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

Vol. 96 No. 11

THE COURIER

November 2026

A Message from Pastor Barb

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

Have you ever heard the story behind the hymn “When Peace Like a River” (ELW 785)? I am humbled whenever we sing it.

The author, Horatio Spafford, was a lawyer and businessman in Chicago. The great Chicago Fire of 1871 wiped out most of his fortune as it consumed many of his investment properties. That same year, scarlet fever took the life of his son. Then,in 1873, Spafford planned a trip to Europe with his wife and four daughters on a French ocean liner. Detained by some last minute business, he sent his family off on the ship. A collision with a British iron clipper sank that ship. His wife alone survived, floating on debris. As he sailed to join her in Europe, the ship's captain called him to the bridge and pointed out the approximate place of the disaster. Spafford returned to the quiet of his cabin and wrote these words:
“When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, / When sorrows like sea billows roll; / Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, / It is well, it is well with my soul.”

The holidays are coming on fast. Some of us rejoice at the prospect, some fear the emptiness they bring, and some fret due to financial concerns.

It is easy to declare “It is well with my soul” when “peace like a river attendeth" our ways. It is also easy to forget to be gentle and to listen to those who struggle.

But the true test of our faith comes in those painful times. As we enter Thanksgiving and Advent and ultimately Christmas, does our own “It is well with my soul” lift our hearts in praise of our Lord? Can we find peace no matter how the “sea billows roll?”

As Paul writes: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8: 37-39)

Whether in calm or troubled places, may we all give thanks that through Jesus Christ it is indeed well with our souls.

Blessings
Pr. Barb

Faith FUNdations

Faith FUNdations children and staff had a wonderful first month! In total we had 124 children attend during the month of September, that makes for a lot of learning, activities and FUN! We served 264 meals during September, so you know how busy our Kitchen Team has been. During September, we focused on the Bible Story of The First Sin using our SPARK Bible. The children hear the same story for the month with the activity changing weekly; drama, art, cooking and science.

Each week, during our opening the children are learning about PRAYING, what is prayer, how do you pray and what can be included in our prayers.

Wondering about **Confirmation**? Well, that group also enjoyed a busy month! Currently there are 19 students that gather together on Wednesdays for a time of learning and having fun together. In total, 59 youth attended during the month of September. New this year, Confirmation is partnering with St. Paul, bringing youth in Grades 6, 7, and 8 together. Pastors Barbara and Tamara along with Aubree Tanzillo lead each session.

Faith FUNdations & Confirmation SAVE the DATES

Wednesday, December 9

Faith FUNdations children will present their Christmas Program in the sanctuary. We are hoping that the congregation turns out to enjoy the program and fellowship with the children and their families following the program. More information is coming soon!

Wednesday, December 16

Faith FUNdations children and **Confirmation** youth along with members of the congregation will go Christmas Caroling to our Zion members in care facilities and at home. This has been such a meaningful event...please plan to join us! Cookies and cocoa following.





Zion Child Care & Preschool

We spent September getting to know our new students and everyone learning a new routine with a new classroom and teachers. The kids have been doing great!

Our 4's took a field trip to the Arboretum for a nature walk. They even got to visit the newly remodeled building and of course the troll named Marvin. We had beautiful and dry day after all of that rain we had! They also saw lots of bunnies, squirrels, etc.

We are looking forward to fire safety month and our visit to the fire station. It is one of the kids' favorite field trips of the year. It's extra exciting when the fire people go down the pole.

We will also hold our Halloween parties in childcare and preschool along with hosting our 3rd annual trunk or treat!!

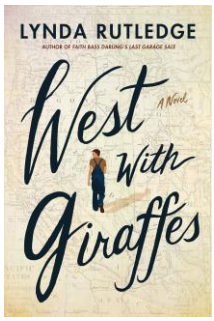
Kelly Bork, Director







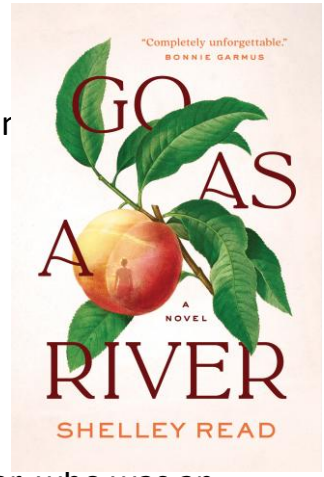
Book Club News



SPOTLIGHT BOOK

This month's favorite comes from a devoted Zion reader, a historical fiction novel **West with Giraffes** written by Lynda Rutledge. It's a favorite with many of us. It is set in 1938 and follows a young man on an unforgettable cross-country journey transporting two giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Along the way he discovers friendship, love, courage, and the importance of following his dreams. Check it out!

BOOK CLUB NEWS



Pick up our Book Club book from the cart by the whiteboard: **Go As a River**, written by Shelley Read and join us on November 18th at 9:00 for a discussion. It's a beautifully written historical fiction novel set in Colorado during the 1940s and beyond. It is about a young woman growing up who faces love, heartbreak, and difficult choices. Through loss and hardship, she discovers her inner strength and learns to embrace hope, forgiveness, and new beginnings.

DONATED BOOK

Excerpts Of Faith copyright July 1967 written by the wife of George W Krueger. who was an inspirational Minister of the American Lutheran Church. It includes a few of his sermons and prayers delivered during his ministry. It encourages readers to trust God, find strength through prayer, and embrace His love and guidance in everyday life. donated by Jeanette Petersen. Thank you Jeanette!

You too can donate a book that you'd like to share with the congregation. I found this one in my mail slot.

Till next time! Denise Forney



Jane Teney, Lorene Snyder, & Pastor Barb tying a fleece blanket

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!



Volunteers painting at the Discovery Center

God's work. Our hands.



Volunteers preparing macaroni and cheese meals to be given to food pantries.

PRAYER PARTNER OPPORTUNITY

A while back, Pastor Julie facilitated a new ministry at Zion which partnered a Zion member with the ***Faith FUNdation*** children and **Confirmation** youth. This PRAYER PARTNER bond proved to be a very powerful and rewarding experience for these partnerships.

From the perspective of the adult, one Prayer Partner said, *"It has been so fun watching Evan grow and knowing that I remember him in prayer daily."* Another adult said, *"Prayer Partners, that's what a church FAMILY is all about!"*

A ***Faith FUNdations*** child said this about his Prayer Partner, *"I get excited when I get mail from Miss Cynthia, my Prayer Partner. I like when I see her at church. I feel really special because I know she prays for me to be happy and healthy. I wonder if she knows that I pray for her too!"*

A **Confirmation Student** said, *"My first Prayer Partner was very special to me. We shared the love of baseball. Linda and I became close and I loved getting cards and letters from her. When she passed away, Linda's granddaughter Alyssa chose to step in as my new prayer partner. I have enjoyed getting to have relationships with both Linda and Alyssa and getting to know them. It's special knowing we are praying for each other."*

We would like to conduct a "check-in" with the adult partner to learn if you would like to continue with your initial partner and/or be paired with a new/additional partner.

IF YOU INITIALLY had a Prayer Partner, you will be receiving information very soon via email and/or postal service mail. If you have questions, please reach out to Barb Rhoades at 563-559-6611.

MAYBE this will be the first time you are learning about the **Prayer Partner Ministry** at Zion and would like to learn more….please reach out to Barb. We have several children/youth that are new to our Wednesday night programs and are eager to be paired with a Prayer Partner.

God's Work Our Hands

51 friends from Zion, St. Paul and Faith (Andover) enjoyed breakfast pizza and then joined hands to do "God's Work" on September 27. It was truly a beautiful day! 2,568 Mac n Cheese meals were assembled and shared with Food Pantries in Preston, Sabula, Fulton, Camanche and Clinton. Display walls were painted at the Felix Adler Discovery Center. Plant beds were cleaned up at the Bickelhaupt Arboretum. Quilts were tied to be sent to 16 countries through Lutheran World Relief. A fleece blanket was tied and delivered to LSI in Clinton. What an amazing day!!! Thanks to all the hands that did all this work!!!



(Above) Quilters

(Below) Assemblng Mac & Cheese meals



(Above) A volunteer painting at the Discovery Center





The Arboretum crew visiting with Marvin.





(above) God's Work. Our Hands. Volunteers.

(left) The macaroni and cheese packing team with all the boxes that were packed.

Prayer Shawls & Prayer Squares

During worship services on October 10 & 11, 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: Pastor Barb, LeAnne Larsen, Patti Lauritzen, Selma Schilling, 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.







Lutheran World Relief Donations

On October 10th & 11th Zion's women's groups displayed their offerings to Lutheran World Relief. The women put together 86 School kits, 58 quilts, 36 Health kits, and 13 Baby Care kits that were packaged up last Monday to begin the first leg of the journey to their final destinations.

In addition to the quilts that were sent to Lutheran World Relief, some quilts were held back to benefit those locally. Four quilts were set aside for Information, Referral, and Assistance Services (IRAS), three will be featured in Zion's Silent Auction to benefit IRAS, and one is being given to Lutheran Services in Iowa. What a great way to care for, share with, and serve our community and others around the world.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST



Everyone is welcome to come to Zion's **Pancake Breakfast** on Sunday, **November 1** after the morning service in the dining room. A delicious meal of pancakes, eggs, sausage, applesauce, orange juice, and coffee will be served by Zion's Fellowship committee! We look forward to seeing you on NOVEMBER 1!

You are invited to join Bishop Current for one or more of the *Peace Be with You Sunday Gatherings* this November!

Each gathering will take place from 2:00–4:00 PM and include worship, a presentation, conversation, and a "peace" of pie. You'll learn how mission support makes this work possible and how congregations and ministries are faithfully stewarding their time, talents, gifts, and treasure to serve others.

All are welcome, whether you are new to church, a longtime churchgoer, a pastor, deacon, SAM, or congregational leader. Come on your own or invite a friend along to any or all of the gatherings listed below!



Locations

November 1: St. John Lutheran Church, Ely
November 8: Resurrection Lutheran Church, Ankeny
November 15: First Lutheran Church, Centerville
November 22: Calvary Lutheran Church, Sabula

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JOIN US!

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR

SILENT & VIRTUAL AUCTION

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

VIRTUAL AUCTION
DECEMBER 4-5

AUCTION LINK CAN BE FOUND ON
ZION WEBSITE OR ZION FACEBOOK

SILENT AUCTION AND BRUNCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
10:00 A.M.
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion Lutheran Church · Clinton, Iowa
Care · Share · Serve

Proceeds go to Informational Referral and Assistance

VIRTUAL AUCTION, SILENT AUCTION & BRUNCH

Social Ministry Committee hopes you are "Saving the Weekend" of Dec 4 - 6 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 on-line Virtual Auction (you won't need Facebook this year)
- ♥ 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!!!



Volunteers pulling weeds at the arboretum

COUNCIL NEWS

Congregation Council Minutes Summary – October 13, 2026
(The full minutes will be posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Barb distributed information for ELCA's June 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This gathering will be for youth and their adult leaders for those in grades 9 – 11. Zion will be coordinating this event along with Andover and St. Paul Lutheran churches.

Membership Update: In September, there were 4 baptisms and 1 death to report. The newly baptized at Zion include Landan Yaddof-Ketelsen, Cooper Mallinger, Nina May, and Kie Yaddof.

Old Business:

- **Caring for Our Community:** Deb Willwerth noted that their committee members visited 17 members and reported one death.
- **Technology Committee:** Kristy Montgomery reported that the church received a donated computer and it was set up to use. Pastor Barb noted that they are also reviewing the recording camera placement.
- **Mission Endowment Fund Committee:** Deb Vath shared that this group met on September 29 and will continue to organize their work.
- **Organist Search Committee:** Mike Fee notified the group he has been in contact with an organist from Geneseo who desires part-time church work. The council encouraged him to invite this person to visit Zion.
- **Building and Grounds:** Dennis Andersen gave an update on the window damage at the church. Their committee received similar bids from 2 local glass repair businesses. They recommend accepting the bid from Hartz Glass because they have provided services previously and the church has been satisfied with the work. He noted that the group has secured a lift for the installation, which will save on the expense. He also noted that the childcare center informed him that they have a broken heat exchanger. A new unit has been ordered from Air Control.
- **Pork and Sauerkraut Supper:** Deb Willwerth provided the council with a handout of this committee's final report. The group felt that having the dinner on Sunday resulted in positive comments concerning that change and plan to do the same in 2027. The profit from this year's event was $3846.97. The members plan to use the money to purchase much-needed new roasters and food service pans. They also would like Building and Grounds to get estimates for a kitchen sound system for those preparing meals to hear the church services. After this is completed, the committee members plan to donate to this project.
- **Nominating Committee:** Kristy Montgomery reported that she is seeking more people to work with her on this committee.

FINANCIAL CORNER

September 2026 at a glance

General Operating	September	Year to Date
Income	$30,948.33	$228,234.75
Expense	$19,165.11	$216,510.00
Difference	$11,783.22	$11,724.75

September In-Person Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
September 5 & 6	39	80	**119**
September 12 & 13	39	72	**111**
September 19 & 20	52	80	**132**
September 26 & 27	40	76	**116**
Average	**43**	**77**	**120**



Tie blanket that was completed by volunteers

NOVEMBER 2026

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

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Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

Online Directory
www.instantchurchdirectory.com

OFFICE HOURS

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