

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

Vol. 95 No. 10

**THE**

# COURIER

**October 2025**

Greetings Siblings in Christ!

I recently saw a graph depicting how each denomination tended to vote in recent elections. While I often question the validity of such surveys, I still had to look to see where the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America fell. You know the old saying, 'Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back.' I found it interesting that we fell right smack dab in the middle, 50/50.

I wonder what there is about our denomination that allows us to be so varied. Are we less passionate? Are our teachings less didactic? Are we the lukewarm church that the writer of Revelation warns against in Revelation 3:14-22?

None of these questions seem to fit the Zion Lutheran church I have come to know and love. Rather, we seem to have learned to live and work together, to even love each other, in spite of our differing opinions. And this is truly by the grace of God.

Somehow, we feed the hungry (packing lunches and collecting noisy offerings), reach out to young people (Faith FUNdations), work in the community (God's Work our Hands) and worship our Lord as one church family, without demanding we all agree on everything.

One of the things that drew me to the ELCA was this unique perspective of inclusivity. There is room for many viewpoints at the table of God. It makes for some rather interesting gatherings. Still, in the end, we love one another. This is the way of Jesus.

The psalmist writes in Psalm 133:

1 How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers (*and sisters*) live together in harmony!

2 For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil

that was poured over Aaron's head,

that ran down his beard

and onto the border of his robe.

3 Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion.

And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.

Harmony does not come from the same note being sung but different notes sung together.

And so, I am thankful for this survey, no matter how accurate it might or might not be. It reminds me why I love this church so much. Thank you, Zion Lutheran, for being who you are.

God's blessings!

Pr. Barb

# WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**Worship services are:**

<b>Saturdays</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>

**Video services are offered via Facebook** ([www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton](http://www.facebook.com/zionlutheranchurchclinton)) **and posted on Zion's website** ([www.zionlutheranclinton.org](http://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

October's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, October 19th, 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 October. 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

Our 2025/2026 school year has officially begun! It's always such a fun time to get to know our new families and welcome back our returning children! Such an exciting time! Everyone is getting used to new routines and schedules and all are adjusting very well!

Our preschool classes are getting excited for their first field trip of the year to the fire station. It's definitely a crowd favorite!

Our Trunk or Treat event will be held on Thursday, October 23 from 6:00-7:00 pm. Please come join the fun in our parking lot!

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 pre-school 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



# **Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> after the 9 a.m. worship service

**Everyone** is Welcome!

The breakfast menu will include: Pancakes, eggs, sausage, and applesauce.

Drinks will include: Orange juice, Milk, and Coffee.

The Zion Fellowship Committee would LOVE for you  
to join us for our Pancake Breakfast!

Please tear off and fill out the form below and drop it  
in the offering plates at the back of the sanctuary.  
or mail to Zion's office (439 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S, Clinton, IA 52732).

**Please keep the top portion as a reminder.**

Thank you! See you on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>!

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**Zion's Pancake Breakfast Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

After the 9 a.m. worship service

\* I/We will be attending Zion's Fellowship Pancake Breakfast:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_



# New Zion Library Books for October 2025

**My Life Story** Autobiography by Jeanette Gehrmann Petersen. Tells us the life of our very own Zion Lutheran Church member. Jeanette is a life-long Clinton, Iowa community volunteer and alumni leader. Read of her family life, local, and school activities. She has been honorably recognized for her service to the Clinton, Iowa area. Beautifully written! This book is located in the biography section of our library.

Donated by our former Pastor, Julie Higgs.

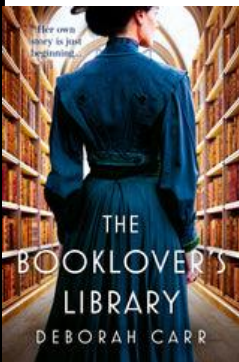
**The Bible for Children**, A child's version complete with pictures and maps from Genesis to Revelations. We learn of creation, God's promises and care for his people. Jesus comes to teach us, love us, forgive us, and bring us closer to God forever. The Bible reminds of the simple truths. God made us, God loves us, and God is always with us. the book is located in the reference section of the library, check it out!

To donate a book you think is worth sharing, see Denise Forney, Amanda in the office or simply put it in our library mailbox located by the library door.

## USING ZION'S LIBRARY

Our library is a "serve yourself" kind of library. Most of the books are novels, labeled with a #1. The other categories are listed on the wall by the checkout desk. Write your name and the date you check out the book on the card and place it with the other cards on the desk. Return the books to the box on the floor next to the desk. Simple, right? Happy reading!

## ZION'S BOOK CLUB



Zion's Book Club meets in our Church Library the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our next being **Wednesday, October 15. @ 10:00 AM** right after Prayer/bible study. We will be discussing **The Book Lover's Library** by Madiline Martin. It's a heart-warming historical fiction novel set in Nottingham, England, against the backdrop of early World War II. Published in 2024, it weaves a poignant story of love, loss, literature, and hope through the eyes of its resilient protagonist.

The books are on the cart in the library; we are currently looking for more to join us! No sign up necessary. Just pop in and get a book. **All are welcome!**

# Casting a vision for the church

Yehiel Curry to serve as the fifth presiding bishop of the ELCA

By John Potter  
July 31, 2025

When Yehiel Curry considers his vision for the future of the church, he sees an important distinction. “Part of the work is naming it,” he said, “but that next phase is embodying it.

“When we’re talking about casting a vision, I think people want to be part of a vision because they want to share in the process. But they typically will also share in the burdens as well. So part of my vision is [about] those things we’ve lifted up as a church that we said we need to do, we’re going to do, and find a way to bring more people to the table so that we might embody that work instead of it just being a written document.”

Curry, who was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as ELCA presiding bishop, knows something about embodying a vision and discerning a call.

Before he became a pastor, then a bishop, then the chair of the Conference of Bishops, and now presiding bishop-elect, he was a social worker, then a teacher, then in sales. “I went from being a social worker to a teacher in the same community where I was helping those families, and in both cases, what I learned is that passion is very important. And if you can align a person’s passion with a need, then it doesn’t feel like work sometimes.

“It wasn’t until I was in the church that I said, ‘I could do this for the rest of my life.’”

Curry wrestled with the passion he feels for his current ministry as he discerned his new call in the days leading up to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly. “I take my role [as bishop of] the Metropolitan Chicago Synod very seriously,” he said. “And I started the process of thinking about what the next six months would look like, even the next year. And some people discern differently. I didn’t have some voice saying to me, ‘Here’s what you ought to do.’ But last Friday, what started to happen was the calls of family, friends, and mentors—the nudging, the text messages, the emails—served as a form of discernment for me.”

“I only arrived at this place Friday or Saturday, where I felt like maybe this is something I should do,” he said of being considered for presiding bishop.

Now that Curry has been elected the fifth presiding bishop of the ELCA—and the first of African descent—how does he feel? “That reality hasn’t really set in,” he said. “Even at this moment, I’m feeling a certain kind of way in understanding the weight and the impact.

“I’m hopeful that, if presence matters, my being here does something for allowing others to consider, ‘Someone who looks like me, or is from my community, or speaks with an accent, or whose mother tongue isn’t English [could take on a similar role].’ Hopefully that’s what that means.”

## A return on investment

An immediate answer comes to mind for Curry when asked about what he believes should be among the ELCA’s top priorities. “I think there’s this unique opportunity around lay equipping and lay education,” he said. “The ethos and the structures of many of our

congregations are changing. In some cases, they've gone from full-time pastors to part-time pastors; we have leaders who are serving two- and three-point congregations.

"Our lay leaders are being asked to do more. And in many cases, they're saying, 'Yes, I want the education—as long as you're not trying to steer me and tell me I need to be a pastor or a deacon. Tell me how to be a better leader in my community, in my context.'"

Curry's passion for, and awareness of, equipping lay leaders stems from his own ministry beginnings.

He was a Chicago Public Schools teacher when he first visited Shekinah Chapel, then a synod-authorized worshipping community. "I didn't even realize it was Lutheran," he said. "I was invited by a friend." What drew him to Shekinah was Safe in My Brother's Arms (SIMBA), a mentoring program there sponsored by the ELCA. "I had these unique students," he said. "And I was interested in services for them. ... There was a worship service I stayed for. And I loved it."

Curry went home and told his wife, LaShonda, about the great experience he had had there, and they returned together the following weekend. "We came back and joined," he said. "And we didn't understand the organizations of the Lutheran church. We just saw a home, we saw a community."

Eventually, the community and the synod staff asked Curry to consider being a lay mission developer. He was unsure. "I knew I had this thing in my heart, but I didn't have the right vocabulary for it," he said. "I didn't know that I was actively discerning and that I was being called into this ministry."

After becoming a mission developer, Curry enrolled in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and received his ordination certification in 2009. In 2012, when Shekinah became an official ELCA congregation, it called Curry to be its pastor. He served in that role until he was elected bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod in 2019.

"This was a process I was honored to be involved in, because I didn't think many people knew who I was," he said. "I was working in a poverty ministry on the outskirts of Chicago. So it was an honor to have my name lifted up and to ultimately be elected bishop." In 2024, he was elected chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

Curry recalled his ministry trajectory and the initial hesitation he felt in accepting that first role when he addressed the 2025 Churchwide Assembly following his election.

"I'm what a return on your investment looks like," he told the assembly. "Perhaps I'm out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church's support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment."

**Curry will be installed on October 4 at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.**

Reprinted from the Fall edition of *Living Lutheran*

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# Faith Foundations

Wow! What an amazing turn out we had for Rally Wednesday in September. It was nice to see so many smiling faces. We had a great first month and are looking forward to learning about the Burning Bush in October.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> for Kids Against Hunger! Many hands make light work and we would love to have some extra adults to help with the younger children. Please join us after dinner in doing God's work and preparing meals for others.

Just a friendly reminder that all children need to be signed out by a parent or guardian at the end of the night. This is for the safety of all children, especially as we approach those earlier



daylight times. Faith FUNdations children are to be signed out upstairs in the auditorium and Confirmation students are to be signed out in the Gathering Space.





# 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 the computer in her office, that had not been working, was repaired by Bruce Hayden, Pastor's husband. This allowed the delay of the expense of a new computer at this time. However, this computer needs to be replaced in the near future due to age and performance issues. Pastor reminded the Council that we need pulpit supply help for the weekend of August 23rd and 24th. We will also need emergency coverage for August 21-24 as Pastor Holmer, Pastor Tamara and Pastor Barb will be gone during that time period.

**Membership Update:** Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for July. Total weekend attendance YTD is 4,379. The average weekend worship attendance YTD is 141. Congregational Membership as of month end July is 565 Baptized Members and 462 Confirmed Members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer, Deb Vath, reported that we hadn't budgeted for the Call Committee expenses. If necessary, Call Committee expenses will be included in the 2026 budget along with moving expenses. Child Care expenses were reviewed along with the Insurance costs for 2025, which have risen by 33%. We now have a negative balance of (\$37,082.49) for Income vs. Expenses. All Fund balances were also reviewed. Linda Dutchess made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Denise Forney seconded the motion. All ayes.

### Old Business:

**Call Committee Report:** President Kristi Montgomery will request a monthly update from the committee to be shared at each Council Meeting.

**Interim Planning:** The Council was again reminded that we need coverage for Worship services and any emergency needs that may come up. Emergency coverage August 21-24 and to look to pulpit supply help for the weekend Worship services August 23-24.

### New Business:

**Computer Replacement (Pastor's Office)** - Pastor Barb informed the Council that the computer in her office, that had not been working, was repaired by Bruce Hayden, Pastor's husband. This allowed the delay of the expense of a new computer at this time. However, this computer needs to be replaced in the near future due to age and performance issues.

**Music Leader for Faith Foundations** - A request came to the Council for a music leader for Faith Foundations. Compensation for such a position was discussed. After discussion, a motion was made by Marsha Smith and seconded by Linda Dutchess to approve the hiring of a music director for Faith FUNdations. All Ayes. The request for a music leader will be printed in the bulletin.

# FINANCIAL CORNER

## August 2025 at a glance

General Operating	August	Year To Date
Income +	\$25,321.16	\$213,334.78
Expense -	\$24,908.65	\$250,004.76
Difference =	\$412.51	-\$36,669.98

## August In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
August 2 & 3	44	58	102
August 9 & 10	44	56	100
August 16 & 17	56	82	138
August 23 & 24	40	86	126
August 30 & 31	33	89	122
Average	43	74	118

# BLOOD DRIVE

## Zion Lutheran Church

**Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**3:00pm - 6:00pm**

**Gathering Space**  
439 Third Ave S, Clinton



**To schedule an appointment, scan QR code,  
contact Deb Vath at [djvath@mchsi.com](mailto:djvath@mchsi.com) or  
call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401.**

Group Code: 2827

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 08/18/2025



**ImpactLife**

# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30 PM: Worship
<b>5</b> 9:00 AM: Worship	<b>6</b> 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	<b>8</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:30 PM: Worship
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM: Worship	<b>13</b> 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday 3:00 - 6:30 PM: Blood Drive	<b>14</b> 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30 PM: Worship
<b>19</b> 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Birthday Fellowship	<b>20</b> 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 5:00 PM: Childcare Board Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9:30 AM: First Circle Friends 6:00 PM: Trunk or Treat at Zion Childcare Preschool	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 PM: Worship
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM: Worship 10:15 AM: Pancake Breakfast	<b>27</b> 9:00 AM: Quilters 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	<b>28</b> 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

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## ZION'S STAFF

**Pastor Barbara Hayden, Interim Pastor**  
Phone: 563-242-7391  
[pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org)

◆  
**Kelly Bork, Director**  
Zion Child Care Preschool  
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[zioncc-ps@hotmail.com](mailto:zioncc-ps@hotmail.com)

**Amanda Deuermeyer, Office Administrator**  
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◆  
**Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician**  
[music@zionlutheranclinton.org](mailto:music@zionlutheranclinton.org)

◆  
**Patrick Hoffman, Custodian**

### OFFICE HOURS

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