NOVEMBER 2026
VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of
Zion Lippe United Church of Christ
9000 Copperline Rd E
Mt Vernon IN 47620
812 985-2437
website: zionlippe.org

Secretary email: zionlippesecretary@gmail.com
Secretary Hours:
Tues, Wed and Thurs 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Rev. Jeff Long, Pastor
Pastor cell: 812 306-4675
Pastor email: zionlippepastor@gmail.com

Sunday Family Worship at 10 am
Sunday School at 9 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
10/4	153	62 devices
10/11	134	70 devices
10/18	118	73 devices
10/25	158	80 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

Oct: Adult = 18
Children (5th grade & younger) = 9
Youth (6-12th grade) = 2
Confirmation (7th & 8th grade) = 6

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED and RECORDED FOR LATER VIEWING ON YOUTUBE !

You can always join us for Sunday worship wherever you might be. To easily view the live worship service simply go to our church webpage… www.zionlippe.org… and click on the "Watch Live" tab and you will be able to view the worship service when it goes live. For later viewing of recorded services, go to YouTube and search for Zion Lippe.

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Greeter Schedule for upcoming Sundays:

November 1 – Carol Embrey
November 8 – Laura Droege
November 15 – Josh & Maggie Dye
November 22 – Gene & Kelley Esche
November 29 – Keith & Marilyn Frank

December 6 – Steve & Sandi Brown
December 13 – Gayle Gurksnis
December 20 – Steve & Mary Ann Fuelling
December 27 – Jake & Kirstin Gibson

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and shaking hands is optional. Please try to be here about 9:30 am or so. If you know ahead of time that you can't greet the Sunday you are scheduled, please let Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as greeters, your turn to greet usually comes up about once over a 2 year period. ***If you would like to be added or removed from the greeter list please contact the church office.***
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NOVEMBER

In order to share in the joys and celebrations of our lives as a congregation we publish a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in ( ) represent year. Please let us know if your birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Norman Schroeder
4 Cindy Hollen
5 Ruby Niemeier, Sandi Brown, Carolyn Price
6 Shawn Heneisen, Dustin Seitz
8 Gloria Heggy
9 Lyla Hautman, Angela Becker
10 Roger Roedel, Jeff Long, Maggie Dye
11 Fred Freeman, Bill Esche, Connor Black
13 Ron Strupp, Dennis Davenport, Kendra Gries
14 David Hunter, Sue Scherry, Jacob Parker, Makayla Stewart
15 Arlene Hosto, Jerrad Gleim, Lazlo Ziegler
17 Dennis Rueger, Patricia Elkins, Isaac Droege
18 Ashlyn Vaught
20 Carla Barnhart, Emma Axton
21 Donna Hartig, Maverick Anderson
22 Ryan Englebright
24 Joyce Klenck
26 Delene Schmitz
27 Gregory Droege
28 Charlie Primus
30 Henry Dye, Dakota Berry, Henry Long

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

2 Justin & Nikaya Long (2019)
5 Jerry & Pam Redman (1988)
Ben & Ashley Lingafelter (2016)
7 Mark & Stephanie Duncan (2020)
12 Duane and Carla (Schroeder) Barnhart (1983)
16 Tim and Becky Reineke (1985)
Zach and Leah Schroeder (2013)
17 Marvin and Ruth Redman (1962)
19 Nick & Katie Voegel (2016)
20 Brian and Arin (Schmitz) Commens (2004)
22 Matt and Lauren (Parker) Kern (2014)
25 Keith and Marilyn (Smith) Frank (2023)
28 Leon and Kay Austin (1963)
29 Frank and Teresa (Breiner) DeGiacomo (1985)
30 Steve and Cathy (Jolly) Schroeder (1985)



2027 Offering Envelopes

will be available soon for pickup in the foyer. If you don't have a box of offering envelopes assigned to you now, but would like to have them, please contact the church office.

We are happy to have offering envelopes available, however **if you donate in another way and find you do not use the envelopes assigned to you, please let us know so we may save the cost of purchasing unused boxes of envelopes.**

Please do not pick up boxes of envelopes for family or friends not living in your household, unless they have specifically asked you to do so.

Second Mile – For many years we have taken donations for Medical Ministries in Honduras. If you would like to donate to this ministry, special yellow 2nd Mile envelopes are available at the foyer bulletin board.

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With Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Eleanor McRae. Eleanor passed away October 14, 2026 at the age of 90. Funeral services were held October 19 at Pierre Funeral Home with burial following at Zion Lippe.

We also extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Geraldine Schweikhart. Geraldine passed away October 20, 2026 at the age of 84. Funeral services were held October 24 at Zion with burial at Alexander Memorial Park.

We cherish good memories of Ellie and Gerry.



Between Gratitude and Hope

How is it possible that November is already here? It seems like we were just enjoying the warmth of summer, and now we are talking about Thanksgiving, Christmas decorations, and the beginning of Advent. Before we know it, somebody will be asking whether we are ready for Christmas Eve!

November is an interesting month for the church. We begin by thinking about gratitude and giving thanks for the blessings in our lives. We gather around tables with family and friends, enjoy a little more food than we probably need, and hopefully take a moment to remember the people and experiences that have made our lives richer.

But November also brings us to the beginning of Advent, the season when we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We begin lighting candles, singing familiar hymns, and telling once again the wonderful story of God's love entering our world through a child born in Bethlehem.

At first, Thanksgiving and Advent might seem like two very different seasons. One looks back and gives thanks for what we have received. The other looks forward with expectation for what God is still doing. Yet I wonder if they have more in common than we realize.

Gratitude helps us recognize God's presence in our lives. Hope reminds us that God is not finished with us yet. And we need both.

We need gratitude because it is easy to become so focused on what is missing that we overlook what is already right in front of us. We can spend so much time worrying about tomorrow that we forget to appreciate the people who walked beside us today, the kindness someone offered, the laughter shared, or the simple gift of being together in a community of faith.

We also need hope because gratitude does not mean that everything in life is easy. Some of us will approach Thanksgiving carrying grief, facing uncertainty, worrying about loved ones, or remembering an empty chair at the family table. The holidays can bring joy, but they can also remind us of the people and pieces of life we miss.

The good news of our faith is that God meets us in all of it. We do not have to pretend that life is perfect in order to be grateful. We do not have to ignore our struggles in order to have hope. We can bring our whole selves to God, trusting that even in the difficult seasons, God's love remains with us.

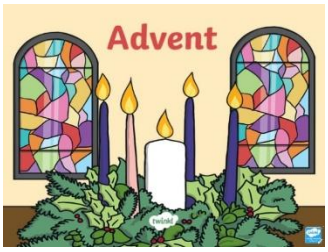
Perhaps that is what makes this time of year so meaningful. Before we rush toward Christmas, we have an opportunity to pause. We can give thanks for the ways God has been present among us, and we can open our hearts to the ways God might be calling us to share that love with others.

As we enter November, I hope we will look for opportunities to express our gratitude—not only with words, but through acts of kindness, generosity, forgiveness, and service. And as Advent begins, may we remember that the light of Christ shines brightest in a world that still needs hope.

Thank you for being part of the life and ministry of Zion Lippe. Thank you for the prayers you offer, the hands you lend, the encouragement you share, and the many ways you make this church a place where people can experience God's love.

May your Thanksgiving be filled with gratitude, your Advent be filled with hope, and your heart remain open to the wonderful things God is still doing among us.
With gratitude and hope, Pastor Jeff

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Advent 2026: Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas

It seems like Christmas arrives a little earlier every year! Before we have finished putting away the Thanksgiving leftovers, we are already thinking about Christmas trees, shopping lists, decorations, parties, and all the preparations that come with the holiday season. There is certainly plenty to do!

But in the church, we have a special season that invites us to slow down, take a breath, and prepare for something much more important than getting everything ready for Christmas morning. It is called **Advent**.

Advent begins on **Sunday, November 29, 2026**, the first Sunday after Thanksgiving. The word *Advent* means "coming" or "arrival." During these four weeks, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ while remembering the hope Christ continues to bring into our lives and our world.

Each Sunday of Advent, we will focus on a different theme represented by the candles of the Advent wreath: hope, peace, joy, and love.

November 29 — The First Sunday of Advent: HOPE
Hope is believing that God is still at work, even when life feels uncertain. Advent reminds us that darkness does not have the final word. We begin our journey toward Bethlehem by remembering that God's promises are still alive and that there is always reason to hope.

December 6 — The Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE
December 13 — The Third Sunday of Advent: JOY
December 20 — The Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

As we journey through Advent, I want to encourage each of us to make a little room for God amid the busyness of the season. Take a few moments each day to pray. Read the Christmas story with your family. Reach out to someone who may be lonely. Offer forgiveness where it is needed. Look for an opportunity to serve someone who could use a little extra kindness.

I look forward to sharing this Advent journey with you. May these weeks prepare not only our homes for Christmas, but also our hearts to welcome Christ anew.

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🌿 Hanging of the Greens 🌿

<u>Sunday, November 29th • Following Worship (around 11:00 a.m.)</u>

Everyone is invited to stay and help transform our sanctuary into a beautiful, welcoming place as we prepare for Advent and Christmas. There will be plenty of ways for everyone to lend a hand—from hanging ornaments and arranging greenery to setting up the Christmas tree and preparing the Advent candles. No special skills are required—just a willing heart and a little Christmas spirit! It's always a joyful time filled with fellowship, laughter, and memories shared across generations.



Congratulations to Katelyn & Lucas Heidenreich on the birth of their son, Levi Kent Heidenreich, on October 7, 2026. Proud grandparents are Gene & Kelley Esche and great-grandma Pat Elkins.

Congratulations also to Kari & Zach Green on the birth of their son, Levi Cole Green on October 9, 2026. Proud grandparents are Tim & Johlene Hoenert and great-grandma Lee Ann Hoenert.

And . . . Congratulations to Claire & Austin Lensing on the birth of their son Boden James Lensing on October 20, 2026. Proud grandparents are Steve & Cathy Schroeder and great-grandma Jean Schroeder.

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The Women of Zion will meet Thursday, Nov 12 at 6 pm for a guest speaker, Pizza, and to collect all the **"Purses with a Purpose"** that have been donated in October and so far in November.

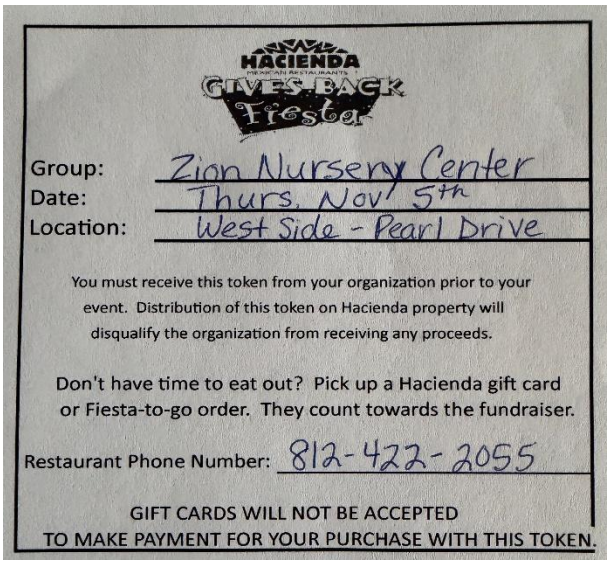
You don't have to be a member of the Women of Zion to join in this ministry! Anyone in the congregation is invited to fill a purse and help us make a difference in the life of a woman in need. Here's how you can help: Find a gently used purse that you no longer need and fill it with **full-size bath and body products, self-care items, socks, hats, or gloves. Please do not include anything containing alcohol.** Then bring your filled purse to the November 12 meeting or drop off at the table in foyer where there is more info on the ministry. You are welcome to bring one purse—or several! These purses will be given to **local women's shelters**, where they can serve as a small but meaningful reminder that someone cares.

We hope you'll join the Women of Zion in giving our purses… and our purpose… a little extra meaning this fall! For questions, please see **Ruth Redman, Rosie Bogard, or Sue Scherry**

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Thank You! A heartfelt thank-you to everyone for the thoughtful messages, texts, cards, kind words, and many expressions of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your kindness means more than you know! It is truly an honor to serve as your pastor and to share life, faith, laughter, and ministry with the wonderful people of Zion Lippe. **Thank you all so very much.** We are grateful for you! With love and blessings, *Pastor Jeff*

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HACIENDA
MEXICAN RESTAURANTS
GIVES BACK
Frisco

Group: Zion Nursery Center
Date: Thurs. Nov 5th
Location: West Side - Pearl Drive

You must receive this token from your organization prior to your event. Distribution of this token on Hacienda property will disqualify the organization from receiving any proceeds.

Don't have time to eat out? Pick up a Hacienda gift card or Fiesta-to-go order. They count towards the fundraiser.

Restaurant Phone Number: 812-422-2055

GIFT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
TO MAKE PAYMENT FOR YOUR PURCHASE WITH THIS TOKEN.

Help support Zion Nursery Center
Thursday Nov 5th
Hacienda Give Back Day

See flyer and more coupons on foyer bulletin board.
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Council Highlights October 20th Meeting

Council President Tim Hoenert called the meeting to order. 7 Council members and Pastor Jeff were present. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were approved.

9/30 YTD Regular Offering - $ 155,204.01
9/30 YTD General Fund Income - $ 167,322.43
9/30 YTD General Fund Expense - $ 171,282.41

The solar battery project is complete and paid for out of the Building Fund. We are starting to see more savings on the electric bill.

Membership & Directory - The Council approved a motion to purchase additional directories for future new members and office/archive use. Those who had a portrait taken or submitted a photo will receive a free directory. Nancy expressed her thanks to the following people for their help with the church directory, Carol Embrey, Kelley Esche, Ruth Wintczak, Sharon Krietenstein, Warren Hildebrand, Donna and Gary Hartig, Rosie Bogard, and Hans Schmitz, all these people were a huge help with the success of getting a new church directory.

Property - Travis Douglas fixed the Formica on the countertop downstairs. Roger wanted to thank James Klenck and Tim Reineke and Reineke farms for the use of their equipment in taking down the 2 pin oak trees by the shelter house.

Thank you to Gary & Staci Voegel for again taking care of the ballfield and mowing around the field. Council will pay them $1,200 for mowing this year.

Recreation - Adam is looking into the Peppermint Pops Christmas program.

New Business - Council approved Amanda Reese to be a new member of Zion.

Pastor Jeff would like to thank Hoenert farms for their donation and transporting of pumpkins and Frey produce for their donation on pumpkins, the youth group made $1,100 selling the pumpkins.

The youth group will be doing a sign up for the congregation for an etched image of the church on a piece of slate.

Pastor Jeff will be advertising for the December 18 United Caring Shelter Christmas party, to get groups to help with this project.

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We welcome Amanda Reese as a new member of Zion!

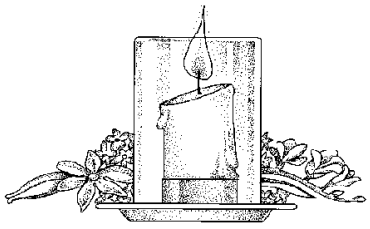
Here's a little info about Amanda she would like to share with us. . .

I am a wife to Travis and mama to Abby Rae and Andrew Rhett. As a stay-at-home-mom, these days most of my time is spent taking care of my family and keeping everyone's schedules somewhat under control.

I love being creative and am happiest when working on a project—whether that's decorating, organizing, dreaming up ideas, or finding ways to make things a little more beautiful and functional. I also love serving at church, especially when it involves kids. I have a real heart for creating spaces and experiences where children feel welcomed, have fun, and—most importantly—learn about the love of Jesus.

I'm thankful for our church family and for the opportunity to worship alongside so many wonderful people. I'm so grateful for the life God has given me, the people He's placed in it, and the chance to use the gifts and creativity He's given me to serve Him and others!

ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9000 COPPERLINE ROAD E
MT. VERNON IN 47620



Totenfest
Sunday, November 22, 2026
during 10:00 a.m. worship

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In remembrance of loved ones who have passed away during this church year

HONORING VETERANS

Veterans Day – November 11
We thank and honor our veterans.