion Summer VBS

Free Family Dinner each night 4:45 -5:30pm
and VBS is from 5:30pm-7:00pm

VBS will be at Zion Lutheran Church
439 3rd Ave S



For more information contact Saint Paul's at 563-242-4102 or Zion at 563-242-7391

Vacation Bible School Registration

2026 "The Light of CHRIST– Sharing CHRISTmas in July" July 20th—July 23rd

Children going into preschool (and potty trained) through going into 5th grade are welcome to join us.

Child Name _____ Grade Going Into _____
Child Name _____ Grade Going Into _____
Child Name _____ Grade Going Into _____
Child Name _____ Grade Going Into _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Home Church _____

Number of family members attending dinner each night _____

I would like to volunteer to help at VBS _____ Name _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact (other than the above name/number)

Name _____ Phone _____

Do we have permission to use your child(rens) pictures on our website and in social media ___ Yes ___ No

Please RSVP by July 13th by completing this form and returning to Zion or St Paul
A special offering will be collected each night to go to the "Lutheran Services of Iowa—Angel Tree"

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – February 10, 2026

(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Barb reported that she had met with Pastor Paul and that the Lenten schedule has been determined. Palm branches will be distributed to the congregation before church on Palm Sunday. She informed the council that she will be out of town April 13-April 21 to attend a wedding.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Vath reviewed the January treasurer's report. She then reported that there will be a new expense at the childcare center and it will be discussed in the new business.

Membership Update: President Montgomery reported that no new members have joined the church in January. There was one new member reinstated and 2 deaths. Pastor Barb told the group that there is a person who will be accepted by transfer from Zion Lutheran Church in Elvira and there is another anticipated member joining after their baptism.

New Business:

Synod Assembly: The Council discussed that the dates this year for the Synod Assembly would be May 15-16 in Cedar Rapids. Deb Vath informed the group that their theme would be Peace and that congregations are being asked to bring prayer shawls and/or quilts to donate at the meeting. The council agreed to send some and they will be displayed and distributed by the Synod to those in need.

Childcare Center Heat Exchanger: Deb Vath reported that she was notified of an emergency expense that that occurred and needed to be discussed. A furnace at the childcare center needs to be repaired as a crack and subsequent carbon monoxide leak was discovered. Air Control inspectors determined that the part alone costs \$4100 and \$5600 with installation, Discussion commenced about the need to take care of this asap and which fund would be used to cover the expense.

Monthly Birthday Fellowship

April's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, April 17th, after the 9:00 worship service.

Please join us in the gathering space to honor Zion's members and guests celebrating birthdays in the month of April. Refreshments and cupcakes will be served.

All are welcome!!!



FINANCIAL CORNER

February 2026 at a glance

General Operating	February	Year To Date
Income +	\$35,430.74	\$35,430.74
Expense -	\$26,511.48	\$26,511.48
Difference =	\$8,919.26	\$8,919.26

February In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
January 31 & February 1	38	74	112
February 7 & 8	54	92	146
February 14 & 15	42	80	122
February 21 & 22	50	60	110
Average	46	77	123

Zion's Next Blood Drive

The Social Ministry Committee will be hosting Zion's next blood drive on Monday, June 15th, from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm in the Gathering Space.

Appointments are recommended and may be made by contacting Deb Vath at djvath@mchsi.com or online at www.bloodcenter.org - Sponsor Code 2827.

The last date to give at another location will be April 20, 2026.

Zion's Prayer List

Zion has begun offering a public prayer list in our weekly bulletins. You may place friend's or family members on the list as long as you have their permission, as both first and last names will be used. You are also able to request that your name be included on the list.

Please call Amanda in the office at 563-242-7391 x 7 or email her at officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org to place someone on the list.

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations	2 7:00 PM: Maundy Thursday Worship	3 Good Friday 12:00 PM: Office Closes 7:00 PM: Good Friday Worship	4 5:30 PM: Easter Worship
5 Easter 9:00 AM: Easter Worship	6 OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	7 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All-Committee Night	8 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11 5:30 PM: Worship
12 9:00 AM: Worship	13 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	14 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	15 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 9:00 AM: RiverChor Rehearsal 5:30 PM: Worship
19 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship 2:00 PM: RiverChor Concert	20 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	21 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	22 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	23 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends	24	25 5:30 PM: Worship
26 9:00 AM: Worship 2:00 PM: Flikkema Piano Recital	27 9:00 AM: Quilters 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	28 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	29 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	30		

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◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.