

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

Vol. 95 No. 6

THE

COURIER

June 2025



From
the desk
of...

Pastor Julie Higgs

Something Bigger than Ourselves

On June 8, two of our young people will affirm their baptisms (be confirmed). Later in June, we will also be receiving new members. In both cases, I'll ask this question:

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

That's a daunting question. When I talk with confirmation students about the promises they will make, I usually ask them how they intend to keep these promises? How will they serve all people or strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Sometimes I'm impressed by their answers. Sometimes I feel a little bad about how overwhelmed they look.

It's no less overwhelming a question for me. Perhaps you don't suffer from this particular sin, but sometimes I find myself acting as if I believe I'm the center of the universe. It's sort of the reaction I have when the Pharisees get mad at Jesus for healing somebody on the Sabbath—they act as if the most important thing going on is their job of enforcing religious rules—and they miss the miracle of Jesus restoring someone to health and community. But the truth is, sometimes I find myself stuck in a "Yes, it is all about me!" mentality.

Confirmations and reception of new members remind me that these are Confirmation promises I made too. And my own answer to the question of how I'll serve and strive in

Continued on next page...

all the earth is “by being a part of a congregation of the ELCA.” Because I know that I can only do so much. It’s not insignificant, but it is limited. But, thanks be to God, the reach of Zion Lutheran Church is greater than my own reach. The reach of the Southeastern Iowa Synod is greater than that of Zion. The reach of the ELCA is greater yet.

On May 17, Jeanne Crow, Craig Iben, and I attended our Synod Assembly. It was one day packed full of stories—stories about how the synod uses the offerings we forward to them—stories of how the synod staff spends its time—stories of how Bishops and churchwide staff and others are reaching literally around the globe in the name of Jesus Christ—stories of how we’re trying to raise up more pastors—stories of new ministries begun to reach people who we haven’t been serving. It’s exciting!

We don’t always have room to include all the information about these things in the *Courier* or weekly bulletin announcements. If you would like to know more about what’s going on in the wider church—and how you can be involved—I invite you to sign up to receive the synod’s weekly e-newsletter. Go to www.seiasynod.org/news and click on the green button to receive weekly newsletters with information about both Southeastern Iowa and ELCA events, opportunities, and news.

And thank you! Thank you for being members and friends and supporters of Zion Lutheran Church, and therefore of the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the ELCA. Thank you for responding in word and deed with a resounding “**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me!**”

Because we do so much more together than we could by ourselves.

Peace—
Pastor Julie

Bishop Amy Current to Meet with Zion Members and Friends

Pastor Julie’s upcoming retirement raises new questions as Zion continues to wait to call a new pastor. Some of you may feel anxious about what will happen next. You have an opportunity to learn more when the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Amy Current, meets with the congregation **Wednesday, June 4, at 6:00 pm**, to talk through transition plans for when Pastor Julie retires. The synod has been in conversation with pastors who are willing to step in to help with leadership at Zion, and Bishop Current will be sharing more information about this at the meeting.

Zion Child Care & Preschool

We are all set and ready for summer! We have so many fun activities and field trips planned. Fingers crossed the weather cooperates for us!

Child care is looking forward to field trips to the Discovery Center, Sawmill Museum, Clinton Kiddie Pool and also to Clinton and Riverfront Park. We also have lots of special days planned at the center for the kiddos.

Summer camp will enjoy various activities at the center. We will have some local field trips to Plaza Bowl, Rainbow Pottery, Clinton Pool, and Park Towers to play Bingo with the residents. We will also visit 3 local parks....Clinton, Riverfront, and Eagle Point. Our out of town trips will be to Niabi Zoo, Elevate, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Putnam Museum/IMAX and also to DeWitt Pool a couple of times.

We are currently enrolling for our 2025/2026 school year for 3 year-old and 4 year-old preschool. We only have a couple of spots remaining. 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



Prayer Shawls & Prayer Squares

During worship services on May 11 & 12, beautiful prayer squares and 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 and squares: Jan Lamb, Patti Lauritzen, LeAnne Larsen, Pat Steensen, Shirley Wolf and Sylvia Zickau.

The prayer shawls have been packaged and placed in the cabinet in the Library and the prayer squares are in a basket in the Narthex. Feel free to give a Zion prayer shawl or square 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.



Monthly Birthday Fellowship

June's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, June 15th, 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 June. Refreshments and cupcakes will be served.

All are welcome!!!



New Zion Library Books for June 2025

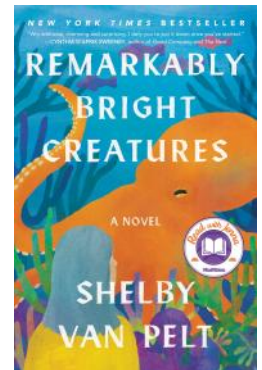
Sorry, we have nothing “new” in the library this month. But that doesn’t mean there isn’t a wealth of books on all sorts of topics to read! Help yourself!

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, June 18th, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing ***Remarkably Bright Creatures*** by Shelby Van Pelt. This is a novel about a woman who cleans an aquarium each night after it closes and whose 18-yr.-old son mysteriously disappeared on a boat in Puget Sound over 30 years ago. Her unique friendship with a giant Pacific octopus helps her uncover a future that had once seemed impossible.



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.



Caring for Our Zion Family

In the May *Courier*, I mentioned that we're going to organize our ministry of caring for our community, particularly in terms of visiting and/or taking Communion to our homebound members. I'm delighted to announce that Deb Willwerth has agreed to coordinate these efforts!

We're going to begin with a gathering of all those who are interested in making these visits—just to make sure that all our homebound members receive visits, and to share how we'll renew our former practice of sending Communion from the altar.

If you're willing to help with these visits, please plan to attend one of the following three opportunities:

- ♥ Saturday, June 21, at 4:15 pm
- ♥ Sunday, June 22, after worship—approximately 10:30 am
- ♥ Wednesday, June 25, 10:30 am

If you want to participate, but none of these meeting times work in your schedule, please contact Deb Willwerth or me as soon as possible.

If you are already visiting some of our homebound members, thank you so much!! Please fill out the "Caring for our Zion Family" information sheet you'll find in the narthex so that we have the information to ensure that all of our homebound members receive visits.

How Can You Become a Member of Zion?

Every once in a while, we have a flurry of people asking how they can become members of Zion. There are three main ways, and all of them begin by having a conversation with the pastor:

1. Baptism. For people who have never been baptized, that's where we start—by talking about and scheduling a baptism! In baptism, God claims us as God's own children, and we become members of the body of Christ. We make promises about how we intend to live—or, for children, their parent(s)—make promises about raising them in the Christian life. We baptize people of all ages during our regular worship services. If you were baptized somewhere else, be assured that we recognize baptisms from all other Christian churches.
2. Affirmation of Baptism. This is the usual way that baptized adults join Zion. Sometimes there's a class so people can learn more about Lutheranism; other times it's a conversation about what you believe. We usually receive new members in worship, asking them if they intend to live as Christ leads us, and introducing them to the assembly.
3. Transfer from Another Congregation. For those who belong to a different congregation but want to join Zion, we ask for a Letter of Transfer from the previous congregation. We try to introduce these new members to the assembly during worship.

Talk to Pastor Julie if you're interested in any of these opportunities!



Zion Lutheran Church Blood Drive

**Monday, June 16th
3:00pm - 6:30pm**

Gathering Space

439 Third Ave S, Clinton



**To schedule an appointment, scan QR code,
contact Deb Vath at djvath@mchsi.com or
call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.**

Group Code: 2827

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 04/21/2025

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – April 8, 2025

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Julie shared with the Council that things are going well. Preparations for Holy Week are progressing.

Membership Update: Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for April. Total weekend attendance YTD is 1621.

Treasurer's Report: The amount paid on the Forward in Faith loan in April will be \$16,000 for the first quarter of 2025. All other funds were also reviewed. Linda Dutchess moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for March. Denise Forney seconded the motion. All ayes.

Old Business:

Call Committee Report: The Call Committee will meet with Pastor Kuckuck on 03/12/2025. The committee is at the point in the process where they can receive names for a Call if there are any names available.

New Business:

Scholarship Committee: Kristi reported that the committee has an opening for one more member to be appointed by the Council. The deadline for applying for a scholarship is 04/17/2025. All applications will be reviewed and presented to the Council for approval.

Interim Pastoral Support: Visitation support was the main topic of discussion. We may want to consider a new hire to help with this ministry. This item will be placed on the agenda for the April Council meeting.

Interim Pastoral Support: Pastor Julie will contact Pastor Kuckuck to discuss what options are available for interim pastoral support.

"Caring for Our Community" Support: It was stated that coordination and communication would be one of the goals of this initiative.

Technology Committee: It was reported to the committee that the Greatest Needs fund has contributed to technology upgrades. The upgrades were on the funded list of Greatest Needs for 2025. There was a discussion on forming a committee to assess the technological needs of the church. Suggestions on the possible makeup of the committee were shared.

Pictorial Directory: Linda Dutchess reported that the Congregation members who have an email address on file with the church may download the ***Instant Church Directory*** app. The directory is live.

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

April 2025 at a glance

General Operating	April	Year To Date
Income +	\$25,492.03	\$116,128.70
Expense -	\$26,236.85	\$119,953.92
Difference =	-\$744.82	-\$3,825.22

April In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
April 5 & 6	58	106	164
April 12 & 13	59	130	189
April 19 & 20 (Easter)	86	265	351
April 26 & 27	62	86	148
Average	66	147	213

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.

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 AM: Worship w/ Graduate Recognition	2 5:30 PM: Elizabeth Circle	3 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:30 PM: Preschool Graduation 5:50 PM: All Committee Night 7:00 PM: Preschool Graduation	4 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 6:00 PM: Bishop Current to Meet with Congregation	5	6	7 9:00 AM: Kitchen Clean-Up 5:30 PM: Worship
8 9:00 AM: Worship w/ Confirmation	9 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	10 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	11 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle	12	13	14 5:30 PM: Worship
15 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: June Birthdays Fellowship	16 3:00 PM: Blood Drive	17	18 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club	19	20	21 4:15 PM: Caring for Zion Family 5:30 PM: Worship
22 9:00 AM: Worship 10:30 AM: Caring for Zion Family	23 9:00 AM: Quilters	24	25 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:30 AM: Caring for Zion Family	26 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends	27 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	28 5:30 PM: Worship
29 9:00 AM: Worship	30					

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ZION'S STAFF

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◆
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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.