

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

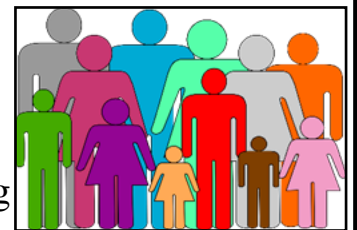
September 2025



Faith, Family, Friends



In recent months we have had more than our usual opportunities to spend time with family and friends. The shared gatherings gave us happiness and joy at the time as well as adding to our storehouse of warm memories.



Connections with family and friends can enhance our emotional well-being, reduce stress and increase happiness. When family and friends also live lives based on faith in God, we can experience inner peace, a sense of purpose and hope, especially during times of adversity. “Love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so that all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he’ll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!” (1 Peter 4:8-11 MSG)

As we share life’s ups and down with God, family and friends may we grow in our understanding of how all these resources are available to us as part of God’s amazing love, mercy and grace. As can be noted by Jesus “You didn’t choose me, remember; I chose you and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won’t spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.” (John 15:16 MSG)

submitted by Sally Middleton

For further reference, see also: Psalms 133:1; Proverbs 3:5-6; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 18:20;

John 13:34; Romans 12:9-10; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:15 and Hebrews 10:23-25.

PRAYER/HEALTH CONCERNS:

Sharon Miller, we praise God that Sharon is now cancer free. Pray for continued health, and encouragement as she continues to heal from treatment.

Rose Benjamin, will have her last chemo treatment soon. Imaging has determined the area of concern has reduced in size. Please continue to lift up Rose, prayers for comfort, strength, good medical decisions, and remission as well as prayers for her husband Larry.

Trudi and Ed McNulty, both have some health issues they are dealing with currently. Prayers appreciated.

Bonnie Herman, recovering from multiple surgeries following a car accident. She's in a rehab facility. Pray for comfort, strength, healing and appropriate rehab.

Sue Albert, completed her chemo treatments. She is doing well. Please continue to lift up Sue, prayers for comfort, strength, and remission. She is RuthAnn's daughter.

Kerry Richards, recovery from neck and rotator cuff surgery. Kerry is continuing to improve. Pray for comfort, appropriate meds for pain relief and healing. Kerry is Helga Maria's son.

Randy Crusemeyer, had a stroke and is hospitalized. Randy is continuing to improve. Pray for comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing. Pray for his family as well, he is Helga Maria's nephew.

Christine Pedler, has cancer in her lungs, spine, ribs and liver. Please lift her up, comfort and peace as well as prayers for her family. Christine is Ruthann's daughter's sister-in-law.

Paul Hoffmeister, moved to assisted living. Prayers for adjustment to this new home.

Philip Baldwin, had a stroke recently which affected his left arm and hand. Please lift up Philip, prayers for comfort, strength, appropriate rehab and healing as well as prayers for his wife, Linda. She supplies flatware for our monthly Café Compassion.

Nico Schaitman, who is 4, has a respiratory viral infection and was released from the hospital recently. Please lift him up, comfort, good medical decisions, and healing. Pray for his parents Anna and Evan as well. Nico is Juan and Sue Davila's grandson.

Donna, she is losing blood somewhere and the doctors haven't determined where the problem is yet. Please lift up Donna, comfort, good medical decisions, a diagnosis, treatment and healing. She is Terry Sigler's neighbor.

Prayers for our servicemen and women both at home and abroad.

Those unable to worship with us: Shirley Yoder, Mike Griggs, Maria Richards

Prayers for all unspoken requests both emotional and physical.

CARING CHRISTIANS

Zion Lutheran is a "family" of people who show their faith both in word and action. This year, 'Caring Christians' monthly newsletter article will describe a social ministry challenge. Each month our Zion budget will seed \$50 to a group and ask you to donate to grow the seeded money. In September, the seed money will go to Comfort Bears in a Catastrophe. This is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide hope and comfort through donated teddy bears and free 24/7-hour counseling to children affected by disasters. While immediate attention in a disaster is often given to emergency care and essential supplies, the emotional needs, especially of children, are often overlooked. A child's mental health, social skills and educational development can be significantly impacted by a disaster. You may put money or check in a pew envelope or other form so long as it is clearly marked to indicate it is meant for this cause. Please consider adding your donation to this social ministry cause!

Come One and all, invite a friend, the Bells are Ringing!

Sunday, September 21, Zion will dedicate our new Bell Tower complete with the historic Bell dedicated in 1955 in the original Zion ELCA building. Join the service as we celebrate the long planned tower and the beginning of the Pavilion visioned for when we started construction on the new Zion building years ago.

Please plan to stay after the service as we celebrate with a carry in meal. Bring your favorite dish, table service and drinks will be provided. Bring a friend or former members that may have memories of Zion and can help celebrate what God has been doing in our congregation.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

September

| SUN | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|---|---|----------------------------------|-----|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 9:00 am Quilting 6:00pm Bible Study | 4 9:00 am Men's Group | 5 | 6 8:30-10:30 am Café Compassion 9:00 am to noon Clothed With Compassion 10:00 am to 7:00 pm Corndog Festival at Congdon Park |
| 7 8:15 Adult Sunday School 9:00am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service Holy Communion | 8 7:00-8:00 pm 4-H Meeting | 9 6:00pm Church Council Meeting | 10 9:00 am Quilting | 11 9:00 am Men's Group | 12 | 13 9:30 am Biblical Journaling (come and go as you please) |
| 14 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service | 15 | 16 | 17 9:00 am Quilting | 18 9:00 am Men's Group | 19 | 20 9:00 am to noon Clothed With Compassion |
| 21 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service Holy Communion | 22 | 23 | 24 9:00 am Quilting | 25 9:00 am Men's Group | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service | 29 11:30 Young At Heart at Perkins | 30 | | | | |



**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO
BE PRESENT FOR YOUR
SLOT, PLEASE CONTACT
ANOTHER VOLUNTEER
TO TRADE PLACES!**

Thank you!



September 2 Anna Greenwalt
September 3 Dennis Otto
September 7 Kathy Hillman
September 8 Liz Teall Yohn
September 10 Sandy Thrapp
September 12 Pat Brown
September 14 RuthAnn Owen
September 26 Jim Kensinger

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

September 7 Juan Davila Jr.
September 14 Dan Teall
September 21 Marv Middleton
September 28 Dave VanZile
October 5 Juan Davila Jr.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

September 7 Lana Stutsman
September 14 Katie Teall
September 21 Amber Teall
September 28 Rob Teall
October 5 Sue Davila

SCRIPTURE READERS

September 7 Maria Davila/Gloria Davila
September 14 Aaron Crocker/Jim Kensinger
September 21 Lynn Shelley/Mary Ziegler
September 28 Greg Siberry/
October 5 Lyn Hisey/Lynn Shelley

OFFERING COUNTERS

September 7 Steve Krallman/Dave VanZile
September 14 Chris Harrison/Jerri Hisey
September 21 Jim Kensinger/Amber Teall
September 28 Dave Teall/Larry Benjamin
October 5 Steve Krallman/Dave VanZile

GREETERS/USHERS

September 7 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker
September 14 Elaine Wolking/Mary Ziegler
September 21 Amber Teall/Phyllis Tubbs
September 28 Elaine Wolkins/Mary Ziegler
October 5 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker

None

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

September 7 Chris Harrison
September 14 Sue Davila
September 21 David Teall
September 28 Randy Yohn
October 5 Chris Harrison

ALTAR CARE

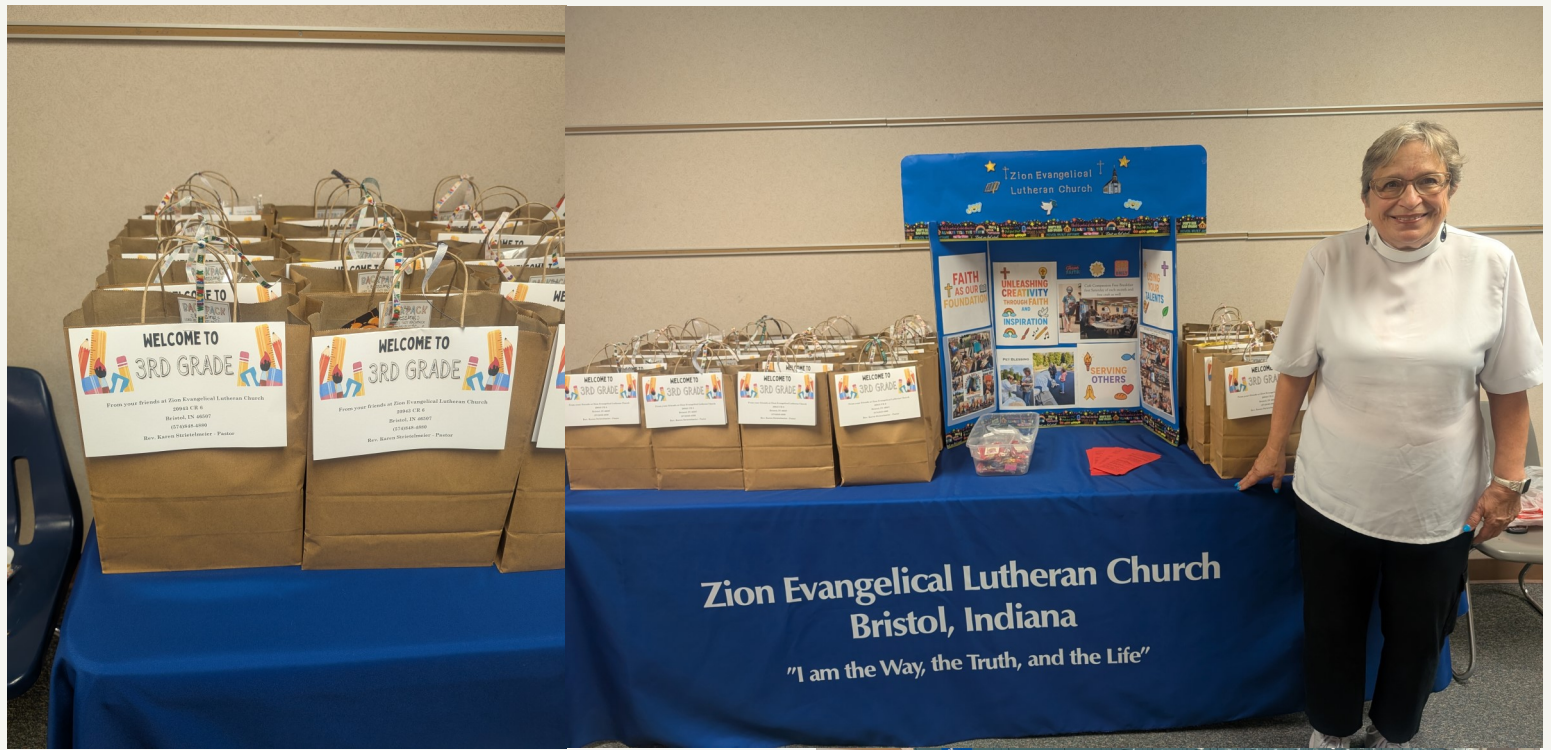
September 7 Lana Stutsman
September 14 Jerri Hisey
September 21 Lois Bostian
September 28 Lyn Hisey
October 5 Lana Stutsman

REFRESHMENTS

September 7 Lana Stutsman/Jodee Shaw
September 14 Sue Davila/Amber Teall
September 21 Mary Ziegler/Liz Yohn
September 28 Lyn Hisey/Judy Sparr
October 5 RuthAnn Owen/Jerri Hisey

| Week | Number |
|---------|--------|
| 8/3 | 61 |
| 8/10 | 56 |
| 8/17 | 84 |
| 8/24 | 61 |
| 8/31 | 54 |
| AVERAGE | 63 |





Bristol Elementary Back to School Night

We passed out bags with school supplies for 50 children, and got to meet the teachers the church is supporting this year.





Bristol Library Annual Car Show

We had a great time, despite the heat!

We met many new faces.

Children enjoyed Pastor Karen's race car craft and treat bags!

Zion Council Meeting
8/10/2025
6 p.m.

Present: Sue Davila, Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey, Marv Middleton, Sally Middleton, Jodee Shaw and Pastor Karen Strietelmeier. **Absent:** Chad Root.

President Chris Harrison opened the meeting at 6 p.m. Sue Davila provided the devotion based on Mark 11:24. "When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for." Sue offered personal stories of the times her prayers were answered. She pointed out they sometimes were answered almost immediately, but more often took time to come to fruition, sometimes many years. Sue stressed that God is true to his promise and we must be patient as we hold on to that promise.

Church secretary Lesley spoke to the council about setting up the Connect app to expand the number of online activities Zion can use with Zion's operating software, Church Trac. Lesley said Connect can be used with FaceBook and the Zion's Website to better advertise our programs and services to the greater community. Lesley said one of the benefits of the app is that Zion can send mass emails or texts to congregation members, such as church cancellation notices due to poor weather and reminders of upcoming programs and events. Members can use the app to ask for prayer requests. Lesley said as more and more people are using their phones to give and receive messages today, this new app will allow Zion and its members to reach more people at once. Lesley said there is no charge to use Connect. She added a step-by-step instruction of the app's use will be held at the beginning of an upcoming church service so that all Zion members can learn how to use it on their phones. Pastor Karen said in today's tech savvy world, it's important that Zion reach out to the larger community using the younger generation's communication methods.

Secretary's Report: Sue moved to accept the July report. Marv seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously..

Treasurer's Report: Jerri Hisey presented the July budget. The 2025 budget remaining at the end of July was \$60,769.18. The total assets at the end of July were \$122,275.15. Offerings received in July were \$13,494.50.. The year-to-date budget is \$5,225 to the good. Jerri announced the church's annual insurance has increased \$1,200. She said this was a hit that Zion had not anticipated. She added that Zion researched insurance rates a year ago and that even with the new increase, the current rate is still on the low end of most insurance carriers. Jerri also reported that Jacob Mueller of Romania, who runs an after-school program for children in his city, has requested his annual donation of \$500 a year be increased to \$600. He said the increase is needed to serve a climbing enrollment. The council voted to increase the donation with the caveat that Jacob provide an accounting of how the money is spent. Jodee moved to accept the report with Sue seconding. The motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen shared her July activities. She made two home visits, led Wednesday evening Bible studies, and attended the Young at Heart luncheon, the Cafe Compassion breakfast and a Bible Art Journaling. Pastor said she and two Zion members will attend the Bristol Elementary School Open House tomorrow. Zion will donate 50 bags of school supplies for Bristol third graders. It will also donate \$200 each to the school's two third-grade teachers. Pastor Karen and the volunteers will also man a display table announcing upcoming events at Zion. On August 15, Pastor and a few volunteers will man a similar display table at the Bristol Public Library's Car Show at Congdon Park. The volunteers will help children with a craft and will provide information about Zion's programs and services to adults. Pastor Karen reiterated that any information that needs to go into the church calendar or online should be directed to Lesley. Pastor said she would like to restart the Outreach Committee, which will be dedicated to event planning, welcoming visitors, and digital advertising of Zion's events and activities. Pastor said Zion needs to deepen our engagement in order to make itself known on a larger scale and to widen opportunities for service to the community. Those who would like to serve on the committee can contact Pastor Karen or Lesley.

Ministry Areas:

Fellowship: Sue said everything is set for the South Bend Cubs Baseball Game on August 22. Jerri reported the final count for the outing is 52.

Worship & Music: Jodee reported that Pastor Karen will have the fourth Sunday of the month off from her preaching duties. Becky Goodman and Pastor Steve Schwier have agreed to preach these Sundays. After January 1, Pastor Tim Diemer will also be added to the roster of guest pastors. Darlene Ashcraft will handle the scheduling. There was a discussion on using the bell chimes more during the service. Becky Goodman and Amber Teall will learn to play the chimes from their phones. It was decided to have the chimes ring on the second and fourth Sundays both at the beginning and end of service. It was also decided that during church services, after Passing of the Peace, there will be quiet music so the congregation can meditate before the service begins. Pastor Karen reported the Bell Tower dedication has been set for September 21. There will be a pot-luck luncheon following the service.

Social Ministry: Sally Middleton said Zion's September's mission will be Comfort Bears in a Catastrophe, an organization that provides stuffed animals to children impacted by natural disasters and floods. The founder of the organization saw a lack of such comfort when she was a victim of Hurricane Katrina. The organization also provides access to 24/7-hour counseling. The Elkhart Fire Department is an ally of this cause.

Nominating: Two new members will be needed for the Church Council in 2026.

Cemetery: Marv said several dead Maple trees along C.R 19, adjacent to the cemetery, were cut down by a tree service. He said a few Zion members have agreed to chop up the remaining wood.

Christian Education: Sue said children's Sunday School will start back up the Sunday after Labor Day.

The **Long Range, Personnel, Property, Finance and Audit, Stewardship, Technology and Pastoral Advisory** committees had nothing to report.

Old Business:

Pavilion: President Chris announced construction will begin the week of September 8. Chris said several committee members took a tour to view the heavy wooden picnic tables they were interested in placing in the pavilion. After learning the cost, \$1,600 per table, the committee decided to look at other options. One of these options is an Amish-made table constructed of plastic tops and metal bottoms. These are available at \$400 a table. Chris said the committee plans to purchase a table and place it in the pavilion for Zion members to view. If members like the table, they may wish to purchase one for the pavilion. Chris added that before the committee can obtain a quote on electricity costs, the pavilion will need to be partially built.

New Business:

President Chris announced that a church member would like to sell a baby grand piano to Zion for \$1,000. Jerri reported that Becky Goodman played the piano and that it has a wonderful sound. However, the piano will need \$1,000 in repairs and \$450 to move it to Zion. Additionally, the piano should have a humidifier, which would cost another \$750 and might require increasing and/or lowering the sanctuary thermostat at different times of the year. This could result in increased energy costs. Jodee pointed out the church already has two pianos and questioned if purchasing a third piano is worth the increased costs to the church. No one on the council made a motion to purchase the piano.

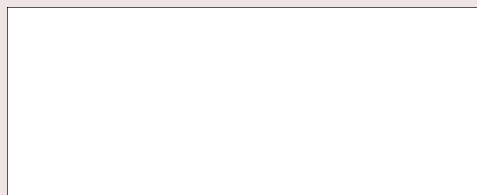
Jodee moved to adjourn the meeting. Sally seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday September 9, 2025 at 6 p.m. Pastor Karen will provide the devotion.

Zion Lutheran Church

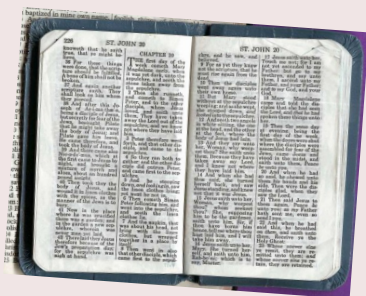
20943 CR 6

Bristol, IN 46507



Zion's Mission

We are a family of Christians who
choose to worship, to learn, to witness,
and care
by reaching out and sharing ourselves
through the Good News of God, the
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Jesus said,

***"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No
one can come to the Father
except through me."***

John 14:6

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

20943 CR 6

Bristol IN 46507

Rev. Karen Strietelmeier

Music Director - Becky Goodman

Secretary/Editor - Lesley Harrigan

OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-2:30
p.m.**

Phone - 574-848-4880

www.zionbristol.org

(Please call if we can be of service.)

[Email: office@zionbristol.org](mailto:office@zionbristol.org)