

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

Vol. 95 No. 8

THE

COURIER

August 2025



From
the desk
of...

Pastor Julie Higgs

Dear Partners in Ministry,

For a person whose work life has involved a lot of speaking and writing, I'm finding it difficult to come up with words that will adequately express what a joy and privilege it has been to serve Zion during this last year-plus. It has been a beautiful and life-giving gift to be able to be your pastor.

I am so very impressed by the many ministries at and through Zion, and I celebrate all you are doing in this congregation, community, and beyond. I have confidence that these ministries will continue and grow, and that you will find additional ways to live out your mission to share, care, and serve.

I am so grateful for your welcome, your care, and your support of me while I have been your pastor. This has been a time filled with many personal challenges, and being at Zion has provided healing, hope, joys, and delights beyond what I could have dared hope for. You have been kind, generous, and understanding.

I think it's impossible to leave a call without regrets about the things that I didn't get done or didn't do as well as I would have liked. Thinking back over 29 years of ministry is both joyful and humbling. And through it all, I have received more forgiveness than I have deserved and been more privileged than I could have imagined. Thank you for letting me into your lives, forgiving me, trusting me, and loving me.

As Christians, we seek to live faithfully that which we proclaim—that our identity and our value come from God's love for us in Christ—that all that Christ has done for us is beyond our deserving, but given to us as a gift—that trying to follow Christ's example offers us a better way to live than any other options—and that loving one another as Christ loves us is both daunting and life-giving. Thank you for being fellow travelers on this baptismal journey of forgiveness and resurrection.

While I certainly wish I could continue to walk with you in milestones of baptisms, weddings, funerals, worship and more, I entrust you now to the pastors of your future, and I will keep my distance so as not to interfere with their ministries.

Continued on next page...

Thank you for understanding and trusting that this difficult part of leaving is for the sake of the health of the congregation.

Thank you, dear, dear members and friends of Zion, for who you have been in my life and for who you continue to be for one another and especially for those in the world who have the greatest needs. I will always love you and be thankful for you. Your next pastors will be richly blessed by you—just as you will be richly blessed by them.

Christ's Peace be with you Always!

Pastor Julie

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Worship services are:

Saturdays	5:30 pm
Sundays	9:00 am

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.

Meet Pastor Barbara Hayden

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

You probably remember me, but in case we have not yet met, I am Pastor Barbara Hayden. I retired from Calvary Lutheran Church in Sabula 3 years ago and am very excited that the Holy Spirit has given me the opportunity to serve as your Interim Administrative Pastor. The expanded title simply tells you that Pastor Paul Holmer and I will be working together.

I will be in the office on Tuesdays and would love it if you might want to set an appointment to chat. I look forward to meeting with your committees in the evening.

I was born and raised in northeast Pennsylvania and received my pastoral training from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. I served a church in Binghamton, New York for several years. I also trained as a Spiritual Director at the Franciscan's Spirituality Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I practice centering prayer and contemplative practices in my own devotional life and hope we will share some of those practices during our time together.

While we don't know how long this interim assignment will last, I know, from the blessings I have already experienced in your congregation, that it will be Spirit filled. I can't wait! I pray we will all grow in this time together. God is always good.

Grace and Peace,
Pr. Barbara Hayden

Zion Child Care & Preschool

Summer Camp went to Elevate Trampoline Park in Davenport in July! It's one of their favorite trips of the summer. It's a nice break from the summer heat! We took a group of 32 kiddos this time and they all really enjoyed it! We had lots of sleepy kids on the bus ride home!

We are currently enrolling for our 2025/2026 school year for 4 year-old preschool. We only have a



couple of spots remaining. We participate in a Voluntary Preschool Grant with the CCSD and State of Iowa. Any 4 year-old that lives in Iowa goes to preschool for FREE! NO tuition! Please help us spread the word. Interested families can call the center at 243-9393 or stop in to fill out registration paperwork.

Kelly Bork, Director



Scholarships Awarded

We are proud to announce this year's Zion's Scholarship Program award recipients! These scholarships honor the hard work, faith, and dedication of our youth as they pursue their educational and spiritual journeys. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding students as we continue to support them with our prayers and encouragement. Students are awarded \$600 per semester for the 2025-2026 school year.

Kaylee Camp - St. Ambrose University
Daughter of Lee Camp

Sarah Hilgendorf - University of Iowa
Daughter of Mark and Jessica Hilgendorf and Granddaughter of Randy and Marcia Krogman.

Avery Luett - Kirkwood Community College
Daughter of Tony Luett and Carrie Sukut and Granddaughter of Steve & Fran Luett and of Diane Honeywell

Payton Luett - University of Iowa
Daughter of Tony Luett and Carrie Sukut and Granddaughter of Steve & Fran Luett and of Diane Honeywell

Eligh Luett - University of Iowa
Son of Andy and Jamie Luett and Granddaughter of Steve and Fran Luett

Emeree Luett - University of Iowa
Daughter of Andy and Jamie Luett and Granddaughter of Steve and Fran Luett

Elizabeth Morehead - Upper Iowa University
Daughter of Scott and Jeri Morehead

Alyssa Schroeder - University of Northern Iowa
Daughter of Kristi Schroeder and Granddaughter of Dennis and Linda Schoening

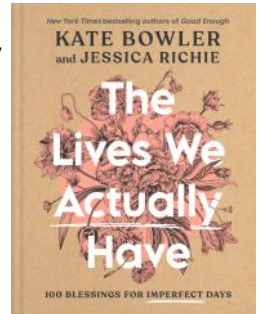
Randy Spensley - Luther College
Grandson of Dick and Shirley Spensley

As we prepare to support our graduating students, we kindly remind you to consider contributing to Zion's Scholarship Fund. Your donations help recognize and encourage the academic and spiritual growth of our youth. Every gift, big or small, makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for investing in their futures. The committee works toward not letting the Student Aid Fund reserve fall below \$50,000. This will ensure that there are sufficient funds to generate investment earnings so that future applicants can receive aid. The fund is nearing that threshold. The amount of aid is determined by the annual earnings of the Student Aid Fund, the number of applicants, whether the applicant is a seminary student, a full-time, or a part-time college student.

New Zion Library Books for August 2025

After Jesus: The Triumph of Christianity by Gayla Visalli. Follow Paul and other Apostles on their journeys to spread the gospel of Christ. See how the first Christians lived, worshiped, worked, and died for their faith. Observe the intrigues of Imperial Rome as it faces the challenge of this courageous new religion. Book donated by Denise Forney

The Lives We Actually Have by Kate Bowler Designed as a sanctuary for weary souls, it encourages gratitude and hope, even when life feels messy or incomplete. It celebrates even those “odd” or “strange” aspects: Blessed are you the strange duck...with very intense hobbies...you are a marvel!

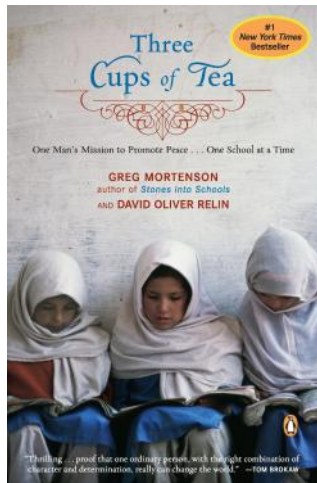


To donate a book, contact Denise Forney or Amanda in Zion's office, thanks!

USING ZION'S LIBRARY

Our library is a “serve yourself” kind of library. Most of the books are novels, labeled with a #1. The other categories are listed on the wall by the checkout desk. Write your name and the date you check out the book on the card and place it with the other cards on the desk. Return the books to the box on the floor next to the desk. Simple, right? Happy reading!

ZION'S BOOK CLUB



Zion's Book Club will meet in the church library on Wednesday, August 20th, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing ***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*** by Greg Mortenson. After a failed K2 expedition, mountaineer Greg Mortenson wanders malnourished and lost into a remote Pakistan village. This true story tells of his recovery and promise to return and build the poor village school. Which turns into a lifelong mission to promote peace through education-especially for girls in rural Pakistan. It's a powerful reminder of how one person, guided by compassion and faith in humanity, can make a lasting difference in the world.

The books are on the cart in the library. Please come join us!!



We hope you are enjoying your summer with family and friends. Plans at Zion are already in the works for Faith FUNdations which will be starting on Wednesday, September 3rd.

You will be receiving a letter in the mail in the beginning of August. If you do not receive this letter, make sure to contact the church office to verify your information. Please make sure to fill out the Faith FUNdations registration, which is included in this issue of the Courier, and return to the office as soon as possible so we can begin planning our classrooms.

If you have friends that would like to join us, please share this information with them.

Additionally, make sure to mark your calendars for Blessing of the Backpacks for Saturday, August 23rd at 5:30pm and Sunday, August 24th at 9:00am. We will be handing out our new key chain for the 2025-2026 school year. Like our Facebook page for ongoing updates!

The Latest Information from the Call Committee

In late June, the Call Committee received the name of a prospective candidate for the position of Zion's pastor. On July 16, the pastor and the pastor's spouse traveled to Clinton and met with the Call Committee. We gave them a tour of the church and of Clinton, had dinner together, and then interviewed the pastor. It's fair to say that all of us enjoyed the time we spent together. The deadline for the *Courier* hit between our interview and the opportunity for the Call Committee and the pastor to discern whether the Holy Spirit might be calling us to move forward together.

This is a time when we need to maintain strict confidentiality about who the candidate is, so please understand that we cannot give you more details at this point. Yet because this is also a time when people get both hopeful and anxious and want information as soon as it is available, please watch for updates in the weekly bulletin and/or during the Announcements before weekly worship. The Call Committee will do its best to let you know of developments as soon as possible. For the sake of the integrity of the entire process, please don't ask committee members, or Amanda for hints or advance information.

Zion Lutheran Faith FUNdations Registration, Fall 2025

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 '25 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '25 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '25 _____

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.**

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 04/20/2025 and 07/20/2025, the following individuals have had memorial gifts given in their memory and directed to and through Zion Lutheran Church.

♥ Lorraine Steines	Sunday School & Sack Lunch Monday
♥ Lolly Kindschuh	Food Pantries
♥ Elaine Gelhar	Greatest Needs & Sack Lunch Monday
♥ Peggy Broadrick	Greatest Needs
♥ Art Ollie	Forward in Faith, Sack Lunch Monday, Greatest Needs

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

Monthly Birthday Fellowship

August's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, August 21st, 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 August. Refreshments and cupcakes will be served.

All are welcome!!!



God's work.
Our hands.

Sunday, Sept. 28 @ 11:30

SAVE the DATE!!!!

When members of Zion (Clinton), St. Paul (Clinton) and Faith Lutheran (Andover) will join Our Hands to do God's Work.

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – June 10, 2025

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julie provided a yearly calendar which listed the monthly recurring events of the church. Pastor Julie discussed the possibility of a lock box with a key for emergency entrance to the church if necessary. Pastor Julie made a motion asking the Council to approve the two Confirmands for June. Laurie Behrens seconded the motion. All ayes.

Membership Update: Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for June. Total weekend attendance YTD is 3111.

Treasurer's Report: Due to the fact that Expenses are less than budget YTD, there is a positive balance of \$685.25 YTD in the budget report at the end of May. All the Fund balances were reviewed. Linda Dutchess made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Dennis Andersen seconded the motion. All ayes.

Old Business:

Call Committee Report: Pastor Julie reported to the Council that there was no new information at this time.

Interim Planning /Bishop Current Update: Two pastors are willing to work in the interim. Patti Lauritzen made a motion to accept both pastors as interim pastors. Denise Forney seconded the motion. All ayes

Scholarship Committee: Kristi Montgomery reported that there will be a meeting June 11, 2025 of the committee to work on the scholarship data.

"Caring for Our Community" Support: Pastor Julie reported that a meeting is scheduled for June to move this initiative forward.

Technology Committee: Erin Montgomery reported to the Council that there has been only one response to her request for members to join this committee. Erin will again contact possible committee members.

Clinton County Emergency Management Facility Shelter Agreement/Contact Person(s): It was determined that the President or the Vice President of the Council will be contacted if there is a need for emergency shelter. The agreement needs to be signed.

Council Host Fellowship: The Council has agreed to host Fellowship on June 22, 2025.

New Business:

Custodian Coverage: Pastor Julie reported that the Building and Grounds committee will cover for Pat as needed.

FINANCIAL CORNER

June 2025 at a glance

General Operating	June	Year To Date
Income +	\$22,248.05	\$165,769.85
Expense -	\$29,532.79	\$172,369.34
Difference =	-\$7,284.74	-\$6,599.49

June In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
May 31 & June 1	60	98	158
June 7 & 8	51	72	123
June 14 & 15	41	85	126
June 21 & 22	57	88	145
June 28 & 29	51	70	121
Average	52	83	135

Transition Information

On August 1, Pastor Barb Hayden begins serving as Zion's interim pastor, with Pastor Paul Holmer providing some pulpit supply and teaching Confirmation. As Pastor Julie leaves our congregation, she will not be available to conduct or even participate in such events as funerals, weddings, hospital calls, emergency calls, or any other functions normally carried out by a pastor in a congregation. Any such questions should be addressed to Pastor Barb.

To allow you to know who to contact, the following is a breakdown of duties by pastor:

Pastor Barbara

- Weekend Worship
- In office one day per week
- Attend Executive Committee Meetings
- Attend All-Committee Night Meetings
- Attend Congregation Council Meetings
- Attend Childcare Board Meetings
- Primary contact for Emergency Calls
- Worship Planning
- Guide "Caring for Our Community" Committee
- Staff Supervision

Pastor Paul

- Weekend Worship
- Confirmation
- Secondary Contact for Emergency Calls

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 5:30 PM: Worship
3 9:00 AM: Worship	4 5:30 PM: Elizabeth Circle	5 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	6 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study	7	8	9 5:30 PM: Worship
10 9:00 AM: Worship	11 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	12 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	13 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle	14	15	16 5:30 PM: Worship
17 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship	18	19 5:00 PM: Childcare Board	20 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club	21	22	23 5:30 PM: Worship w/ Blessing of Backpacks
24 9:00 AM: Worship w/ Blessing of Backpacks	25 9:00 AM: Quilters	26	27 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	28 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends	29	30 5:30 PM: Worship
31 9:00 AM: Worship						

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ZION'S STAFF

◆
Kelly Bork, Director
Zion Child Care Preschool
Phone: 563-243-9393
zioncc-ps@hotmail.com

Amanda Deuermeyer, Office Administrator
Phone: 563-242-7391
officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician
music@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

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