

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

Vol. 94 No. 10

THE

COURIER

September 2024



From the Desk of Pastor Julie Higgs

God is about to do a new thing!

Dear Partners in Ministry,

For some of us, Isaiah, chapter 43, offers favorite words of comfort:

But now thus says the LORD ...

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine. --*Isaiah 43:1*

After recounting promises God makes to the people of Israel, the scripture continues:

I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? --*Isaiah 43:19a*

This year's Synod Assembly theme was *Listen, God is Calling*, undergirded by these words: *God is about to do a new thing. Do you not perceive it?*

I often find it difficult to perceive what new things God might be about to do in my life. I'm also finding it difficult to perceive what new things God might be doing in and through Zion. Not because I can't imagine anything. But because I can imagine so very much—and you as a congregation are imagining so much. The Call Committee's work includes talking about what Zion's vision might be. At our Stewardship Committee meeting this month, we also talked about what a vision for Zion might look like.

Below is some of what we brainstormed—note, these are not proposals, but brainstorming—and only the brainstorming of one committee. We hope that all our groups and committees will brainstorm ideas and share them with the Call Committee!

Reaching out in the community of Clinton by

- Returning to Noisy Offerings as a way of teaching our children about the joy of giving (okay, that one is going to happen, beginning in October)!
- Expanding our already considerable work to help fight food insecurity—already thinking about expanding our just-started sandwich ministry and/or restarting Second Sunday suppers and/or increasing our participation with Hope in Action suppers
- Working with others in the community to help those facing housing insecurity
- Working with community groups to help expand mental health, addiction, or other medical services
- Reviving our scholarships to send middle school youth to Confirmation Camp
- Providing home repairs, wheelchair ramps, or other home improvements for low-income housing
- Developing after-school programs for middle-school and high-school youth
- Building relationships with our closest neighbors by bringing back the annual picnic in Clinton Park
- Finding new ways to involve high school youth in ministries of service through our congregation.
- Adding a part-time staff position for community organizing and/or visitation

Reaching beyond the community of Clinton by

- Going on multi-generational service trips to help people after various kinds of disasters
- Increasing our support for ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, or Lutheran World Relief

Obviously, the needs are great, and your history of reaching out to help meet those needs has been considerable. As childcare became an urgent need in Clinton, Zion reached out. As housing needs grew, Zion worked with others to support Park Towers for seniors and worked with Habitat for Humanity to provide homes for people with low incomes. As the need to make Zion handicapped-accessible and the possibilities for expanding the usefulness of our space became more apparent, Zion responded.

That work grew out of visions of where and how God was calling Zion to care, share, and serve. It grew out of generosity and selflessness. It grew out of Christian commitment to serve your neighbors.

To what is God calling Zion now? Do you perceive it? Can you imagine it?

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 Child Care & Preschool

Our new school year is off to a great start! All of the kiddos and staff are settling into a new routine. Happy to announce we only had a couple tears for our first days! That's awesome news with 110 preschool students!! We are so proud of them during this transition. Some of the children are having their first experience away from their families.

Our 4 year-olds will venture on their first field trip for a nature walk at the Erickson Center. Some of them will also get to experience a bus ride for the first time!

All of the preschool classes will take a turn to go to the fire station for the grand tour. We are able to walk to that one since it's so close! The kids' favorite part of the trip is seeing the fire people slide down the pole!!

Kelly Bork, Director



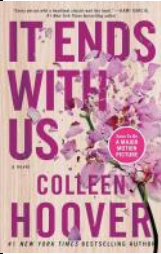
Faith Foundations

Faith FUNdations is back in full swing! October's lesson will be about Ruth. We have 40 children registered; this does not include our confirmation students. We have over 25 volunteers who are teaching, helping in the classroom, working in the kitchen, or watching the front door. If you have an interest in joining our volunteer team, please contact Linda Schoening or Barb Rhoades.

Once again it is time for Kids Against Hunger! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 2nd! This is a great opportunity for the kids to volunteer right here at the church. We encourage all parents to stay and assist where needed, so bring the whole family.

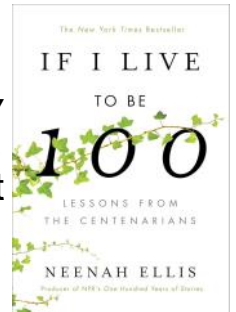


New Zion Library Books for October 2024



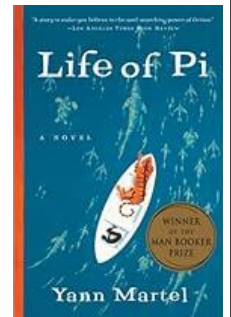
It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover, recently made into a movie, is a novel about spousal abuse. It is an exploration of how (mostly) wives stay with their abusive husbands, what effect that has on (mostly) daughters, and how to end generational abuse. It has a good ending!

We have two new books that will cover all of us, no matter our age: ***Fifty Things to Do When You Turn Fifty*** (written by 50 different people!) and ***If I Live to Be 100*** by Neenah Ellis, who interviewed centenarians. Short chapters, so you can pick and choose!



One to One Bible Reading by David Helm is a guide to how to read the Bible, and specifically how to read it with another person (or persons). Short, but very detailed!

Lastly, the classic ***Life of Pi*** by Yann Martel is a novel in which 16-year-old Pi finds himself in a lifeboat with a hyena, an orangutan, a wounded zebra, and a 450-lb. Bengal tiger. (Pi and his family and their zoo animals are emigrating from India to N. America when the cargo ship sinks.) Soon the tiger has dispatched all but Pi. Can Pi and the tiger find their way to land?



All of the above books have been donated by Denise Forney.

ZION'S BOOK CLUB



Zion's Book Club will meet in the church library on Wednesday, October 16th at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing ***The Last Thing He Told Me*** by Laura Dave, a mystery novel in which a girl and her stepmother learn that they need each other and a genuine trust grows between them. Come once in awhile or each time we meet!



God's work.
Our hands.

Sunday, October 13

SAVE the DATE!!!!

When members of Zion (Clinton), St. Paul (Clinton) and Faith Lutheran (Andover) will join Our Hands to do God's Work.

11:00 a.m. – Gather for Breakfast Pizza & Sending Prayer at Zion

11:30 a.m. – We're Off to do God's Work. Your choice:

- Clinton Riverfront Clean Up
- Tying quilts for the Lutheran World Relief in Zion's Dining Rm
- Arboretum Clean Up
- Information, Referral & Assistance – Helping Organize

1:30 p.m. – Our day is done!

Sign up for your preferred Work Assignment in the Narthex

Call Committee Survey

The Call Committee needs your input in filling out the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Each member should fill out their own, individual survey, every voice matters! There are two sides to this survey. They are very similar in their wording, but **please fill out both sides**.

This is for the the Top Ministry Tasks portion of the MSP. There are 12 listed below, you will be choosing a **total of 10**.

Put a ☆ next to the **5** most critical tasks required of a pastor.

Put a ✓ next to the **5** tasks that would be seen as bonuses or helpful.

Remember, 5 ☆ AND 5 ✓

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
Task/Skill	☆ or ✓	☆ or ✓	☆ or ✓	☆ or ✓
Administration				
Pastoral Care and Visitation				
Youth and Family Ministry				
Building a Sense of Community				
Children's Ministry / Christian Education				
Preaching / Worship				
Spiritual Formation / Direction				
Financial Management				
Music / Worship / Arts				
Small Group				
Senior Ministry				
Participant in the Larger Church				

Continued on the next page.

This is for the Gifts for Ministry portion of the MSP. Pastors have many gifts to offer a congregation. We need to discover which gifts are most important to Zion. There are 12 listed below, you will be choosing a **total of 10**.

Put a ☆ next to the **5 most critical gifts** you want to see in Zion's next pastor.

Put a ✓ next to the **5 tasks** that would be helpful or just nice to have.

Remember, 5 ☆ AND 5 ✓

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
Gifts for Ministry	☆ or ✓	☆ or ✓	☆ or ✓	☆ or ✓
Help people develop their spiritual life.				
Be active in visitation of members and non-members.				
Be effective in working with children.				
Build a sense of community among the people with whom he or she works.				
Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry.				
Be an effective administrator.				
Be an effective communicator.				
Be an effective teacher to both children and adults.				
Be effective in working with youth.				
Be able to share leadership and work in a team.				
Have talents in the areas of music, arts, and writing.				
Provide care and nurture				

BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

Zion Lutheran Church

Monday, October 14th 3:00pm – 6:30pm

Fellowship Hall *(439 Third Ave S, Clinton)*

To book your appointment, scan the QR code below, contact Deb Vath at djvath@mchsi.com or 563-243-5333 or visit www.bloodcenter.org.

Appointments preferred.



SCAN ME!

Give & get choice of a gift card, a donation to area food banks or bonus points to the rewards store!



Please eat before donating and bring Photo ID.
Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 8/19/2024
Group Sponsor Code: 2827



ImpactLife

50 Years of Saving Lives

Sauerkraut Supper Thank You

The Pork & Sauerkraut Supper Committee would like to thank all the volunteers and attendees for their support this year. We served 490 meals this year!

We know this year was a different experience from previous years, and it was meant to be. We did have some hiccups this year, as we expected we would, but it was a great evening and a positive experience.

We thank those who took the time to provide feedback on their experience. We will consider the comments in our effort to make next year's dinner a success.





Thank you to Aubrey Schroeder and Linda Schoening for taking these wonderful pictures!

World Food Day: Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger



World Food Day: Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

Save the date! Join ELCA World Hunger for a celebration of World Food Day and the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. Tune in on **Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.** (Central time) to hear firsthand stories from partners at ELCA World Hunger projects, including Tapestry Farms in the Quad Cities! This special online event will be hosted by the Rev. Amy Current, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA. You'll see the impact of 50 years of ELCA World Hunger work and get excited and equipped to be part of the next 50 years! **Register online.** Go to www.elca.org/WH50

Picture Directory Reboot

After months of frustration with the company that was going to do our picture directory, we have decided to turn to **Instant Church Directory** for our next photo directory.

What are the compelling reasons to use Instant Church Directory?

- It is an online directory that can be updated in an instant by either the directory administrator or members themselves!
- Rather than having to schedule a particular time for your household's photo, we'll have a few members take pictures on their phones after church on some Saturdays and Sundays—October 26-27, November 2-3, and November 9-10.
- Or you can submit your own photo!
- There's an app you can put on your phone so you have instant access to the latest contact information and pictures of members. On the app and computer, updated information is available instantly.
- It's printable, so we can provide copies for members who can't or don't want to use their phone, tablet, or computer to access the directory.
- We can tie the directory to our online membership database, taking only minutes to upload, rather than needing to input each household individually.
- It will help us keep current with email addresses. This is because, for safety, if your email address is not listed in the directory, you cannot access the directory. If you have an old email address listed but now use a different one, then your email address must be updated before a member can access the directory.
- After the initial entries, photos, and email clean up - this directory only takes minutes each month to keep up-to-date. It's super easy to add new members, mark ones who have recently passed, and to delete the ones who have moved on.
- We can create groups of people - like, a page for staff, another for council, etc.
- Finally, you can avoid the pressure of a professional photographer posing you in uncomfortable positions.
- In fact, members can change their photo or update their information online. (You can only change your own information - no changing of anyone else's!)

Are there disadvantages?

- The photos are not professional, nor are packages of photos available for purchase.
- We likely won't have a spiral binding on the copies we print.

How, When and Where will we Start?

- For three upcoming weekends, Saturdays and Sundays—October 26-27, November 2-3, and November 9-10, Linda Dutchess will be available after church to take pictures.
- Watch for information on how to submit your own photos.
- E-mail or call Amanda if we have out-of-date contact information for you!

Change is Good!



Do you agree? Or does even that phrase, “change is good!” make you nervous? Beginning the weekend of October 12 and 13, we’re pulling out a bucket and asking you to bring your change to church. Part of teaching children how to be generous is making it fun! And so we’ll be inviting children to receive coins from congregation members to dump—loudly—into the bucket.

Throughout the coming months, we’ll talk with our children about giving to God—sharing some of what we have with those who are in need—and we’ll let them help us decide where to give the money we raise.

While many of us don’t routinely carry cash with us, this incentive may help us be intentional about buying some things with cash, get change, and help our children know the joy of giving to others.

Noisy Offering Returns! Change is Good!

And Speaking of Change ...

...Elsewhere in this *Courier* is a two-page survey from the Call Committee about what gifts and tasks are most important to you as Zion looks toward calling a new pastor. If you haven’t already filled a survey out, please tear that page out of the newsletter, complete both sides of the survey, and return it to Zion. And thank you to our Call Committee for their faithful and ongoing work toward helping us describe our congregation and ultimately call a new pastor.

Engaging with the Wider Church

Here are some opportunities to engage with other members and leaders in the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the churchwide offices of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America):

Evenings of Gratitude - with Bishop Current

We have two opportunities to join Bishop Current and others for a light dinner and an evening of fellowship, conversation, and gratitude for the ministry we share in our synod. These gatherings are for all members, not just pastors, deacons, or congregational leaders. **All are welcome.** You may choose to attend either

Sunday, Nov. 10, 4:30 PM 7:00 pm
at Christ the King Lutheran Church
in Iowa City

OR Sunday, Nov. 17, 4:30 PM 7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
in Pleasant Valley

Please e-mail or text Pastor Julie if you plan to attend either **Evening of Gratitude!**

Subscribe to the Synod Weekly E-Newsletter!

Go to www.seiasynod.org and click on “subscribe e-news.”

Check out this Video Message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton Civic Engagement and Loving-Kindness



[Watch on Youtube](#)

Go the ELCA website (www.elca.org) to read Bishop Eaton’s statements on current issues, ELCA social statements (both old and new), and find out the kind of work our church is doing in our country and around the world!

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – August 13, 2024
(The full minutes are posted on the bulletin board near the church office.)

Pastor's Report: Council reviewed Pastor Julie's monthly report which listed many of the activities she was involved in during the last month. Pastor Julie also shared with the Council that VBS was great! The activity of tossing water balloons at the Pastors was well received!

Membership Update: Pastor Julie shared the Statistical Report for July. The average attendance of In-Person worship for July was 128 per week. YTD, the total In-Person attendance is 4,443 and the average weekend worship attendance YTD is 143.

Treasurer's Report: Deb reported that in July our Giving was 88% of Budget expectations. Select Line Items were reviewed and the expenditures were explained by Deb. All accounts are in complete reconciliation. Mike Kremer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Dave Meade seconded the motion. All ayes.

Portico/Canopy Update: It was reported to the Council that bids are forthcoming for the striping of the parking lot. As of the August meeting there are still some bills outstanding. A question was raised as to whether we needed a height notification for the canopy. This will be reviewed.

Call Process: On July 28, 2024, by email voting, the Council selected Jeanne Crow as the Call Committee chair.

Audit Committee: Two members of the Congregation have indicated that they are interested in serving on an Audit committee. Deb Vath has been in contact with Michele Meade. Michele has volunteered to serve on the Audit Committee. Deb has asked that the names of the members that have expressed interest be sent to Michele.

Budget Process - 2025 Budget: Deb Vath will send a report to the committee chairs showing their YTD spending and past year spending for each committee. The committees will be asked to work on their budget requests in September and October. A discussion on the membership of the Stewardship committee was held. Pastor Julie and Dave Meade will discuss a path forward for the Stewardship appeal. Pastor shared some different ways that the Stewardship campaign could be presented. Forward in Faith pledges were discussed.

FINANCIAL CORNER

August 2024 at a glance

General Operating	August	Year To Date
Income +	\$19,658.71	\$228,709.31
Expense -	\$24,153.40	\$246,665.31
Difference =	-\$4,494.69	-\$17,956.00

August In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
August 3 & 4	52	80	132
August 10 & 11	54	75	129
August 17 & 18	55	95	150
August 24 & 25	50	107	157
Average	53	90	142

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 06/20/2024 and 09/24/2024, the following individuals have had memorial gifts given in their memory and directed to and through Zion Lutheran Church.

- ♥ Franklin Butt Greatest Needs
- ♥ Ruby Matthew Greatest Needs & Forward in Faith
- ♥ Bev Clausen Greatest Needs
- ♥ Paul Cromer Greatest Needs

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

OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	2 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/ Confirmation Kids Against Hunger 5:30PM: NO Bell Choir 6:30 PM: NO Adult Choir	3	4	5 5:30 PM: Worship
6 9:00 AM: Worship 10:30 AM: NO Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM: Elizabeth Circle	7	8 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	9 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/ Confirmation 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	10	11 3:00 PM: Open House for Deb & Jurgen Duhr	12 11:00 AM: Donagene Hawk Memorial Service 5:30 PM: Worship
13 9:00 AM: Worship 10:30 AM: NO Adult Confirmation 11:00 AM: God's Work, Our Hands	14 10:30 AM: Sack Lunch Monday 3:00 PM: Blood Drive	15 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	16 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/ Confirmation 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	17	18	19 5:30 PM: Worship
20 9:00 AM: Worship 10:30 AM: Adult Confirmation	21	22 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	23 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/ Confirmation 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	24	25	26 5:30 PM: Worship 6:30 PM: Directory Photos
27 9:00 AM: Worship with Confirmation 10:30 AM: Directory Photos 10:00 AM: Adult Confirmation	28 9:00 AM: Quilters 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly 6:00 PM: Girl Scouts	29 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	30 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNDations/ Confirmation 5:30PM: Bell Choir 6:30 PM: Adult Choir	31		

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
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