

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

Vol. 96 No. 3

THE

COURIER

March 2026

A Message from Pastor Barbara

“Be still, and know that I am God!” Psalm 46

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Up until recently I have had the opportunity to spend 30-45 minutes with a group of people in Centering Prayer. Certainly, part of that time is spent checking in with one another. It is good to know someone cares. But 20 minutes is spent in divine silence.

It feels a little odd at first to gather together to spend time not talking. And while I am sure this is not the norm for team building opportunities, within that quiet a wondrous thing begins. Those who sit with one another in this form of prayer often find themselves united together in God. Without words to formulate or understand (or misunderstand), nothing stands in the way of the One Spirit moving through the gathering at a very deep spiritual level.

Of course, the practice of Centering Prayer is just that. Everything, it seems, takes practice. And waiting on God in silence is no different. Our minds are always busy creating, evaluating, or even daydreaming. It is no wonder God can't get a word in edgewise.

When we gather together, we give each other permission to do nothing else but wait on the presence of God. Because others are remaining silent, it also helps us to not give up.

Tuesdays at noon, I invite you to come and sit together in the silence of God. The mystics of years gone by were known to say that “Silence is God's first language.” The nearly complete silence of outer space seems to concur.

Centering Prayer is simple but not easy. Together we can encourage one another to practice being still and knowing God.

“For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” Isaiah 30: 15

God's Blessings as together we practice Lent.

Pr. Barb

Pastor Paul Holmer & Pastor Barb Hayden
Zion Lutheran Church Confirmation Class
439 – 3rd Ave. South
Clinton, IA 52732



2025-26 YWCA CLINTON
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February 9, 2026

Dear Pastor Barb, Pastor Paul, Members of the Confirmation Class, and Parishioners,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous support of YWCA Clinton through your donation of toiletry items, granola bars, and water. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the Confirmation Class for their outstanding efforts in efficiently packing 50 Outreach Bags for distribution during the annual PIT (Point-In-Time) Count.

Because of your kindness, our Empowerment Center staff will be able to provide these bags directly to clients in need, ensuring they receive essential items during a critical time. Additional donated items will also be shared with clients as needed.

Your generosity plays a vital role in advancing our mission to **eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all**. Your contribution to the Empowerment Center helps us deliver essential services to those facing housing insecurity and other challenges.

In fiscal year 2025, our Empowerment Center staff responded to 1,946 hotline calls from individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We provided housing support to 324 individuals—214 adults and 110 children—and facilitated **2.325** referrals to critical resources. Through our Homelessness Prevention programs, individuals (54 adults and 46 children) were able to remain safely in their homes.

Beyond this gift, the continued support of donors like you enables us to offer preschool scholarships for three-year-olds, swimming lessons for local children, and foster a vibrant community for our active agers, among many other impactful programs. And we're not stopping there—each day, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing health, help, and hope to our neighbors throughout the community. From all of us at YWCA Clinton, thank you for partnering with us in our efforts to create lasting, positive change in our community.

Gratefully,


Shannon Sander-Welzien
Executive Director

Zion Child Care & Preschool



In February we focused on the colors pink and purple and the shape of a heart. We also did lots of projects about winter and Valentine's Day!

All our classrooms enjoyed their Valentine parties during class. We appreciate all the parent helpers that come and hand out for the parties!

All our preschool classes went on a field trip to the Discovery Center. This is one of their favorites!! There is so much to do there!

We are getting ready to start 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.

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



Save the Date

On **Thursday, May 14th** Evangelism will be having their Ladies' Night Out Potluck dinner. Watch the Courier and bulletin for more details as the date gets closer.

Thank You

The Social Ministry Committee would like to extend our thanks to the Zion congregation for your continued support of our annual Jefferson School Supply Shower. Because you gave so generously, we were able to deliver many badly needed school supplies to Jefferson. As always, they were very appreciative and shared how grateful the staff and students are when they receive these donations. We'll be doing this again next year, around January/February when school supplies are running low. So, when you see school supplies on sale, pick them up, and put them aside for our 2027 Jefferson School Supply Shower. Again, thank you for your continued support of this project.



WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Worship services are:
Saturdays 5:30 pm
Sundays 9:00 am

Mid-week Lenten services are: Wednesdays in March at 11:00 am & 7:00 pm.

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.

Faith Foundations



To all our families, we appreciate the opportunity to support your child's faith journey on Wednesday evenings. Thank you for sharing your child/children with us for a time of learning and fun!!!!

In March, our lesson will be Walking on Water, and we look forward to exploring this lesson with all of you. We will continue to dismiss at 6:45pm during the month of March to allow our staff and families to attend Lenten Services.

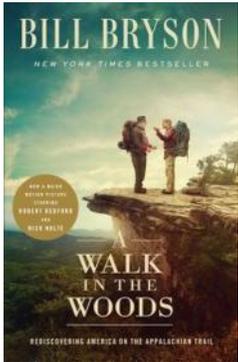
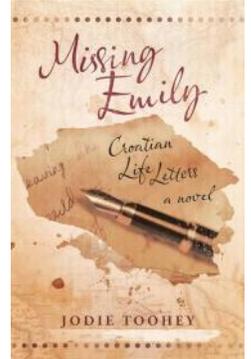
Also, mark your calendars as we will not be having Faith FUNdations on Wednesday, March 18th due to area schools Spring Break.



Library News

New Books for March

Missing Emily by Jodie Toohey: Our previous Book Club selection, written by a local Iowa author, is now available. Donated by Denise Forney



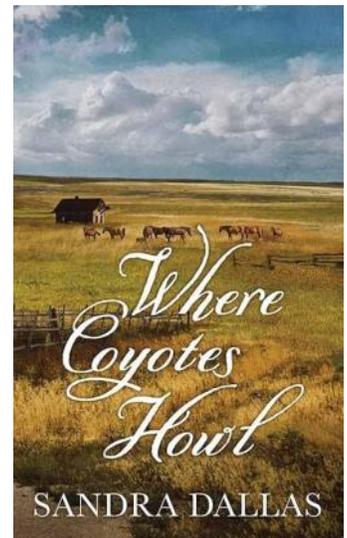
A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson: This humorous travel memoir follows the author and his eccentric friend, Stephen Katz, as they attempt to hike the Appalachian Trail. It is a wonderful blend of history, adventure, and nature. This copy was donated by Denise Forney.

Donated books are welcomed, see Amanda, Denise or simply leave them in the library with a note of who they are from, Thanks!! Happy reading

Book Club Book

Our next book club selection is **Where the Coyotes Howl** by Sandra Dallas. This historical novel, set in 1916 Wyoming, follows Ellen Webster as she travels west for a marriage of convenience. The story explores themes of love and resilience as she and her husband face the hardships of frontier life and the tragic conflicts between ranchers and wildlife officials.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM in the library. We are always looking for new readers to join us!



*Lent is a season of turning -
Turning from what is hurtful and toward what is healing
Turning from what is shattered and toward what is whole
Re-turning to the Lord
Wishing you a holy and blessed Lenten season.*

Zion to Serve Community Meal with "Hope In Action"

"Hope In Action" and Zion will provide a Second Sunday Free Community Meal on March 8th for about 200 people. This meal, open to anyone, will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church. If you would like to help with the meal by either preparing or serving, please contact Deb Vath at 563-243-5333. There is a "grocery list" in the Narthex for those of you willing to help provide the makings for our meal.

"Hope In Action" is a group of individuals motivated by their faith values to enact changes in the city of Clinton to improve the lives of all citizens. Their purpose is to strive to eliminate the racism, classism, and social injustices that exist in our community.

Zion's 2026 Congregation Council

All Council Members have chosen a committee on which to serve and also act as a liaison between the Council and the committee. If you have questions regarding a committee or their activities, please contact one of the Council members assigned to that committee.

President:	Kristi Montgomery	Social Ministry
Vice President:	Dennis Andersen	Buildings & Grounds
Secretary:	Chris Whipple	Fellowship
Treasurer:	Deb Vath	Social Ministry

Council Members

Laurie Behrens	Social Ministry
Mike Fee	Buildings & Grounds
Denise Forney	Evangelism
Patti Lauritzen	Worship
Erin Montgomery	Social Ministry
Marsha Smith	Fellowship
Deb Willwerth	Evangelism
Mia Macke (youth member)	

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?

Most needed food items:

Boxed Dinners	Canned Meat
Canned Fruit	Canned Vegetables
Cereal	Instant Potatoes
Mac n Cheese	Pancake Mix
Pasta	Pasta Sauce
Peanut Butter	Soup/Ramen



Monthly Birthday Fellowship

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

All are welcome!!!



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 – January 13, 2026

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

Membership Update: Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for December. Total weekend attendance YTD is 7,106. The average weekend worship attendance YTD is 137. Pastor Barb made a motion to re-activate the membership of Mia Macke. Erin Montgomery seconded the motion. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Deb Vath, reported that as of month end December, Income for 2025 was higher than Expenses for 2025 and that there was a surplus of \$1,407.78. Deb gave the Council a review of Special Funds for December and all fund balances for Zion. Linda Dutchess moved to accept the Treasurer's report and Dennis Andersen seconded the motion. All ayes.

Deb Vath opened a discussion on the balances of 3 funds and the advantage of investing some of the balance of the General Fund checking and the Special Funds balance. The Living Memorial Fund balance would be invested in its entirety due to the stipulation that the balance in this fund cannot be spent. (Only the interest generated from the Living Memorial can be used.) The Council discussed these options and agreed to proceed with the recommendations.

Old Business:

Call Committee Report: There was no new information from the committee.

Technology Committee: Erin Montgomery reported to the Council that a meeting of the committee will be scheduled possibly after a Sunday morning service. Erin also reported that the phone that is used to record the 9:00 a.m. service for Facebook and YouTube is not working properly. An explanation on how the Radio Ministry works was presented.

"Draft" 2026 Annual Budget: Deb Vath presented the proposed budget for 2026. Deb shared with the Council that all committees have participated in the process. Deb also reviewed and shared the rationale behind the entries for select line items. Linda Dutchess made a motion to submit the budget draft to the congregation at the Annual meeting. Patti Lauritzen seconded the motion. All ayes.

New Business:

Organist Update: Kristi Montgomery shared that a committee should be formed to interview and select a candidate. This will be addressed.

Council Installation Date: The Council set the date for Council Installation for Saturday, January 31st and Sunday, February 01, 2026.

FINANCIAL CORNER

January 2026 at a glance

General Operating	January	Year To Date
Income +	\$35,430.74	\$35,430.74
Expense -	\$26,511.48	\$26,511.48
Difference =	\$8,919.26	\$8,919.26

January In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
January 3 & 4	48	60	108
January 10 & 11	39	50	89
January 17 & 18	35	62	97
January 24 & 25	29	98	127
Average	38	68	105

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.**

MARCH 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 AM: Worship	2	3 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All-Committee Night	4 11:00 AM: Lenten Service 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations 5:15 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM: Lenten Service	5	6	7 5:30 PM: Worship
8 9:00 AM: Worship 5:30 PM: Hope In Action Meal @ St. Paul Lutheran Church	9 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	10 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	11 11:00 AM: Lenten Service 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations 5:15 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM: Lenten Service	12	13	14 5:30 PM: Worship
15 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship	16	17 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	18 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 11:00 AM: Lenten Service 5:15 PM: NO Faith FUNdations 5:15 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM: Lenten Service	19	20	21 5:30 PM: Worship
22 9:00 AM: Worship	23 9:00 AM: Quilters 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	24 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 5:30 PM: Wa Tan Ye	25 11:00 AM: Lenten Service 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations 5:15 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:00 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM: Lenten Service	26	27 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	28 5:30 PM: Worship
29 9:00 AM: Worship	30	31				

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◆
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.