

“Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?”

-Isaiah 43:18-19a



“A family living
for Christ in all
we do.”

The Echoes

Making Things New

This quote from the book of Isaiah is offering reassurance from God, but also is a firm command not to dwell in the past. It is often difficult to promote changes, there is something comfortable about leaving things the way they are. Change can bring uncertainty, anxiety, and doubt, but it can also bring excitement, happiness, and encouragement. Assurance is given to the people, showing God’s attentive presence through every season of change.

Zion, like Gibsonburg, is in a season of change. As Gibsonburg’s weather changes from summer to fall (or soon, it might!), Zion is changing from a time of a called, settled pastor, to a time of supply and interim pastors; a time of pause in ministry to a time of abundant ministry and outreach. Throughout it all, God is here, guiding and reassuring us; quieting our anxiety and changing it to excitement as we look forward to what is next. As God warned the people in Isaiah, let’s not dwell on what was or what could have been. Let’s look ahead, to what we can change, to what we can be. Let’s create a vision for Zion that is greater than what we perceive. God, who is trustworthy and encouraging, will be with us every step of the way.

Let us always set our sights on God’s plan for Zion. We will use the gifts given to us by God to build a future for Zion that excites us, that motivates us to serve all God’s people - at Zion, in Gibsonburg, and beyond. To truly be a family living for Christ in all we do.

We have already started to see changes - Zion’s refreshed sign, Zion’s new parking lot, new faces and voices serving during worship on Sunday mornings. Just as each new day brings changes to the trees, each new day brings changes for ministry, changes for outreach and mission and fellowship. There are so many ways God is calling us to see (and be) the changes - are we listening?

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Outreach 7:00 AA	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 4:30-6 LYO 7:00 - AA	6	7 6:30pm Busy Hands	8 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Choir AA	9	10	11 8am-1pm Blood Drive 5-7:30 Kids' Night Out
12 9:00 Worship 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	13	14 7:00 Council Meeting	15 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 AA	16 JOY Outing	17	18 Outdoor Clean-Up Day
19 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	20 7:30 Dartball	21	22 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Choir AA	23	24 4-8pm Set-up for Craft Show	25 9am-3pm Craft Show (lunch 11:30-1:30) 3:30 Quilt Raffle
26 Reformation Sunday 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion; Confirmation Sunday 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	27 7:30 Dartball	28	29 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 AA	30	31 5:30-7:30 Trunk-or- Treat	

Council Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2025

Zion Council met in the Barb Moellman Media Center on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025, at 7 PM. Rusty opened the meeting with prayer and devotions, Philippians 2:1-4 and “Listening to our Neighbors”. Those in attendance were: Stacie Marquart, Connie Davies, Jill Allport, Carrie Strausbaugh, Beth Schlea, Dan Henery, Tom Fisher, Rusty Burkett, David Myerholtz, Julia Popp, and Becky Teal. There was one addition to the agenda. Stacie moved, seconded by Dave to approve the agenda with the addition of budget discussion, motion approved.

Secretary’s Report: Beth moved, seconded by Julia, to accept the August 2025 minutes as printed. Motion approved.

Financial Reports: Received as printed. Tom moved, Connie seconded, to accept the financial reports as written. Motion approved. The budget for 2026 was discussed. Dave stated that any ministry committee that needs funding should submit a request before the next council meeting. The annual meeting will be in November. Beth and Dan will put the budget together with input from the ministry teams.

Old Business: Rusty has been working daily to get the church website going. Great progress has been made. Now he would like pictures of the staff and leadership members.

New Business:

All members of the 2025-2026 council signed the Covenant of Conduct.

The parsonage was discussed. It was suggested to have an open house in the parsonage. This is to allow members that have never been in the parsonage to see what it looks like. Beth volunteered to work on a cleaning crew to get the parsonage ready. Two Sundays in October were suggested. More information to be forthcoming.

Beth moved and Carrie seconded that the Annual Meeting be Sunday, November 16, 2025 following worship. Motion carried.

Beth made a motion, seconded by Dave, that our contribution to Synod remain at \$875 per month. Motion carried.

Chapter 8 of the constitution was discussed. This pertains to membership. Our roster needs to be looked at to be sure it conforms to the membership guidelines in the constitution.

Guest ministers and donations to the charity they may represent was discussed.

Becky made a motion, seconded by Dave, that the Gibsonburg Area Ministerial Association be allowed to hold the Blue Christmas worship service at Zion at 7:00 PM on Sunday, December 14, 2025. Motion approved.

The Ministry of Worship and Music: I met with Hannah to review the liturgical calendar software, Sundays and Seasons (or Seasons and Sundays). More review and access is needed so that I can be comfortable understanding what is required and when. I spoke with Linda Long about the Altar Guild and had a brief discussion on how it works. She, Jody Keller, and I will meet after service on Sunday to discuss and learn how it works. (submitted by Jill Allport)

Staff Assistance Committee: received as printed

Executive Committee: received as printed

Rusty adjourned the meeting. All members prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 7 PM.

Reporting Next Month: Christian Education & Stewardship
Submitted by Becky Teal

Positive Changes around Zion

We've been fortunate to witness some positive physical changes around Zion. A few of these projects have been at the forefront of our workings this past month. Zion now has a new, updated website; the parking lot project has been completed; and the sign and surrounding area has been cleaned and restained. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents for these projects. We have much for which we are grateful! Thanks be to God!



Same web address, fresh new look!

www.zionlutherangibsonburg.org

Check it out and see what you think!



Sunday School Update

Another school year at Zion has begun! We are happy to see (and hear) the young people in the halls of Zion. All are welcome, it's not too late to join us. If you or your children or grandchildren or friends would like to attend, we'd enjoy seeing them here. Christian Education classes are offered weekly, following Sunday worship, gathering at 10am and sending at 11am.

Preschool ages class is taught by Carrie Strausbaugh and Linda Bursiek.

Kindergarten and first grade class is taught by Lisa and Elise Reed.

Second and Third grade is taught by Jean Berger.

Fourth and Fifth grade is taught by Hannah Mapus.

Catechism (beginning in 6th grade) is taught by Judy Fisher and Rusty Burkett.

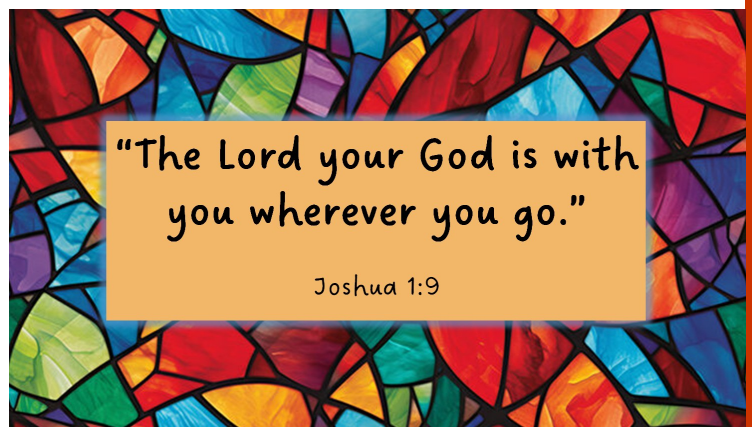
High School (after student is Confirmed) is taught by Jeff Lemke.

Jamie Evarts graciously and fearlessly leads and encourages the group of teachers.

We are so very grateful for these volunteers and their hearts for teaching our young people about the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for our Sunday School program, students, and volunteers!

Blessing of the Bags Success

The image to the right is the artwork from the backpack tags we made this year. We are so happy this project extended beyond just backpacks! We have distributed over 120 tags so far! More are available on the table in the hallway - and more can be made, if there is a need. We are so blessed to take this message out into our community. We hope these tags serve as reminders that our God is always with us - at work, at school, at home, at play. If you're unable to come to church to receive yours, please call the office and we will bring them to you (or send them in the mail).



“Commit
your way to
the Lord;
trust in him,
and he will
act.”

-Psalm 37:5

Meet the Confirmands

On October 26, 2025, as we celebrate Reformation Sunday these five young people will affirm the promises made by their parents at their baptisms. May we continue to hold them in prayer and encourage them in their faith journeys, so they feel supported and called to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ for all their days. Thanks be to God!

Grayson Burkett

- son of Jen & Rusty Burkett

Claire Mapus

- daughter of Hannah & James Mapus

Amaya Marinoff

- daughter of Kim & Mike Marinoff

Bryson Marinoff

- son of Kim & Mike Marinoff

Sofia Rogers

- daughter of Stefanie & Eric Rogers



JOY

The next JOY outing will be Thursday, October 16.

We plan to tour the Wilson Nature Center and Homestead House at Creek Bend Farm in Lindsey and have a program led by the Sandusky County Parks staff member.

We hope you can join us!

Stay tuned for more information.



GAMA Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Pastor Michael Holcomb and Sue Sleek (Shiloh); Fr. Tad Oxley and Patti Wasserman (St. Michael); Pastor Char Miller (Church Without Walls); Pastor Stoner (First English); Sheryl Krotzer and Linda Long (Zion)

FOOD PANTRY REPORT:

- ☐ Large family voucher has been updated to \$20.00, small family to \$10.00. Vouchers can be redeemed at Kirwen's Supermarket for fresh vegetables after family members shop in the food pantry.
- ☐ Log Yard Car Show and Trunk or Treat will be held on Oct. 11 from 1-4 pm.
- ☐ A suggestion was made to offer an Open House for the Food Pantry on the same date (Oct. 11). A back-up date for the Open House may be Oct. 4 from 2:30-4:30 pm. Date will be finalized after Fr. Tad Oxley confers with Gerry Williams and Judy Reino. Three gift cards for Kirwen's Supermarket valued at \$25.00 each will be drawn at the Food Pantry Open House. Also, Subway sandwiches and cookies will be provided for the guests.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

- ☐ At this time there is no designated date for the family to move into the house in Helena. Shiloh has decided to provide a gift card for the family instead of stocking the rooms as was done in the Gibsonburg home. This would provide an opportunity for personal preferences for the family. Shiloh will provide a Wal Mart gift card which will include gas and food options.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE (SYATP):

- ☐ Date – September 24, 2025 at 7 am. This is a student-led event where students pray around the flagpole at the high school. Area pastors and other adults are welcome and are planning to be present in support for the youth.

NEWS FROM AREA CHURCHES:

- ☐ Church Without Walls – A report referencing support of various means for five families was provided by Pastor Char Miller.
- ☐ First English Lutheran – A seminary student is now doing field work at the church. Season Five of the Chosen is being shown and will continue until Advent. Lydia's closet, a new clothing ministry will begin November 1st. This will be offered once a month from 9 am to noon for anyone in need.
- ☐ St. Michael / St. Mary Catholic – The Chicken Barbeque for St. Michael will be held Sept. 28. A new program for Faith Formation has begun at St. Mary Catholic Church. This involves the youth, parents and the priest.
- ☐ Shiloh Global Methodist – Bible Study is being held before worship. Prayer blankets that were provided by St. Michael Catholic Church have been given away. BLESSED party went well and clarified the direction the church is going. Trunk or Treat will be October 26 in the evening. Pastor Char Miller will offer Grief Training this Fall. Grief Prayer will also be offered to the surrounding area. Upcoming events include Operation Christmas Child and a Veterans Day Brunch on November 8.
- ☐ Zion Ev. Lutheran – Trunk or Treat is being planned for October 26. Bible Study has resumed for Wednesday mornings at 10 am. The Blue Christmas Service will be hosted by Zion on Sunday, December 14 at 7 pm. Area pastors will participate in the service and a fellowship time will follow the service. The area churches will all provide cookies, etc. for the fellowship time.

OTHER:

- ☐ Mention was made that in a recent issue of the PRESS an article included reference to the LifeWise program seeking a program director for Gibsonburg. No one at the meeting knew of any further development at this time regarding the program being introduced to our school district.

Next Meeting: Wednesday October 15, 2025 – 12:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Krotzer

“Truly I tell
you, just as
you did it to
one of the
least of these
brothers and
sisters of
mine, you did
it to me.”
-Matthew 25:40b

Lutheran World Relief Update

Thank you for your support for Lutheran World Relief throughout the month of September! Due to the generosity of the congregation of Zion, we were able to compile nearly 200 personal health kits and ten quilts to be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Additional monetary donations were also given to offset the cost of shipping the items to those in need. Thank you for recognizing the needs of others and helping to fulfill those needs with your donations. These kits and quilts will show God's blessings to those who receive them.

Visitation Ministry Team

A team of volunteers has been assembled and is ready to begin a Visitation Ministry for Zion. If you, or someone you know, would like a visit, please contact the church office. 419-637-2812

This ministry is open for one-time visitations or perpetual visits happening monthly, whichever is preferred. Please let the office know your preference to receive holy communion.

We look forward to visiting with you soon!

Financial Fitness Focus

September 2025:

September Gross Income:	\$28,761.33
September Gross Expenses:	<u>\$18,390.11</u>
	\$10,371.22
Income designated for the Parking Lot:	\$9,269.70
Gross, Non-designated Revenue for September:	\$1,101.52

As of 9/30/2025:

Year-to-Date Income:	\$282,508.66
Year-to-Date Expenses:	<u>\$187,617.18</u>
	\$94,891.48
Income designated for the Parking Lot in 2025:	\$117,386.98
Gross, Non-designated Revenue for 2025:	\$-22,495.50

Congregational Connections

So many members of our Zion family participate in activities outside the congregation. Each month, this section of The Echoes will feature events happening in and around Gibsonburg that may have our Christian brothers and sisters participating. Like traditional families, showing support of our loved ones is important. Let us continue to show support and lift up each member of our Zion family, both in prayers and in cheers! Ask them for more information - we'd love to see you there showing support!

Gibsonburg HS Marching Band - Miles and Lincoln Thomas, Amaya Marinoff, Claire Mapus, and Zander Shreffler, Jacob and Lucas Aelker

- performing at halftime for GHS varsity football games: 10/3, 10/17, both 7:00pm at home

Gibsonburg HS Volleyball Team - Sofia Rogers

- home games: 10/2, 10/6, both at 5:30pm

Gibsonburg HS Cross Country Team - Bryson Marinoff, Claire Mapus, Zander Shreffler, Jacob Aelker

- races 10/4 @New London; 10/11 SBC @ Hedges Boyer

Gibsonburg Youth Cross Country - Owen, Payton, Holly, Brady Kirwen; Simon Thomas; Cash and Ophelia Crispen; Evan Mapus; Dave & Becky Teal

- races 5:30pm on 10/7 and 5:15pm 10/14, both at White Star Barn

Gibsonburg Middle School Academic Challenge - Jacoby Evarts

- 9:30am on 10/22 at Clyde High School

Zion's Dartball Team -

- Mondays, beginning October 20th, 7:30pm

Zion's Craft Show - Come support the vendors, some of whom might be Zion friends! And have lunch, provided by LYO!

Please call or email the office if you have events or suggestions to add to this column.

We'd love to learn more about our church family's interests.

Also, if you'd rather not be listed, please let the office know.



"Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses".

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Parsonage Update

There was a need for some cleaning and refreshing of the parsonage, so a group of volunteers has begun that process. When the volunteers have completed their work, Zion will host an Open House for parishioners who are interested in touring the house. We have heard curiosities from many people and would like to open the house for your exploration. Stay tuned for information!

*Loving God,
we thank you
for our many
blessings here
at Zion and in
throughout our
lives. Continue
to strengthen
and encourage
us to show
your love and
kindness to all
people.
Amen.*



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Zion Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
500 S. Brentwood Drive
Gibsonburg, Ohio 43431

October 11, 2025

8:00am – 1:00pm

Busy Hands Quilt Raffle

Busy Hands is holding a raffle for the quilt they made at their retreat in January.

Raffle tickets will be sold after services until October 25th. We will draw the winning ticket at the end of the Craft Show at 3:30pm.

Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 6 for \$25.00.

The proceeds will help purchase batting and backing for the quilts we make for Lutheran World Relief each year. This year, we have made 10 quilts that we will send to the collection site, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Rochester.

Please come out support this important ministry!

Zion Council Members

President: Rusty Burkett

Vice President: David Myerholtz

Secretary: Becky Teal

Treasurer: Beth Schlea

Christian Education Ministry: Carrie Strausbaugh

Outreach Ministry: Julia Popp

Property Ministry: Tom Fisher

Staff Assistance Ministry: Connie Davies

Stewardship Ministry: Stacie Marquart

Worship & Music Ministry: Jill Allport

Acolytes and Readers and Worship Leaders

Sunday, October 5

A - Derek Reed

R - Bo Evarts and Henry Bursiek

WL - Rev. Larry Michaels

Sunday, October 19

A - Claire Mapus

R - Sheryl Krotzer and Mason Miles

WL - Rev. Greg Olsen

Sunday, October 12

A - Braxton Maenle

R - Jeff Lemke and Miles Thomas

WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, October 26

A - Jacoby Evarts

R - Gene Fox and Brynn Mapus

WL - Rev. Cindy Ritter

October Birthdays

4 - Anna Gerwin

5 - Lynn Fox
Ellen Tille

6 - Lilly Bursiek
Michelle Kohler
Linda Williamson

7 - Ladd Beck

8 - Donika Minick
Ruby Randolph

9 - Hannah Bursiek

10 - Brendan Frey

Elise Reed
Roger Schlea
Simon Thomas

11 - Owen Gerwin

13 - Mariah Reyes
Sara Waggoner

16 - Belinda Burkett
Fred Gerwin

18 - Jean Berger
Mason Miles

21 - Krista Johnson
Kim Nickel

22 - Jody Angelone
Roger Esker
Jacoby Evarts

25 - Diane Beck
Lee Bursiek

27 - Judy Fisher
Jeremy Pritt

28 - Christine Linke
Emory Gonzales

29 - Lowell Myerholtz

31 - Braxton Maenle

"A family living for Christ in all we do."



500 S Brentwood Drive
Gibsonburg, OH 43431

Phone: 419-637-2812
Email: zionlutherangib@gmail.com
www.zionlutherangibsonburg.org

Kids' Night Out

Zion will host Kids' Night Out on
Saturday, October 11, 2025 from 5:00-7:30pm.

Children ages 3-5th grade are invited to attend for
a fun night of games, stories, crafts, dinner, and a
bounce house.

Registration is preferred and is available by using
the QR code below or by filling out a paper at
church. Children must be toilet trained to attend.



We are still in need of volunteers to help work for the evening. Please prayerfully consider your involvement in this outreach ministry. We provide a fun, safe, Christ-filled environment for children, so their parents can take a few hours for self-care or quiet time. This is so important in our busy society!

Zion is making a difference, here and now!