

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

THE

COURIER

Vol. 96 No. 8

August 2026

A Message from Pastor Barb

Greetings siblings in Christ!

It's hard to believe we are back to that point of the year where I have to encourage you to lock your car doors. You see, I have lots of excess zucchini that I just may slip into your cars when you're not watching!

But zucchini is not the only thing on my mind. It is also the time of year to begin thinking about the start of school, Faith FUNdations and Confirmation class. Who knew time would fly by so quickly and summer would be behind us so soon?

You may be thinking that we have another month of summer and that I am rushing the seasons. By the time you read the next Courier, Faith FUNdations and Confirmation class will be ready to commence and the truth is, we need you! Faith FUNdations has room for lots of volunteers to make a difference in the community by interacting with the youth that come to eat and learn and play here at Zion Lutheran on Wednesday nights. And Confirmation class could use those interested in helping form the next generation of church members. It's an exciting time that requires you.

Over the last year I have learned that Zion Lutheran has a heart of gold. And that it is an exciting place to be. This summer's Vacation Bible School with St Paul's Lutheran was an amazing success. Not only did the kids have fun, but I think that the adults had fun too.

And that's the way it is on Wednesday nights here at Zion. Please think about joining us in making a difference in this world one youth at a time. I know it sounds like hard work. I know that we work during the day and would like to come home and rest or do laundry. But the kingdom of God is being built in our midst and Jesus asks us to pray for workers. The fields are ripe for harvest (like my zucchini.) Please pray about this. If you are being called to come and help, even one or two Wednesdays a month, let Barb Rhodes or me know what you are thinking.

Blessings to all of you as you enjoy these last days of summer. And remember, lock your car doors, I have lots of zucchini!

God's Blessings,
Pr. Barb



Save the Date!
Sunday, Sept 27 ~ 11:30 - 2:00

Worship services are:

Sundays 9:00 am

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

Monthly Birthday Fellowship

All are welcome!!!



Zion Child Care & Preschool

Our summer is off to a great start at Zion. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel a few field trips due to rain/storms and heat advisories.

Childcare has had some fun activities and dress up days planned at the center. They have also gone on field trips to The Sawmill Museum and went to see the troll. They also had a trip to Riverfront Park.

Summer camp has had several field trips. They went to Plaza Bowl, Niabi Zoo, Park Towers to play bingo with the residents, Riverfront Park, Clinton Pool, Ice Cream Derby in Delmar to mini golf, and Elevate Trampoline Park.

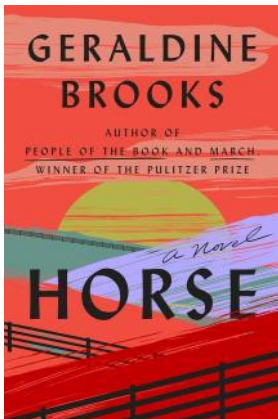
They have had lots of fun at the center as well doing arts & crafts and other fun activities!

We have started our preschool registration for the 2026/2027 school year. We have a few spots remaining in our 3-year-old PM program. They meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Our PM class meets 11:45-2:45. Children must be 3 years old by September 15, 2026. Tuition is \$200 a month. Please call us at 243-9393 if you are interested.

Kelly Bork, Director



Book Club News

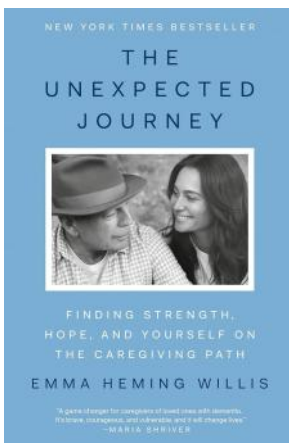
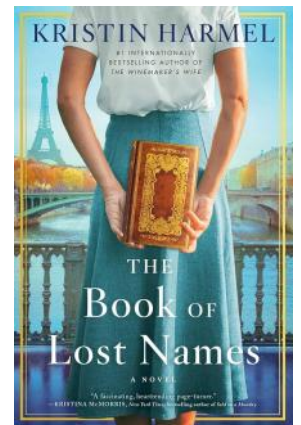


Join us on August 19th to openly discuss our book club book: **Horse** written by Geraldine Brooks. It's a sweeping historical novel inspired by the true story of the legendary 19th century racehorse, Lexington. The story moves across three time periods -1850s Kentucky, 1950s New York, and present-day Washington D.C.-to reveal how one remarkable horse connects generations of people through art, science, and race.

New members welcomed. Pick up a book on the cart in the library anytime then return and discuss thoughts on Aug 19th. Hope to see you there

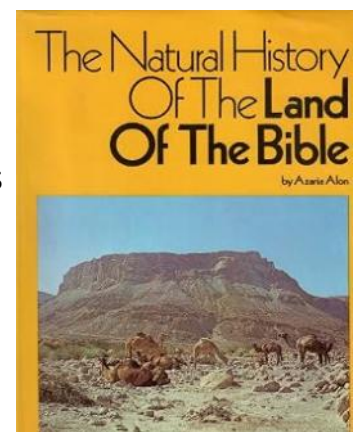
New Book August 2026

The Book Of Lost Names written by Kristen Harmel. It's a moving historical novel inspired by the true stories of document forgers who helped Jewish children escape Nazi-occupied France during World War II. The novel explores themes of courage, sacrifice, love, identity, and the importance of remembering those whose stories might otherwise be lost. Donated by Linda Smith



The Unexpected Journey: Finding Strength, Hope and Yourself on the Caregiving Path written by Emma Heming Willis. Its part memoir and part practical guide for anyone caring for a loved one with dementia or another serious illness. It's based on Emma's experience after her husband actor, Bruce Willis, was diagnosed with aphasia and late frontotemporal dementia.

The Natural History Of The Land Of The Bible written by Azaria Alon is a beautifully illustrated guide to the plants, animals, and landscapes of the Holy Land. Rather than telling the Bible's stories, it helps readers understand the natural world in which those events took place. donated by Tawney O'Shea



Thank you for your donations!! To donate a book you feel would fit in our Library, please leave with Amanda in the office or Denise Forney.

The Light of CHRIST

Sharing CHRISTmas in July

Vacation Bible School was held here at Zion partnering with St. Paul Church. Over 60 children and youth enjoyed a time of games, music and crafts focusing on how Jesus' light can shine through them every day. A huge **THANK YOU** to those of you that donated food for the Family Meals, helped in the Kitchen and those that helped in anyway! We value our partnership with St. Paul Church to provide this wonderful experience for our children and youth!



Faith FUNdations

SAVE the DATE

WHAT: *Faith **FUN**dations*, our education program for children ages 3 - Grae 5

WHEN: Begins Wednesday, September 9

WHERE: Zion Church

TIME: 5:15 - 7:00

INCLUDES: Family Meal, lessons, games, music, friends and **FUN**

*A Faith FUNdations registration form is on the next page.
Confirmation Students will register on Wednesday, September 9th.*

Zion Lutheran Faith FUNdations Registration, Fall 2026

Faith FUNdations is open to all youth, age 3 through Grade 5.

To Register: Fill out one registration form per family and bring it to the church office.

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '26 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '26 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '26 _____

Please list any food allergies: _____

Parent's Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please list **two** emergency contacts and telephone numbers:

1.) _____ Phone: _____

2.) _____ Phone: _____

Current Congregation Membership (if any) _____

I WILL/I WILL NOT allow pictures of my child to be used in church publications and on congregation social media. My child's name will not be included in any posting of the pictures.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

**** If you have any questions please call the Zion office at 563-242-7391.**

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – June 9, 2026

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Barb informed the council that Pastor Kuckuck has sent the council an email with details on his work and visit to Zion in July. She reported that she will be performing 3 baptisms in the coming weeks. After discussion with Pastor Paul, she informed the council that she will be doing confirmation classes this fall and is developing a first communion course to be offered at Zion.

Treasurer's Report: Deb Vath reviewed the May 2026 treasurer's report and highlighted the Special Funds line items. Under the Forward in Faith account, Deb informed the council that the Zion Childcare Center loan has now been paid off.

Membership Update: The council approved Diane Shirley for membership by means of transfer.

Old Business:

Call Committee: This committee will meet with Pastor Kuckuck during his July Zion visit.

Caring for Our Community: Deb Willwerth stated that this committee's members provided communion to 18 people and that there are 2 new people being served by this ministry.

Technology Committee: Erin Montgomery told the council that there was a new camera selected to record the services and that when it arrives, installation on the balcony will be completed.

New Business:

Mission Endowment Fund: Deb Vath led the discussion that this committee has been inactive for a long time. The council then recommended that we should encourage their members to reconvene, review their work and their plan to move forward.

New Copier: Pastor Barb led the discussion of the need to purchase a new copy machine for the church office. It has been breaking down periodically and is happening more frequently. The council decided to pursue whatever vendors are available and whether a leasing program would be more advantageous to the church than purchasing a new machine. Deb Vath volunteered to work with Amanda, office administrator, to research the options.

Pastor Barbara's Interim Contract: The council discussed that Pastor Barb will have served Zion for one year on August 1 and that her contract needs to be reviewed. The group discussed her current salary and what increases will be given to Zion staff. It was noted that she has taken on more responsibilities over the time she has been here. It was also discussed that she should be compensated for the preparation and teaching of the confirmation and first communion classes. The council then discussed a new contract proposal.

FINANCIAL CORNER

June 2026 at a glance

General Operating	June	Year To Date
Income +	\$24,761.99	\$157,171.51
Expense -	\$17,438.75	\$133,779.65
Difference =	\$7,323.24	\$23,391.86

June In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
June 6 & 7	48	80	128
June 13 & 14	38	107	145
June 20 & 21	59	85	144
June 27 & 28	43	80	123
Average	47	88	135

Zion's Church Directory

We would like to encourage everyone to utilize our **Instant Church Directory**. It can be downloaded to a phone or computer. Just search for "Instant Church Directory" in the App Store for iPhones, the Google Store for android phones or from the website **www.instantchurchdirectory.com**

Once you have the app or website, it will ask you to sign-in. Click on "Sign In". Then click on "Member Sign In". You will then need to sign in with the e-mail that is on file with the church. If you do not have an e-mail on file with the church, you will have to contact the office or Linda Dutchess to have your e-mail put in to the system. You will also have to create a password.

Most devices will only have you sign in the first time. The next time the directory will allow you to go directly to the members' listings. Once you have signed in, you will have access to members phone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses. You will also have the ability to change your own information and post or change your photo. You can then put a name in the search bar or scroll through the listings to find the member that you are looking for.

Members are listed in alphabetical order by last name. The system is private and only members can sign-in to it. Members can only make changes to their own information. It is fast, easy and safe, so hopefully members will have the information that they need at their fingertips. If you have any problems signing in or utilizing the program, please feel free to contact Linda Dutchess (563) 202-4418.

AUGUST 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 5:30 PM: Worship
2 9:00 AM: Worship	3	4 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All-Committee Night	5 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study	6	7	8 5:30 PM: Worship
9 9:00 AM: Worship	10 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	11 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	12 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study	13	14	15 10:00 AM: Joyce McCabe Visitation 11:00 AM: Joyce McCabe Memorial Service 5:30 PM: Worship
16 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship	17	18 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 5:00 PM: Childcare Board	19 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study	20	21	22 5:30 PM: Worship
23 9:00 AM: Worship	24 9:00 AM: Quilting	25 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer	26 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study	27 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	28	29 5:30 PM: Worship
30 9:00 AM: Worship	31					

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ZION'S STAFF

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Zion Child Care Preschool
Phone: 563-243-9393
zioncc-ps@hotmail.com

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

Online Directory
www.instantchurchdirectory.com

OFFICE HOURS

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