THE CONTACT





November



November 19
8-11a.m. & 4-8 p.m.

MidTown Laundromat
1508 Isett Ave, Muscatine, IA

Events are the 4th Thursday of the month
(except Thanksgiving and Christmas.)
Helpers need to also bring their smiles and engage
with folks as they feel comfortable.





WHAT'S INSIDE

PG. 1 LAUNDRY LOVE

PG. 2 COUNCIL CORNER

PG. 3 LSI ANGEL TREE

PG. 4 ANNUAL MEETING

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PG. 10 TRUNK OR TREAT

PG. 11 CALENDAR

PG. 12 CALENDAR

FAITH.FAMILY
COMMUNITY

Council Corner

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

November Birthdays
*Donna Williams 11/23

November Birthdays
Wendi Meerdink 11/04
Lincoln Othmer 11/04
Jackson Evans 11/06
James Hyink 11/07
Alex Heckman 11/8
Tucker Dornbush 11/10
Laurie Noah 11/10
Sharon Stadtwald 11/11
Joleen Schnedler 11/16
Preston Schroeder 11/18
Naomi Young 11/20
Bailey Othmer 11/21
Tricia Jacobsen 11/22
David Reusswig 11/29
David Harms 11/29
Scott Richardson 11/30

Ushers
November
Tom Welk
Mike Watson
Mark & Sarah Perisho

December
Richard Jacobsen
Rosendo Ramos
Mike Carter
Julie Frye

Altar Guild:
Week 1: Richardsons
Week 2: Perishos
Week 3: Pusateris
Week 4: Starkweathers
Sub: Hansons

ZION LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Sauerkraut Supper had a positive balance of $2024.00 after expenses. The proceeds will be donated as follows:
   Muscatine Christian Day Camp $524.00
   Emaus Cafe $250.00
   Salvation Army Food Pantry $250.00
   Sleep in Heavenly Peace $250.00
   Laundry Love $250.00
   Zion Lutheran - reimburse for utilities $500.00
2. The Council received an update from the Call Committee.
3. Sunday, November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent. Christmas decorations will be put up at 2:00 that afternoon if anyone in the congregation wants to help.
4. The Sunday School Christmas program will be during worship service on December 13th.
5. Poinsettias will arrive on Friday, December 18th for set up that afternoon.
6. Christmas decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 3rd in the afternoon.
7. A casserole cookoff is being planned for November for the congregation.
8. The Finance Committee is working on the 2027 Budget.
9. Discussion was held regarding the future of the Garden of Eatin'. Due to the disappearance of produce on a daily basis, the committee is looking into planting flowers in the raised beds next year instead of produce.



FAITH.FAMILY
COMMUNITY

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

December Birthdays
*Margaret Tiecke 12/07
*Carol Christophersen 12/21
**Ruth Starkweather 12/24
**Robert Martz 12/30

December Birthdays
Jade McCleary 12/02
Kurt Stadtwald 12/3
Robert Rusch 12/05
Evan Gillespie 12/12
David Starkweather 12/17
Darion Subbert 12/17
Casey Cantrell 12/23
Jonas Franklin 10/26
Dalton Bozarth 06/26



Operation Thanksgiving
This year, the Muscatine Ministerial Association and Muscatine Community Services will again be providing holiday meals for those in need. We need 375 pies total, from all of the churches in the organization to support this effort! Pies need to be ready for pickup or delivery by November 22 to Zion. Pastor Susan is available for any questions.

2026 HOPES LSI (Lutheran Services of Iowa) Angel Tree

Zion's Members can brighten holidays for children served by Muscatine's LSI Organization, HOPES.

Their goal is to improve children's (0-5 Ages) outcomes in a variety of areas including health, safety, social/emotional development and the quality of life for children and families.

~November 1-15~Pick your Angel Tag From the Tree
~November 18~Deadline to Return your Gift

$20 to $25 Dollar Range

No Stuffed Animals
Educational Toys
Preferred

!!!!!DO NOT WRAP IT!!!!!

Monetary donations are welcome!!
Designated donation envelopes are on the table next to the tags.
Just put it in the collection plate!

The Social Ministry thanks you for your support of this vital ministry!



Lutheran Living
ADOPT A RESIDENT
Starts Nov 22



Z BOOK CLUB

The Age of Misadventure:
The most uplifting feel good book you'll read this year!
by Judy Leigh

All Georgie Turner wants is to keep her family together.
But with her daughter growing up fast, her sister married to a man Georgie hates, and their aging aunt getting more and more outrageous, nothing's simple.

So when her brother-in-law makes his biggest mistake yet, Georgie sees the chance to reunite the ladies in her life. And after a little persuasion, three generations of Turner women head off on a very unusual road trip. Georgie's confident that some sun, sea and a bottle or two of prosecco will make this an adventure they'll never forget.
What could possibly go wrong?



December 15|5:30PM
@ Diamond Dave's
563-263-5074
Zion Lutheran Church



ANNUAL MEETING
Please Join Us in January of 2027

Constitution Definitions

c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied
these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws. They shall not have voted as a seasonal member of another congregation of this church in the previous two calendar months.

C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting.

C10.04. Five percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
February 2027

FAITH.FAMILY COMMUNITY

25+
****50+**
November Anniversaries
*Rose Marie & Manley Doyle 11/8
Mike & Chris Owens 11/18
Rosendo & Stacey Ramos 11/24
**Jan & Charlie Drumm 11/25

*** December Anniversaries**
Kirk & Kim Sears 12/03
**Sharon & Betsy Martin 12/18



Lunch Bunch 11:30 AM
November 12 Pizza Ranch
December 10 Family Restaurant

Contact News Newsletter information and articles for the next Contact are due by December 4



OFFERING

Total Offering Received For Week 11/01/26	$4,627
YTD Offering Received	$169,436
Remaining Weekly Offering Required to meet Weekly Budget	$7,257

YTD MCSA	YTD Laundry Love	YTD Quarters for Hunger
$800	$520	$325
SHP	YTD Evangelism/Synod Ben/Outreach	Youth
$1,000	$277	$1,212

SAUERKRAUT SUPPER UPDATE

The Zion Sauerkraut Supper returned on September 24th, raising an incredible $2,024! Thank you to everyone for your amazing support—whether you donated items, volunteered your time, or contributed one of the delicious desserts, your efforts were deeply appreciated and helped make this event such a success.

Not only did the supper bring our church and community together, but the funds raised will go right back into the community, supporting Emmaus Café, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Laundry Love, Salvation Army Food Pantry and Muscatine Christian Day Camp.

In addition, leftover food was shared with MCSA, Pearl City Outreach, and the Fire Department, helping us extend hospitality beyond our doors and share meals throughout the community.

Thank you again for your generosity and spirit of service—we look forward to welcoming everyone back for next year's supper!

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We had been engaging with a candidate recently, and our conversations had been positive. Ultimately, the candidate made the decision to withdraw from the process, as the logistics did not work out in relation to their spouse's employment.

We continue to engage with candidates as they are presented to us and are moving forward with the process. We remain hopeful and will continue to prayerfully discern the next steps.

Thank you for your continued prayers, patience, and support. We appreciate you walking alongside us throughout this process!

Thank you, Wendy

FAITH.FAMILY
COMMUNITY

Please Pray for Faith McCleary, Judy Sebbert, Martha Carley, Carolyn Kemper, Eric Pohl, Tammy Welk, Maria Gui, Dick & Ann Stange.

Reminders:

Men's Bible Study meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 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 four ELCA congregations in Muscatine.

Upcoming Meetings:

6:30 PM
Joy Circle
November 19
December 7

1:00 PM
Group 5
November 17
December 15



2026 Lutheran Living ADOPT A RESIDENT For Christmas

Zion's Members can brighten holidays for those served by Muscatine's Lutheran Living Senior Campus. The mission is to provide experienced care and compassionate faith-based living, addressing individual health care needs of the residents in the community.

November 22 through December 6
Pick your Angel From the Tree

~December 13~
Deadline to Return your Gift

Please wrap it!!

$25 to $30 Dollar Range

Monetary donations are welcome!!
Designated donation envelopes are on the table next to the tags.
Just put it in the collection plate!

Lutheran Living Senior Campus
Celebrating friendship, faith and fullness of life

ADOPT A RESIDENT



CONFIRMANDS
MAGGIE KIDDOO &
EVAN GILLESPIE &
PASTOR SUSAN BANTZ

LSI Article & Story

Dear LSI supporter,

This is what your support of LSI makes possible. It gives kids the opportunity to grow, discover their strengths, and become strong, confident individuals. But their stories are not always easy.

One young person shared:
"I started foster care at 17 days old. I have faced many challenges and obstacles but in the end, I rose above. I was adopted at the age of 5 by a family in a small town. In that house I felt like a prisoner. They had strict rules and turned me into a real life Cinderella. This went on for a couple of years and at the age of 10 I was sent away because I was "too much". There was so much trauma that I never had the chance to heal from.

I was sent to a treatment facility in Missouri. Ended up staying there for two and a half years. During that time, I started to see my true potential. I found things that I enjoyed and stuck with them. Who knew that those years were when I would find my calling. I started to excel in school. My grades rapidly improved. I was moved from facility to facility till I was about 14.

Right before my first day of high school, I was sent to a foster home with people I barely knew. They knew that I came with baggage. At first, it was a bumpy ride. I was very closed off and scared to enjoy life. I joined the cheer squad, joined theatre, did a musical theatre performance for speech and I did choir. The common denominator in all of that was school. I knew that even after everything, school would be there.

I started to look for a longer-term and permanent home when I was 15. I interviewed with family after family. Went on weekend visits, walks and zoom calls. Eventually, I found one family who was willing to take a chance on me. It was April 2020. I met them in person for the first time at a park. 2020 was a hard time because I did not have school. I felt like I was lost until I met them. I grew attached to this family VERY quickly. We had one zoom call and I started packing.

I had lost hope that I would find my forever home. I went for a weekend visit in May of 2020 and never left. I instantly felt welcome. They supported my dreams of becoming a teacher. My junior year of high school, I switched schools. I was absolutely terrified at the idea of starting over again but there were so many things that I benefited from. I joined cheer and became captain, I joined choir, I continued to do theatre.

There was one major tip of the scales. I was given the opportunity to take college courses. I sat down with my parents and told them that I really wanted to do this. Without hesitation, they signed me up and now, I am student teaching, 4 years later at a local elementary school. All because they believed I could do it."

Lutheran Services in Iowa
3125 Cottage Grove Ave
Des Moines, IA 50311

FINANCIALS

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
BUDGET TO ACTUAL - Unified Fund
Month Ended October 31, 2026

	General Fund Oct 31, 2026 Actual	General Fund Oct 31, 2026 Budget	% of Budget	General Fund 10 months ended Oct 31. 2026	General Fund 12 months ended Dec 31. 2026	% of Annual Budget
Revenue						
Offering	$ 15,778	$ 19,420	81%	$ 164,985	$ 235,045	70%
Other Budgeted Income	259	750	34%	8,723	9,000	97%
Parsonage Fund Income	-	-		-	25,000	0%
Total Revenue	**16,037**	**20,170**	**80%**	**173,708**	**269,045**	**65%**
Operating Expenses						
Staffing Expenses	9,163	14,229	64%	94,118	171,222	55%
Property & Office Expenses	4,839	5,086	95%	56,153	61,026	92%
Program Expenses	817	1,058	77%	4,560	12,700	36%
Budgeted Benevolence Expenses	1,537	1,908	81%	17,152	24,097	71%
Total Operating Expenses	**16,357**	**22,281**	**73%**	**171,983**	**269,045**	**64%**
Operating Income (Loss)	**(320)**	**(2,110)**	**15%**	**1,725**	**-**	
Other Income						
Unbudgeted Income	230	-		1,703	-	
Total Other Income	**230**	**-**		**1,703**	**-**	
Other Expenses						
Unbudgeted Expenses	135	-		215	-	
Total Other Expenses	**135**	**-**		**215**	**-**	
Net Income (Loss)	**$ (225)**	**$ (2,110)**	**11%**	**$ 3,212.54**	**$ -**	

Fund Balances	As of Oct 30, 2026
Unified Fund	$ 121,365
Building Fund	73,979
Memorial Fund	17,695
Fellowship Hall Fund	2,759
Youth Fund	10,869
Designated Benevolences	40
Quilters Fund	1,966
Innovative Ministries Fund	191,619
Flower Fund	810
Garden Fund	2,660
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,416
Total Fund Balances	**$ 425,178**

















We're



Hogwarts Library




HAUNT
COCOA

2026 . NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 LSI HOPES ANGEL TREE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP **12:30 CASSEROLE COOK OFF** 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**2** 6:30 PM AA	**3** 9:30 AM QUILT GROUP 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**4** 7:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**5 CONTACT INFO DUE** 6:30 PM ALL COMMITTEE	6 6:30 PM AA	**7**
8 LSI HOPES ANGEL TREE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**9** 6:30 PM AA	**10** 9:30 AM QUILT GROUP 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**11** 7:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**12** 11:30 AM LUNCH BUNCH@ PIZZA RANCH 6:00 PM COUNCIL	**13** 6:30 PM AA	**14**
15 LSI HOPES ANGEL TREE 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**16** 6:30 PM AA	**17** 9:30 AM QUILT GROUP 1:00 PM GR 5 MFR 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**18** 7:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**19** 8:00-11 AM & 4:00-8 PM LAUNDRY LOVE 6:30 PM JOY CIRCLE	**20** 6:30 PM AA	**21**
22 LUTHERAN LIVING ADOPT A RESIDENT 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE 6:00 PM THANKSGIVING WORSHIP	**23** 6:30 PM AA	**24** 9:30 AM QUILT GROUP 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**25** 7:00 AM MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**26 THANKSGIVING**	**27** 6:30 PM AA	**28**
29 LUTHERAN LIVING ADOPT A RESIDENT 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**30** 6:30 PM AA	**31** 9:30 AM QUILT GROUP 7:00 PM SCOUTS				

2026 . DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**2** 7:00 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**3** 6:30 ALL COMMITTEE MEETING	**4 CONTACT INFO DUE** 6:30 PM AA	**5**
6 LUTHERAN LIVING ADOPT A RESIDENT 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**7** 5:30 PM JOY CIRCLE CHRISTMAS @ SAL VITALE'S	**8** 1:00 PM MEMORIAL COMMITTEE 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**9** 7:00 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:30 PM BELL CHOIR 7:15 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**10** 11:30 AM LUNCH BUNCH@ MUSCATINE FAMILY RESTAURANT 6:00 PM COUNCIL MEETING	11 6:30 PM AA	**12**
13 LUTHERAN LIVING ADOPT A RESIDENT 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00 AM WORSHIP/SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**14**	**15** 1:00 PM GR 5 MFR 5:30 PM Z BOOK CLUB @DIAMOND DAVE'S 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**16** 7:00 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:15 PM BELL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**17** 8:00-11 AM & 4:00-8 PM LAUNDRY LOVE	**18** 6:30 PM AA	**19**
20 LUTHERAN LIVING ADOPT A RESIDENT 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**21**	**22** 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**23** 7:00 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 7:00 PM CHOIR 6:30 PM AA	**24 CHRISTMAS EVE** **OFFICE CLOSED** 8:00 PM WORSHIP ZION 4:00 PM SOTC/NEW ERA 6:00 PM GRACE	**25 CHRISTMAS** **OFFICE CLOSED** 6:30 PM AA	**26**
27 10:00 AM FELLOWSHIP 11:00 AM WORSHIP 1:30 ADULT BIBLE STUDY @GRACE	**28**	**29** 7:00 PM SCOUTS	**30** 7:00 A.M. MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 12:00 CHRISTIANS UNDERGROUND 6:15 PM FFN@GRACE LUTHERAN 6:30 PM AA	**31 NEW YEAR'S EVE**		