

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

THE

COURIER

Vol. 96 No. 9

September 2026

A Message from Pastor Barb

Greetings Siblings in Christ,

I want to share a little bit about plans for confirmation this year. I am excited to be working together with St Paul Lutheran Church and Pastor Tamara Siburg. Confirmation will continue to meet here at Zion for meals and classes as we have in the past. Presently we have a small team working together to make this a wonderful year. If you would be interested in helping please let us know. We have a great group of young people.

The opening night for both Faith FUNdations and Confirmation will be September 9th. We will begin with a meal for all at 5:15 PM followed by an evening of games and camaraderie. While there will be no class for the confirmation students that evening, we ask that everyone come to help with the games. This has worked well in the past for the Confirmands and the Faith FUNdations leaders and students. It will be a fun evening in celebration of the beginning of a new year.

A letter has been mailed to families we have listed as having Confirmation age students (grades 6-8). If you did not receive one please call or email the office (officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org) to get a registration form. We will have some available on the evening of the 9th as well.

On the evening of September 16th, Pastor Tamara and I will try to set out our hopes and plans for the year. We hope it will be a doorway into our young people's participation in church. Here at Zion we will be asking our students to sign up to be acolytes and help as greeters. I am excited to have the youth involved in serving.

Thank you parents, grandparents, godparents and prayer partners for your active participation in our young people's spiritual growth. Speaking of prayer partners, we would like to continue this amazing opportunity for partnership this year. If you are a prayer partner and would like to take another young person under your wing let us know. If you don't know what a prayer partner is, ask Barb Rhodes or Pastor Barb. It is an exciting opportunity.

Blessings,
Pastor Barbara Hayden



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

Sunday, Sept 27 ~ 11:30 – 2:00

Join us on September 27th when Zion, St. Paul, Faith Lutheran (Andover) and Calvary (Sabula) join hands to do God's Work. Everyone is invited to gather at 11:30 at Zion for breakfast pizza (free-will offering) and a sending prayer. There are several different opportunities to do "God's Work" this year. Please sign up in the Narthex.

BICKELHAUPT ARBORETUM - Fall Clean Up

We're back at the Arboretum this year! Grab your gloves and your favorite hand clippers/pruners (optional) and help with fall clean-up of the Arboretum grounds.

"TAKE AWAY HUNGER"

Thrivent is funding 2500 meals through "Take Away Hunger" (a non-profit organization that helps package food for the hungry). We will be packaging mac n cheese meal packs to be distributed through our local Food Pantries.

YWCA EMPOWERMENT CENTER - 399 Supportive Housing Project

Help create welcoming, move-in-ready homes for incoming residents of the new "399 Housing" Supportive Housing building (399 6th Ave So, Clinton). Something for everyone: making beds, filling kitchen cupboards, light dusting or assembling furniture.

FELIX ADLER DISCOVERY CENTER

The Center is preparing a new Public Safety Exhibit. You can be a part of it with painting, assembling, or maybe helping build if you know how to swing a hammer! Plus all other exhibits in the center need to be cleaned. They will supply the buckets and rags!!

QUILTING - ZION DINING ROOM

We will be tying quilts from our churches for Lutheran World Relief and tying a fleece blanket to be donated to Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI).

<i>We will need MANY Hands to accomplish God's Work this year. PLEASE join us!</i>

Zion Child Care & Preschool

We had all sorts of fun this summer and kept the kiddos very busy!!

Child care visited the Discovery Center, Clinton Kiddie Pool, Riverfront Park & Clinton Park. We also enjoyed our playground with the chalk, bubbles, bikes, parachute, etc. We also had a few dress up days....wear red, white, & blue for the 4th and crazy outfit day.

Summer camp visited the Clinton Pool several times, Sawmill Museum, Putnam Museum, National River Museum in Dubuque, DeWitt Pool, Clinton Park, Riverfront Park, Rainbow Pottery and we did a tour through town to see all of the trolls.

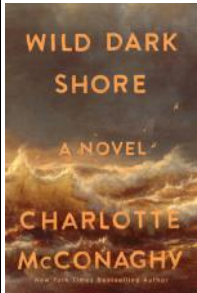
We also had lots of fun days at the center.....Science Day, Minute to Win It games, arts & crafts, games, and lots of outside time!!

Kelly Bork, Director



Book Club News

Be sure to stop in our Zion library soon and pick up your copy of our next book from the cart. (self check out.) Then return the book and Join us Wednesday, September 16th at 9:00 (new earlier time) for a discussion of our

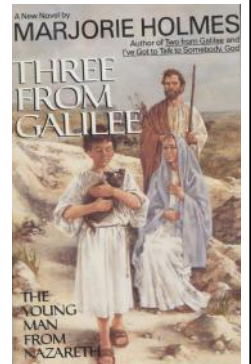


Book club book: **Wild Dark Shore** written by Charlotte McConaghy. It's a suspenseful story about Dominic Salt and his children, who live alone on a remote island protecting a seed vault. When a mysterious woman washes ashore during a storm, family secrets and past tragedies begin to surface. Against the backdrop of climate change and a disappearing island, the story explores grief, family, survival, and love.

New Books for September 2026

We were gifted a complete set of **Jan Karon** series books from Beverly Havens Family! Thank you!! If you have not yet read this series, be sure to check them out, literally!

Three From Galilee, the Young Man from Nazareth by Marjorie Holmes in Large Print Appropriate for teens and older readers. Tells us of Jesus' early years from his first debates with the elders at age 12 until age 30 when his ministry began. The drama of love and discovery brims with engrossing, authentic detail drawn from Holmes' vast historical and religious knowledge. You will find this book in our large print section in the library.



SPOTLIGHT BOOK



We have so many books in our library that are not getting any attention, so in this new section I will be spot-lighting an "old" book that I think should not go unnoticed. Today we are spot lighting **The Last Lecture** by Randy Pausch. It's a personal favorite of mine that is only a little over 200 pages, short read but it has left a lasting impression. Nonfiction and inspirational.

Your turn...let me know one of your favorites in our library, i will spotlight it next month! Happy reading!!

Donate your book(s) to myself or drop off in the library, Thanks

One more thing...if you have a book checked out longer than a year, i'm going to assume it's lost or loved so much you wanted to keep it :)

Please check your stash!

Thank you,
Denise Forney

Zion Lutheran Church's Pork & Sauerkraut Supper

Sunday, Sept. 20th, 2026

4:00 - 6:30 pm

Drive-Thru Only

**Tickets are on sale at:
Zion Lutheran Church
Clinton Printing
Sweetheart Bakery**

**Cost: \$15.00
(in advance and at door)**



**The meal consists of:
Pork Loin, Sauerkraut,
Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, Applesauce,
a Roll & Dessert.**

**Any questions, please call the church office
at (563) 242-7391.**

Scholarships Awarded

We are proud to announce this year's Zion's Scholarship Program award recipients! These scholarships honor the hard work, faith, and dedication of our youth as they pursue their educational and spiritual journeys. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding students as we continue to support them with our prayers and encouragement. Students are awarded \$750 per semester for the 2026-2027 school year.

Avery Luett - Kirkwood Community College

Daughter of Tony Luett and Carrie Sukut and Granddaughter of Steve & Fran Luett and of Diane Honeywell

Eligh Luett - University of Iowa

Son of Andy and Jamie Luett and Granddaughter of Steve and Fran Luett

Emeree Luett - University of Iowa

Daughter of Andy and Jamie Luett and Granddaughter of Steve and Fran Luett

Elizabeth Morehead - Upper Iowa University

Daughter of Scott and Jeri Morehead

Alyssa Schroeder - University of Northern Iowa

Daughter of Kristi Schroeder and Granddaughter of Dennis and Linda Schoening

Randy Spensley - Luther College

Grandson of Dick and Shirley Spensley

Brynn Vonderohe - Cornell College

Daughter of Mike & Donica Vonderohe

As we prepare to support our graduating students, we kindly remind you to consider contributing to Zion's Scholarship Fund. Your donations help recognize and encourage the academic and spiritual growth of our youth. Every gift, big or small, makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for investing in their futures. The committee works toward not letting the Student Aid Fund reserve fall below \$50,000. This will ensure that there are sufficient funds to generate investment earnings so that future applicants can receive aid. The fund is nearing that threshold. The amount of aid is determined by the annual earnings of the Student Aid Fund, the number of applicants, whether the applicant is a seminary student, a full-time, or a part-time college student.

Zion Lutheran Faith FUNdations Registration, Fall 2026

Faith FUNdations is open to all youth, age 3 through Grade 5.

To Register: Fill out one registration form per family and bring it to the church office.

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '26 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '26 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '26 _____

Please list any food allergies: _____

Parent's Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please list **two** emergency contacts and telephone numbers:

1.) _____ Phone: _____

2.) _____ Phone: _____

Current Congregation Membership (if any) _____

I WILL/I WILL NOT allow pictures of my child to be used in church publications and on congregation social media. My child's name will not be included in any posting of the pictures.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

**** If you have any questions please call the Zion office at 563-242-7391.**

Faith Foundations

Come join the FUN!

Faith FUNdations will begin their new year on Wednesday, September 9th. The family meal will be from 5:15—5:40 pm. Lessons and music will be from 5:45 to 7:00 pm. Dismissal is at 7:00 pm.

Faith FUNdations is Zion's Christian Education program for children ages three through fifth grade.

It is a time of games, learning, and FUN with friends that is open to anyone. (See registration form on next page)

We thank the congregation for their continued prayers and support!

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

September's birthday fellowship in the Gathering Space will be held on Sunday, September 13th, 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 September. Refreshments and cupcakes will be served.

All are welcome!!!



COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – June 9, 2026

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

New Business:

Christian Education Request: Barb Rhodes spoke with the council about the importance of reviving the Christian Education Committee, which hasn't been active for several years. She reported that she consulted with Pastor Kuckuck from the Synod about suggestions to strengthen curriculum, participation/staffing and involvement of the congregation. Barb highlighted areas that need attention:

- First Communion Class: Currently being developed by Pastor Barb.
- Bible Presentation to upper elementary students during a church service.
- Revive Prayer Partner Ministry: This matches a member with a child to mentor.
- Faith FUNdations: Update Curriculum – they have used the same for 8-9 years.
- Need for more Teachers: The current group is experiencing burnout. Faith FUNdations meets every Wednesday for 2 ½ hours from September until April. They need both full-time and substitute teachers.
- Kitchen Team and substitutes: Barb spoke about the need for assistance in purchasing and preparing easy, simple meals for the children. The staff serves 60-80 people each week.
- Confirmation length: Zion currently offers a 3-year program for middle school students. Most other churches provide a 2-year program. This needs to be discussed and implemented. The key is what does Zion want our Middle School youth to be taught.
- Barb emphasized the need to get the word out to the congregation, requesting people to help. After discussion, it was decided to put information in the bulletins, the Courier and speak to the congregation during a Temple Talk. Deb Vath encouraged the council to recruit people, members or not, to assist in this effort.

Technology Committee: This committee is testing new equipment to record and post the church services and other events occurring at the church. The group is also determining its placement in the Sanctuary.

Scholarship Committee: This committee awarded 7 scholarships to current college students.

FINANCIAL CORNER

July 2026 at a glance

General Operating	July	Year To Date
Income +	\$18,487.88	\$175,659.39
Expense -	\$42,459.27	\$176,238.92
Difference =	-\$23,971.39	-\$579.53

July In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
July 4 & 5	51	87	118
July 11 & 12	47	77	124
July 18 & 19	40	102	142
July 25 & 26	52	75	127
Average	48	80	128

Zion's Church Directory

We would like to encourage everyone to utilize our **Instant Church Directory**. It can be downloaded to a phone or computer. Just search for "Instant Church Directory" in the App Store for iPhones, the Google Store for android phones or from the website **www.instantchurchdirectory.com**

Once you have the app or website, it will ask you to sign-in. Click on "Sign In". Then click on "Member Sign In". You will then need to sign in with the e-mail that is on file with the church. If you do not have an e-mail on file with the church, you will have to contact the office or Linda Dutches to have your e-mail put in to the system. You will also have to create a password.

Most devices will only have you sign in the first time. The next time the directory will allow you to go directly to the members' listings. Once you have signed in, you will have access to members phone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses. You will also have the ability to change your own information and post or change your photo. You can then put a name in the search bar or scroll through the listings to find the member that you are looking for.

Members are listed in alphabetical order by last name. The system is private and only members can sign-in to it. Members can only make changes to their own information. It is fast, easy and safe, so hopefully members will have the information that they need at their fingertips. If you have any problems signing in or utilizing the program, please feel free to contact Linda Dutches (563) 202-4418.

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All-Committee Night	2	3	4	5 5:30 PM: Worship
6 9:00 AM: Worship	7 LABOR DAY Office Closed	8 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	9 10:00 AM: Moming Prayer & Bible Study 1:30 PM: Rebecca Circle 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations Rally Wednesday	10	11	12 5:30 PM: Worship
13 9:00 AM: Worship 10:00 AM: Birthday Fellowship	14 10:45 AM: Sack Lunch Monday	15 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer 5:00 PM: Childcare Board Meeting	16 9:00 AM: Zion Book Club 10:00 AM: Moming Prayer & Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal	17	18	19 5:30 PM: Worship
20 9:00 AM: Worship 4:00 - 6:30 PM: Pork & Sauerkraut Supper	21	22 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer	23 10:00 AM: Moming Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal	24 10:00 AM: First Circle Friends	25	26 5:30 PM: Worship
27 9:00 AM: Worship 11:30 AM: God's Work Our Hands	28 9:00 AM: Quilters 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	29 3:15 PM: Centering Prayer	30 10:00 AM: Moming Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/Confirmation 5:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Bells Rehearsal			

Zion Lutheran Church
439 3rd Avenue South
Clinton, Iowa 52732
Phone 563-242-7391
Vol. 96 No. 9

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Clinton, Iowa
Permit No. 84

ZION'S STAFF

Pastor Barbara Hayden, Interim Pastor
Phone: 563-242-7391
pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org

Amanda Deuermeyer, Office Administrator
Phone: 563-242-7391
officeadministrator@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Kelly Bork, Director
Zion Child Care Preschool
Phone: 563-243-9393
zioncc-ps@hotmail.com

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

Online Directory
www.instantchurchdirectory.com

OFFICE HOURS

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