

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

THE

COURIER

Vol. 96 No. 7

July 2026

A Message from Pastor Barb

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

So often we worry that the noise of babies and children will be a distraction for others in church. There is of course a certain amount of truth in that since when I see or hear a baby I want to cuddle the child! But truthfully, that is not the baby's issue but mine.

We all know what Jesus thinks of our concern for our children's antics. "Jesus called for the children and said to the disciples, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children." (Luke 18: 16 NLT) Joy and belonging are far more important to the Kingdom of God than sitting quietly in the pew.

With this on my mind, I would like to invite us to consider having a First Communion class for our children. I believe that we should welcome the children at the table of our Lord. If you feel that your child is ready to share in the joy of communion then let's get a class started.

I know that summer is a difficult time to fit one more thing into, but September also seems to be far too complicated with everything starting back up. I would like to suggest then, a class following church service on August 9th or August 23. We can decide then on a date for a second session.

If you have a child you would like to have join you in sharing in communion and would be interested in one of those dates would you please email me your thoughts? If you would prefer to consider other dates let me know that as well. My email is pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org.

Let the children come, for such is the Kingdom of God. Let's also invite our young people (teenagers) to take up some of the tasks of the church service. Let's ask them to usher, help with communion, greet, and so on. It is, after all, their church too!

God's blessings
Pr. Barb

2026 Confirmation



*Left: Confirmand
Tristan Simmons with
his prayer shawl.*

*Right: Confirmand
Tristan Simmons with
Pastor Barb Hayden
and Pastor Paul
Holmer.*



Monthly Birthday Fellowship

July's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, July 19th, 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 July. Refreshments and cupcakes will be served.

All are welcome!!!



Zion Child Care & Preschool

Preschool Graduation was held on Wednesday, May 27. We held one program for our AM classes and one program for our PM classes. The kids did a great job! They sang “Zion Preschool”, “Kindergarten Chant”, “Love Grows”, “We’re Moving Up to Kindergarten”, “You’ve Got a Friend in Me”. They each also got to walk across the stage to graduate. Such a bittersweet night to say goodbye to all our preschool friends. We will miss them all so much and wish them the best of luck in Kindergarten!!

We have started 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. Tuition is \$200 per month.

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



May 2026 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

Many of you have asked how things were on my visit to the Synod Assembly. Here is my assessment of all the happenings I experienced and my takes on them. The attendance at the gathering was phenomenal! There were between 200 -300+ members. I met a Theology student, many pastors from other congregations, a member from a 'struggling to survive' congregation, as well as interested guests. The large church where we congregated was full to capacity! It was so filled with bodies, it was difficult at times to see the speaker. The sound system was wonderful, and we could hear their messages well.

I got to know Bishop Amy Current better though her leadership role as she led the synod meeting with prayer whenever a decision was made. The committee had screens on both sides in front to display information to help members follow along. First Lutheran of Cedar Rapids did a wonderful job of setting everything up and making sure everyone was accommodated with seating, drinks, food, and other things as needed.

My favorite part of the Assembly was the Bible Study: Peace Be With You. There were three sections to it; Fear, Peace, and Rejoice. Each courageous speaker approached the microphone to share their story in these areas. Their stories provided evidence of God's work in our lives; how He IS ALWAYS with us and how He HAS ALWAYS been with us GUIDING each and every day! Indeed, a message to take into your heart! If you would like a copy of the Bible study, Peace Be With You, I would be glad to share it with you.

Personally, I was really touched with this study and its presentation. We were encouraged to share our own stories with a neighbor close by in the audience. The chapel buzzed with stories of Fear, Peace, and Rejoicing! Bishop Current in conclusion encouraged all to continue to share their stories to witness God's presence and his love for his children through our amazing Saviour, Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and easy way to witness! Sharing God's goodness!

Many asked me about the "getting of a minister for the congregation". This topic was presented by Bishop Current. I was astonished! The new graduates have already accepted positions. Then it was revealed that almost 300+ congregations are seeking a minister even though there are now available 500 + ELCA pastors seeking a call. Bishop Current then revealed why there were so many still waiting for an assignment. Of the pastors waiting, the majority of them, are either of color or of the LBGQT population. The room was silent.

Our Bishop, Amy Current was unanimously selected by ballots from voting members of the Southeastern Iowa congregations. She graciously accepted the position and gave her promise to do her best with much prayer. She also asked for all the churches to remember all the Synod leaders and her committee who need to be remembered daily in prayer also. There were

other elections of offices needing to be filled. I do not have the exact reports or numbers on these so will let you get those later in the Southeastern Synod reports.

I do want to thank the congregation for sending me to the 2026 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. I found the experience to be a terrific learning experience giving insight of how decisions are made at the SE district level. I hope your confidence in me to represent you in this will be helpful in some way. It was a very impressive assembly of the ELCA congregations. It was wonderful meeting and speaking with many people to share our beliefs and experiences of faith. There is always a comfort being among our Christian family!

Eleanor Stever

Christmas in July! - ELCA Good Gifts

Zion's Social Ministry Committee invites you to participate in our "Christmas in July" celebration! The weekends of July 12 & 19, the Christmas tree in the narthex will be decorated with "ELCA Good Gifts" ornaments. You may select an ornament and donate the amount listed. We will follow through and order the gift you selected. You may take your ornament home and display it now and/or save it for your tree in December. There are many choices including honey bees, animals, vaccinations, school fees and supplies for children, water filters, and small business loans. There are so many needs in our world. This is an opportunity to make a difference.



ZION'S PRAYER CHAIN

Did you know Zion has a prayer chain with people who are ready to pray for you? If you, or someone you know, is in need of prayer, please notify the prayer chain by calling Helen Steen at 563-243-2288 or Mary Lou Mallicoat at 563-357-2963. All information is kept confidential; only first names are used on the prayer chain. Please ask permission if requesting prayers for someone other than yourself from either the person or a family member of the person.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact Helen Steen at 563-243-2288 or Mary Lou Mallicoat at 563-357-2963.



Vacation Bible School

The Light of *CHRIST* - Sharing *CHRISTmas* in July

Zion will again partner with St. Paul Church for Vacation Bible School which will be held July 20th -23rd here at Zion. We will be giving you an opportunity to support our family meal by donating a food item. Signup sheets will be available at worship during the first weekend in July.

We are also looking for two to three people to join the Kitchen Team for simple meal prep and one or two people to help in the Craft Center. Please call Barb Rhoades at 563-559-6611 to say you will join in the FUN! Lastly, please encourage your children, grandchildren and neighborhood kiddos to join us for a fun VBS! Registration forms in the Narthex and the church office.

Thank you for your continued support of this valuable partnership with St. Paul to benefit our children!

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 3/20/2026 and 6/20/2026, the following individuals have had memorial gifts given in their memory and directed to and through Zion Lutheran Church.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| ♥ Myrna Gifford | Greatest Needs |
| ♥ Laurie Kuehl | Greatest Needs |
| ♥ Carolyn Butt | Greatest Needs |
| ♥ Bob Beck | Children's Bibles |

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

In the Hospital? Moved to a Care Facility?

Because of privacy laws, hospitals & care facilities are following strict guidelines for the sharing of patient/resident information. **Please be sure to call the church office or the pastor to keep us informed.**

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 _____

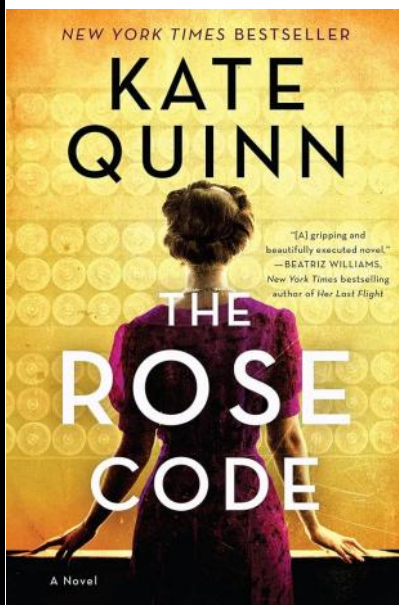
Emergency Contact (other than the above name/number)

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"

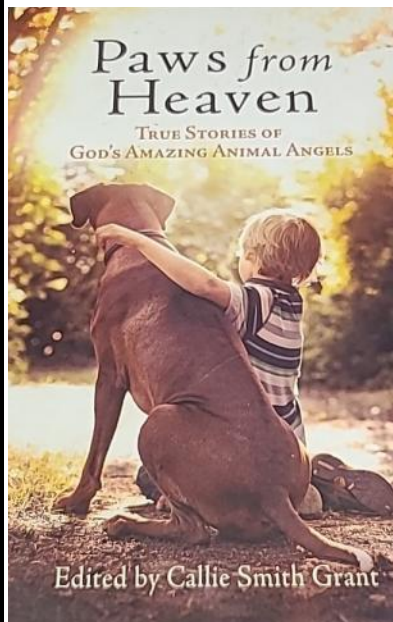
Book Club News



We will be discussing **The Rose Code** by Kate Quinn at our next Book Club gathering on July 15th at 10:00 in the Zion library, all are welcome. The Rose Code is set during World War II following three very different women-Osla, Mab, and Beth-who work as code-breakers at a secret British intelligence center. As they help decipher German military codes, they form a deep friendship while navigating romance, loss, ambition, and the intense secrecy of wartime service. Years later, a shocking betrayal and discovery of a possible traitor force the estranged friends to reunite and solve one final mystery.

The novel combines historical fiction, suspense, and strong female friendships, highlighting the often-overlooked contributions of women to the allied war effort.

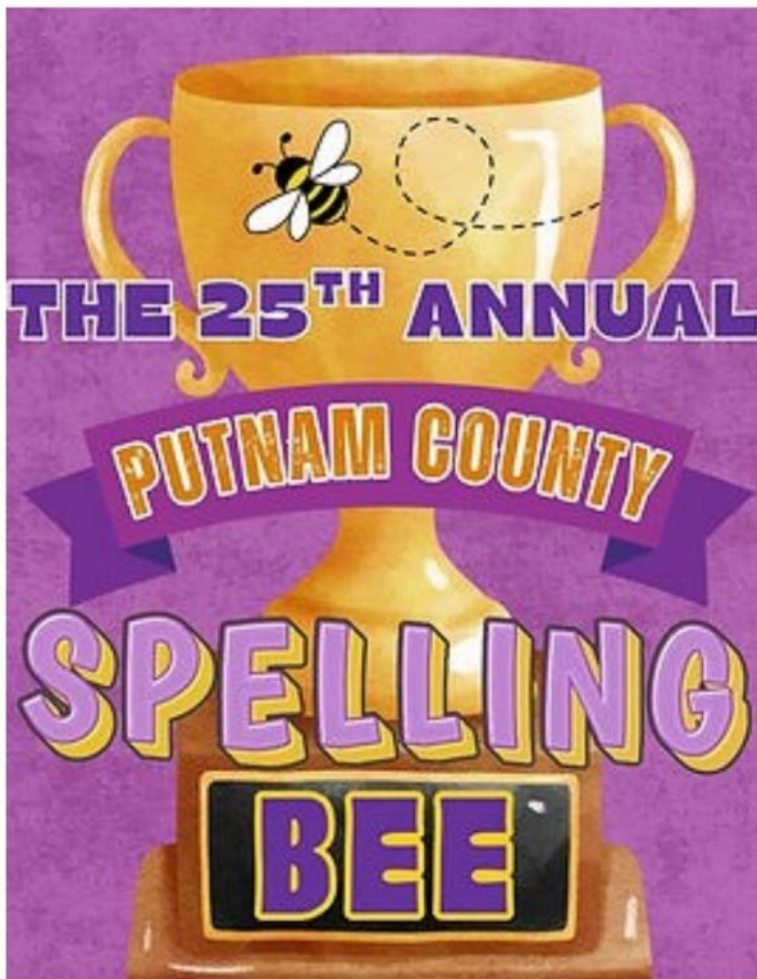
New Book July 2026



Paws from Heaven is our new book for July. It's an up-lifting collection of true stories that illustrates God's love through the companionship of pets. Through touching accounts of cats and dogs offering comfort, protection, guidance, and unconditional love, readers are reminded that God's care often comes through unexpected blessings-even on four paws.

To donate your books: leave in the library slot/mailbox, give to Amanda, or give to Denise.

Happy reading!!



The Fellowship Committee invites you to mark your calendars for Sunday, August 9, 2026 @ 2pm as we gather @ the Clinton Area Showboat Theatre for the presentation of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor as an eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. Complete with audience participation, this fast-paced, wildly funny performance will definitely "Bee" one unforgettable experience.

Tickets for the show are \$22 per person and must be purchased in advance to reserve your spot. Reservation forms need to be filled out and returned, with payment, to the church office **NO LATER** than Sunday, July 12, 2026.

Purchased tickets will be available for pick-up in the church office the weeks of July 27-31 and August 3-7 between 9 am and 3 pm. Any questions, please call Amanda at 563-242-7391 Monday through Friday.

We hope to see you there for an afternoon of fun, laughter, & great fellowship!!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Paid Cash: \$ _____

Paid Check: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church

THANK YOU DONORS!!!!

Thanks to each of the faithful Zion (and friends) donors who made our June Impact Life Blood Drive a **HUGE** success.

We were able to fill our schedule and all you donors "showed up". We had a total of 22 whole blood donations, 1 plasma and 4 doubles (which counted for 8) for a grand total of 31 donations, which greatly exceeded our goal of 20!!! Woohoo!!!!

Hope to see you all at our next drive on Monday, October 12. Mark your calendars!

"The Responsibility Poem"

By Charles Osgood

"There was a most important job that needed to be done,
And no reason not to do it, there was absolutely none.
But in vital matters such as this, the thing you have to ask
Is who exactly will it be who'll carry out the task.

Anybody could have told you that Everybody knew
That this was something Somebody would surely have to do.
Nobody was unwilling; Anybody had the ability.
But Nobody believed that it was their responsibility.
It seemed to be a job that Anybody could have done,
If Anybody thought he was supposed to be the one.
But since Everybody recognized that Anybody could,
Everybody took for granted that Somebody would.
But Nobody told Anybody that we are aware of,
That he would be in charge of seeing it was taken care of.
And Nobody took it upon himself to follow through,
And do what Everybody thought that Somebody would do.

When what Everybody needed so did not get done at all,
Everybody was complaining that Somebody dropped the ball.
Anybody then could see it was an awful crying shame,
And Everybody looked around for Somebody to blame.
Somebody should have done the job,
Everybody should have,
But in the end, Nobody did
What Anybody could have."

FINANCIAL CORNER

May 2026 at a glance

General Operating	May	Year To Date
Income +	\$20,961.25	\$132,409.52
Expense -	\$17,362.63	\$116,340.90
Difference =	\$3,598.62	\$16,068.62

May In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
May 2 & 3	43	77	120
May 9 & 10	50	107	157
May 16 & 17	37	86	123
May 23 & 24	44	61	105
May 30 & 31	34	85	119
Average	42	83	125

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.

PLEASE Support Our Local Food Pantry!!!

The increased need at the IRAS Food Pantry has put a considerable strain on their ability to fill food boxes. Would you please consider using the "Food Pantry" envelope in your offering envelopes to make a monetary donation AND/OR bring food items for the grocery cart in the Narthex?

JULY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study	2	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day 5:30 PM: Worship
5 9:00 AM: Worship	6 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	7 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All-Committee Night	8 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle	9	10	11 5:30 PM: Worship
12 9:00 AM: Worship	13	14 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	15 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club	16	17	18 5:30 PM: Worship
19 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship	20 4:45 PM: VBS Family Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	21 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 4:45 PM: VBS Family Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	22 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study 4:45 PM: VBS Family Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	23 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends 4:45 PM: VBS Family Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	24	25 5:30 PM: Worship
26 9:00 AM: Worship	27 9:00 AM: Quilting 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	28 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer	29 10:00 AM: Morning Prayer & Bible Study	30	31	

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ZION'S STAFF

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officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org

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

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

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