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

THE COURIER

Vol. 96 No. 10

October 2026

A Message from Pastor Barb

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

Have you noticed how challenging it can be to stay positive when the sun doesn't shine and all it does is rain? I was beginning to think we were actually going to need an arc.

Did you know that the part of the church where we sit for worship is called the nave? It comes from the latin word "navis" meaning ship. If you look up you will notice that the ceiling of the sanctuary looks like the upside down hull of a ship. (John and I were talking about this one morning.)

Thus, in the nave, in the place of worship, we gather to get out of the downpours of life. Ideally, if all is working well within the church, it is a safe place. Sometimes, it doesn't feel that way. Ever wonder what Noah did with all that manure? (I'll leave you to think about that on your own.)

It is more than just the weather that brings gloom and doom however. This season of election ads is no help. I think they grow nastier and darker every year. While Bruce and I mute them, the pictures they show continue to shower us with accusations, anger, and probably lies. Neither side of the proverbial aisle is exempt.

I would like to tell you that the nave awaits to hold you in peace this season. The trouble is that all that negativity stains our hearts, minds and souls whether we like it or not. And we bring it into the nave.

Paul's challenge seems so far out of reach yet it carries with it an urgency that we can't ignore. May his words become an umbrella in the storm.

[8] *Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.* Philippians 4 (NIV)

Come to the nave and find peace.
Pr Barb

ZION CHILDCARE PRESCHOOL
TRUNK OR TREAT
OCTOBER 22, 2026
6-7 PM



Zion staff and church members are invited to take part in our 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat on Thursday, October 22nd from 6-7 pm. Set up time will be 5:30-6 pm. We will block off the childcare/ preschool parking lot for participants. Please consider decorating your car and passing out treats to all of the families that go through. Last year, we had about 150 kids come through and 17 decorated vehicles.

It would be great if we could get more vehicles this year! Some vehicles were decorated pretty fancy and some just had a couple of decorations. Anything is welcome!! Feel free to pass out candy and non-candy items!

We will invite all the children and families at the center, church, and Faith Fundations! All are welcome!

Zion Childcare & Preschool

We had a great summer despite the long stretches of heat and rain!

We unfortunately had to cancel a few field trips due to weather. We always tried to make the best of it and do other fun activities instead.

It's so hard to believe we are once again starting a new school year. Our 4 year-old preschool teachers started back on August 14th. We had our back to school night on August 25th and our 1st day of school was August 26th.

Our 3 year-old preschool teachers started back on August 26th. We met our kiddos at open house on September 3rd. Their first day of school was on September 8th.

Our year is off to a great start! Everyone is getting used to a new routine and is settling in nicely!!

Kelly Bork, Director



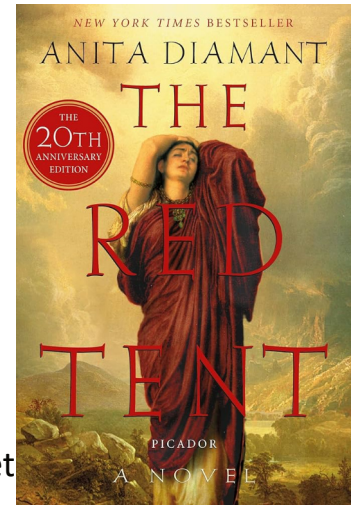






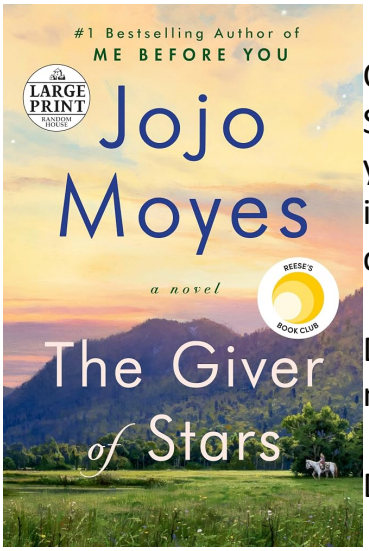
Library News

Happy October! Great time to check out a book from our Library and snuggle in with a good read. We have so many wonderful books in our library that shouldn't go unnoticed. Here, I am highlighting favorites. If you have a favorite from our library, shoot me a text and I'll share one here. text me at 563-212-1353



This month's SPOTLIGHT book, suggested by a Zion member, is THE RED TENT by Anita Diamant. It's about Dinah from the book of Genesis. Told in Dinah's voice, this novel reveals the traditions and turmoils of ancient womanhood -the world of the red tent. She is the daughter of Jacob and Leah. We follow Dinah through her childhood as she describes the close bonds between mothers, daughters, sisters and wives as well as the customs, hardships, and joys of women living in ancient times. Check it out! Literally.

We have a self checkout system in our library as Joyce Ollie had set up, and I have not changed. Thank you Joyce for your years of service to our Zion library! You are missed.



Our book club meets at 9:00 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. October 21 we will be sharing our thoughts on the book, The Giver of Stars written by Jojo Moyes. First published in 2019, and perhaps you've already read it as Moyes is a popular author, but it's always interesting how everyone gathers new thoughts on a shared discussion. Pick up a copy from the cart and join us!

Donate your books (the good ones) by leaving them with Amanda or me, thanks!

Denise Forney

PUT GOOD INTO THE WORLD

BLOOD DRIVE

ImpactLife

Zion Lutheran Church

Monday, October 12th

3:00pm to 6:00pm

The Gathering Space

To sign up, scan the QR code, contact Deb Vath at djvath@mchsi.com or visit us online @ www.bloodcenter.org - Group # 2827

Last date to donate elsewhere: 8/17/2026

Helping Feed the Food Insecure

Our "Noisy Offering" ministry has successfully supported ELCA World Hunger and local food pantries thanks to your generosity.

You also have another opportunity to support our community using the Food Pantry envelope included in our offering envelopes. Think of this as a "Quiet Offering" to help meet the needs of our neighbors and friends.

Zion has always been a generous community. Please consider using the Food Pantry envelope as an additional way to share our blessings. The need is great!



Memorial Gifts to Zion's Ministries

One of the ways we can fondly remember our loved ones is to designate gifts in their memory to Zion Lutheran Church. These memorial gifts are used to further the desired ministries of the donor and the family of the memorialized individual - the ministry of Zion as a whole (within the congregation and/or through the ELCA) or to a particular designated aspect of our ministry.

Between 6/21/2026 and 9/20/2026, the following individuals have had memorial gifts given in their memory and directed to and through Zion Lutheran Church.

♥	Linda Schoening	Faith FUNdations & Children's Bibles
♥	Bev Havens	Greatest Needs
♥	Todd Leslie	Faith FUNdations
♥	Myrna Gifford	Greatest Needs
♥	Pam Hammond	Greatest Needs
♥	Joyce McCabe	Library & Greatest Needs
♥	Linda Gruhn	Sack Lunch Monday & Greatest Needs

Thank you for remembering the ministries of Zion as your loved ones are remembered.

Faith FUNdations

Faith FUNdations kicked off a new program year with Rally Night on September 9. The night was filled with fun games, face painting and balloon animals. The Confirmation students facilitated the games for the school age children to enjoy. The entire parking lot was filled with bubbles floating, balls bouncing, chalk drawings and water relays. We had soooooo much FUN!.

Our September Bible story is The First Sin; the children will be learning through the words of the book of Genesis. In our opening, we will also be focusing on prayer....how to pray, what to pray for and encouraging those daily conversations with God.

Our weekly offering will be shared with Sleep In Heavenly Peace, a local ministry that builds beds for children in Clinton County. Thank you to Tom and Deb Willwerth for "building a bed" for our weekly offering to be collected.

We thank the congregation for their continued support through prayer and joining in our Wednesday night FUN!























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COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – August 11, 2026

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

Pastor's Report: Pastor Barb noted that she will be on vacation from August 30-September 14. Pastor Holmer will fill in during that time. She is working on the curriculum for the confirmation classes, collaborating with Pastor Tamara at St. Paul's Lutheran. She is also enrolling young people for the first communion class.

Membership Update: There was one additional member and one death in July, leading to a total 566 baptized and 458 confirmed members at Zion.

Old Business:

Call Committee: Pastor Barb shared that there is a pastoral candidate scheduled to do a Zoom interview for the position. The person is from California and will interview at the end of August.

Caring for Our Community: Deb Willwerth reported that their group served 19 people in July.

Technology Committee: Erin Montgomery reported that she and Bruce Hayden are testing the new recording equipment, which is being installed in the sanctuary.

New Business: Pastor Barb reported that vandalism has occurred at the church. Several windows have sustained gunshot damage, and the police are reviewing the security tapes. Hertz glass has been contacted to provide a quote for repairs.

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.

FINANCIAL CORNER

August 2026 at a glance

General Operating	August	Year To Date
Income +	$21,627.03	$197,286.42
Expense -	$21,105.97	$197,344.89
Difference =	$521.06	-$58.47

August In-Person Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
August 1 & 2	41	75	116
August 8 & 9	46	75	121
August 15 & 16	43	73	116
August 22 & 23	47	69	116
August 29 & 30	57	98	155
Average	**47**	**78**	**125**

Autumn, Fall and Harvest Prayer

Dear Lord of the Harvest,

Thank you for creating the beauty of the fall season as autumn spreads your glorious splendor across the earth.

We praise you for the joy of the harvest, new beginnings, cool air, and the graceful cascade of falling leaves.

We are blessed by your good earth that has faithfully yielded its bounty and begins to settle softly into your embrace of coming winter rest.

We bow in thankfulness for your provisions of another good harvest that is part of your promise to provide seedtime and harvest and to bless our fields and those who sow and those who reap.

Autumn reminds us to open our eyes to the spiritual fields we walk through every day. Jesus tells us, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send our laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37,38 NIV)

May we always be diligent harvesters in your fields of grace that many hearts may overflow with gratefulness for your provision, salvation and love. Amen.

By Karen Barber via prayerideas.org

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 **4:00 PM:** Wedding Rehearsal	3 **3:00 PM:** Roach/Evers Wedding **5:30 PM:** Worship
4 **9:00 AM:** Worship	5	6 **3:15 PM:** Centering Prayer **5:00 PM:** Executive Committee **5:50 PM:** All-Committee Night	7 **10:00 AM**: Bible Study **5:15 PM:** Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation **5:45 PM**: Choir Rehearsal **6:45 PM:** Bells Rehearsal	8	9	10 **5:30 PM:** Worship w/ Blessing of Prayer Shawls
11 **9:00 AM:** Worship w/ Blessing of Prayer Shawls	12 **3:00 - 6:30 PM:** Blood Drive	13 **3:15 PM:** Centering Prayer **5:30 PM:** Boy Scouts **6:00 PM:** Congregation Council	14 **10:00 AM:** Bible Study **5:15 PM:** Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation **5:45 PM:** Choir Rehearsal **6:45 PM:** Bells Rehearsal	15	16	17 **5:30 PM:** Worship
18 **9:00 AM:** Worship **10:00 AM:** Birthday Fellowship	19	20 **3:15 PM:** Centering Prayer **5:30 PM:** Boy Scouts	21 **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	22 **6:00 - 7:00 PM:** Trunk or Treat @ Childcare	23	24 **5:30 PM:** Worship
25 **9:00 AM:** Worship	26 **9:00 AM:** Quilters	27 **10:30 AM:** Courier Assembly **3:15 PM:** Centering Prayer **5:30 PM:** Boy Scouts	28 **10:00 AM:** Bible Study **5:15 PM:** Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation **5:45 PM:** Choir Rehearsal **6:45 PM:** Bells Rehearsal	29	30	31 **5:30 PM:** Worship

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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.

www.zionlutheranclinton.org