

The Contact January

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Baptism of Our Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Jesus' baptism marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. The baptism of Jesus is one of several theophanies in scripture. A theophany is an encounter with God in a way that can be seen and/or heard. There are over fifty possible theophanies in scripture include Moses and the burning bush, Moses on Mt. Sinai, and the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop.

Just a reminder.
We changed our
donation *from*
the food pantry
to MCSA in 2024.
ANY memos for
year-end
statements will

reflect those changes. The food pantry is a part of MCSA.



2024

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

ARE AVAILABLE TO
PICK UP!!

IF YOU WANT THEM
E-MAILED TO YOU
LET THE OFFICE KNOW

Message from Pastor Willie:

Siblings in Christ – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

First and foremost, thank you. Thank you for a wonderful year of serving with Zion Lutheran Church here in Muscatine. As a family, we continue to grow with the Zion congregation as relationships deepen and new relationships form. And thank you to everyone who gave us gifts and cards throughout the Christmas season!

I started my fourth year serving with Zion on December 12, 2024 and I look forward to the year ahead. I had another successful year of gardening and have over 800 cloves of garlic in the ground for the 2025 garden. I enjoyed fishing the Mississippi River and we've had successful deer hunting this year as well. I enjoyed getting the jazz combo back together for the Swing Dance back in March and we have been asked to play again for the Swing Dance on March 8, 2025.

For continuing education I completed the Leadership Muscatine program back in May and started another 9 month program as a member of the first cohort of the Iowa Preacher's Project through Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. I hope to continue to grow as a preacher and leader through this program. We kicked off the year back in September with a few days of in-person learning and formation. We have since continued meeting digitally through Zoom and will have our next in-person session January 19-22, 2025 in Costa del Mar, California.

Jennifer continues to teach kids to love music through her work at the Susan Clark Junior High in Muscatine. The 7th and 8th grade bands continue to grow and succeed and she has the largest jazz band you've ever seen! She loves being a mom to our five kids, helping them learn to read, cook, quilt, craft, and have fun. She recently completed the last of the five full-size quilts for the kids, a beautiful design for Ezra with a large cross in the center – his favorite! She also enjoys helping lead worship at Zion from the organ and piano benches. I am thankful for her patience and her love for me, our kids, and her students!

Grace is 21 years old and in her final on-campus semester at University of Northern Iowa. She studies bassoon as a non-music major, performing with the UNI bands. She will walk for graduation in May, but still has a semester of student teaching. She will graduate with a degree in special education as a Instructional Strategist II, which is working with students who have a higher level of special needs in the classroom. This past summer she adopted Frida, a friendly mixed breed dog, from It Takes a Village here in Muscatine. She continues to enjoy fishing and deer hunting and killed a trophy whitetail buck on New Year's Day! She is a fantastic older sister to the three younger kids and we are excited that she has been assigned to the Muscatine area for student teaching in fall of 2025 and she plans to live at home with us during student teaching!

Isabelle is 19 and in her second year at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She is studying a dual major of music education and music performance on her beloved French Horn. She moved off campus this year and is learning to navigate the adult life and independent living. In summer of 2025 she plans to work at Outlaw Ranch near Custer, South Dakota. Outlaw Ranch is one of the camps in the Lutherans Outdoors in South Dakota system, which is the camping ministry of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA. We will get to see her when we go to Outlaw Ranch for Family Camp and continuing education in late July!

Lydia is a fourth grader at Mulberry Elementary in Muscatine. She loves all things crafting and is a voracious reader.

Message from Pastor Willie:

Abner is a first grader at Mulberry Elementary and loves all things outdoors and his toy cars and remote control trucks. He is starting to read and write independently, which opens up a whole new world of learning and imagination for him. He has been out deer hunting with us this year and was along with me when I filled my deer tag and has claimed it as “his” deer. He is excited to keep growing bigger and stronger so that he can start hunting with dad and Grace!

Ezra is also in first grade at Mulberry Elementary and loves going to school to see Mrs. Smith! He is just starting to read and write on his own. Ezra loves all things music – especially anything in a minor key. He is an energetic and active young man and LOVES coming to worship and being at church. He gets very excited about seeing crosses and listening to Jesus stories as he learns the stories of faith. He enjoys helping cook some of his breakfast favorites with me in the morning before school.

We are so thankful that we landed in Muscatine and love this community and the people. I pray that 2025 brings new and wonderful surprises as we continue to call this lovely community home.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Willie Rosin

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Birthdays Over 80

- * 80-89 Years Young
- ** 90-99 Years Young
- ***100 Years Young

January Birthdays

*Nancy Tietge 01/24

January Birthdays

- Mike Batenhorst 01/03
- Clayton Smith 01/03
- Charley McCleary 01/05
- Matthew Richardson 01/14
- Dyann Roby 01/15
- Rachel Creamer 01/19
- Jan Boche 01/21
- Judith Vargus 01/21
- Luke Kiddoo 01/23
- Bob Vargus 01/24
- Sarah Evans 01/27
- Justin Dornbush 01/28
- Tasha Cantrell 01/30

Lunch Bunch

Jan 9 11:30 @ Family Restaurant

Feb. 13 11:30 @ Happy Joe's

Title

Total Offering Received For Week 12/29/24	\$8,831
YTD Offering Received	\$221,491
Remaining Weekly Offering Required to meet Weekly Budget	\$69,220

YTD 2024 MCSA	YTD 2024 Laundry Love	YTD 2024 Quarters for Hunger
\$1419.05	\$901	\$512.25
Synod Ben/Outreach	World Relief	SHP
\$528	\$433	\$813

How Silent Night Began



FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

Birthdays Over 80

- * 80-89 Years Young
- ** 90-99 Years Young
- ***100 Years Young

February Birthdays

- *Judy Carlson 02/04
- *Lois Greenwald 02/09
- **Clarence Hammann 02/24

February Birthdays

- Karson Cantrell 02/01
- Jennifer Taylor 02/01
- Shannon Steele 02/02
- Sue Robinson 02/06
- Karolyn Subbert 02/06
- Nicole Steele 02/08
- Mary Martz 02/09
- Deb Weiss 02/13
- Carol Timm 02/17
- Kim Sears 02/20
- Tracy Bogart 02/23
- Faith McCleary 02/24
- Brenda Roskens 02/25
- Roger Roskens 02/25
- Mary Knause 02/28

Contact News

All newsletter information and articles for the next Contact are due by the end of day on

February 5

Upcoming Meetings:

Group 5

- Jan 21** 1:00 MFR
- Feb. 18** 1:00 MFR

Joy Circle.

- Jan 23** 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 27** 6:30 p.m.

Z BOOK CLUB Monthly Meeting



January 13 | 5:30PM

@ Diamond Dave's
563-263-5074
Zion Lutheran Church

The Girl in the Letter: A home for unwed mothers; a heartbreaking secret in this historical fiction bestseller inspired by true events by Emily Gunnis 99 cents with Kindle Unlimited.

1956. When Ivy Jenkins falls pregnant she is sent in disgrace to St Margaret's, a dark, brooding house for unmarried mothers. Her baby is adopted against her will. Ivy will never leave.

Present day. Samantha Harper is a journalist desperate for a break. When she stumbles on a letter from the past, the contents shock and move her. The letter is from a young mother, begging to be rescued from St Margaret's. Before it is too late.

Sam is pulled into the tragic story and discovers a spate of unexplained deaths surrounding the woman and her child. With St Margaret's set for demolition, Sam has only hours to piece together a sixty-year-old mystery before the truth, which lies disturbingly close to home, is lost for ever...Read her letter. Remember her story...

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

January Anniversaries

**Mary & Ron Knause 1/6

*Tracy & Gregory Bogart 1/24

* 25+

**50+

February

*Casey & Tasha Cantrell 2/11

**Charles & Ria Meyer 2/18

* 25+

**50+

Usher Schedule

January

Richard Jacobsen

Rosendo Ramos

Mike Carter

Julie Frye

February

Jim Haage

Bill Toyne

Mike Batenhorst

Julie Haage

Altar Guild:

Week 1: Richardsons

Week 2: Perishos

Week 3: Pusateris

Week 4: Starkweathers

Sub: Hansons

2025

Communion



Communion Classes for
4th graders will be after
worship on January 19,
February 2, 9, & 16.



4th graders will receive
their Holy Communion
Faith Stepping Stone
during worship on
Sunday, February 23

HAPPY
St. Valentine's Day

PEOPLE LOVED BY GOD, THAT IS THE VERY KIND OF
LOVE THAT THE CHURCH CELEBRATES ON FEB. 14:
A LOVE THAT SHINES ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO
HATE US, WANT TO DO US HARM, EVEN TAKE
AWAY OUR LIFE.

ACCORDING TO A LATER TRADITION, AFTER ST.
VALENTINE WAS ARRESTED FOR HIS CHRISTIAN
CONFESSION, HE BEFRIENDED HIS JAILER'S DAUGHTER.



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please Pray for Kristy Keith, Butch Doyle, Billy Rueckert, Margaret Ames, Linda Brade, Evie Marr, Ralph Buster, Beth Simpson, Karolyn Subbert, Margareta Jansson, Eric Pohl & Deb Weiss.

Reminders:

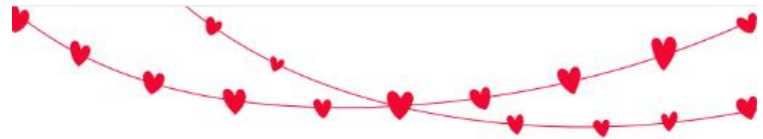
Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 6:30 a.m. at the All American Diner.

Christians Underground

We have an additional Bible study/discussion group opportunity in Muscatine called Christians Underground. Pastor Aleese Kenitzer from Shepherd of the Cross leads this group in discussion about the Revised Common Lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. They currently meet weekly on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran church for about an hour. This invitation is open to all three ELCA congregations in Muscatine.

Re:Storied is a course intended to introduce participants to the whole of the Biblical narrative while also providing opportunities to tangibly practice dwelling in God's Word.

Participants will be encouraged to engage in Bible readings and reflections outside our group time. To share reflections and dive deeper, participants may participate in an optional 30 minute time from 6:00 – 6:30.



Lunch Time Potluck

February 4th



Please join us on January 19 for the baptism of Georgia Stange.



March 1st @ 6:00 PM
Sign-up sheet for tables
will be downstairs on the
bulletin board.



The new year brings new beginnings. At LSI, we walk alongside Iowans for all sorts of beginnings. We walk alongside parents-to-be as they prepare for the birth of their child. We welcome immigrants and refugees as they begin their new lives in Iowa. We train parents looking to adopt a child and create a new beginning for their family.

This January, we offer Thomas's story of his new beginning.

In 1996, Congolese civil war broke out in the present-day countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo, forcing then two-year-old Thomas Mbuthu into exile in a refugee camp in neighboring Zambia. After growing up in a refugee camp, now 27-year-old Thomas applied to come to the United States.

When Thomas landed at the Des Moines airport in an entirely foreign land in a state called Iowa, LSI caseworker Patrick Karemera greeted him.

“I said, ‘Welcome! This is your new home now! I am your brother. This is a new life. Feel free and feel safe,’” shared Patrick, recounting his initial meeting with his client Thomas.

Thomas thanked him, explaining he had not expected to see someone like Patrick welcome him – someone who looked like himself and spoke his native languages of Lingala and Swahili.

“As a refugee, I wanted a better life. But I didn’t know where I was going. ‘What is going to happen to me?’” wondered Thomas aloud.

“When Patrick came to me, I could see the future.”

Patrick is from the same country as Thomas, coming to America just a few years prior. He works as a caseworker to welcome refugees to Iowa and helps them resettle, pursue their goals, and navigate the challenges of an entirely foreign place.

“I immigrated here, like Thomas. It’s rewarding to welcome somebody like me to come here to Iowa. This is my second home,” said Patrick.

Patrick admires how courageous, open-minded, and curious Thomas is. He encourages his client to dream big and work hard to achieve his goals.

“Life is about helping each other,” shared Patrick.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI’s Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church BUDGET TO ACTUAL - Unified Fund Month Ended December 31, 2024

	General Fund Dec 31, 2024 Actual	General Fund Dec 31, 2024 Budget	% of Budget	General Fund 12 months ended Dec 31, 2024 Actual	General Fund 12 months ended Dec 31, 2024 Budget	% of Annual Budget
Revenue						
Offering	\$ 34,944	\$ 23,984	146%	\$ 221,967	\$ 291,311	76%
Flower Income	3,728	500	746%	6,026	7,250	83%
Parsonage Fund Income	<u>6,250</u>	<u>2,083</u>	300%	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	100%
Total Revenue	44,923	26,568	169%	252,992	323,561	78%
Operating Expenses						
Staffing Expenses	17,778	17,418	102%	202,410	209,017	97%
Property & Office Expenses	8,183	5,083	161%	55,962	61,000	92%
Program Expenses	1,403	646	217%	7,656	9,000	85%
Budgeted Benevolence Expenses	<u>3,433</u>	<u>2,362</u>	145%	<u>22,678</u>	<u>29,544</u>	77%
Total Operating Expenses	<u>30,798</u>	<u>25,509</u>	121%	<u>288,706</u>	<u>308,561</u>	94%
Operating Income (Loss)	14,125	1,058	1335%	(35,714)	15,000	-238%
Other Income						
Unbudgeted Income	<u>485</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>3,490</u>	<u>-</u>	
Total Other Income	485	-		3,490	-	
Other Expenses						
Unbudgeted Expenses	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>1,041</u>	<u>-</u>	
Total Other Expenses	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>1,041</u>	<u>-</u>	
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 14,608	\$ 1,058	1380%	\$ (33,264)	\$ 15,000	-222%
Fund Balances						
	As of Dec 31, 2024					
Unified Fund	\$ 153,004					
Building Fund	95,172					
Memorial Fund	29,060					
Fellowship Hall Fund	3,976					
Youth Fund	7,151					
Designated Benevolences	-					
Quilters Fund	2,948					
Innovative Ministries Fund	190,736					
Flower Fund	702					
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	<u>2,900</u>					
Total Fund Balances	\$ 485,649					



2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Isabelle Rosin
Matthew Richardson
Grace Rosin

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH TRUST FUND

Prior to the annual meeting, the Trust Fund committee wanted to share the good news by announcing the recipients of our Scholarship Awards and Mission Outreach Grants. These will all be awarded on Sunday January 12th .

The Scholarship Fund has continued to grow and we are pleased to announce that we are able to increase the amount of each scholarship award from the previous \$1,200 to \$1,400 for 2025 and beyond. We had three qualified applicants and all are being awarded a scholarship.

Isabelle Rosin is the daughter of Pastor Willie and Jennifer Rosin and is studying at the Jacobs School of Music at the University of Indiana where she is studying to complete a Bachelors in Music Education Instrumental – Band and a Bachelors in Music – Horn. Her goal is to teach band or a larger program in a low-income community.

Matthew Richardson is the son of Scott and Michelle Richardson and studying at the University of Northern Iowa. He is a Choral Education Major and hopes to be a high school choir director so that he can spark passion for the musical arts and be a positive influence on his students in order to keep music in their lives.

Grace Rosin is the daughter of Pastor Willie and Jennifer Rosin and is studying at the University of Northern Iowa. She will be graduating next year with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with an Instructional Strategist II focus. Her goal is to work in a low-income school district helping those with behavior difficulties, mental or physical disabilities and delays.

The Mission Outreach Grants will be assisting 12 organizations with 19 programs in our area totaling \$10,565.00.

**2024
GRANT
RECIPIENTS**

Members of the Trust Fund Committee will gladly provide information for those interested in making gifts or bequests. We also welcome suggestions for uses of the gifts given to us by the congregation, family and friends.

For the Committee,
Peggy Starkweather, Chair

- Zion Joy Circle for school supplies \$300
- MCSA for Food Pantry \$750
- Diversity Services in Iowa for a senior citizen's program \$500
- Diversity Services in Iowa for Educational Outreach \$500
- Diversity Services in Iowa for a Hispanic Meal site \$500
- Special Olympics of Muscatine for Basketball uniforms \$500
- Lutheran Services of Iowa for an Early Childhood program \$500
- Lutheran Services of Iowa for Clinical Services \$500
- Zion Quilters Group for quilting supplies \$500
- Trinity Episcopal Church for the L & M Locker \$500
- Trinity Episcopal Church for Laundry Love \$500
- Trinity Episcopal Church for Blessings Box \$500
- Zion Joy Circle Newborn Kit Challenge \$340
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace for bedding supplies \$500
- Habitat for Humanity for its 15th house \$500
- Muscatine Equality Coalition for informational materials \$500
- Muscatine Equality Coalition for conference travel \$500
- Flickinger Center for an educational trip to the zoo \$1,175
- Veterans Casting Away for disabled veteran fishing - Spring \$500
- Veterans Casting Away for disabled veteran fishing - Fall \$500



The

ANNUAL

MEETING

PLEASE JOIN US

JAN. 26, 2025
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Zion Lutheran Church



2025 . JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED 6:30 PM AA	2	3 6:30 PM AA	4
5 QUARTERS FOR HUNGER 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	6 PASTOR'S SABBATH EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 6:30 PM AA CONTACT INFO DUE	7 7:00 PM SCOUTS	8 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	9 11:30 AM LUNCH BUNCH@FAMILY RESTAURANT 6:30 PM ALL COMMITTEE	10 6:30 PM AA	11
12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD LAUNDRY LOVE 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/SPIRIT STORIES 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM WORSHIP	13 PASTOR'S SABBATH 5:30 PM Z BOOK 6:30 PM AA	14 1:00 PM MEMORIAL COMMITTEE 7:00 PM SCOUTS	15 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	16 6:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING	17 6:30 PM AA	18
19 SHP 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP 4TH GRADE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	20 PASTOR'S SABBATH 6:30 AA	21 1:00 PM GR 5 MFR 7:00 PM SCOUTS	22 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	23 6:30 PM JOY CIRCLE	24 6:30 PM AA	25
26 MCSA 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/SPIRIT STORIES 10:30 AM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM WORSHIP	27 PASTOR'S SABBATH 6:30 AA	28 7:00 PM SCOUTS	29 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FFN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	30	31 6:30 PM AA	



2025 . FEBRUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 QUARTERS FOR HUNGER 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/SPIRIT STORIES 4TH GRADE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	3 PASTOR'S SABBATH 6:30 PM AA	4 LUNCHTIME POTLUCK 7:00 PM SCOUTS	5 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FPN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	6 6:30 PM ALL COMMITTEE MEETING	7 6:30 PM AA	8
9 LAUNDRY LOVE 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/SPIRIT STORIES 4TH GRADE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM WORSHIP	10 PASTOR'S SABBATH 6:30 PM AA	11 7:00 PM SCOUTS	12 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FPN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	13 11:30 AM LUNCH BUNCH@ HAPPY JOE'S 6:00 PM COUNCIL	14 6:30 PM AA	15
16 SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE 9:00 AM WORSHIP 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/SPIRIT STORIES 4TH GRADE COMMUNION INSTRUCTION 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM RE-STORIED BIBLE STUDY	17 PASTOR'S SABBATH 6:30 AA	18 1:00 PM GR 5 MFR 7:00 PM SCOUTS	19 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FPN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	20	21 6:30 PM AA	22
23 FOOD PANTRY 9:00 AM WORSHIP FAITH STEPPING STONES 10:15 AM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL/SPIRIT STORIES 5:00 PM AA 6:00 PM WORSHIP	24 PASTOR'S SABBATH 6:30 AA	25 7:00 PM SCOUTS	26 6:30 AM MEN'S BIBLE 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:00 PM FPN@ GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	27 6:30 PM JOY CIRCLE	28 6:30 PM AA	