

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

Vol. 95 No. 9

THE

COURIER

September 2025



God's work.
Our hands.

Sunday, Sept 28

11:30 – 2:00

Join us on September 28th when Zion, St. Paul and Faith Lutheran join hands to do God's Work. Everyone is invited to gather at 11:30 at Zion for breakfast pizza and a sending prayer. Several different opportunities to do God's Work. Our Hands this year. Please sign up in the Narthex.

IRAS – Painting Project

- Regan Michaelsen, Executive Director of IRAS, is looking for a group willing to do some inside painting at Information, Referral and Assistance Services (219 First Ave., Clinton). Paint and supplies will be provided.

YWCA EMPOWERMENT CENTER – Assembly Projects

- Shower Bag Assembly. Prepare Shower Bags for individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity who come to the YWCA in Clinton for access to a warm shower.
- Kitchen Box Preparation. Assemble sets of silverware that will be included in Kitchen Boxes that are provided to clients as they transition into stable housing.

ZION'S DINING ROOM - Various Projects

- Tie Quilts for Lutheran World Relief (Women of the ELCA).
- Tie a Fleece Blanket to be donated to Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI).
- Make medical Bandages using a simple loom, create medical bandages to be used by medical personnel/missionaries throughout the world.
- "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" pillow cases. Cut, press, or sew fabric into pillowcases to be donated to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace".

PERSONAL NOTE WRITING

- Note cards will be available for writing to sick or homebound friends and members of our congregations.

My G.E.A.R. Outreach

- Liz Estilow, Director of My G.E.A.R., is seeking 4 or 5 extremely detailed women to assist her in sorting children's clothing. This project will happen at the Lonergan Group building 132 6th Ave So.

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 21st, 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!!!



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 summer has finally come to an end! The weather was definitely not on our side with heat advisories, rain, and storm warnings! Our first priority is always for the safety of our staff and kiddos! Unfortunately, we had to cancel quite a few outdoor fieldtrips. We sure made the best out of the ones we were able to get in!! We had a great summer!!!

We are now welcoming in a new school year! Such an exciting time to meet our new friends and see others

that were gone over the summer!

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 preschool 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



Zion Lutheran Church's Pork & Sauerkraut Supper

Thursday, Sept. 18th, 2025

4:00 - 7:00 pm

Drive-Thru

****Deliveries are available,
please call 563-242-7391**

**Tickets are on sale at:
Zion Lutheran Church
Clinton Printing
Sweetheart Bakery
D-lectable D-lites**



Cost: \$15.00

(in advance and at door)

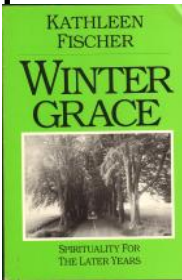
The meal consists of:

**Pork Loin, Sauerkraut, Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, Applesauce, a Roll & Dessert.**

*** Due to feedback, each meal will contain more sauerkraut than
last year.**

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

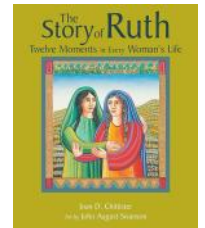
New Zion Library Books for September 2025



Winter Grace by Kathleen Fischer invites readers to see aging not as a decline, but as a season imbued with spiritual depth, possibility, and blessing. Through a Christian lens, she reframes aging as a time rich with meaning not as one to fear or avoid.

Book donated anonymously

The Story of Ruth. Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life. Written by Joan D. Chittister, a Benedictine nun and spiritual writer, partners with painter John August Swanson to offer a beautiful illustrated, deeply reflective take on the biblical Book of Ruth in twelve chapters. She transforms Ruth and Naomi's story into a guide for modern women's spiritual journeys. Each chapter highlights a defining life moment-such as loss, transformation, aging, empowerment, and fulfillment-using Ruth's experiences as a metaphor for every woman's life. We recently used this book in our Bible study group here at Zion and had great, meaningful conversations. Anonymous donation



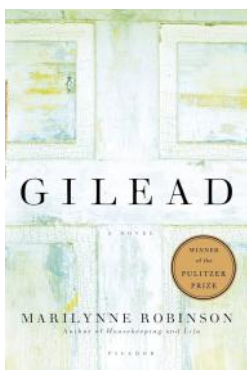
Last month's Book-club book, **Three Cups of Tea** written by Greg Mortenson was purchased and donated to our Zion Library by Denise Forney for anyone to check out and enjoy

To donate a book, contact Denise Forney or Amanda in the office. Thank you

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 will meet in the church library on **Tuesday, September 16th**, at 10:00 a.m. We will be discussing **Gilead** by Marilynne Robinson. (2004) awarded the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, is an epistolary novel presented as a single series of reflections by a 76-year-old Congregationalist minister, John Ames, writing in 1956 in Gilead, Iowa, for his seven-year-old son. Aware that his heart condition is terminal. Ames seeks to leave a testimony-his life story, faith, and wisdom for the son who will otherwise remember little of him. Sure to be a tear-jerker!

The books are on the cart in the library. Please come join us!!

Zion Lutheran Faith FUNdations Registration, Fall 2025

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 '25 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '25 _____

Student's Name: _____ Sex: M F

Birth Date: _____ Age _____ Grade entering Fall '25 _____

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 FUNdations NEEDS YOU!

The program year of guiding our youth along their faith journey will resume on Wednesday, September 3. Our group is looking for people to join our **Teaching and/or Kitchen TEAM**. Teachers and classroom helpers form grade-level teams to share in the teaching; you are not required to be there each week rather teach on a rotating schedule. Complete lesson plan ideas are available. Our Kitchen TEAM members prepare simple, delicious meals and also work in rotating schedules.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Reach out to Linda Schoening, Dawn Eickert, Barb Rhoades or Amanda in the office to say **"YES, I'd love to join this TEAM"** or to learn more. Thank YOU!

SHARING A MEAL Vacation Bible School 2025

This year we over 50 children and their families gathered nightly at Zion to participate in a fun-filled VBS! THANK YOU Zion Family for your participation by being a shepherd, providing food, serving on the Kitchen or Music Team and/or praying for our event. We had so much fun and appreciate your support. We value our partnership with St. Paul to provide a faith based, fun week of learning for children from both congregations and those within the community. Look for pictures on the churches' Facebook pages.

Call Committee Update

Please continue to pray for the call committee as it continues to work towards finding a new pastor for Zion. Another candidate was interviewed at the end of August.

More information will be given as it becomes available.



PARTNERS **FOR**



LIFE

BLOOD DRIVE

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

3:00PM TO 6:30PM

GATHERING SPACE

439 3RD AVE S, CLINTON

To book an appointment, contact Deb Vath at
djvath@mchsi.com or visit us online at
www.bloodcenter.org

LET'S MAKE A **DIFFERENCE** TOGETHER!

COUNCIL NEWS

Summary of Congregation Council Minutes – July 8, 2025

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

Membership Update: Kristi Montgomery shared the Statistical Report for June. Total weekend attendance YTD is 3,784. The average weekend worship attendance YTD is 140. Kristi Montgomery made a motion to accept the membership of Sarah Greenwalt with Deb Willwerth seconding the motion. All ayes

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Deb Vath, reported that our Income is down for the month compared to the budget as are our Expenses. YTD we have a negative balance of (\$6,599.49). Deb reported that our insurance cost with Church Mutual has increased by 33%. Deb Vath reported to the Council that the purchase of the Personal Computer for the office was made with funds from the Office Equipment Reserve line item. Pastor Julie moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Linda Dutchess seconded the motion. All ayes.

Old Business:

Call Committee Report: Pastor Julie reported to the Council that there has been one candidate's name given to the committee. An interview with the individual will be scheduled within the next two weeks.

Interim Planning: Two pastors are willing to work in the interim. They are Pastor Paul Holmer and Pastor Barbara Hayden. The duties that need to be performed by our Interim Pastors and the division of these duties were shared with the Council. Compensation for Pastor Hayden and Pastor Holmer was reviewed. A motion was brought to the Council by the Executive committee asking the Council to approve the contracts for both Interim Pastors (Hayden and Holmer). The full Council unanimously approved the motion. The Council reviewed the Housing Allowance for Pastor Hayden. The amount of the Housing Allowance was unanimously accepted by the Council.

Scholarship Committee: Kristi Montgomery reported that there are 9 applicants that have applied for a scholarship. The amount of the scholarships is \$1,200 (\$600 for each semester) for the year. The applicants are: Kaylee Camp, Sarah Hilgendorf, Avery Luett, Payton Luett, Elijah Luett, Emeree Luett, Elizabeth Morehead, Alyssa Schroeder and Randy Spensley. Committee funding was discussed. A motion and second to approve all applicants was unanimous.

"Caring for Our Community" Support: Pastor Julie reported that there are 15 volunteers for this ministry. Training for the volunteers is being done. There are approximately 35 recipients currently that may want a visit with others still to be identified. Deb Willwerth has volunteered to lead this ministry.

Technology Committee: Erin Montgomery reported to the Council that there has been only one response to her request for members to join this committee. The committee will meet again in August with an additional member to be recruited.

FINANCIAL CORNER

July 2025 at a glance

General Operating	June	Year To Date
Income +	\$22,243.77	\$188,013.62
Expense -	\$52,726.77	\$225,096.11
Difference =	-\$30,483.00	-\$37,082.49

July In-Person Worship Attendance

Weekend	Saturday	Sunday	Total
July 5 & 6	54	80	134
July 12 & 13	52	90	142
July 19 & 20	59	87	146
July 26 & 27	51	122	173
Average	54	95	149

Lois Jellings is Celebrating Her 100th Birthday!

The family and friends of Lois Jellings are hosting a 100th birthday reception for Lois on Thursday, September 25th, from 1:30-4:00 pm in Zion's Gathering Space.



SEPTEMBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 LABOR DAY Office Closed	2 5:00 PM: Executive Committee 5:50 PM: All Committee Night	3 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations Rally Wednesday	4	5	6 5:30 PM: Worship w/ Faith FUNdations Volunteer Installation
7 9:00 AM: Worship w/ Faith FUNdations Volunteer Installation	8 10:30 AM: Sack Lunch Monday 6:00 PM: Elizabeth Circle 5:30 PM: Girl Scouts	9 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 6:00 PM: Congregation Council	10 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	11	12	13 5:30 PM: Worship
14 9:00 AM: Worship	15	16 10:00 AM: Zion Book Club 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts 5:00 PM: Childcare Board Meeting	17 9:00 AM: NO Morning Prayer/Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	18 4:00 - 7:00 PM: Pork & Sauerkraut Supper	19	20 5:30 PM: Worship
21 9:00 AM: Worship	22 9:00 AM: Quilters	23 5:30 PM: Boy Scouts	24 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer/ Bible Study 5:15 PM: Faith FUNdations/ Confirmation 5:45 PM: Bell Rehearsal 6:45 PM: Choir Rehearsal	25 9:30 AM: First Circle Friends 1:30 PM: Lois Jellings' 100th Birthday Celebration	26 10:30 AM: Courier Assembly	27 5:30 PM: Worship
28 9:00 AM: Worship	29	30				

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Change Service Requested

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ZION'S STAFF

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Phone: 563-242-7391
pastorbarb@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Kelly Bork, Director
Zion Child Care Preschool
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zioncc-ps@hotmail.com

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

◆
Donica Vonderohe, Staff Musician
music@zionlutheranclinton.org

◆
Patrick Hoffman, Custodian

OFFICE HOURS

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