



THE ZION CONNECTION



BACK
TO
SCHOOL



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

It is now August, we are slowly waking up from our heat and smoke induced lethargy and are looking at how we will work through the busy months ahead....No? You're not ready to jump right back into planning events and working through those plans? 😞 Not ready to put summer 🏖️🌊🌞 behind you yet? Hmmm..... Wellll. What about if we had a blessing for our students and educators during worship on 8/9 and then have a pot luck lunch 🍲🍗🍰🍪 after worship on 8/16, at which time we will also have a committee sign up with our new consolidated ministry teams. You can sit and eat or better yet, grab some food and walk around the tables, sign up for one of our ministry teams, talk to council members, all the while munching on some delicious food. For those of you who have completed your spiritual gifts assessments, you will get them back and be able to see what your spiritual talents are and how you can use them at Zion. The purpose of all this is to build up our congregation to be a dynamic, multigenerational ministry in our community. We look forward to pooling our individual spiritual resources, no matter how insignificant we might believe they are, and grow together in Christ in the power of the Spirit of our amazing God. So, take a deep breath 🌬️, pray for guidance 🙏, and join us as we prepare for a busy year at Zion.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,
Pastor Karen

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Cafe Compassion**

Saturday, August 1, 2026- Join us from 8:30-10:30 am for a free breakfast, fellowship, and crafts!

- **Clothed With Compassion**

Saturday, August 1, 2026 and
Saturday, August 15, 2026- Join us from 9:30 - Noon at the old church.

- **In Stitches**

Tuesday, August 4, 2026 from 5:00 pm. Held at Geri Broyles house, all are welcome to crochet and knit.

- **Biblical Journaling**

Saturday, August 8, 2026 from 9:00 am. Come and go as you please.

- **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

- **1st Annual Zion's Ministry Teams Kick-off**

Sunday, August 16, 2026 after church services.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.

Psalms 138:8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- August 9, 2026 will be our Back to School blessing for all students, teachers and staff.
- Starting in September, we will have monthly updates from our new teams and learn what they are doing.
- Reminder to bring your favorite dish to share on August 16, for the pot luck meal after services.



BIBLE REFLECTION

It is that time of the year already! So much to do to get children and educators ready for a long school year. Among many other things, backpacks and blessings are necessary items for those who are starting school this month. We spend time and thought filling backpacks with what our students will need to help them learn all the lessons planned for them this school year. In our August readings from the Gospel account from Matthew chapters 14-16, Jesus is preparing us also by filling our spiritual backpacks with important tools so that we may learn and continue the work he started so long ago. We will learn throughout this month about God's limitless generosity, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives in calm and in storm, and take comfort that absolutely no one is outside of God's circle of comfort, healing and justice. Matthew's gospel account will also teach us that God's faithfulness is solid and dependable and that in the cross of Christ we may always be confident that there is no place Jesus won't go to save us. We are loved and cared for, always....forever. Amen.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

We want to highlight our dedicated volunteers. Each month we will feature one of our amazing teams. What a great way to learn more about all that we do. This month we are highlighting our wonderful Cemetery team. They keep accurate cemetery records, sell plots, and maintain the property. They make decisions on the types of burials allowed, and work with local funeral homes to provide options to families in need. Thank you for all your hard work.



May this month be filled with sunny days, new adventures, and beautiful memories.





Are there any children or young people who would like to be reporters for our monthly newsletter, The Zion Connection? We are including a full children's page and want it written and designed for children by our own children. We would love to hear what our kids think about church stuff! Here's a few things

our reporters can ask other kids:

What is your favorite snack at church?

Do you have a favorite Bible story?

If you could add one fun thing to do at church, what would it be?

In 3 words, how does God make you feel?

And a good reporter will have other things to ask kids in church and those kids who don't go to church. If you are shy and don't want to be a reporter, you can help us find fun facts, jokes, and puzzles for the page. Or, you can help think of fun events kids would like to do with their own and their church family. Or, you can be a photographer and take pictures at church.

Please let Pastor Karen know if you are interested!

Bible Word Search

Search the puzzle for the words shown in the word list.
Circle each word that you find.



N B A P T I S M A J D X N B L
L N U E M I R A C L E B L H U
M N T A N P E N C H C A M N T
V B H U E C P N A P O S T L E
N N F T V R R O L T V A O K F
L B R E P E S T H T E U L B B
O C O M M A N D M E N T O P L
R B H U E T P B Z R A Y R B E
G E N E S I S H E U N T S F S
A T N E X O D U S J T H A T S
Y A B S Y N U K Z O R M Y A I
H N T E M P L E A I N J I T N
N B L A B K G O S P E L N B G
L N U E C B G U T H F B L N U
M S H E P H E R D I L A M N T

Word List

BAPTISM
MIRACLE
SHEPHERD
TEMPLE

APOSTLE
BLESSING
COMMANDMENT
CREATION

COVENANT
EXODUS
GENESIS
GOSPEL

Mary's
PRINTABLES



10 Pointers about

How to be a Good Friend

1. Be kind and caring to your friends.
2. Listen to your friends and understand them.
3. Be honest and trustworthy in your friendship.
4. Help your friends when they need it.
5. Share your toys and take turns playing.
6. Respect your friends' feelings and ideas.
7. Say sorry when you make mistakes.
8. Forgive your friends when they apologize.
9. Spend time together doing fun things.
10. Cheer up your friends when they feel sad.

KIDPID
www.kidpid.com

Download free educational resources & worksheets from kidpid.com





August 1 Trudi McNulty
August 3 Lynn Williams
August 4 Elaine Wolkins
August 7 David Ziegler
August 8 Sally Middleton

August 19 Don Lundquist
Linda Hebel
August 23 Anna Davila
August 31 Judy Sparr

August 13 Greg and Char Siberry
August 17 David and Katie Teall
August 25 Don and Joanne Lundquist



Scripture Readers

August 2 Aaron Crocker, Jim Kensinger
August 9 Mary Ziegler, Sally Middleton
August 16 Lyn Hisey, Lynn Shelley
August 23 Gloria Davila, Maria Davila
August 30 Steve Krallman, Lisa Thalheimer
September 6 Jim Kensinger, Aaron Crocker

Refreshments

August 2 Darlene Ashcraft, Chris Otto
August 9 Sue Davila, Amber Teall
August 16 Lana Stutsman, Sherry Sigsbee
August 23 Ruth Ann Owen, Mary Ziegler
August 30 Lyn Hisey, Judy Sparr
September 6 Mary Ziegler, Liz Yohn

Technology Team

August 2 Dave VanZile
August 9 Dan Teall
August 16 Marv Middleton
August 23 Juan Davila Jr.
August 30 Dave VanZile
September 6 Dan Teall

Offering Counters

August 2 Steve Krallman, Dave VanZile
August 9 Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey
August 16 Dave VanZile, Steve Krallman
August 23 Dave Teall, Larry Benjamin
August 30 Jerri Hisey, Dave Ziegler
September 6 Steve Krallman, Dave VanZile

**If you are unable to
be present for your
assigned day, please
contact another
volunteer to trade
days.**

Altar Care

August 2 Lana Stutsman
August 9 Darlene Ashcraft
August 16 Lois Bostian
August 23 Jeannine Crocker
August 30 Jeannine Crocker
September 6 Lana Stutsman

Greeters/Ushers

August 2 Aaron and Jeannine Crocker
August 9 Chad and Sheila Root
August 16 Phyllis Tubbs, Elaine Wolkins
August 23 Jim and Darlene Ashcraft
August 30 Phyllis Tubbs, Amber Teall
September 6 Sherry Sigsbee, Mary Ziegler

Worship Assistant

August 2 Dave Teall
August 9 Sue Davila
August 16 Randy Yohn
August 23 Chris Harrison
August 30 Steve Krallman
September 6 Dave Teall



Church Calendar

Wednesdays - 9:00 am Quilting
Thursdays - 9:00 am Men's Group

1st Tuesday of the month - 5:00pm
In Stitches

1st Saturday of the month - 8:30 - 10:30 am
Cafe Compassion

1st and 3rd Saturday of the month - 9:00 -
Noon Clothed With Compassion at the old
church.

2nd Saturday of the month - 9:30 am Biblical
Journaling (come and go as you please)

Last Monday of the month - 11:30 am
Young at Heart @ Perkins

The Hub

The month of August, our church will be
collecting donations of shampoo and
ramen noodles. Please drop off supplies
on the table designated for The Hub.



Service	Attendance
7/5/2026	49
7/12/2026	52
7/19/2026	51
7/26/2026	54
Average	52

Weighing our Choices

One day early this summer, I noticed that Marv had taken the bathroom scales out to the deck where he was weighing the propane tank on our outside grill. He was using the scales to determine when he might need to get a refill. He didn't want to run out while grilling something, but... Each day of our lives we have choices to weigh. Some of the choices we learned as we grew and became automatic such as not touching a hot stove or walking in front of a moving car. However, we sometimes err even on those long-learned lessons. Life seems to move at a pace that may make it easy to just 'go with the flow'. Unfortunately, that approach may easily lead to not bothering to assess if our choices are keeping us true to our faith in the triune God. "Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame whatever." (Hebrews 12:2 MSG) Marv did exchange the tank, and we had many enjoyable meals as we had enough fuel to do the job. May our lives be guided by these words "Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume you know it all. Run to God." (Proverbs 3:5-7 MSG)



submitted by Sally Middleton

For further reference, see also: Joshua 1:8;
Psalms 119: 30 & 105-106; Lamentations 3:22-23;
2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 10-24-25 and James 1:12.



PRAYER/HEALTH CONCERNS:

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

Phyllis VanZile, 92, 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, 43, is experiencing some challenges in his life. Please lift him up to help him make good choices.

Ed Frutig family, the family is going through some challenges right now, especially with their son Brandon. Please lift up the family as they work through their family issues. Their friend Lynn Williams asked for our prayers.

Alex Eickhoff and Gavin Van Pelt, are deployed to the Middle East. Please lift them up comfort, peace, safety, good military decisions. Please lift up their families as well. They are children of friends of Lauren, Pastor Karen's daughter.

Don Lundquist, who is in his 80's, is still in the rehab facility in Virginia. Please lift up Don comfort, strength, continued appropriate rehab and improved mobility as well as prayers for Joanne.

Aaron Crocker, Aaron has an appt at Northwestern Hospital Wed July 29. He is scheduled for a nerve ablation to help rid him of migraine headaches. Please lift up Aaron comfort, strength, good medical decisions and a successful procedure as well as prayers for Jeannine.

Doug Stutsman, Doug had his appt with his Indy doctor Wed. The doctor plans to do the gallbladder surgery as soon as they can get it scheduled. Please continue to lift up Doug as he waits for the surgery, no unexpected health issues.

Carolyn Ziegler, 81, she is now in Hospice. Please lift up Carolyn comfort and peace as well as Denny and their family.

Sherry Sigsbee, Sherry had her appt with the radiology oncologist last week. She will be doing radiation 5 days a week for 5-6 weeks. She'll start this week. Please lift up Sherry comfort, strength and desired results from the radiation treatments.

Kellie, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She started chemo last week. Please lift up Kellie comfort, strength, chemo goes well and total remission as well as prayers for her family. Kellie is a colleague of Ashley Teall.

Robert Haskell, 34, Robert had a second surgery a few days after his heart valve replacement. They had to correct the fluid around his heart and a collapsed lung. He is now in stable condition. Please continue to lift up Robert comfort, strength, good medical decisions, healing as well as prayers for his family. He resides in New York. His sister Stacie Schultz and family attend Zion.

Connie Smith's son, has stage 4 cancer. Please lift up her son, comfort, good medical decisions, remission and peace as well as prayers for his family.

Otto and Dodd Families, Todd Otto's 3 children are in the care of Chris and Krista presently. Please lift up all of them that good choices will be made by the legal system as to the future care of the children who are 13, 10, and 8.

Michael Middleton, Michael has been diagnosed with MDS-LB, Myelodysplastic Syndrome low blast. He is being referred to Ann Arbor for further tests and a treatment plan. He's younger than they usually diagnose, but his numbers are just lower than normal range. Please lift up Michael comfort, strength, good medical decisions and the best treatment for him as well as prayers for his family.

Terry Kruse, Terry had a stroke Sat and is in Goshen Hosp. Please lift up Terry comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing as well as prayers for her husband Bob.

Dennis Otto, A couple weeks ago, Dennis injured his lower leg when his motorcycle fell on him. The injury became infected and he was hospitalized 2 days. His injury is improving and he has another appointment this week checking it. Please lift up Dennis comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing.



Worship & Music

Council Member: Chris Harrison

Altar Care

Worship Assistant

Scripture Readers

Ushers & Greeters

Tech Team

Children's Sermon

Choir

Worship Arts

Faith Formation

Council Member: Amber

Teall

Plan and Equip Biblical

Education Events

Children's Sunday School

Adult Sunday School

Bible Journaling

Adult Bible Study

New Member Information

Class

First Communion Classes

Confirmation Classes

Stewardship & Finance

Council Member: Larry Benjamin

Audit

Investments

Insurance

Budgeting

Bookkeeping

Offering Counts

Encourage Faith in Giving

Outreach & Service

Council Member: Chad Root

Cafe Compassion

Clothed With Compassion

Hunger Auction

Vacation Bible School

Angel Tree

Bristol Food Pantry

Roadside Clean-Up

Social Ministry

Marketing

Newsletter and Social Media

Fellowship & Care

Council Member: Open

Kitchen Help

Food Supplies

Meal Planning

Card Ministry

Visitation Ministry

Event Meal Planning

Church Event Planning



Property & Cemetery

Council Member: Marv Middleton

Custodial Services

Regular Non-Custodial Cleaning &

Maintenance

Property Inspection

Maintenance Log

Cemetery Records and Upkeep



Geri Broyles has started a new meet up the first Tuesday of every month in her home starting at 5pm. The ladies are crocheting, knitting, having laughs and enjoying time together. All are welcome to join.





Council Meeting Minutes July 14, 2026

Present: Pastor Karen, Chris Harrison, Chad Root, Amber Teall, Jerri Hisey, Larry Benjamin, and Juan Davila

Absent:

Devotion: Chad Root-Worrying

You have an insurance policy so you don't have to worry. God is your insurance policy.

1. Get to know God.
2. Put God first in every area of your life.
3. Live one day at a time.
4. Trust God to care.

Do these and you will experience God's peace.

Secretary's Report: Amber Teall

Motion Accepted by: Marv Middleton

Seconded by: Chris Harrison

Treasurer's Report: Jerri Hisey

Motion Accepted by: Larry Benjamin

Seconded by: Juan Davila

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen

She has been working on the spiritual gifts and getting ready for August 16th-Committee Kickoff. Spiritual gifts folders will include a committee breakdown, a spiritual gift & committee alignment, a committee sign-up, and individual spiritual gift results. For people who did not fill out a spiritual gift survey, they will get a committee sign-up and committee breakdown worksheet. Liaisons will need to be in close contact with the leaders of each committee. **To do: Submit to Lesley a set of questions to spark future discussions for August 16th.

Ministry Areas (Liaison Reports) **This breakdown will change after August.

Long range (Chris)-

Social Ministry (Marv)-Backpacks is the social ministry

Property (Marv)-water fountain replacement and consider other options due to cost

Finance & Audit (Marv) getting an insurance quote for the new pavillion

Nominating Committee (Lana)

Evangelism:

Christian Education (Amber) -Using sermons for kids website in alignment with the liturgy. Per Jerri, there is money to decorate the room.

Technology (Marv) Research more on the handheld microphones (Sweetwater in Ft Wayne)

Fellowship (Juan)

Stewardship ()

Outreach: We need a new leader for Angel Tree or we need to let Angel Tree know that we will not be doing. This needs to be done ASAP.

Old Business

Water fountain is not cooling water-Dave VanZile is looking to find a replacement.

New Business

Committee Kickoff on August 16th will include a pitch-in. We will do the spiritual gifts then be eating lunch while walking around. Committee liaisons will have visuals.

Once the committee gets started on planning, invite each committee to council to share. Council meetings are always open to everyone!

Possibly change the budget to be by committee instead of event.

Visioning for the future of Zion-growth

Backpacks will be given out during the August breakfast

Regional Synod conference at Christ the King on October 24th-look at sending the council

Blessing of our students will be on August 9th.

Any other business for the good of the church?

Next meeting date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Devotions: Juan

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

Rev. Karen Strietelmeier
Music Director - Becky Goodman
Admin. Asst. - Lesley Harrigan

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