

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2025



Radical Persistence

Late this summer, a black squirrel with a brown tail became an unwanted regular visitor. The goal of the visits was to access our window bird feeder which contained a mixture of seeds, fruit and nuts. In the beginning, to access the feeder it was necessary to start from the deck railing, jump to the nearest windowsill, climb around the division to the next windowsill, around a larger separation to the next windowsill where the feeder was. All of this was not accomplished on his first try, but with persistence and wiliness. We were similarly persistent in trying to keep him from the food we intended for bird visitors, usually to be eventually thwarted by his ability to overcome any challenge.



Now in our culture the word radical tends to have a negative connotation. However, the definition of radical persistence means “to maintain motivation and resilience in the face of challenges”. This squirrel seems to be quite an example of this, as other squirrels have been willing to settle for what they can get without the challenges. In our daily lives, the challenges are many and often relentless. Challenges often entail choices between the faith we profess and not straying too far from what is perhaps easier and/or may make us more comfortable. Comfortably is not how our faith asks us to live. “Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.” (James 1:2-4 MSG)

At this writing, after many adaptations, we have placed the feeder on the highest part of the window, with all screens removed to further hinder access. So far, the squirrel has not succeeded, but he has also not stopped trying. Our faith in God expects our radical persistence. “Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.” (James 1:12 MSG)

submitted by Sally Middleton

For further reference, see also: Psalm 27:14; Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 7:7-8; Luke 18:1-8; Romans 2:7, 5:3-4 and 12:12; Galatians 6:9; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Hebrews 10:36 and James 5:11.

PRAYER/HEALTH CONCERNS:

Rose Benjamin, had imaging done last week and the cancer is gone. Her energy level is improving. Please continue to lift her up comfort, strength and remission.

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

Bonnie Herman, who experienced a serious auto accident a few months ago is home from the rehab facility. She continues her rehab regarding her wrists, and right leg which she had a hip replacement, as well as food and ankle issues. Please continue to lift her up, comfort, strength, successful rehab and healing. Bonnie is a friend of Sue Davila.

Randy Crussemeyer, who is recovering from a stroke is having challenges with rehab. It is a timely process and he is experiencing discomfort. Continue to lift him up, comfort, strength, making progress in rehab and healing. Pray for his family as well, he is Helga Maria's nephew.

Donna Robinson, Donna is 73, continues to improve. The cause of her bleeding is unknown but the doctors are pleased with her progress. Please continue to lift her up comfort, strength, and healing. She is Terry Sigler's neighbor.

Jan Coffman, is continuing to improve. Her rehab is going well. She has a scheduled doctor's appointment Oct. 7. She hopes she will get approval from the doctor to put weight on that leg and go home. Please continue to lift up Jan, comfort, strength, good rehab reaching her goals, and healing.

Phyllis VanZile, Phyllis who is 90, has been experiencing pain and is on different meds to help control her discomfort. Please lift her up, comfort and peace. Phyllis is Dave's mother.

Blaine VanZile, Blaine who is 41, is experiencing some challenges in his life. Please lift him up to help him make good choices.

Jeanne Young, who is in her 80's, recently had leg surgery due to blocked veins and is now in a rehab center to get stronger. After she recovers from her leg issue, she is in need of a heart valve replacement. A long recovery would be involved. Please lift up Jeanne, comfort, strength, healing and good decisions as to when the heart surgery should be done. She is a neighbor of Lesley Harrigan, Zion's secretary.

Mary Sigsbee, who will turn 100 Sept. 22, is having some health issues, shortness of breath being one of them. Please lift up Mary, comfort and peace. Mary is the mother-in-law of Sherry Sigsbee.

Charm Meier, who is 32, gave birth to a little girl named Maisy Ella. Maisy weighs 3lbs 15 oz and is nursing well. Please continue to lift them up, comfort and healing. Charm is the daughter-in-law of Nancy Teall's sister's best friend.

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 October, the seed money will go to **Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Elkhart County**. This is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to make and distribute beds and bedding for children. In addition to financial donations, local volunteer opportunities are available. Their motto is "**No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.**" 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! You can also contribute new twin size sheets, pillows and bedding putting those donations in the basket provided. (Items donated will be dropped off at their site.)

September was a great month for our Café Compassion and our Clothed with Compassion. Both saw large turn-outs. There were 114 for the breakfast and a record breaking 86 families total for the clothing. 60 families were in and out before 10 am.

DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are collecting shampoo this month for The Hub- Hearts United For Bristol. Please drop off your donations here at the church.

Roadside Clean-up

We have decided to change the date of the roadside clean-up to November 8, 2025 to allow anyone interested to attend Shirley Yoder's Celebration of Life.

Here is Paul Hoffmeister's new address and he would welcome hearing from members of the Zion family.

Paul Hoffmeister
1129 Parkway Ave. Apt. 328
Elkhart, IN 46516

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
October 14, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 9:00 am Quilting	2 9:00 am Men's Group	3	4 8:30-10:30 am Café Compassion 9:00 am to noon Clothed With Compassion
5 8:15 Adult Sunday School 9:00am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service Holy Communion	6 7:00-8:00 pm 4-H Meeting	7	8 9:00 am Quilting	9 9:00 am Men's Group	10	11 9:30 am Biblical Journaling (come and go as you please)
12 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service	13	14 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	15 9:00 am Quilting	16 9:00 am Men's Group	17	18 9:00 am to noon Clothed With Compassion
19 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service	20	21	22 9:00 am Quilting	23 9:00 am Men's Group	24	25 Shirley Yoder Celebration of Life 10 am Trunk or Treat Voyant Beauty 5pm-8pm
26 8:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:00 am Fellowship 9:30 am Worship Service Reformation Sunday Holy Communion	27 11:30 Young At Heart at Perkins	28	29	30	31 	



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

Thank you!



October 3 Krista Dodd
October 5 Estela Davila
October 6 Christine Harrison
Jok Engber
October 14 Joanne Lundquist
October 15 Martin Thomas Teall
October 17 Char Siberry
October 21 Natalie Teall

TECHNOLOGY TEAM

October 5 Juan Davila Jr.
October 12 Dan Teall
October 19 Marv Middleton
October 26 Dave VanZile
November 2 Juan Davila Jr.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 5 Sue Davila
October 12 Lana Stutsman
October 19 Katie Teall
October 26 Amber Teall
November 2 Sue Davila

SCRIPTURE READERS

October 5 Lyn Hisey/Lynn Shelley
October 12 Chris Otto/Jerri Hisey
October 19 Lisa Thalheimer/Steve Krallman
October 26 Gloria Davila/Maria Davila
November 2 Aaron Crocker, Jim Kensinger

OFFERING COUNTERS

October 5 Steve Krallman/Dave VanZile
October 12 Lois Bostian/Lyn Hisey
October 19 Chris Harrison/Jerri Hisey
October 26 Dave Teall/Larry Benjamin
November 2 Steve Krallman/Dave VanZile

GREETERS/USHERS

October 5 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker
October 12 Amber Teall/Phyllis Tubbs
October 19 Elaine Wolkins/Mary Ziegler
October 26 Jim and Darlene Ashcraft
November 2 Aaron and Jeannine Crocker

October 7 Jim and Darlene Ashcraft

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

October 5 Chris Harrison
October 12 Sue Davila
October 19 Randy Yohn
October 26 David Teall
November 2 Randy Yohn

ALTAR CARE

October 5 Lana Stutsman
October 12 Jerri Hisey
October 19 Lois Bostian
October 26 Lyn Hisey
November 2 Lana Stutsman

REFRESHMENTS

October 5 RuthAnn Owen/Jerri Hisey
October 12 Darlene Ashcraft/Chris Otto
October 19 Lana Stutsman/Sue Davila
October 26 Jerri Hisey/Amber Teall
November 2 Mary Ziegler, Liz Yohn

Week	Number
9/7	65
9/14	57
9/21	64
9/28	61
AVERAGE	62





We participated in the Bristol Corndog Festival on Saturday, September 6, 2025. We had a duck pond in the Vintage game area. It was so nice to meet families and watch kids have fun catching ducks! We gave out almost 200 bags filled with candy, pencils, stickers, whistles and bracelets. It was a great opportunity to share with the community what we offer here at Zion. Thank you to all who helped out to make this event such a success.

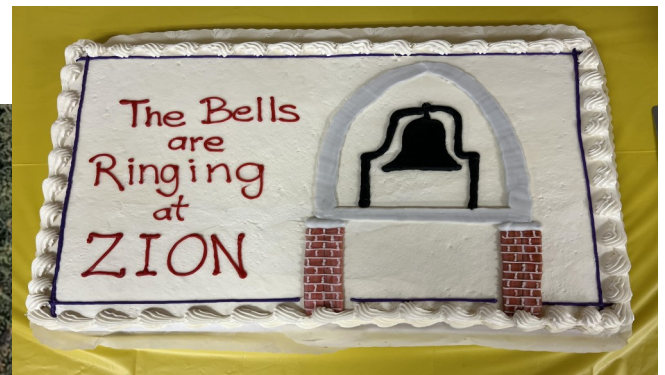


Pictured are Lesley Harrigan, Brock Harrigan, Amber Teall and Lana Stutsman

Bell Tower Dedication

September 21, 2025

We were blessed with a break in the rain so we could go celebrate our beautiful bell tower dedication. Thank you to Rob Teall and all who worked so hard to make this day possible. Chris Harrison spoke about the history of the church and the many set backs that had to be overcome to get to this dedication. Pastor Karen led everyone in prayer dedicating the bell tower to God, trusting that it will be a source of hope and inspiration for generations to come. Afterwards, a carry in meal was enjoyed by those in attendance.





Zion Council Meeting

9/9/2025

6 p.m.

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

President Chris Harrison called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. Pastor Karen provided the devotions using a race car engine as an analogy to our relationship to Jesus Christ. Pastor said just as a race car needs fuel to operate, so must our souls be filled up with the love of Jesus Christ. She explained this is accomplished by people around us filling us with love and compassion and that we must fill up those around us. Pastor pointed out that Jesus commanded us to love not only those we agree with, but also our enemies as well.

Secretary's Report: Chad moved to accept the August report. Sue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: As the treasurer was absent, there was no September report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen noted she had a busy September. She participated in the Back to School event at Bristol Elementary School and worked the Zion booth at both the Bristol Auto Show and the Corndog Festival at Congdon Park on two consecutive Saturdays. She also attended the Compassion Cafe, met with several folks interested in joining the church and learned that three current Zion members would like to be trained as home and hospital visitors. Pastor reported that one of the area connections she made at the Bristol Auto Show was with Benchmark Family Services, which finds and trains families to serve as foster parents throughout Indiana. The organization wants to expand into Elkhart County and is in need of a place to provide this training, which would occur on several Saturdays throughout the year. Pastor said Benchmark is also in need of suitcases and blankets, as well as children's clothing, since the children typically bring nothing with them when they are removed from their homes by Social Services. The council discussed asking the congregation to donate used suitcases and new blankets to the cause. Pastor said Benchmark could also partner with Zion's Clothes Closet regarding the need for children's items. Jodee moved to allow Benchmark to use the church for its training. Sue seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ministry Areas:

Fellowship: The World Hunger Auction was scheduled for November 9.

Personnel: Chad reported that Zion's new secretary, Lesley, is doing a wonderful job.

Social Ministry: Chris said Sally Middleton asked her to announce Zion's October mission will be Sleep In Heavenly Peace, a local organization that provides beds for children who don't have them. The organization's motto is "No Child Sleeps on the Floor in Elkhart County."

Nominating: Two new members will be needed for the Church Council in 2026. Sue said Juan Davila and Lana Stutsman are working on obtaining members to run for these positions.

Christian Education: Sue said children's Sunday School started back up September 7.

Technology: Chad said he noticed a glitch in the projector at Sunday's service. He said he will work on it.

The Long Range, Worship & Music, Property, Finance and Audit, Cemetery, Stewardship, Evangelism and Pastoral Advisory committees had nothing to report.

Old Business:

Pavilion: President Chris reported ground for the pavilion was cleared and leveled and that the lumber had been delivered. She noted the Pavilion Committee purchased a picnic table to display to the congregation and that she is hopeful Zion members will purchase additional tables.

Bell Tower Dedication: Chris said the tower will be dedicated September 21. She reported invitations were mailed to past Zion members. Chad said he will look into obtaining some media coverage of the historical event. The bell was originally dedicated at the old church in 1955. Pastor Karen said she is working on the dedication service, which will be held at the tower after Zion's regular Sunday service inside the church. A carry-in dinner will be held inside the church following the bell dedication.

Piano: Chad mentioned an email sent to council members by Vice President Marv Middleton regarding a suggestion by the piano tuner that the baby grand piano be kept at a temperature between 68 and 72 degrees. Marv wrote that he normally keeps the sanctuary at this temperature only during Sunday or special services. He said the setback for the other six days of the week is 59 or 80, depending on winter or summer. Marv wrote that he did some research into the subject and found another opinion that the ideal temperature is 60 to 80 degrees. Marv said he will have more information on the subject at the October council meeting. Marv also noted a humidifier for the baby grand will cost between \$700 and \$800. Jodee reminded the council that the Zion family that purchased the piano for the congregation agreed to cover all of the expenses for the piano.

New Business:

The HUB: Chris said Zion received an email from the HUB reporting it has ended its contract with the USDA, which provides about 30 percent of the food pantry's dry food received monthly and around 70 percent of its meat. The HUB based its decision on several requirements added by the USDA. These requirements include opening up the Bristol pantry to any resident of Indiana, regardless of which county they reside, and closing the pantry to Michigan residents, such as those in Union, who have been served by the Bristol food pantry for many years. Another condition is that the pantry would not be allowed to retain or share for grant money any data on its families. The HUB currently relies heavily on grant money to operate the food pantry. The HUB is asking churches that volunteer at the HUB to collect food for the pantry in the month leading up to their volunteering to offset the impact of the reductions in USDA food provisions. Chris said she would like the congregation to discuss other ways it can help the HUB to offset the losses.

Security at the old church: Jodee brought up a conversation she and Pastor Karen had with a neighbor of Zion at the Bristol Auto Show. The neighbor reported that one late night in July she witnessed several cars pull into the old Zion parking lot and approximately a dozen male teens enter the church. The neighbor said she could see their flashlights as they walked around all three floors of the church. The neighbor called the police, who did respond to the trespassing call. The neighbor said she viewed the police talking to the boys, who then returned to their cars and drove off. Jodee pointed out that if one of the trespassers was injured, Zion could be held legally responsible for their injuries since the church is not locked. Pastor Karen and Chad also expressed concern. Chad asked why the doors are not locked. Chris said they are left open so people can drop off items for the Clothes Closet. Jodee said Zion needs to find an alternative way to have the donations dropped off, such as providing drop-offs on Thursdays, when the volunteers are working in the building, and/or installing a large donation box, similar to the ones used by Goodwill, near the front door. Chad said he will look into the cost of obtaining a large donation box.

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

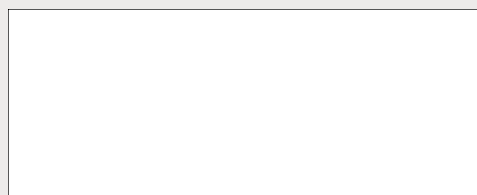
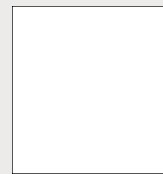
Next Council Meeting: Tuesday October 14 at 6 p.m. Jodee will provide the devotion.

Council Adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Faithfully submitted by Jodee Shaw, Council Secretary.

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

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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)