THE ZION CONNECTION





MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

As you walk into Zion, you will pass the Thankful Tree as you move toward the sanctuary. Thank you, Juan and Sue, for your creative efforts. As we drive, bike, or walk around in the fall, the colors of the leaves brighten up our landscapes and our outlooks. They give us the courage to take stock of our lives, to look deeper to see what has been good and what needs some work. And, for those of us who live our lives by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we know that all things work for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose. It certainly doesn't always seem that way; sometimes it takes quite a bit of effort to add a thank you in our prayers. Yet, here we are, living in an uncertain world that is spinning around in space. But if we examine this closely, we see that the journey around the sun is precisely orchestrated, that no matter where we are in the journey, we are exactly where we need to be. Which is what our lives are like in Christ. We are where we need to be. And that is always cause to be thankful. Because we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses, and are guided by the Holy Spirit. Never alone. Never abandoned. Always given the treasures of heaven: love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. There is so very much for us to be thankful! So next time you pass by the Thankful Tree, stop and write down something for which you are grateful. God is Good! All the Time!

Pastor Karen

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Cafe Compassion**

Saturday, November 7, 2026- Join us from 8:30-10:30 am for a free breakfast, fellowship, and crafts!

- **Clothed With Compassion**

Saturday, November 7, 2026 and Saturday, November 21, 2026- Join us from 9:00 - Noon at the old church.

- **Biblical Journaling**

Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 9:30 am. Come and go as you please.

- **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

- **World Hunger Auction**

Sunday, November 15, 2026 after church service.

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

"....As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so the world may believe you have sent me."

John 17:21

BIBLE REFLECTION

On Saturday Oct. 24th, I, along with Chris Harrison and Marv Middleton, attended the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Regional Gathering at Christ the King Lutheran Church in South Bend. The theme was how we can be church together as a unified body of Christ called to be his hands, heart and voice in this world. During the time of worship, Bishop Graham read the Gospel text, John:20-26. It was from the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Here is an excerpt: (Jesus prayed) "I ask not only on behalf of these but on behalf of those who believed in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them, and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

Being a unified church body in this world is impossible unless everyone decides to think in lock step with each other. But is that what our Savior wants? We were all created differently, but all still in the image of our creator. We can disagree, can have our own perspectives, yet we must make the effort to learn and grow in our Christian walk, especially in this ever changing and complicated world. Stagnation is not an option. Loving our neighbor, however stubborn and hardheaded they can be is not an option. Letting the Holy Spirit guide us into new paths of ministry is not an option. We are the church. Period. Becoming completely one so that the world will know that Jesus is Lord of all was Jesus' prayer. Let that be our's too. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Veteran's Day is November 11, 2026
- World Hunger Auction will be held after services on November 15, 2026. Come get some tasty treats for a great cause.
- Advent begins November 29, 2026

ELCA World Hunger





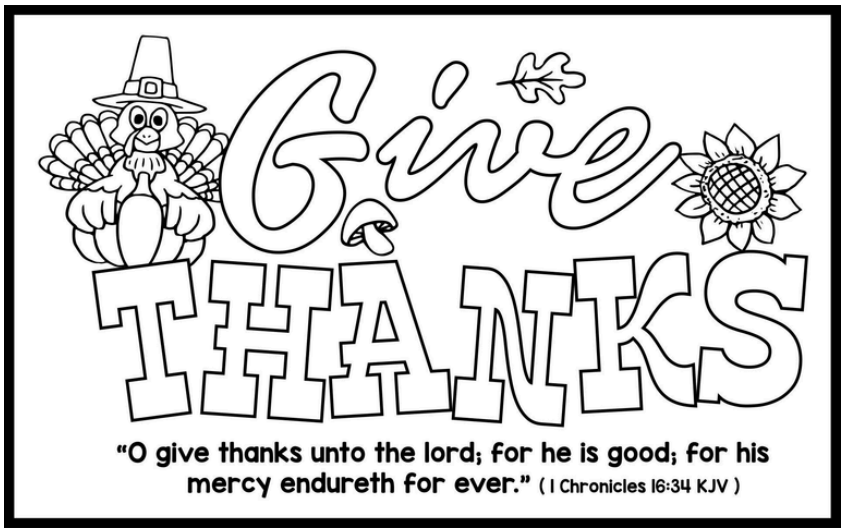


COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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 here at Zion. This month we are highlighting our Worship Leaders and Scripture Readers. These special volunteers fill a large role in the service weekly. Speaking in front of a crowd isn't something I would want to do, but they do it well. Be sure to give these volunteers a big thank you.

In the midst of shorter days may the light of hope shine brightly in your heart, reminding you of God's promises and love.







BIBLE RIDDLES

I was swallowed by a great fish. Who am I? _____	I built an ark. Who am I? _____
I defeated Goliath. Who am I? _____	I was thrown into a den of lions. Who am I? _____
I received the Ten Commandments Who am I? _____	I led the Israelites out of Egypt. Who am I? _____
I walked on water. Who am I? _____	I was born in a manger. Who am I? _____

Jonah	Noah
David	Daniel
Moses	Moses
Jesus	Jesus



Name:_____ Date:_____

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.

BIBLE Word Search

ADAM, ANGEL, ARK, BETHLEHEM, BIBLE, CREATION, CROSS, CRUCIFIXION, DAVID, DISCIPLES, EXODUS, FAITH, GARDEN, GOD, GRACE, JESUS, JOSEPH, MARY, MIRACLES, MOSES, NOAH, PARABLES, PRAYER, PROMISED LAND, PROPHETS, RESURRECTION, SALVATION, SERMON, SHEPHERD, TEN COMMANDMENTS

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

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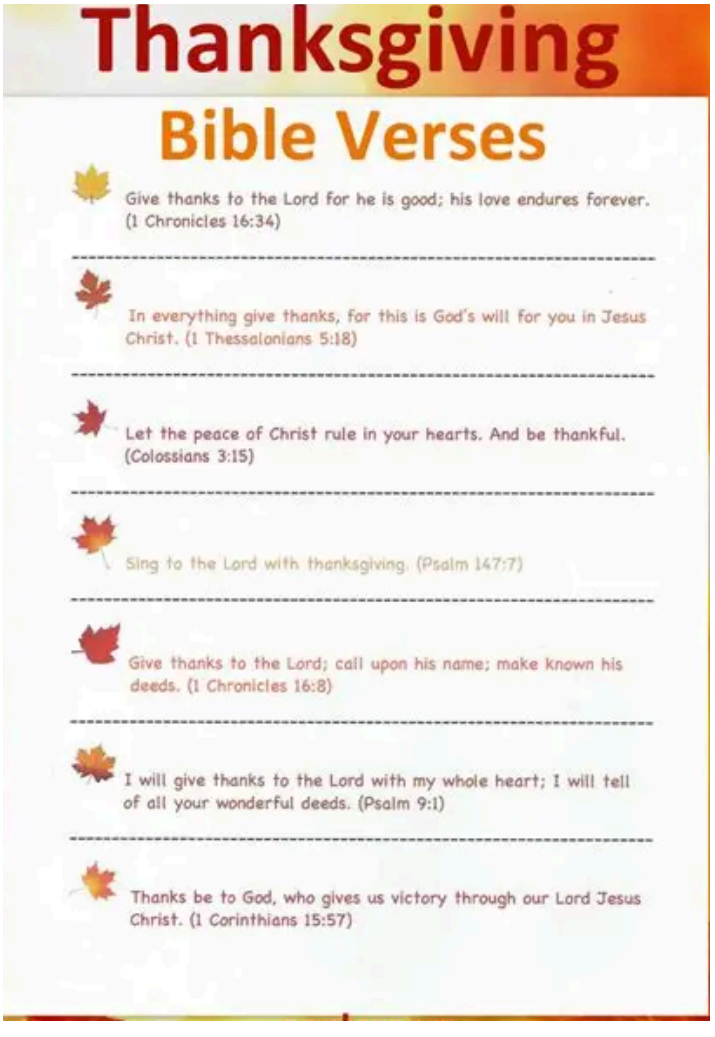

Thanksgiving
Bible Verses

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16:34)

In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving. (Psalm 147:7)

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds. (1 Chronicles 16:8)

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. (Psalm 9:1)

Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57)



November 5 Ed McNulty
November 6 Randy Hisey
November 7 Rob Teall
Becca Davila
November 10 Joyce Kruse
November 22 Don Carter
November 26 Dan Teall
November 30 Gary Kruse



November 1 Randy and Liz Yohn
November 14 Aaron and Jeannine Crocker
November 28 Doug and Lana Stutsman

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



Sunday School
November 1 Sue Davila
November 8 Lana Stutsman
November 15 Katie Teall
November 22 Amber Teall
November 29 Rob Teall
December 6 Sue Davila

Altar Care
November 1 Lana Stutsman
November 8 Darlene Ashcraft
November 15 Jeannine Crocker
November 22 Lois Bostian
November 29 Jeannine Crocker
December 6 Lana Stutsman

Worship Assistant
November 1 Randy Yohn
November 8 Sue Davila
November 15 Steve Krallman
November 22 Chris Harrison
November 29 Dave Teall
December 6 Randy Yohn

Technology Team
November 1 Dan Teall
November 8 Marv Middleton
November 15 Juan Davila Jr.
November 22 Dave VanZile
November 29 Dan Teall
December 6 Marv Middleton

Offering Counters
November 1 Jim Kensinger, Amber Teall
November 8 Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey
November 15 Dave VanZile, Steve Krallman
November 22 Dave Teall, Larry Benjamin
November 29 Jerri Hisey, Chris Harrison
December 6 Steve Krallman, Dave VanZile

Scripture Readers
November 1 Aaron Crocker, Jim Kensinger
November 8 Mary Ziegler, Sally Middleton
November 15 Gloria Davila, Maria Davila
November 22 Chris Otto, Greg Siberry
November 29 Steve Krallman, Lisa Thalheimer
December 6 Lyn Hisey, Lynn Shelley

Refreshments
November 1 Lana Stutsman, Sherry Sigsbee
November 8 Sue Davila, Amber Teall
November 15 Lyn Hisey, Judy Sparr
November 22 Darlene Ashcraft, Liz Yohn
November 29 Ruth Ann Owen, Mary Ziegler
December 6 Darlene Ashcraft, Chris Otto

Greeters/Ushers
November 1 Aaron and Jeannine Crocker
November 8 Chad and Sheila Root
November 15 Phyllis Tubbs, Sherry Sigsbee
November 22 Mary Ziegler, Amber Teall
November 29 Jim and Darlene Ashcraft
December 6 Aaron and Jeannine Crocker

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







Service	Attendance
10/4/2026	58
10/11/2026	57
10/18/2026	59
10/25/2026	59
Average	58

The Rivers of Life



As we have traveled recently, both near and somewhat farther from home, we noticed just how close we always seem to be to a river. When we were driving in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, we commented on how it seems that crossing the Shenandoah River happens with great regularity. The reason for the comment is not surprising since the North Fork of the river is just over one hundred miles, and the South Fork is almost one hundred miles.

Rivers are vital to the survival of life. Communities have often formed near rivers, in part because they provide fresh water, a food source, irrigation, water power, flood control and transportation. Rivers have also been central to our spiritual and faith lives. Verses including rivers are found in the Bible over ninety times. People hoping for the coming of the kingdom of heaven had heard of John's preaching and went to the Jordan River to repent and be baptized by him. The Jordan was also where Jesus was baptized, recognized by God and began his ministry. During his ministry Jesus made the following promise: "If anyone thirsts, let him come and drink. Rivers of living water will brim and spill out of the depths of anyone who believes in me this way." (John 7:37-38 MSG) That promise continues with us today.

Rivers are just one of the multitude of complex systems that God provides to make life possible on this planet. As recipients of God's miraculous creation, we are to be faithful caretakers of this earthly home. God's enduring love is visible daily. Then sending Jesus to show us how to fully live in God's love is the ultimate gift so let us "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his court with praise: give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." (Psalm 100:4-5) submitted by Sally Middleton

For further reference, see also: 1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 46:4 and 65:9; Ezekiel 47:9; Matthew 3:4 and 13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Philippians 4:6-7.

PRAYER/HEALTH CONCERNS:

Aaron Crocker, Aaron is scheduled for another nerve ablation in his neck Wed Oct 21 at Northwestern Hospital to help eliminate his migraines. Please lift up Aaron comfort, successful procedure and healing.

Kellie, who is in her mid 40s, has completely half of her chemo treatments. She is tolerating the side affects fairly well. Please continue 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.

Rick Smith, who is in his 60s, has stage 4 cancer. Please lift up Rick comfort, strength, good medical decisions, remission and peace as well as prayers for his family. Rick's mother Connie is a friend of Geri Broyles.

Teri Kruse, Teri has been home from the hospital a few weeks recovering from her stroke. Please continue to lift up Teri comfort, strength, and healing.

Dennis Otto, Dennis injured his ankle several months ago when his motorcycle fell on him. As a result, he is scheduled Mon Oct 19th for a procedure to increase the blood flow to the injured area. The doctor said Dennis's procedure went well. Good blood flow to the wound was established. Please lift up Dennis, comfort and healing.

Kristine VanZile, Kristine is home post surgery from Indy Oct 14th. She is doing well. Please continue to lift her up comfort, strength and healing, Her sister Phyllis is there to help since Dave is still on crutches.

Glenda Miller, Glenda had a stroke and is in the hospital Oct 11th. Please lift up Glenda comfort, strength, and healing. Glenda is a friend of Jan Coffman.

Lucy Petersheim, Lucy who is in her early 80s, is dealing with some health issues. She had surgery this week and will be in the hospital for several more days. Please lift up Lucy comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing. She is a friend of Mary Ziegler.

Randy Hisey, Randy has some digestive issues that have been diagnosed and are being treated. He will possibly remain at Memorial a few more days. Please continue to lift him up comfort, strength, good medical decisions and healing as well as prayers for Lyn.

Victor and Family, Victor is a 3rd grader at Rob's school. His mother died unexpectedly last week of a heart attack. Please lift up Victor and his family comfort, strength and peace. Victor is an only child.

Please continue to lift up: Phyllis VanZile, Blaine VanZile, Alex Eickhoff, Gavin Van Pelt, Doug Stutsman, Carolyn Ziegler, Otto and Dodd Families, Michael Middleton, Becca Schreck, Estela Davila, Dave VanZile, Ernie Crilow, and Bill Shaw.

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Zion Church
Attending: Juan Davila, Marv Middleton, Chris Harrison, Jerri Hisey, Pastor Karen Strietelmeier, Chad Root

1. Devotion

Chad opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with a devotion: The Foundation of Your Resilience - “When you are secure in who you are as God’s child--when you understand and accept how God feels about you--then you can face difficult times with confidence and less stress.”

2. Secretary’s Report - Amber Teal absent

3. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report was presented and reviewed. Chad moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report, and Marv seconded. Motion carried. Items noted by Jerri Hisey included:

- Social Ministry and Outreach Funds are unused YTD.
- Overall in good standing.
- Explanation of the Interest from Investments line item on the Income Statement from Jerri and Marv: Jerri records from our Fidelity statement. Marv pointed out that all dividends are reinvested and that although some holdings are currently down, that also means we are buying more shares at the current low prices, which is positive.

4. Pastor’s Report – Pastor Karen

Pastor Karen shared details regarding Home Communion Visitations, the need for a Fellowship Ministry Team (preferred title rather than committee) to establish an event calendar for 2027, suggested organization of the bulletin board by ministry teams with sign-up options for events, Lesley’s willingness to post event details on Facebook if given the information, and Confirmation Class. She also thanked everyone for the gift cards and flowers on Pastor Appreciation Day. The group also decided to update, print, and distribute the church directory twice a year.

- Open Items:
  - Open council seat for Fellowship Liaison
  - Need formation of the Fellowship Ministry Team and Events Calendar
  - All ministry teams need to contribute ideas for what to put on their section of the bulletin board. Reminder: those teams include Worship and Music, Fellowship and Care, Outreach and Service, Faith Formation, Stewardship and Finance, Property and Cemetery.
  - Jerri is looking into the idea of transporting members from assisted living to church.
  - Creation of a Spanish translation of bulletin board posts to share on the TV above the fireplace during Cafe Compassion.
  - Juan suggested reaching out to honor societies, Spanish class students, Key Club, etc to see if we can find volunteers to help with our ministries. Chad to ask Ruth Ann and Jim to help define specific roles for these volunteers. Greeters/Hosts were discussed for Cafe Compassion.

5. Ministry Area / Council Liaison Reports

• Worship & Music: Marv has a new volunteer for our Technology Team. • Fellowship and Care: Picnic was a success, with good attendance. • Outreach and Service: Chad visited Clothed with COMPASSION and Cafe Compassion. Both ministries expressed the need for more volunteers. Chad will be adding pages to the website to represent both ministries. • Faith Formation: Absent • Stewardship and Finance: Marv shared a 1st draft of the 2027 proposed budget. It was decided to consolidate the individual budgets for Outreach programs into a single Outreach fund line item, with the exception of VBS, which will remain its own line item. Chad suggested including historical data and 2027 projections for both income and reserve funds to assess the sustainability of our budget. • Property and Cemetery: Routine volunteer roles are well established, so formal “Committee” meetings seem unnecessary. • Mutual Ministry: Still in formation. This will encompass the former Pastoral Advisory Committee with the purpose of building a healthy, collaborative, and spirit-led congregation • Nominating Committee: Still in search of an individual to serve

6. Old Business

• Chris contributed (add details here)

7. New Business

• Covered above

8. Other Business for the Good and Welfare of the Church

Nothing shared.

9. Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, Nov 10th, 6:00 PM, Devotions: Marv

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by: Chad Root

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

Office Hours:
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