

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

Vol. 95 No. 7

THE

COURIER

July 2025



From the desk of...
Pastor Julie Higgs

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Even as Zion faces more transitions ahead, so too the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is facing transitions with the upcoming retirement of both Presiding Bishop Elizabeth and Eaton and ELCA Secretary Deacon Sue Rothmeyer. Think about how much our world has changed just since the pandemic beginning in 2020—and how sad it would have been if our congregation and the larger church hadn't changed to meet new needs. And yet, amid all the new things, we remained grounded in Christ, crucified and risen, as this article about the upcoming churchwide assembly points out.



July 28 – August 2

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, in Phoenix, Arizona. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church.

Continued on next page...

Over the course of the 2025 churchwide assembly, voting members will:

- Elect a new Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the ELCA.
- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy, adopt a budget, and conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.
- Worship together.

ELCA Churchwide Assembly Theme: For the Life of the World

The first Council of Nicaea was convened 1,700 years ago, beginning the process of setting forth Christian convictions in what we know today as the Nicene Creed. The creed proclaims the life-giving truth of the triune God and our steadfast faith in Jesus Christ “for ... the life of the world to come.” These convictions continue to live and breathe among us in word and sacrament.

Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

We are church for the sake of the world — for the abundant *life* promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

We recognize the wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, “The church is the church only when it exists for others.” Our constitution’s “Statement of Purpose” boldly proclaims this commitment to be a people “called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.”

Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God’s mission of reconciliation for the life of the world.

As both Zion and the entire ELCA transition yet again, we invite your continuing prayers ... for the sake of the world.

Christ’s Peace be Yours—
Pastor Julie

Zion Child Care & Preschool

Zion's Preschool Graduation was held on Tuesday, June 3rd. We had our AM class's program at 5:30 and our PM class's program at 7:00. Would it be Iowa if we didn't have a severe thunderstorm warning siren in the middle of our 2nd program? It was a great night and the kids did a wonderful job! We will sure miss our soon to be kindergartners!!



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



New Librarian for Zion's Library

Zion's library (YOUR library) has a new librarian! Denise Forney has graciously accepted the position! She is Zion's fourth librarian. Beginning with Elizabeth Petersen who started the library, continuing with Joyce McCabe and myself, with all of your help, interest, donations and readership, Zion has a wonderful church library!

So keep checking out books, donating books, and participating in book discussions! And thank you for all the interest and help that I have received from you. I have really appreciated it!

Joyce Ollie

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 12-13 and 19-20, 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.



Monthly Birthday Fellowship

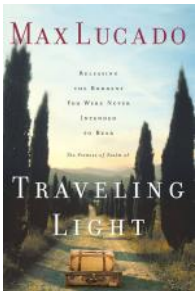
July's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, July 20th, after the 9:00 worship service.

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!!!

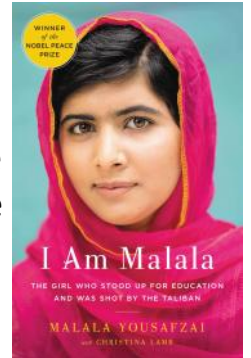


New Zion Library Books for July 2025



Traveling Light by Max Lucado. Are you carrying more than you were ever meant to bear? In *Traveling Light*, beloved author Max Lucado invites readers to release the burdens of anxiety, guilt, grief, and fear-and walk freely in the peace God offers. Inspired by Psalm 23, this uplifting book encourages us to trust our Good Shepherd, who longs to lighten our load. Book donated by Denise Forney

I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai is a powerful memoir of a Pakistani girl who, at just 15, was targeted and shot by the Taliban for advocating girls' right to education. Surviving the attack, Malala's unwavering courage transformed her into a global symbol of peaceful resistance and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate. Her story is a testament to the strength of faith, the importance of education, and the impact one voice can have in challenging injustice. A compelling choice for readers of all ages. Book donated by Denise Forney

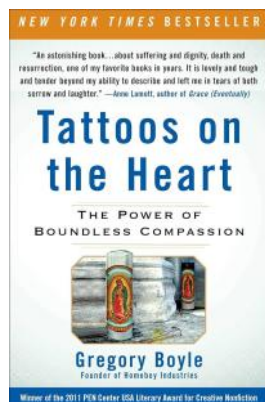


To donate a book, contact Denise Forney or Amanda in Zion's office, thanks!

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, July 16th, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing **Tattoos on the Heart** by Gregory Boyle. It is a powerful sparkling collection of real-life stories from Father Gregory Boyle's work with gang members in Los Angeles. Through humor and heart, Boyle shows how compassion and unconditional love can transform lives, and love better.

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

THANK YOU!

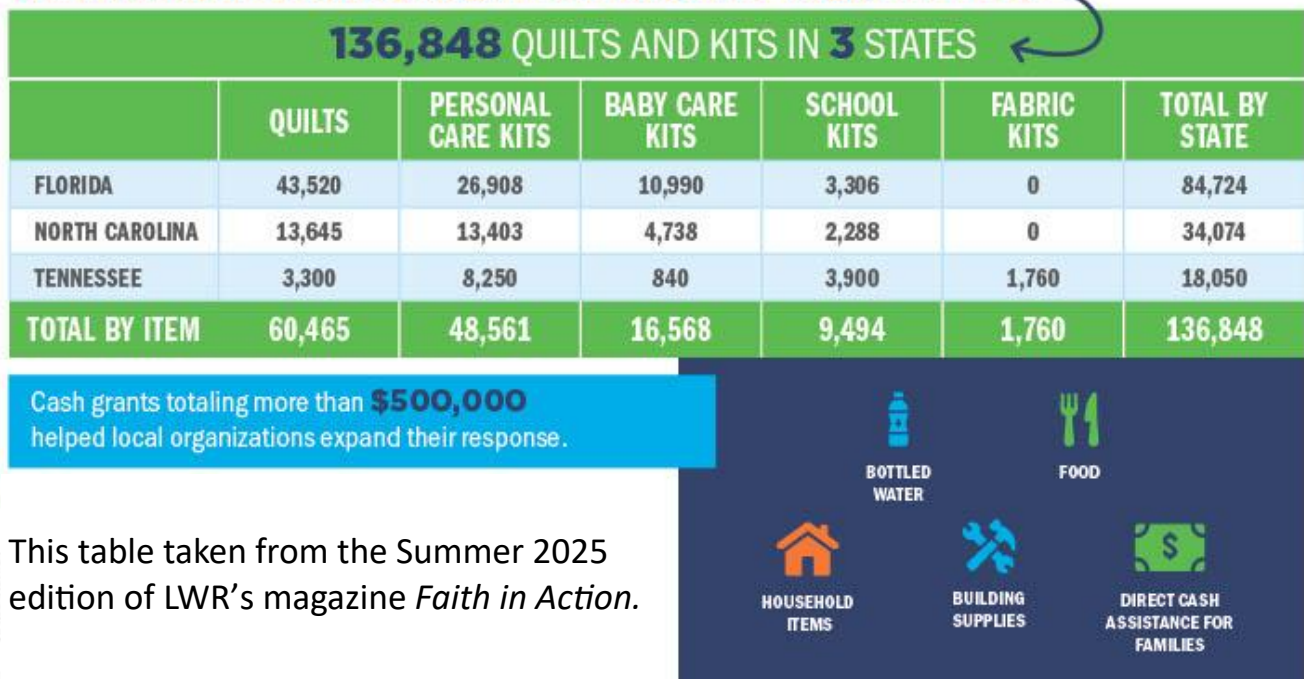
Dear Members of Zion,

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Your response to our request for donations for the Baby Care Kits has been overwhelming! Because of your generosity we will be able to continue this much-needed support for mothers and babies here in the U.S. and all over the world. The Zion family has been known for its generosity, and once again you have demonstrated that spirit of caring and concern for the family of God. Please see the image below for the items that are included in the layette kits!



With sincere appreciation for each of you, The Elizabeth Circle

Here is a snapshot of how your gifts have helped our neighbors so far:



This table taken from the Summer 2025 edition of LWR's magazine *Faith in Action*.

How YOU Can Support VBS 2025

We are excited to host Vacation Bible School this year as we again partner with St. Paul Church. Bible school will be held at Zion from July 21st through the 24th. Each evening will begin with a Family Meal at 4:45 pm and will conclude at 7:00 pm.

There are a few ways you can support this event. Food donation sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex the first two weekends of July to provide donations for the meal, such as chips, hotdogs, mac-n-cheese, cookies etc.

We are also looking for shepherds, adults or teens that would help the children move from each activity, no teaching involved.

Lastly, we ask you to pray for us as we host VBS and share our love of Christ with so many children.



If you are interested in joining our team as a shepherd or have questions, please contact Barb Rhoades at 563-559-6611 or Amanda in Zion's office.

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'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.



COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – May 13, 2025

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julie informed the Council that she will be retiring on July 31, 2025 due to health concerns. The Synod is working to find a replacement until we call a new pastor. Graduation recognition to be scheduled. The Committee for Community Caring is ongoing.

Membership Update: Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for April. Total weekend attendance YTD is 2473. Pastor Julie made a motion to accept the membership of Rick and Sheree Schoel with Patti Lauritzen seconding the motion. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Deb Vath, reviewed the Budget, Special Funds and Fund balances as of April 30th. The \$16,000 Child Care loan payment was made in April. Linda Dutchess moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Dennis Anderson seconded the motion. All ayes.

Old Business:

Call Committee Report: Pastor Julie informed the Council that the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Amy Current, will meet with the congregation on Wednesday, June 4th at 6:00 p.m. to talk through transition plans.

Scholarship Committee: Kristi Montgomery brought forward the name of Diane Honeywell as a member of the Scholarship Committee. Deb Vath made a motion to accept and Linda Dutchess seconded the motion. All ayes. All applications are currently being reviewed.

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

Technology Committee: This committee is in the process of forming.

New Business:

Clinton County Emergency Management Facility Shelter Request/Agreement: Copies of the Facility Shelter Agreement were given to each Council member present to review. After discussion, Deb Vath made a motion to allow Zion to be a shelter in case of an emergency or disaster. Linda Dutchess seconded the motion. All ayes. A contact person at Zion will be appointed.

CCSD Jefferson Elementary School Rally Location Request: Zion received a request to allow the church to be designated as a Rally location for Jefferson Elementary School if needed. After discussion, Pastor Julie made a motion to agree to the request. Marsha Smith seconded the motion. All ayes.

New Computer for Office: The office is in need of a new computer. Twin States Technical Services in Davenport, who is currently being used as our network support, has submitted a quote of \$1,327.04 for a Dell desktop computer and setup. The funds for the purchase will come from Special Funds - Office Equipment. Patti Lauritzen moved to approve the purchase from Twin States. Denise Forney seconded the motion. All ayes.

Sharing a Meal



**Saint Paul and Zion Summer VBS
July 21 - July 24**

5:30 - 7:00 pm

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

VBS will be held at Zion Lutheran Church

439 3rd Ave S.

For more information contact Zion's Church Office at 563-242-7391

Vacation Bible School Registration

2025 "Sharing a Meal" July 21st—July 24th

Children going into preschool (and potty trained) through going into 6th 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 14th by completing this form and returning it to Zion or St. Paul

A nightly offering will be given to food programs through Information, Referral, & Assistance Services.

FINANCIAL CORNER

May 2025 at a glance

General Operating	May	Year To Date
Income +	\$27,360.82	143,521.80
Expense -	\$22,882.63	\$142,836.55
Difference =	\$4,478.19	\$685.25

May In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
May 3 & 4	67	100	167
May 10 & 11	48	108	156
May 17 & 18	55	109	164
May 24 & 25	62	90	152
Average	58	102	160

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.

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	2 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study	3	4 Office Closed	5 5:30 PM: Worship w/Sending of Holy Communion
6 9:00 AM: Worship w/Sending of Holy Communion	7 5:30 PM: Elizabeth Circle	8 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	9 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study	10	11	12 5:30 PM: Worship Christmas in July
13 9:00 AM: Worship Christmas in July	14 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	15	16 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study	17	18	19 5:30 PM: Worship w/Baptisms Christmas in July
20 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship Christmas in July	21 4:45 PM: VBS Family Supper 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	22 4:45 PM: VBS Family Supper 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	23 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 4:45 PM: VBS Family Supper 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	24 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends 4:45 PM: VBS Family Supper 5:30 PM: Vacation Bible School	25	26 5:30 PM: Worship Pastor Julie's Last Weekend
27 9:00 AM: Worship Pastor Julie's Last Weekend	28 9:00 AM: Quilters 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	29	30 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study	31		

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ZION'S STAFF

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◆
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.