

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

Vol. 95 No. 11

THE

COURIER

November 2025

*Peace falls like a sleepy leaf.
Creation's sabbath,
rest and be.
Summer's vigor,
spring's new birth,
breathes a sigh of golden mirth.
Harvest's bounty, a silo's fill,
autumn whispers 'Now be still.'
Give thanks for
enough and more.
Seasonal mercies from our Lord.*

Soon Christmas will be upon us, and we will be building lists. Some write out their wish lists. Some begin their shopping lists. Some groan at their to-do lists. And, without warning, we are off and running. How easy it is to miss that precious moment between harvest and holidays when we are invited to simply breathe.

I watch the leaf lazily float down to rest on the earth. I feel the trees sigh as their energies return to the ground. And the flowers that flourished all summer, bow their heads to sleep. I am not jealous, for at the moment I see sabbath rest come to them, I sense the peace in my soul as well. Yes, it is there for us too.

Before we go crazy trying to decorate, and bake, and purchase some happiness, let's bow our heads like the flowers and rest in gratitude. We are given enough and more. It is easy to grab it up and store it away and move on. But autumn suggests we stop and see all the goodness and, more importantly, the Giver.

Let's make one more list before the Christmas frenzy. Let's make a list of all that we have been blessed with. Breath, heart beats, hugs, friends. You make the list. Then share it with at least one other person. It becomes real when we speak it out loud to another. And they become a reminder of all that we listed when we forget!

I am thankful for the amazing opportunity to be with you at Zion. You fill my heart with joy and hope for the future of our world. I give thanks for all who volunteer to keep Zion up and running. I give thanks for the teachers who love our children in Faith FUNdations. I give thanks for the ministries of radio and internet. I give thanks for the quilt makers. I give thanks for those on each committee. I give thanks for council. I give thanks for sandwich makers. I give thanks for pledgers and tithers and those who give what they can. I give thanks for you.

God's Blessings. See you in church!

Pastor Barb

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.

Monthly Birthday Fellowship

November's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, November 16th, 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 November. Refreshments and cupcakes will be served.

All are 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.**

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.



Zion Child Care & Preschool

During the month of October, our shape and color of the month were a square and orange. We also talk about all things fall and Halloween and do lots of fun projects with those themes.

Our Halloween parties were super fun, and our kids had so much fun!! Lots of goodies to go home!

Our trunk or treat was a huge success and we thank everyone for all their help! The kids love it!

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



Jeanette Petersen is Celebrating Her 90th Birthday!

Jeanette Petersen, her sister, daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren will be serving ice cream and cake from 1 to 3 pm Saturday, Nov. 15, in the Dining Hall of Zion Lutheran Church.

Stop by and wish Jeanette a Happy Birthday, but please, no gifts.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

On September 28th, Zion joined hands with St. Paul Lutheran (Clinton) and Faith Lutheran (Andover) to do God's Work. 40 volunteers gathered for fellowship and breakfast pizza then disbursed to sew Pillow Cases for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace", tie Quilts for the "Women of the ELCA", tie 2 Fleece Blankets for "LSI", roll Medical Bandages for "Lutheran World Relief", assemble Toiletry Bags & Kitchen Utensil sets for the "YWCA Empowerment Center", and Sort Clothing for "My G.E.A.R." Thanks to all who participated!!



Family Advent Celebration

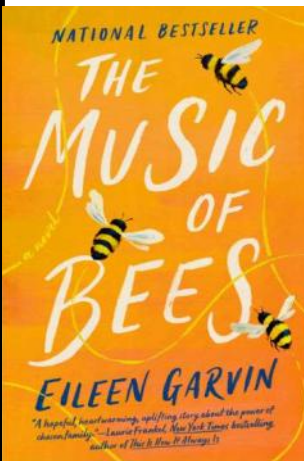
On December 7 at 4:00p.m., members of Zion are invited to an Advent Celebration here at Zion. We will start in the sanctuary with a short concert by the Clintones. After the Clintones are done singing we will have a congregational sing along of Christmas carols.

A pot luck dinner will follow in the dining hall. Please join us for a fun evening of music and fellowship.

ZION BOOK CLUB

*Zion Book Club meets in our church library the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our next being Wednesday, November 19th @ 10:00 right after Prayer/Bible Study. We will be discussing *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin.*

The Music of Bees by Eileen Garvin is a heartwarming and reflective novel that explores themes of loss, healing, and the importance of community. The story centers around Alice, a woman in her 40s who is grappling with the aftermath of a tragic accident that left her emotionally scarred. She decides to take a new direction in her life by purchasing a small farm in the Pacific Northwest and starting a beekeeping business.



As Alice tends to her bees, she forms unexpected connections with two other individuals, both of whom are also facing their own personal struggles: Jake, a young man recovering from a traumatic past, and his neighbor, a troubled teenager named Harry. The novel's title reflects the idea that nature, in this case, the music of bees buzzing, can provide solace and help individuals find peace and understanding.

Through the act of caring for the bees, Alice begins to heal, learning that life's rhythms can be unpredictable, but also full of unexpected beauty.

The Music of Bees touches on the importance of resilience, personal growth, and the way that small acts of kindness can change lives.

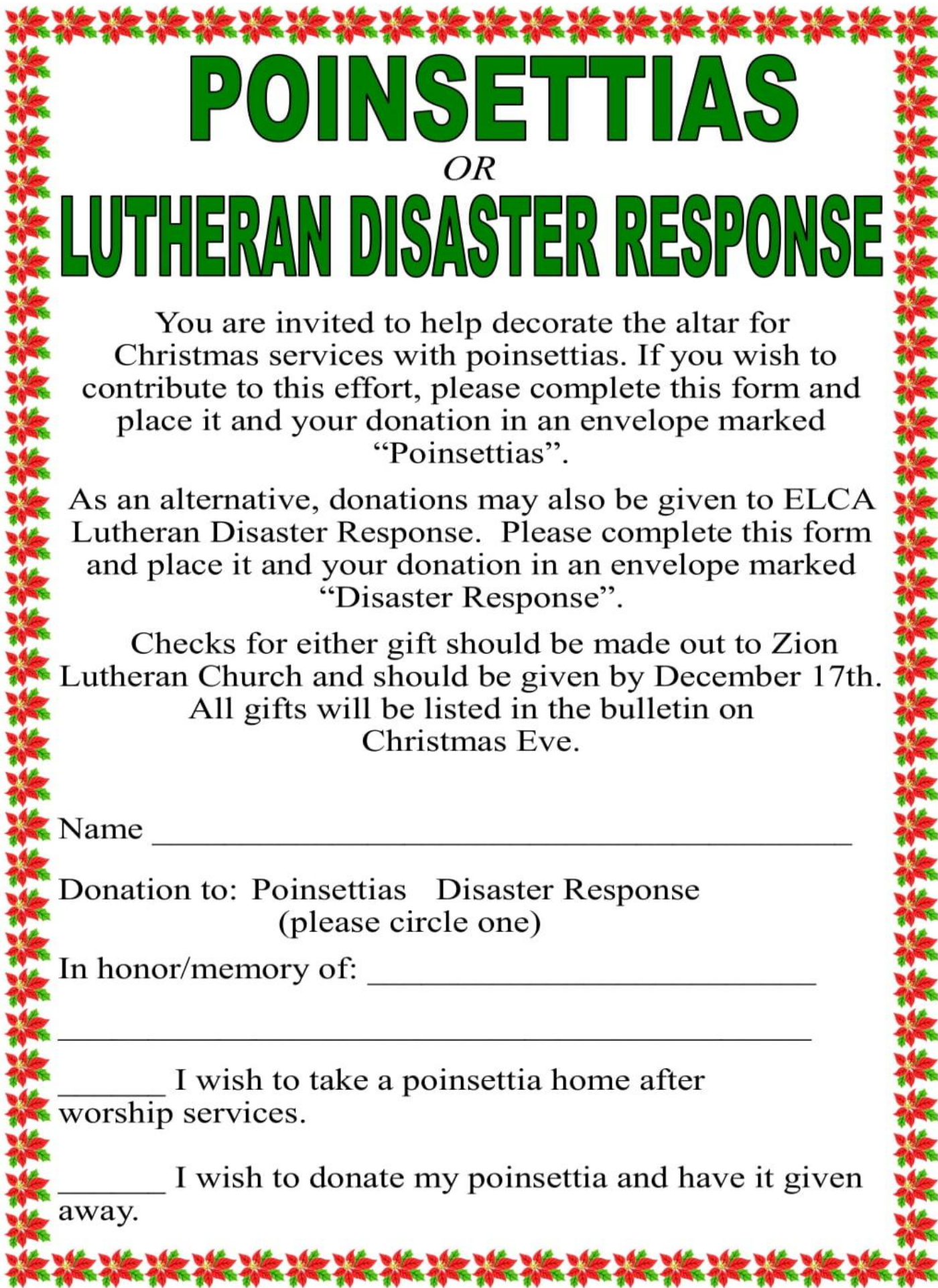
It's a gentle, uplifting story about the connections we form with others, nature, and ourselves.

The books are on the cart in the library, we are looking for more members to join us! Just stop in, check out a book. See you November 19th!

THANK YOU FROM LOIS JELLINGS

Thank you to everyone who came to or sent a message to make my birthday such a happy and wonderful event. I have been so blessed all of my 100 years with my parents, my wonderful man and our four children, my church families, and now Zion of Clinton. A special thanks to Barb and Linda for planning and serving it all.

Thank you,
Lois Jellings



POINSETTIAS

OR

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

You are invited to help decorate the altar for Christmas services with poinsettias. If you wish to contribute to this effort, please complete this form and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "Poinsettias".

As an alternative, donations may also be given to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response. Please complete this form and place it and your donation in an envelope marked "Disaster Response".

Checks for either gift should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church and should be given by December 17th. All gifts will be listed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve.

Name _____

Donation to: Poinsettias Disaster Response
(please circle one)

In honor/memory of: _____

_____ I wish to take a poinsettia home after worship services.

_____ I wish to donate my poinsettia and have it given away.

JOIN US!



You're invited to our

SILENT AND VIRTUAL

Auction

**Virtual Auction
December 5-6
Zion Facebook Page**

**Silent Auction and Brunch
December 7
10:00 a.m.
Zion Lutheran Church**

**Proceeds go to Informational
Referral and Assistance**

DON'T FORGET YOUR UNDERWEAR!!!!!!



Again this year, the Social Ministry Committee is collecting donations of socks and underwear that will be distributed to area children through the Holiday Network.

You may drop off your donations of socks or underwear in the collection boxes in the Narthex or the Gathering Space. Shop for any age child, boy or girl.

*Not up to shopping this year???
Make a cash donation and we will shop for you.*

Thank you for your gifts!

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

The end of the year is fast approaching. Before the year ends, Zion needs to prepare their budget for 2026.

The budget is prepared based on the donation pledges made by the congregation. Which means YOU play a very important part in preparing the coming year's budget.

You will be receiving a pledge packet in the mail. This packet will include a letter from Pastor Barb, a plan for giving card, and a return envelope.

The stewardship response weekend will be **November 15th and 16th**. This is a time when we all can return our plan for giving cards together. If you are unable to attend services the weekend of November 15th & 16th, you may also turn the card into the offering plate on another weekend, mail the card in, or drop it off to Zion's office. Please help Zion plan and prepare for 2026 by completing the Plan for Giving card and returning it to Zion before December 1st.

Annual Reports

As year end approaches, it is time for committees to think about their annual reports. The year Amanda is asking that, if your report **does not** require end of year financial information, you have it in to her by Wednesday, December 31st.

If your report does require end of year financials, please have your report turned in by Friday, January 9th.

It is important that the reports be turned in on time so that they may be compiled into the Zion's annual report and be distributed prior to the Annual Meeting.

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – August 12, 2025

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Barb informed the Council that she will be joining Pastor Holmer on Wednesday evenings for Confirmation instruction.

Membership Update: Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for August.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Deb Vath, reported that giving is only at 88% of the budget. Deb also reviewed line items for Expense costs against Budget. Zion's current income vs expenses is (-\$36,669). Marsha Smith moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Linda Dutchess seconded the motion. All ayes.

Old Business:

Call Committee Report: There was no update for the September meeting.

Interim Planning: Pastor Barb informed the Council that this is going well.

"Caring for Our Community" Support: It was reported to the Council by Deb Willwerth that there has been a great response in the request for volunteers. Additional information will be shared with the Congregation about this ministry.

Music Leader for Faith Foundations: President Kristi Montgomery informed the Council that we are still in need of a Music Leader for Faith Foundations. It was recommended that the job description include the time commitment needed each Wednesday. This time commitment is approximately 15 minutes per week.

New Business:

Nominating Committee: Kristi Montgomery brought to the Council the need to form a Nominating Committee in September. She can nominate 3 people to be on the committee besides herself.

Stewardship Committee: Linda Dutchess shared with the Council the status of and the path forward for the committee.

Pork and Sauerkraut Supper: Melissa Werner reported to the Council that the number of tickets sold to date have not been as many as expected at this time. However, ticket sales historically increase when the date of the supper gets closer. Melissa also shared with the Council that more volunteers are needed.

Confirmation TV and Stand: A donation was made to Zion of a Television and Stand that was requested for use in Confirmation instruction.

FINANCIAL CORNER

September 2025 at a glance

General Operating	September	Year To Date
Income +	\$29,796.78	\$243,131.56
Expense -	\$29,019.31	\$279,024.07
Difference =	\$777.47	-\$35,892.51

September In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
September 6 & 7	43	70	113
September 13 & 14	38	83	121
September 20 & 21	47	81	128
September 27 & 28	48	101	149
Average	44	84	128

VIRTUAL AUCTION, SILENT AUCTION & BRUNCH

Social Ministry Committee hopes you are "Saving the Weekend" of Dec 5 - 7 for our Holiday Virtual Auction, Silent Auction & Brunch. This is our FAVORITE event of the year with all proceeds going to IRAS!!! Would you like to help?

Perhaps you would be willing to

- ♥ Help with setting up?
- ♥ Serve or kitchen help at the brunch?
- ♥ Donate a new item for auction, or create a basket for auction? (Sorry, no used items)
- ♥ Bake something for auction?
- ♥ Provide fruit or an egg casserole for the brunch?
- ♥ Be on the look-out for the Virtual Auction on FaceBook?
- ♥ Join us for Brunch on Sunday morning and check out the Silent Auction?

If you'd like to get involved with this event, please contact Deb Vath (563) 243-5333 or djvath@mchsi.com ~ Thank you!!!

NOVEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 5:30 PM: Worship
2 9:00 AM: Worship	3 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	4 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	5 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith Foundations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	6	7	8 5:30 PM: Worship
9 9:00 AM: Worship	10 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	11 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	12 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith Foundations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15 5:30 PM: Worship
16 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Birthday Fellowship	17 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	18 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 5:00 PM: Childcare Board Meeting	19 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 5:15 PM: Faith Foundations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22 5:30 PM: Worship
23 9:00 AM: Worship	24 9:00 AM: Quilters 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	25	26 9:00 AM: NO Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: NO Faith Foundations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: NO Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: NO Choir Rehearsal	27 Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 5:30 PM: Worship
30 9:00 AM: Worship						

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ZION'S STAFF

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pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
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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.