

## SEPTEMBER 2021

### VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of  
Zion Lippe United Church of Christ  
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Mt Vernon IN 47620  
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Secretary email: [zionlippesecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:zionlippepastor@gmail.com)

**Sunday Family Worship at 10 am**  
**Sunday School at 9 am**

### Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
8/1	88	42 devices
8/8	110	40 devices
8/15	102	35 devices
8/22	117	54 devices

Virtual worship was available on Zoom and YouTube.

Some Sunday School classes were held during the month of August. Plans are to have an Adult Sunday School class continue in September and Children's classes to start in October. See articles in this newsletter for more info.



An additional day has been scheduled on Saturday, September 18 for photo sessions, in case you haven't been able to make a prior appointment. Be sure to let Kelley know if you want to come on September 18.

If you are submitting your own photo, please email it as soon as you can to [Lvonne@att.net](mailto:Lvonne@att.net)

We also want to include pictures from recent Zion events in the Directory, from about 2019 and after, so if you have pictures to share please send them to Kelley at [kelley.esche@gmail.com](mailto:kelley.esche@gmail.com)

The Directories will be available later in the year.

Directory Committee: Kelley Esche 812 453-8062  
Rosie Bogard, Irma Donner, Carol Embrey



## SEPTEMBER

We share the celebrations of our lives as a congregation by publishing a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in ( ) represent year.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2 Hadley Seitz
- 3 Kayla Baird, Doris Strupp
- 4 Devon Hautman, Laura Droege, Kris Long
- 5 Katie Primus, Rodney Schroeder, Richard Schroeder, Claire Chamberlain
- 6 Lora Commens, Isaiah Voelker, Averyn Key
- 7 Arin Commens
- 8 Paul Schorr, Gary Lashley, Kirstin Gibson, Matthew & Sean Pieszchalski
- 9 Ann Proctor
- 10 Jenna Rueger, Katelyn Heidenreich, Jeri Sauve
- 13 Ruby Ostermann
- 14 Johlene Hoenert
- 15 Bill Smith
- 16 Amanda Lashley, Sarah Muntzer, Maddox Voegel
- 17 Pam Redman, Scott Bogard
- 19 Sandy Willett, Ron McClaren
- 20 Megan Voelker
- 22 John Pieszchalski, Taylor Pieszchalski
- 24 Carly Patterson, Noah Hoffman Adam Kendall
- 26 Brian Crase
- 27 Hilda Donner, Rylee Kern, Matt Kern
- 28 Brad Hollen, Russell Schroeder
- 29 Lee Cullman
- 30 Gary Barnett

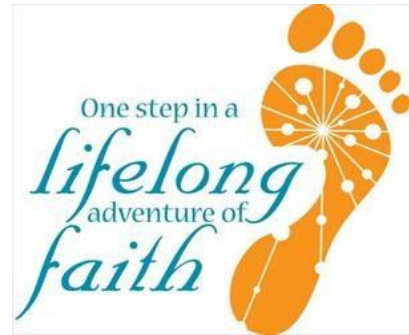
### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 Adam and Jennifer (Juncker) Heim (2007)
- 2 Fred and Terri (Kessler) Freeman (1972)
- Michael and Debbie Droege (2012)
- 5 Jeff & Jenny Droege (2009)
- Bill & Charlotte Green (1987)
- 6 Jared & Kayla (Hoenert) Baird (2020)
- 7 John and Tina (Deal) Spears (1996)
- Brian & Maizee (Sauve) Goebel (2013)
- 10 Richard & Shayna (Chastain) Ray (2011)
- 15 Ronald and Annette Schroeder (1990)
- 17 Shelby & Jeri (Droege) Sauve (1988)
- 23 Chuck & Susan (Fischer) Schroeder (1978)
- David & Stacey Hyslop (2006)

- 26 Carl and Darlene (Schroeder) Bosse (1987)
- Brian & Channa Crase (1998)
- David & Audrey Key (2015)
- 28 James and Amber (Willett) Barrow (2008)
- Cory & Kelsey Lingafelter (2019)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is not correct, please call the office, so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

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**Confirmation** refers to the decision a person makes to respond to God's grace with intentional commitment, publicly reaffirming his or her baptismal vows before the congregation. Confirmation students are commonly youth in the 7th and 8th grade who learn about the meaning of Christian faith, the history and teachings of the United Church of Christ, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows they will ultimately be professing.

If you were in 7th grade confirmation classes last year we welcome you for your 8th grade year. If you are a 7th grader or know of someone in 7th grade that might be interested in confirmation, please let us know by contacting Pastor Jeff or by calling the office. Anyone older than 7<sup>th</sup> grade age who has not yet attended confirmation classes, but would like to attend now, please contact Pastor Jeff.

We are planning to begin Confirmation classes in October but will continue to monitor Covid developments over the next several weeks.

In preparation for upcoming classes, we will have an information meeting following worship on September 19th. You can join us in person or via Zoom.

***Note from the Pastor . . .***

Many years ago a great sculptor unveiled his latest work to a large crowd. With a great flourish he swept off the cover, revealing a magnificent Angel, which would be one of many in the great church where it was to be placed. And what an Angel it was.

There was no wind in the sculptor’s studio, yet the Angel’s great wings seemed to be spreading as if to take flight. Marble can neither speak nor move, yet the Angel’s mouth seemed to bless one and all, its hands folded in prayer.

The audience burst into applause. One person dared to ask the sculptor how he did it. “How do I do what?” came the reply. “How do you sculpt such beauty as this Angel?” “Oh that,” he replied. “It’s relatively easy. I just look at the block of stone and imagine the angel. Then I carefully chip away everything that doesn’t look like an Angel.”

Everything but the Angel. It sounds so simple. The reply seemed like a joke, but it was not. Great sculptors have this gift. They can see the figure that already exists within the block of stone and then use their tools to free what is extra, freeing the masterpiece. As the Creator, God is the artist and sees all the art that has ever been, and ever will be. By commanding us to be stewards, God tells us to become artists too, of our own souls.

Instead of a hammer and chisel, our tool is giving. Every time we give to the Church in whatever capacity that might be, it is like carving away a bit of marble revealing more of what our Church can and will be. Every hour volunteered at Zion Church, every extra effort given, every council meeting attended, every dollar given freely, every song sung in worship, and so on, does the same.

Our hands may lack the sculptor’s skill, but through Christian stewardship, we can make our lives more beautiful than any statue. As we attempt to be faithful to the Gospel, may we be mindful of the sculpture that we continue to create through our actions, words, and visions for the future.

Blessings to each of you! ***PJ***

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## **SEPTEMBER ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OPPORTUNITY**

As we approach the months of autumn we are planning to ease back into some Sunday educational opportunities. The first thing we would like to try in the month of September is a Sunday School class for all adults in the Upstairs Sunday School Hall. This area will allow us to properly social distance and utilize the media equipment necessary for class.

We will be focusing on the Gospel of John using a resource provided by Margaret Feinberg entitled, ***Pursuing God's Beauty.***

Whether you've read John's Gospel a hundred times before or this is your very first time, our hope is that God's beauty will take your breath away. This study will invite us to:

- Recognize and radiate the beauty of God on display in your life
- Celebrate God's work of redemption, restoration, and salvation all around
- Discover the beautiful work God is doing in your life
- Reflect on the attributes of God on display in Jesus
- Renew your love of Scripture by studying the entire Gospel of John

**We hope that you will join us on Sunday mornings beginning September 12th at 9:00 a.m.** Invite your neighbors, co-workers, small group, long-distance BFF, as we study and learn together. **(This gathering is subject to change based on COVID issues or unforeseen developments.)**



## ***Teachers Needed!***

If you have taught Sunday school classes in the past. If you have never taught Sunday school classes ever. If you would like to explore the possibility of teaching children on Sunday mornings as they grow in their faith and understanding of our spiritual interconnectedness, please contact Nancy Lewis, the church office, or sign up in the church foyer to let us know of your interest in teaching a children's Sunday school class on Sunday mornings. Once we have several teachers indicating interest, we will set a date for teacher training. We are tentatively planning to start Sunday school classes for children in October unless plans need to change due to Covid.

## Zion Lippe UCC Council Highlights 8/10/21

**Attendance:** Laura Droege, Michelle Heneisen, Nancy Lewis, Terry Schroeder, Laverne Deal, Dan Hoffman, Jeff Long, Jake Gibson, and Brian Crase.

7/31 YTD Regular Offering: \$90,873.83

7/31 YTD General Fund Income: \$102,151.16

7/31 YTD General Fund Expenses: \$91,913.94

Differences: (+)\$10,237.22

*\*\*Note YTD \$15,810 of payroll was paid out of PPP Fund instead of General Fund*

The church council has agreed to pay for the new directories

The shared Bible School with St. Peters was very successful.

A manhole cover on the parsonage septic tank is cracked and needs to be replaced.

We will take attendance in house and then use the online voting to reach a quorum at the semi annual meeting. A report on the playground project will be given at the meeting.

If there is a positive covid case in the church then we will shut down for two weeks to allow for cleaning, people who still wish to wear masks may do so, and if a person does not feel comfortable with in person worship they can use the online platforms.

The youth group may host bingo nights possibly on Sunday the 10th of October from 1:00 to 3:00, there will be no money exchanged. There will be a Trunk or Treat night on Halloween. They will also work on providing meals for Gildas Club as well after Labor Day working with Jacobs Village.

There will be a Harvest Fest goods collection for God's Storehouse October 17th, 24th, and 31st.

Pastor Jeff's End of Life classes will conclude in October and he might start a group grief gathering at the church.

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**Women's Fellowship**

### **Upcoming Events of the Women of Zion**

- September 9, The Women of Zion (WOZ) will meet at 6 pm at Church, for a planning meeting and fellowship. All ladies welcome!
- Harvest Home will be held on Oct. 17, 24, 31. "Help Load the Wheelbarrow for God's Storehouse". Everyone is invited to bring canned or non-perishable food items.
- We will be adopting patients at the State Hospital again this year for Christmas. Irma Donner will receive the names sometime in October.
- We are still collecting greeting cards and picturesque calendars, new or old for the State Hospital, pull-tabs, and used eye glasses. See baskets at trophy case just inside upstairs Sunday School double doors.



We would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their support of the North Posey Relay for Life and Zion Lippe Relay for Life Team this year. As a result of individual donations, luminary donations, purchases of food, auction items, and all the other support shown in Posey County, the Relay for Life raised over \$46,000 this year for cancer research. The Zion Lippe team alone raised almost \$9500. Thank you to everyone who financially supported the team, showed up to work the booth, showed up to walk, or otherwise kept us in your thoughts. For those survivors we honor and those we lost remembered, let's keep striving to beat cancer.

Nancy and Hans

Just like to thank Pastor Jeff for his very meaningful messages that he shares with us every Sunday. Thanks for all the little things that you do that we take for granted. You are gratefully appreciated. Thank you!

A Zion Member

Bible School 2021 was a success! We partnered with St Peter's Methodist Church on St Philips Road. The children really enjoyed the 4 days after missing last year. Thanks to all the teachers and helpers from Zion. St Peter's thanks us for going in with them since they are a small church. The 3 oldest classes averaged around 14 a day. Also, I would like to thank my committee, Lauren Kern and Ashley Lashley, for all their hard work (hope I didn't leave anyone out!) Thanks also to church members for donating food and money toward the meals St Peter's served each night. Thanks also for the donations for Operation Christmas Child.

Nancy Lewis, Christian Education Chair

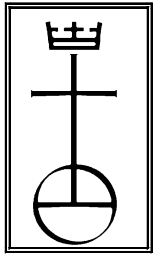
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**Playground Renovation Donations Now Accepted**

At our August 22nd semi- annual meeting the congregation voted to move forward with a capital campaign to raise \$85,000.00 to completely renovate the church playground area. The Playground committee couldn't have been more pleased with the congregation's choice to move forward. But to do so, we need everyone to help us raise the funds necessary to proceed. If you would like to donate to the playground renovation fund, please do so by placing your donations in an envelope marked, "**Playground Renovation**".

Once we have raised the \$85,000.00 goal, we will schedule a start date for the project. We are hoping to have the project completed by the spring of 2022.

On behalf of the entire Playground Renovation team - Larry Droege, Terry Schroeder, Nancy and Larry Lewis, Sandy Schmitt, Josh Dye, Jeff and Kris Long, and Delwin and Patti Parker - we would like to share our sincere thank you to the congregation to their commitment and generosity as we seek to continually serve the community in a manner that will last for generations to come.

If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Playground Renovation Committee team members. We would love to talk with you!



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