

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 2026



Dry Leaves in the New Year??



As we traveled in Virginia, West Virginia and Southeastern Ohio in September, we noted that they had had so little rain and no noticeable irrigation that the leaves were drying on the tree and falling in quantity when the wind blew even slightly. As a result, the leaves were skipping the usual seasonal change to their bright fall display. The lawns were almost uniformly brown. As we neared home, even though we had not had a lot of rain, everything was much greener.

Water is vital to all of life in this world as we know it. The Bible talks about water over 700 times starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation. The readings refer to how water is not only a physical need but is also useful for our spiritual care and growth. Water sustains life, provides for cleansing, refreshes us, makes things new and transforms the world. Our faith may become stale and stagnant if we do not renew it with the Living Water which Jesus offered to the woman at the well, and which can be our gift as well. "Jesus answered, 'If you knew the generosity of God and who I am, you would be asking *me* for a drink, and I would give you fresh, living water.'" (John 4:10 MSG)

As we begin a new year, may all of us at Zion take the opportunity to show how the precious gift of 'living water' enhances our faith walk by actions we take, not just inside the walls of Zion or limited to the local community, but to reach out to the world, relying on God as opportunities present themselves. "God's Decree. Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, doing their work of making things grow and blossom...So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They'll do the work I sent them to do, they'll complete the assignment I gave them." (Isaiah 55:10-11 MSG) submitted by Sally Middleton

For further reference, see also: Psalm 23:2-3; Jeremiah 17: 7-8 & 13; John 4:14, 7:37-38 & 14:13-14; Hebrews 10:23-24; Revelation 21:6 & 22:17.

PRAYER/HEALTH CONCERNS:

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

Bonnie Herman, who had her hip repaired after a fall is still experiencing numbness in her foot. Also she is dealing with drop foot in both feet. She is starting physical therapy. Please lift up Bonnie comfort, strength, successful therapy and continued healing. Bonnie is a friend of Sue Davila.

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, seeing the surgeon to find out if her surgery will be soon or put off until spring/summer. If put off, she hopes to return home and continue healing. Please lift up Jeanne comfort, strength, continued healing of her leg, and good medical decisions. Jeanne is Lesley's neighbor.

Mary O'Connor, Mary who is 60, has ovarian cancer and went to Mayo for a second opinion. They determined she will have 3 chemo treatments 21 days apart. Then she will have scans done and possible surgery. Please lift up Mary, comfort, strength, successful treatments and possible surgery as well as prayers for her family. Mary helps with the Clothed With Compassion.

Kerry Richards, his second shoulder surgery due to a fall has been postponed. Please lift up Kerry comfort, good medical decisions and the surgery to be rescheduled soon.

Pastor Karen, is scheduled for a total knee replacement Jan 16th. She is able to walk with a cane and has minimal pain. She will be able to work until surgery date. Please continue to lift her up, comfort and strength waiting for her scheduled surgery.

Randy Crusemeyer, Randy who is 54 had a stroke in July. He is home and having mobility issues and experiencing discomfort. Please lift up Randy comfort, strength, assistance with his mobility and healing. Randy is Helga Maria's nephew.

Steve Nystrand, 64, has been diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. He has had surgery and radiation treatments. He starts chemo this week, 6 treatments every 3 weeks. Please lift up Steve comfort, strength, good medical decisions, successful chemo treatments and remission as well as prayers for Jenny his wife who is a nurse. Steve and Jenny are neighbors of Tom and Nancy.

Carlos, he is in the ICU with a brain aneurysm. Please lift him up comfort, strength, good medical decisions, successful surgery if needed and healing. Carlos is a friend of Pastor Karen's daughter Alaine who live in Milwaukee.

Paul Hoffmeister, is recovering from bronchitis. Please continue to lift up Paul comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing.

Bud Bainter, Bud who is 91, fell in his home recently and injured his head and neck. He has no fractures but is experiencing pain and stiffness. Please lift him up comfort, strength, improved mobility and healing. Bud is Harriet's brother.

Lauren Godlewski, knee surgery went well. A replacement was avoided due to another procedure being done to correct her issues. Lauren is Pastor Karen's daughter.

Michael Middleton sustained an injury shattering both sides of his left ankle snowboarding. He had successful surgery and the doctor is very pleased with the outcome. He has 3 plates, 30 screws and 3 incisions. As a result, healing will be a timely process. Please continue to lift up Michael comfort, strength, healing and successful rehab if needed.

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

Those unable to worship with us: Mike Griggs and Maria Richards

Prayers for all unspoken requests both emotional and physical.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
January 13, 2026 AT 6:00 PM

The Hub Donations

For the month of January our church will be collecting pancake mix and syrup for the Hub. Please bring all donations to the table designated for supplies.



In 2026 Zion Lutheran will continue to be a “family” of people who show their faith both in word and action. The ‘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. 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 challenge. In January, the seed money will go to **Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (aka L.A.M.P./LIM)** Lamp’s volunteers and staff from the US and Canada share the love of Jesus with Indigenous people in communities in remote Canada through Christ-centered Bible Schools, Bible studies, and other outreach. Please consider adding your donation to our seed money.



I just want to thank everyone for your cards, gifts and well wishes this holiday season. They mean so much to me.

Pastor Karen

Service	Number
12/03	7
12/07	45
12/10	—
12/14	63
12/17	3
12/21	50
12/24	82
12/28	38
Average	41



JANUARY



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



Scripture Readers

January 4 Lynn Shelley, Lyn Hisey
 January 11 Jerri Hisey, Chris Otto
 January 18 Lisa Thalheimer, Steve Krallman
 January 25 Gloria Davila, Maria Davila
 February 1 Aaron Crocker, Jim Kensinger

Offering Counters

January 4 Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey
 January 11 Lois Bostian, Lyn Hisey
 January 18 Jim Kensinger, Amber Teall
 January 25 Dave Teall, Larry Benjamin
 February 1 Steve Krallman, Dave VanZile

Greeters/Ushers

January 4 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker
 January 11 Chad & Sheila Root
 January 18 Phyllis Tubbs, Elaine Wolkins
 January 25 Jim & Darlene Ashcraft
 February 1 Aaron & Jeannine Crocker

Technology Team

January 4 Marv Middleton
 January 11 Juan Davila Jr.
 January 18 Dave VanZile
 January 25 Dan Teall
 February 1 Marv Middleton

Worship Assistant

January 4 Randy Yohn, Steve Krallman
 January 11 Sue Davila
 January 18 Dave Teall
 January 25 Chris Harrison
 February 1 Steve Krallman

Altar Care

January 4 Lana Stutsman
 January 11 Lois Bostian
 January 18 Jerri Hisey
 January 25 Darlene Ashcraft
 February 1 Lana Stutsman

Refreshments

January 4 Sue Davila, Amber Teall
 January 11 Lyn Hisey, Judy Sparr
 January 18 Lana Stutsman, Sherry Sigsbee
 January 25 RuthAnn Owens, Jerri Hisey
 February 1 Darlene Ashcraft, Chris Otto

Sunday School

January 4 Sue Davila
 January 11 Rob Teall
 January 18 Katie Teall
 January 25 Amber Teall
 February 1 Rob Teall

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

January Birthdays

January 4 Joshua Ferrier
 January 5 Steve Hisey
 January 8 Helen Stutsman
 January 10 David Teall
 January 15 Aaron Crocker
 Harriet Kruse
 January 22 Becky Goodman
 January 23 Lois Bostian



Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 12/9/25

Time: 7pm

Location: Zion Lutheran Church

Attending: Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey, Chad Root, Amber Teall, Juan Davila, Becky Goodman, Larry Benjamin, Marv Middleton, Sally Middleton, Pastor Karen, Sheila Root, Rose Benjamin, Lesley Harrigan

Devotion: Chad Root "Lead Like Jesus" by Ken Blanchard & Phil Hodges
Lesson from the Greatest Leadership Model of All Time

Lead like Jesus. Be a servant leader. Who are you trying to please? Who is in charge of your life? You or Jesus? Matthew 20: 25-28. Mark 10:45. Start with the heart. Driven people think they own everything. Called people believe everything is on loan. Servant leaders don't react-they respond. Grace is the currency of all true relationships. Matthew 6:33

Secretary's Report: Submitted in the newsletter.

Motion Accepted by: Sally Middleton

Seconded by: Marv Middleton

Treasurer's Report: Jerri handed out the Treasurer's Report. It has been a good year. We have had special projects (bell tower and pavilion).

Motion Accepted by: Marv Middleton

Seconded by: Chad Root

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen reported that she is going in for surgery on January 16th. She will not be at church the 18th-February. She is planning on being back the first Sunday in March. February 18th is Ash Wednesday. Worship and Music will need to think about Lent services in Pastor's absence.

Ministry Areas (Liaison Reports)

- Long range (Chris)-Pavillion is set for now.
- Social Ministry (Sally) LAMP Lutheran Association of Mission Pilots will be the social missionary in January.
- Property (Marv) Nothing to report. Jerry said to contact her if something out of the ordinary happens at church so that she can have the lot plowed.
- Finance & Audit (Marv) change from all CDs to 1/2 CDs and 1/2 Treasury Bills
- Nominating (Juan & Lana)- need one additional person for next month
- Evangelism (Jerri) Angel Tree is going well
- Christian Education (Sue) Sheila is planning on working with the older youth during Sunday school. We will discuss age groups.
- Technology (Chad) Help Lesley with Microsoft 365. She has a new computer.
- Ministries with nothing new to report

Fellowship (Sue), Worship & Music (___), Personnel (Chad), Cemetery (Marv), Stewardship (Jerri), Pastoral Advisory ()

Old Business

- Reorganizing committees (tabled until January meeting)
- The Clothes Closet-Ruthann was appreciating the change in procedure.
- The HUB-If you know someone with cattle, contact a council member. We are interested in purchasing one to donate to the HUB.
- Committee Reports to Lesley by January 15
- Lent Services

Larry re: keeping the piano warm-Walter Piano wants to see the piano before making recommendations. Becky brought up that the piano needs to be at a consistent temperature. Larry is in the gathering information phase.

New Business

- Installation of council and officers-January 11th
Congregational meeting on January 25 -committee reports, elect the nominating committee

Any other business for the good of the church?

Next meeting date: January 13th at 6pm

Devotions: Amber Teall

Respectfully submitted by: Amber Teall

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

(Please call if we can be of service.)

Email: office@zionbristol.org

Website: www.zionbristol.org