

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

Vol. 94 No. 7

THE

COURIER

July 2024



From the Desk of Pastor Julie Higgs

Dear Partners in Ministry,

One of the gifts of being in an interim time between called pastors is the opportunity to sit back and consider where we are as a congregation, assess in what ways we're meeting—or not meeting—the needs of our members and our community, and make changes where God seems to be leading us in new directions.

As the call process moves into its next phases (see the note below about nominating people to serve on the Call Committee), we are in a moment ripe with possibilities. We are in a moment where each of us can consider the ways in which we are serving in and through Zion's many ministries. I want to highlight three ways we can consider these possibilities:

Are You Considering Joining Zion?

We, of course, welcome visitors, including frequent visitors. But for some of you, it may be time to make a fuller commitment to God through Zion's ministries. If you've wondered about joining (or if you've definitely decided to join), please come to any one of the prospective members' gatherings we'll have in July:

- 4:15 pm Saturdays, July 6, 13, or 20
- 10:15 am Sundays, July 7, 14, or 21

These will be informal conversations about what it means to become a member of Zion, with a chance to ask whatever questions you have about ministry at Zion, how or why we do things, what Lutherans believe, and more. We'll meet in the library (except for Sunday, July 7, when we'll meet in the conference room).

Ministries at Zion

We have a lot of active ministries at Zion with a lot of volunteers doing great work. Sometimes that work is satisfying, joy-filled, and life-giving. And sometimes people can feel

“stuck” when they’ve helped with a ministry for a long time. Others might be interested in helping with something different, but they’re not sure who to talk to or what they’re supposed to do.

Wherever you find yourself, ***opportunity is knocking!*** In your worship bulletins during July will be your opportunity to tell leaders at Zion whether you want to continue your commitments, if you need to change them, and/or if you want to start doing something new for you. Once we gather responses from you, we’ll schedule teaching opportunities for things like being an Assisting Minister, ushering, setting up for or serving Communion, etc. And we are particularly grateful for those of you who will happily continue to serve as you have been serving.

Timelines

So, I’ve noticed that the timelines haven’t quite caught on, and I know that I haven’t jumped up and down to get you excited about them. But in order to consider our future, we need to understand our past. The timelines cover the last quarter-century of ministry at Zion, and at some other congregations that closed in that time. The goal is for them to be a visual representation or reminder of what has happened in the last 25 years of ministry—so that can inform us as we looked toward the next 25 years.

What has mattered to you in the life of this congregation? What has been meaningful, frustrating, life-giving, life-sapping? What did the pandemic cause us to do that we want to continue? In what ways did the pandemic give birth to less helpful patterns in our ministry? Where have we reached out to help meet the needs of our community? Where have those needs—and our responses to them—changed?

If I can find someone to help me go through old *Couriers*, we’ll add to the timelines when various ministries started—or ended. For example, when did we start hosting GriefShare? When have we sent quilts to Lutheran World Relief? When did the Wednesday morning Bible study and Holy Communion start? When did we adopt Jefferson Elementary School and start having mentors there and collecting school supplies? How has our worship life evolved?

Let’s tell these stories on the timelines!

Call Process

Part of living into the call process will be doing the work to describe accurately who we are as a congregation, as well as where we believe God is calling us. Within this newsletter, on pages 8 & 9, is an information sheet about the election of a Call Committee. Please consider prayerfully whether you know of someone you want to nominate to serve in this important role. And thank you for your participation in these—as well as future—steps to support their work.

Christ’s peace be yours—
Pastor Julie

A NOTE OF THANKS

May 26, 2024

Zion Lutheran Church
Attn: Amanda
439 3rd Ave. So.
Clinton, IA 52732

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Clinton Parkinson Support Group. Your commitment to allowing non-profit organizations, such as ours, to hold our monthly meetings in your facility is greatly appreciated.

Please accept this monetary donation in the amount of \$200.00 to express our gratefulness for the use of the banquet room at Zion Lutheran Church over the last few years. Unfortunately, our group will no longer be meeting as I am stepping down as facilitator.

Thank you!



Lori Kennedy
Clinton Parkinson Support Group

Traveling this Summer?

Go to www.elca.org/findacongregation to find an ELCA congregation near where you're visiting. We have congregations in all fifty states as well as the Bahamas and the Caribbean! And then bring back to us any great ideas you learn about!



Zion Child Care & Preschool

It's hard to believe our summer is wrapping up! It went fast and we had a great time!

Child Care will take their last few field trips to the Sawmill Museum, Kiddie Pool, Clinton Park, and Discovery Center. We will also have water fun day, trike & bike day, movie day and lots of dress up days.



Summer camp is planning trips to the Clinton Pool, DeWitt Pool, Clinton Park, Riverfront Park, Plaza Bowl and Park Towers to visit our friends and play Bingo. We will also do lots of arts & crafts, play board games, lots of outside time and also have a Grill Out day and pizza/ice cream party for lunch for a couple of days.

Preschool registration for the 2024/2025 school year is under way. If you have a child that will turn 3 or 4 years old by September 15, 2024 and want to sign up for fall preschool, please send them our way! Our 3 year-old preschool meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Our 4 year-old preschool meets Monday, Tues-

day, Thursday, and Friday. Our AM classes meet from 7:45 to 10:45 am and our PM classes meet from 11:45 am to 2:45 pm.

Tuition for our 3 year-old preschool classes is \$185 per month. Our 4 year-old program participates in the 4 year-old voluntary preschool grant with the Clinton Community School District and the State of Iowa... any 4 year old that lives in Iowa has FREE tuition for preschool. Out of Iowa residents' tuition is \$260/month. Please give us a call at 243-9393 if you would like more information.



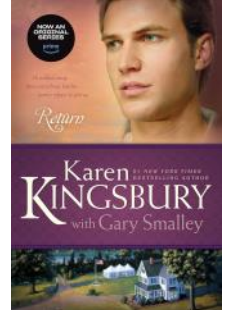
Kelly Bork, Director



New Zion Library Books for July 2024



Saints of Feather and Fang by Caryn Rivadeneira is subtitled “How the Animals We Love and Fear Connect Us to God.” In this book, the author looks at the ways that animals serve as spiritual guides for our hearts, minds, and souls. Chapter headings include When God Stirs the Nest, The Lord is my Sheep-dog and How to Pet a Snake!

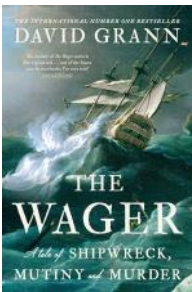


Return is the third book in Karen Kingsbury’s *Redemption* series. “What will it take to get Luke Baxter’s attention? A shattered relationship...a secret...and a revelation. Donated by Denise Forney.



White Chrysanthemum by Mary Lynn Brecht is a novel that tells the story of two Korean sisters, one captured by Japanese soldiers during WWII, and the other, after sixty years searching for her sister. This author “gives elegant voice to the toll of wartime on women, the strength of family, and the power of time to heal.” Donated by Sheila Raasch.

ZION’S BOOK CLUB



Zion’s Book Club will meet on Wednesday, July 17th at 10 a.m. in the church library. We will be discussing ***The Wager***, a novel by David Grann. In 1742 a decrepit vessel washed up on the coast of Brazil with 30 emaciated men on board. They were survivors of a British ship named the Wager and were greeted as heroes for surviving more than a hundred days traversing nearly 3000 miles of storm-wracked seas. But then, six months later, another craft landed on the coast of Chile containing three castaways from the same ship. So the thirty sailors were not heroes, they were mutineers! The first group responded with charges of their own, and a court-martial was held to see which group of men was telling the truth. The stakes were literally life and death, for whomever the court found guilty could hang. **The books are on a cart in the library and are due back to Zion on the 17th.** Everyone is welcome!

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.**

Vacation Bible School

IT'S VBS TIME AGAIN!!

Zion is again partnering with St. Paul Church to offer a fun-filled week of vacation Bible School for our children and those in the community. This year VBS will be held July 22nd through 25th.

Are you wanting to help in some way, but unable to attend? Each evening will begin with a family meal and you can help by providing a food item. Each congregation is asked to provide certain food items for the meal. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex early in July that will list the items Zion has been designated to provide. We ask that you sign up next to an item (or items) you wish to donate to the meal.

There will be someone in the narthex before or after services on the weekend of July 13/14 to assist by answering questions and getting you signed up.

Please bring your food donation to the Zion kitchen by noon on Sunday, July 21....there will be a collection basket on the counter.

Thank YOU for supporting our VBS 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 03/21/2024 and 06/20/2024, the following individuals have had memorial gifts given in their memory and directed to and through Zion Lutheran Church.

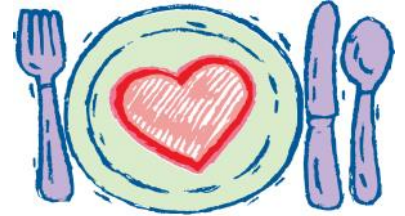
♥ William Schilling	Greatest Needs
♥ Donagene Hawk	Forward in Faith
♥ Marilyn Lockard	Scholarships, Music, Forward in Faith & Greatest Needs
♥ Bev Clausen	Forward in Faith & Greatest Needs
♥ Herman Eichmeier	General Fund & Greatest Needs
♥ Pat & Sharon Mooney	Greatest Needs

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

Zion Community Meal with "Hope In Action"

"Hope In Action" and Zion will provide a Second Sunday Free Community Meal on July 14th. This meal, open to anyone, will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to help by donating something off the grocery list or want to help prepare or help serve the meal. So **Check it Out!!** We'd be glad to have you join in!



COMMUNITY DINNER

Worship

Worship services are:

Saturdays	5:30 pm
Sundays	9:00 am

Radio Broadcasts on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on KROS 105.9 FM or 1340 AM.

Video services are offered via Facebook (www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton)

Christmas in July! ELCA Good Gifts

Zion's Social Ministry Committee invites you to participate in our "Christmas in July" celebration! On the weekends of July 13-14 and 20-21, a 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.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE CALL COMMITTEE

Our congregation's constitution calls for the Council to elect six persons, reflecting a cross-section of the congregation, to serve on the Call Committee. The Council invites members to consider prayerfully who would serve well on the call committee. Please confirm with anyone you would like to nominate that they are open to being considered before filling out the nomination form. You may nominate yourself. In order to have the widest possible representation from the congregation, Council members are not eligible to serve on the Call Committee.

It is likely that not all nominees will be elected to serve. We are limited to six people, and the Council needs to ensure that the committee reflects a cross-section of our congregation. All nominees, whether elected or not, should trust that the Council will consider all nominations carefully and prayerfully.

The Council invites your continuing prayers throughout the call process.

What Does a Call Committee Do?

- Participate in training provided by the Office of the Bishop.
- At all points in the process, keep the congregation informed about progress being made.
- Prepare the Ministry Site Profile, seeking assistance from the congregation council and the congregation at-large.
- Seek approval of the Ministry Site Profile from the congregation council.
- If desired, seek names of potential candidates from the congregation and submit those names to the office of the bishop for consideration.
- Receive from the Bishop's representative the names of candidates to be interviewed.
- While maintaining strict confidentiality, prayerfully review the Rostered Leader Profile for each candidate.
- Invite the candidates for an interview.
- Prepare for the interviews by developing questions, scheduling the interviews, and providing hospitality.
- Interview the candidates, debrief the interviews, and decide upon a candidate, taking time for second interviews if considered necessary.
- Recommend a candidate for call to the congregation council.
- Assist the congregation council in planning a "meet and greet" event and provide information about the candidate to the congregation prior to the congregational vote.
- The call committee's responsibilities end with the installation of the new pastor.
- The chair of the call committee will be asked to participate in the "Walking Together" process with the new pastor, the president of the congregation, and the Office of the Bishop.

How Much Time is Expected from Call Committee Members?

The time commitment varies at different points in the process, but usually continues for at least several months.

- While preparing the Ministry Site Profile, the committee will likely meet once or twice a month, for two or three months, depending on how information is gathered.
- Once the committee receives Rostered Leader Profiles, and depending on how many candidates the committee has to consider, meetings will likely occur more frequently for a week or two as committee members decide who to interview.
- Each interview may require up to three meetings:
 - ◊ Preparation for the interview
 - ◊ The interview itself
 - ◊ Review of the interview
- Depending on the call committee's discernment, second interviews may be required, with similar preparation and review.
- Once the call committee recommends a candidate to the council, its work is mostly complete, assuming that the congregation votes to call the recommended candidate.
- If a candidate withdraws or the council or congregation choose not to move forward, the process continues with seeking one or more new candidates.

Call Committee Nomination

*Please place nominations in the offering plate OR
call or email Amanda in the church office.*

Deadline for Nominations is 10 am, Sunday, July 7, 2024.

The council will consider all nominees at its meeting Tuesday, July 9.

Name of Nominee _____

Phone Number of Nominee _____

___ Yes, I received permission from this person to nominate them. (please check)

I believe this person would be an asset to the Call Committee because:

LSI NEWS

July 2024 – God’s Work, Our Hands

It’s nearly that time of year again – God's Work, Our Hands! Though the official day is in September, it's not too late to plan how your congregation can engage with GWOH Day. One of the best ways to practice GWOH is through volunteering.

At LSI, we have volunteer opportunities for individuals of nearly every age, ability, and schedule. Additionally, we offer group volunteer projects – the perfect opportunity for this upcoming day of service.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Holy Communion for All

Many of you will remember the days during the pandemic, when it wasn't safe to gather for worship, and we provided packaged wafers and wine or grape juice for people to receive Holy Communion. As it got safer to gather, most of us returned to our "normal" patterns of receiving bread and wine in person at worship in the church. For some of our members, however, their ability to come to our building for worship never returned. Some of them receive supplies of the packaged Communion elements. In some places where several of our members are able to gather, they share in the Lord's Supper while worshipping together listening to the radio or watching the Facebook Livestream of worship. But for others, worship has become a time filled with longing—longing to be together with other members of our faith community—and longing to receive Christ's real presence in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

We had a number of home Communion ministers before the pandemic, assisting Pastor Mark in visiting and communing homebound members. We haven't gotten back up to speed with this, even though it's generally safe for us to visit—and commune—those who are homebound. **Will you help?**

We're asking for a dozen or so members who will each take Communion to one household a month. Pastor Julie will provide simple guidelines for how to deliver and serve Communion appropriately outside a worship service. We have three volunteers already; we need several more. Please contact Pastor Julie to learn more or to volunteer for this important ministry. And thank you for helping us care, share, and serve members who are unable to worship with us in person.

Scholarships Awarded

The Student Aid Committee has announced the recipients of Zion's Scholarship Program for the fall semester. Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded \$600.00 per semester for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Connor Barnett
Cornell College

Olivia Landon
Muscatine Community College

Kaylee Camp
St. Ambrose University

Payton Luett
University of Iowa

Sarah Hilgendorf
University of Iowa

Alyssa Schroeder
University of Northern Iowa

David Kremer
University of Northern Iowa

Brynn Vonderohe
Cornell College

Criteria for students receiving a scholarship award include: congregational membership, congregation participation, and acceptance at an accredited institution of higher education. The amount of the aid is determined by the annual earnings of the Student Aid Fund, the number of applicants, and whether the individual is a seminary student, full-time college student, or a part-time college student.

The committee is charged with not letting the Student Aid Fund reserve balance go below \$50,000. This is to ensure that there are sufficient funds to generate investment earnings, so that future applicants can receive aid. The fund is nearing that threshold. Your gifts and/or bequests to Zion's Student Aid Fund are welcomed so that more and more of our students can receive educational assistance.

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.

Animals in God's Word

St Paul/Zion Summer VBS

Free Family Dinner each night 4:45 -5:30pm

VBS will be at Saint Paul Lutheran Church
715 S. 3rd St



For more information contact Saint Paul's Church Office at 563-242-4102

Vacation Bible School Registration

2024 "Animals in God's Word" July 22nd—July 25th

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 15th by completing this form and returning to Zion or St Paul
A special offering will be collected each night to go to the "Clinton Humane Society"

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – May 14, 2024

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

Pastor Dan Kuckuck, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership and Congregational Transition, joined the Council for the May meeting. Pastor Kuckuck was present to discuss with the Council the Call Process and its goals outlined by the Synod. The four phases of the Call Process are Leavetaking, Preparation, Discernment and Walking Together. Each phase was reviewed in detail by Pastor Kuckuck. There was an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

Pastor's Report: Each Council member was given Pastor Julie's *Monthly Report for April*. The areas of activity on the report, with detail included, were Worship, Growing in Faith, Getting to Know One Another, Caring for One Another, Sharing Leadership, Community, Wider Church and Time Away. Pastor also shared additional thoughts on some of these categories.

Membership Update: Travis Morehead reviewed the Statistical information. A member was reactivated with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Deb Vath reported to the Council that Offerings are above the Budget estimate and that Income is over Expenses YTD. Deb reviewed select line items. The Bank balances and Accounts were also reviewed. Diane Honeywell made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Patti Lauritzen seconded the motion. All ayes.

Committee Reports: Deb Vath moved to approve the standing Committee reports en bloc. Laurie Behrens seconded the motion. All ayes.

Old Business:

Portico/Canopy Update: It was reported to the Council that striping is left to complete.

Call Process: Pastor Julie discussed the Story of Zion project. History will be forthcoming. Pastor shared that she wanted to have meetings with new members that have come from different congregations.

Fresh Produce: Deb Vath reported to the Council that Information and Referral Services will have a place set up for *Genesis VNA'S Let's Live Healthy* initiative. It was also reported that the rest of the county is covered so there is no need for Zion to provide an additional set-up.

FINANCIAL CORNER

May 2024 at a glance

General Operating	May	Year To Date
Income +	\$22,861.97	\$164,909.41
Expense -	\$22,840.29	\$146,316.99
Difference =	\$21.68	\$18,592.42

May In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
May 4 & 5	48	104	152
May 11 & 12	48	120	168
May 18 & 19	52	83	135
May 25 & 26	58	86	144
Average	52	99	150

Prayer Shawls



During worship services on June 1 & 2, beautiful prayer shawls were draped on the altar rail and were blessed and prepared for giving as a comforting reminder of God's love and Zion's caring, sharing and serving. We thank those who have prayerfully created these shawls: Sharon Bailey, Jan Lamb, LeAnne Larsen, Patti Lauritzen, Selma Schilling, Shirley Wolf and Sylvia Zickau.

The prayer shawls have been packaged and placed in the cabinet in the Library. Feel free to give a Zion prayer shawl to someone you know who may have a special need. If you are interested in becoming involved, or learning more about this ministry, please contact Deb Vath at 563-243-5333.

JULY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1:00 PM: Card Players 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	3 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 Office Closed	6 4:15 PM: Prospective Member Gathering 5:30 PM: Worship
7 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Prospective Member Gathering	8	9 1:00 PM: Card Players 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	10 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle	11	12	13 4:15 PM: Prospective Member Gathering 5:30 PM: Worship
14 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Prospective Member Gathering	15	16 1:00 PM: Card Players 6:00 PM: Child Care Board	17 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club	18	19	20 4:15 PM: Prospective Member Gathering 5:30 PM: Worship
21 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Prospective Member Gathering 2:00 PM: Linda Flikkema's Student Piano Recital	22 9:00 AM: Quilters 4:45 PM: VBS Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church	23 1:00 PM: Card Players 4:45 PM: VBS Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church	24 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 4:45 PM: VBS Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church	25 4:45 PM: VBS Meal 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School at St. Paul Lutheran Church	26 10:30 PM: Courier Assembly	27 5:30 PM: Worship
28 9:00 AM: Worship	29	30 1:00 PM: Card Players	31 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study			

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◆
Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician
music@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

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