

SEPTEMBER 2023

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.)
7/30	87	78 devices
8/6	158	51 devices
8/13	142	71 devices
8/20	130	66 devices
8/27	124	48 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

August: Adult (18+) = 12

Youth = No Youth SS in Summer

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.



Greeter Schedule for upcoming Sundays:

Thank you to the many folks who have volunteered! Please continue to look for the monthly schedules in the next Voice of Zion newsletters.

Sept 3 – Gary & Ashley Lashley
Sept 10 – Gail Lashley & Carolyn Turner
Sept 17 – Larry & Nancy Lewis
Sept 24 – Ben & Ashley Lingafelter

Oct 1 – Justin & Nikaya Long
Oct 8 – Missy Ludwig
Oct 15 – Melanie Mann
Oct 22 – Steve & Pam Martin
Oct 29 – Chris & Beth McCutchan

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and hand-shaking is optional. If possible, 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, you can let Worship Chair, Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it that's ok!

If you haven't already talked with Rosie Bogard about greeting, but would like to be added to the schedule, please contact Rosie or the church office.



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, Mark Duncan
- 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, Linda Messel
- 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
- 23 Alicia Becker
- 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)
- 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!



Women's Fellowship

Women of Zion will start meeting again on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 pm. The committee will be providing grilled hamburgers and desserts. We are asking anyone interested in joining our fellowship to bring a salad. If any questions contact Linda Koch.

And looking ahead, Harvest Home will be October 1-22, running for 4 weeks, when we will collect cans and boxes of food items for local food pantries. Decorating the church for Harvest Home is planned for Sat. Sept 30 at 9 am. Theme this year is "Fill the Truck", so we are in need of 2 large decorative trucks, or kid's motorized trucks etc. If anyone has these to loan during the Harvest Home period, please contact Irma Donner or Linda Koch. Food will be loaded after church on Oct. 22.



With Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Alice Garness. Alice passed away July 29, 2023 at the age of 75. Funeral services were held July 31 at Pierre Funeral Home, with burial in Zion Cemetery on August 1. We cherish good memories of Alice.



Friends, I pray that these summer months have been a time of rest, slowing down, and going Godspeed for you. I am always mindful that summer is often a time of transition for many of us. That is especially true for all our high school graduates, many of whom are now readying themselves for their first semester of college. Likewise, our most recent college graduates are entering a new season in their lives as they head out into the world with fresh knowledge – and diplomas – in hand.

Summer is also a time when transition takes place around the church. Over these summer months your leadership team has been hard at work preparing for the year ahead. Not only have they been taking care of their normal responsibilities like tending to the church grounds, arranging for worship experiences, making sure all our monthly bills are paid on time, and growing in our faith together. They have also embarked on a journey to explore the possibility of utilizing natural resources as a way to supply energy to our building through the possibility of a solar project. There will be more news about informational meetings following our next Council meeting on September 12th.

We will kick off all our Sunday School offerings again this fall on September 10th with adult classes meeting in the Sunday School Hall with Steve and Nancy, all our children meeting downstairs with a great group of teachers, and the Jr. and Sr. High Youth who will meet on Sunday mornings also in the upstairs youth room.

I am excited about these upcoming changes and grateful for the work of the Church Council as well as the many volunteers who help make Zion Church a place for the community to grow and care for one another together. Blessings to you all. See you at church. Invite a friend.

Blessings Everyone, *Pastor Jeff*



Confirmation Meeting - September 10th following Worship

One of the great joys and privileges of ministry is the opportunity to accompany young people on their spiritual journey. We do this in many ways here at Zion Church, but one of the most important is through the Christian rite known as “Confirmation.” In our tradition, we believe a person is joined to the universal church – the Body of Christ – through the Sacrament of Baptism. When an infant or very young child is baptized, the baptismal promises are made by one or more parents and/or sponsors (Godparents). As the child approaches adolescence, the local church offers that person the opportunity to publicly affirm their baptism. That affirmation of baptism is called Confirmation.

This year’s Confirmation Classes will be led by Pastor Jeff as well as Carol Embry and Donna Hartig. 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 church office. Anyone older than 7th grade age who has not yet attended confirmation classes, but would like to attend now, please contact Pastor Jeff.

In preparation for upcoming classes, we will have an information meeting following worship on **September 10th**. We look forward to seeing you then!

Council Meeting Highlights – 8/8/23

In attendance: Michelle Heneisen, Nancy Lewis, Russ Roehr, Rosie Bogard, Carl Barchet, Patrick Schroeder, Stacy Wagner, Pastor Jeff, Brian Crase, Bob Juncker

7/31 YTD Regular Offering: \$124,539.96

7/31 YTD General Fund Income: \$129,556.73

7/31 YTD General Fund Expense: \$116,134.67

- Upcoming Semi-Annual Meeting on 8/13. Zoom to be set up for online participants. Jeff to send out message ahead of time about quorum and about the Zoom participation to ensure we have quorum. Russ, Pat and Stacy to present on information available for solar panels and to request that congregation give council approval to fully move forward with information-gathering phase.
- Endowment requests approved by Council:
 - \$2,000 Request from Rosie Bogard to provide supplies and materials for Sleep in Heavenly Peace.
 - \$450 Request from Brock Heneisen to provide support for Brock's Eagle Scout project to make picnic tables for an outdoor classroom at Perry Heights.
 - \$3,750 request from Jim Droege to provide support for Partners in Food.
 - \$1,000 matching request from the Barrow family for the New Life Rescue and Adoption fund drive.
- Carl gave an update on quotes to repair various cracks, reseal and repaint the lines the church parking lot. Current quotes don't appear to cover everything needed on the project, and range from \$4,762 to \$7,500. To receive quotes from additional contractors and future details will be provided.
- Nancy reported that Kids' Sunday School will be starting up again after Labor Day weekend. There will be a planning meeting on 8/27 with the teachers to get everything scheduled and the plan laid out.
- Russ gave update on the front door project - Front entrance crest and exterior door side insets and exterior door overlap were scrapped/sanded with pieces of molding removed/installed. All wood was primed and painted with high-quality rain-resistant exterior paint and interface between stone and wood was caulked. Took multiple days and about 5 people working diligently on the project. Thanks to all who helped with the project.
- Russ reported that he had received a quote from Chapman Roofing of around \$31,800 to replace the shingles on the Sunday School hall roof. The current roof was installed in 1998 and is reaching the end of its life.

Council Highlights cont'd . . .

- Pastor Jeff stated that he won't be re-opening his Adult class for Sunday School, but would instead plan to set up a Youth Sunday School class aimed at older kids. Jeff feels that the adults currently have a great option with Steve and Nancy for Sunday School, but that we don't have a good option for kids between 7th through 12th graders.

**FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGINNING -
SEPTEMBER 10th @ 9:00 A.M.**



We are happy to announce that we will begin Sunday School Classes for all ages on Sunday, September 10th beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be classes for children that will meet downstairs, Steve and Nancy deClaisse-Walford will continue to teach adult classes in the upstairs

Sunday School area and we will have a Jr. and Sr. High class available for our youth in their youth room located behind the stage in the upstairs Sunday School.

This year we are excited to offer a new curriculum resource for our children's Sunday school. We will be using "The Bible Study for Kids" resource by Zach Windahl. The children will meet downstairs like they have traditionally done for an experience that will include bible study, music, and group building. This gathering is available for children Pre-K through 5th grade.

In addition, there will be a class in the youth room for our older youth, grades 6-12. This gathering will be different from and in addition to the confirmation experience.

By arranging to have our Sunday morning educational experience proceed in this fashion we believe that we can offer something for all generations, from children to adults.

We hope that these Christian educational opportunities will meet the many and varied topics, perspectives, and provide spiritual growth in a number of ways. We hope that you will find time to join us for any of these great Sunday morning opportunities beginning **Sunday, September 10th!**



Once again you, the members of the congregation, responded in abundance when the cooking crew asked for donations of brownies to serve at the United Caring Shelter the last Sunday in July. Thank you. A big thank you also belongs to John Moyer for supplying the eggs, and the Heneisen group for the sausage used to make the breakfast burritos, Marvin and Ruth for corn from their freezer, Partners in Food for the roast beef, Al Schmitz's crew for the ice cream and all the volunteers who make Zion's mission at the Shelter possible. Mathew 25:40 NIV "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The Zion Cooking Crew

Stop Trying to Heal from Grief

<https://whatsyourgrief.com/stop-trying-to-heal-from-grief/>

I know this might sound controversial. Or, at minimum, unexpected from a grief writer and therapist. If you've spent any time online you're probably all too familiar with messages about 'healing from grief'. You've likely scrolled through the hundreds of grief influencer videos promising to help you 'recover from grief' or 'heal your grief' via retreats, essential oils, coaching sessions, classes, and Facebook groups. 'Unhealed grief' and 'unrecovered grief' are talked about like some sort of boogeyman, hiding under our beds waiting to grab our ankles and hold us down as we try to emerge from the rubble of loss. Every time I hear this language I cringe.

We are far from the first to suggest this. Let's go back one hundred years to Freud. Now, this is a man who said some things about grief that we take serious issues with. But even he was assuring people that grief is not a problem or a pathology. He understood it as a normal human process. In *Mourning and Melancholia* he says, " It is also well worth notice that, although mourning involves grave departures from the normal attitude to life, it never occurs to us to regard it as a pathological condition and to refer it to medical treatment."

He contrasts mourning with melancholia (what we would now call depression), which he sees as a pathology that does require intervention. Mourning, on the other hand, he describes as a natural, transformational process after loss.

For the last fifty years, mental health and grief experts have been trying to help people understand that grief is not something we need to heal from. Rather, grief **IS** the healing. Though we're not fans of the five stages of grief, there is a passage that I have always appreciated from David Kessler in the Afterword of his book with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, "On Grief and Grieving".

"There is wonder in the power of grief. We don't appreciate its healing powers, yet they are extraordinary and wondrous. It is just as amazing as the physical healing that occurs after a car accident or major surgery. Grief transforms the broken, wounded soul, a soul that no longer wants to get up in the morning, a soul that can find no reason for living, a soul that has suffered an unbelievable loss. Grief alone has the power to heal."

Kubler-Ross & Kessler, On Grief and Grieving

When we grieve, it is because we have experienced a devastating and unimaginable loss. That loss is what has shattered us. Grieving is our normal and natural human response to that loss. It is the physical, emotional, cognitive, relational, existential, spiritual experience we all go through, in varying degrees and in various ways, after a loss. Grief and grieving are not the *source* of our pain. The source of the pain is the loss itself.

Grief is how we process this loss. After loss we open our eyes to a world that in no way resembles the world we once knew. In this new world, grief is how we come to understand who we are, how we feel, and how we will survive in this new world. In grieving we create a relationship with a person who died. We develop the continued bonds that will evolve with us as we move forward in a world without that person. Grief allows us to turn inward and assess what we need from ourselves and others in this life after loss. It has the power to clarify our

values and our priorities. In grief we begin to make sense of who we are in a world without a person who defined us.

I understand that grief is the keeper of my most treasured memories and continued bonds. Grief is a trusted friend (albeit a cranky and temperamental one). The memories and bonds that live in my grief are what gives me the confidence that I can, slowly, rebuild. Knowing grief is a companion is what allows me to move forward without fear of “moving on” or “letting go”.

On a triggering birthday or anniversary years on, when my grief sidles up beside me and brings on a cascade of tears, I am not surprised or scared. I don't fear that I failed to ‘recover’ or ‘heal’ properly. Quite the opposite. I am grateful that I can still welcome grief in. We can share old memories and revisit the life I once believed I'd live, while still appreciating the life I am living. I am happy to let grief put her arm around me, to bury my face in her shoulder as I cry, knowing that together we will always be healing.

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*For Zion's monthly Calendar of Events  
see "Events" tab on our website, [zionlippe.org](http://zionlippe.org)*

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SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Next Work Day is Sat. Sept 9th

8 am –Noon at 1303 S Green River Rd - Evansville, IN 47715

All ages are welcome (children under 12 cannot use power tools but can assist in other ways). Let Pastor Jeff know if you are interested or have any further questions.

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