

The Messenger

ST. JOHN - ZION LUTHERAN CHURCHES

From The Pastor's Desk:

Reflections on Summer and Sunshine

We are officially in the full swing of all things summer. Schedules and daily rhythms have shifted for many, the days are longer, there are weekly concerts in parks and, if you are like me, the ice cream stops are more frequent. There is something about summer: the trees are green, the fields are growing, and flowers are popping up all over. The growth of nature during this season is impossible to miss.

Summer also invites us to slow down, at least a little. Whether we are spending time with family, tending a garden, traveling, or sitting outside on a warm evening, we are given opportunities to notice the beauty of God's creation in ways that can be harder to see during busier seasons. The warmth of the sun, the songs of birds, and the abundance of life around us can all serve as reminders of God's ongoing presence and care.

Psalm 86:12-13 says, "I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore. For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the pit of death." There is something about seeing the growth in nature around us in its fullest form throughout summer that can remind us of the life that is given to us by God through Jesus Christ. Just as God nurtures the earth and brings forth growth and abundance, God continues to nurture us through our gathering for worship, through community, and through the daily gift of grace.

At the same time, we know that not every season of life feels like summer. Some of us carry worries, grief, illness, or uncertainty. Yet even in those times, God's love remains with us. The promise of Christ's life and resurrection assures us that God is always bringing new

life, hope, and healing, even when we cannot fully see it.

May our gratefulness and response to the life given us each day through Christ lead us to share this love and life with others. May we be inspired by one another and the life around us to care for, love, and support all our neighbors. As we enjoy the blessings of this season, may we also take time to give thanks to God, to encourage one another, and to be signs of Christ's love in our homes, our congregation, and our community.

May God's peace and joy be with you throughout these summer months.

Peace,
Jay Kiel

ST. JOHN COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 8, 2026

St. John's council started the meeting at 6:30pm with Zion for our joint council meeting. St. John's members present were Dana Cook, Jeanne Trachsler, Gail Meyer, Kathy Hintz, Jill Stone-Brisky, Sally Ladsten, David Rischmueller and Vicar Jay. Vicar Jay did devotion with Psalm 100 prior to our meeting with Zion.

Treasurers Report was read and discussed. A motion was made by Kathy Hintz to place the treasurer report on audit.

Pastor Report: Vicar Jay presented his report at the joint meeting but added a few things specific to St. John's. Vacation Bible School is all set for Sunday June 14th following service and then June 15 and 16th . 16 children are signed up to attend. May had one funeral and one baptism.

Old Business: Reviewed Church Mutual Insurance. Dana is still working on the screen repair on the steeple and getting ideas for the ramp.

New Business: Church Mutual Insurance was discussed. The Semi-Annual Meeting is set for

July 19, 2026 following service. The joint service at Zion is set for August 16th . NO SERVICE AT ST. JOHN ON THIS DAY!

Messenger deadline – June 18, 2026

Usher for July is Dana Cook

Next council meeting is Monday, July 13th at 6:30

We rejoined with Zion for brief updates. A motion was made to adjourn by Kathy Hintz and seconded by Todd Thieding.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

In Peace,

Jeanne Trachsler,
Secretary



JOINT COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 8, 2026

Joint council meeting was held at St. John's. President (SJ) Dana Cook called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Members present included, Dana, Todd Thieding, Gail Meyer, David Rischmueller, Sally Ladsten, Jeanne Trachsler, Kathy Hintz, Sue Strutz, Jill Stone-Brisky, Megan Schulenberg and Vicar Jay Kiel.

Devotions were led by Vicar Jay: Psalm 100

Pastors Report: Vicar Jay filled us in on his progress with his schooling.

Secretary Report: Sue Strutz read the minutes from the last meeting. Motion made by David Rischmueller to accept, Sally Ladsten seconded.

Old Business: Set date for the Joint Worship Service at Zion. August 16, 2026 at Zion 10:00am. NO SERVICE AT ST. JOHN. More details to come in July. Zion Semi Annual Meeting is July 12th . St. John's semi annual

meeting is July 19th .

The councils separated for their individual meetings and joined back. No other business was discussed.

Vicar Jay closed with prayer. Kathy Hintz made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Todd Theiding.

Closed with Lord's Prayer.

In Christ,



Jeanne Trachsler,
St. John's Secretary

ST JOHN WELCA

St. John graduates were recognized during the June 7 worship service. Graduating this year were Lane Albers, Ritter Fahrenkamp and Marissa Needham.

There is no Bible Study in July and August. Bible Study resumes September 2 at 1:00 pm followed by the General Meeting.



July Greeters: Cindy Lehman
& Trudy Niemann

Wash Communionware:
Pauline McCauley & Vickie
(David) Yanke

August Greeters: Diana &
Nettie Mielke

Wash Communionware: Dena
Yanke & Kelly Yanke

Ruth Evert,
Secretary

Zion Stone Church

will be celebrating a 170th Anniversary on
Sunday, August 16 at a joint service at 10 am.

All members of St. John and Zion congregations, along with any family and friends that have been affiliated with Zion are invited to the worship service and the dinner following.

There are sign up sheets at both churches.

Please **RSVP no later than July 31.**

NO FORMAL INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT.

Thank you

Zion 170th Anniversary Committee

Lerna Mae Wiese 608-768-5306

Sandi Knuth 608-393-1537

Richard Knuth 608-393-7314

ZION COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 8, 2026

Due to only three council members being present, an official meeting was not held. However, the secretary's minutes were read and the treasurer's report handed out. Sue mentioned that Wes Kraemer has begun surveying the property.



Sue Strutz,

Secretary

Pastoral Acts

Baptism of Ava and Levi Butson
at St. John, June 7
VBS June 14-16

Thank you to Jill and Dan for offering to host the yard sale for our Neighbor in Need account. The time and work it took to organize and implement it is appreciated. Thank you to those that donated items and helped in any way to make it a success.

Messenger Deadline

The Third Thursday . . . The September issue deadline is Thursday, August 20. Contact the Messenger by e-mail at sjznewsletter@gmail.com or send by mail to 249 Holly Court, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578. Thank you.

July Birthdays

2	Brandon Zick
3	Roland Zick
4	Greg Meyer
8	Michael Slotty
9	Jeff Evert
10	Keith Oxberger
13	Bonnie Anderson
17	Richard Foye Kaylee Strutz
19	Laura Yanke
23	Norma Fenske Bruce Koenig
25	Coltyn Krumenauer
28	Diana Mielke
30	Halle Frey

Semi-Annual Meetings

Zion, Sunday, July 12th
following worship
St. John, Sunday, July 19th
following worship

Music and Community Nights at Cliffbrake Farm

Join us in the barn on the third Thursdays of the month to relax and enjoy summer evenings. Musicians, storytellers, and talented folks of all kinds are welcome. 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. - Social time and informal acoustic music jam session 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Sign up when you arrive, perform up to 3 songs or share a 10-minute story or other talent! Feel free to attend to just relax and enjoy as well. Come and go as you need to. No alcohol and no dogs. Family-friendly songs and stories please. Rain or shine, **July 16th** and **August 20th**. Farm located near Leland and Natural Bridge State Park. For more minor: Contact Deb 608-712-2951 or cliffbrakefarm@gmail.com

August Birthdays

1	Leonard Hanusa
2	Laren Kruse
3	Laura Koenig
5	Mabry Ladsten
6	Lydia Yanke Karen Brickl-Ballweg
8	Donna Bambrough
9	Tim Evert Mark Hintz Easton Shipley
11	Phyllis Schwartz
14	Sid Cook
16	Drake Bradbury Tom Evert
19	JoEllyn Yanke
21	Marvin Laukant
22	Cody Cook
23	Lauren Bradbury Lisa Pickarts
24	Jason Yanke
25	Sandra Knuth
26	Charlee Christine Cook
27	Jason Jaedike
28	Tommy Lehman
29	Larry Wiese

St. John~Zion Lutheran Churches

E7519 County Highway C
North Freedom, WI 53951



Mark Your Calendars

Calendar

Important Dates for July/August

July 13, 2026

St. John Council 6:30

August 9, 2026

Zion Council meets

August 10, 2026

St. John Council 6:30

August 20, 2026

Deadline for September issue
of the Messenger

Zion 170th Anniversary Joint Worship Service August 16

10 a.m. Worship service; meal to follow.

RSVP by July 31. More information on page 4