

The Echoes

November 2025



“Grateful
hearts and
voices raise -
tell everyone
what God has
done!

Let all who
seek the Lord
rejoice, and
bear Christ’s
holy name!”

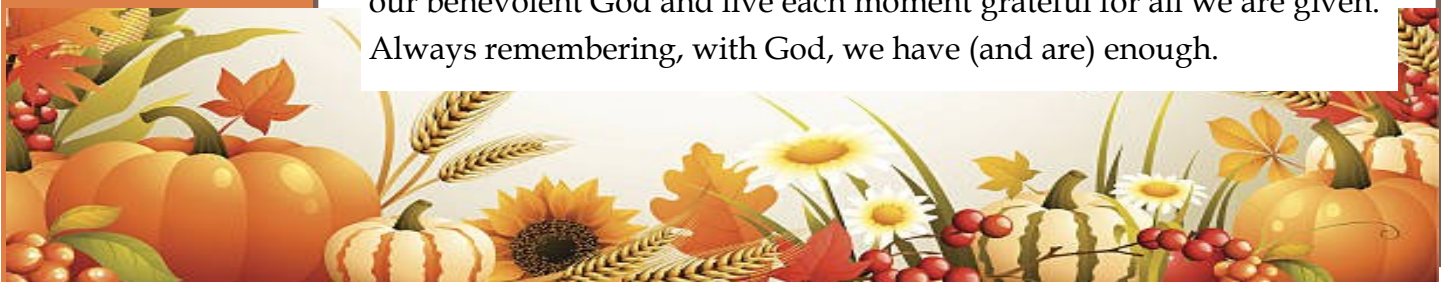
Grateful Hearts

November has arrived. Thanksgiving dinner is a couple weeks away - will we have enough...turkey, enough potatoes, enough rolls, enough pie?!?! Will everyone be able to gather at the table? Will their travels be made safely? Will we all enjoy our time together? We carry many worries with us through holiday times. It is difficult to not be distracted by the many worries in our lives.

This Thanksgiving season, I pray we can pause our worries and truly give thanks to a God who always provides enough. I hope our grateful praises are louder than our dark worries. That we can look to our ever-giving God and realize all that we have has been given to us from a God who loves us, and that realization turns our hearts and minds to grateful praise - thanking God in all we do.

Through all the changes here at Zion, I hope we can do the same - thank God for all we have and all that is happening here at Zion: for volunteers who step-up and fill a need; for worship leaders who bring us messages inspired by God’s word,; for readers and acolytes and choir members who add voices and light and harmonies to worship; for custodians who maintain a property entrusted to us by God; for gracious stewards who provide for a capital campaign; for cooks, bakers, and kitchen helpers who plan and prepare for fellowship celebrations; for church friends who encourage one another. We have so very much for which we can thank God.

Let us be grateful. Let us thank and praise God, who blesses each and every one of us each day. Let us begin our days with thanksgiving to our benevolent God and live each moment grateful for all we are given. Always remembering, with God, we have (and are) enough.



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 - Sunday School, Catechism, Coffee Hour 11 - Christian Ed 7:00 - AA	3 9:00 - Yoga 7:30 Dartball	4 6:30 Busy Hands	5 10:00 Bible Study 6:00 Outreach 7:00 AA	6	7	8
9 9:00 Worship 10 - Sunday School, Catechism, Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	10 9:00 - Yoga 7:30 Dartball	11 Veteran's Day 7:00 Council	12 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 AA	13	14	15
16 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 - Annual Meeting 7:00 - AA	17 9:00 - Yoga 7:30 Dartball	18	19 7:00 AA	20	21 9:30 JOY	22 Hall Rented 1:00 Cookie Exchange
23 9:00 Worship 10 - Sunday School, Catechism, Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	24 9:00 - Yoga 7:30 Dartball	25	26 7:00 AA	27 Thanksgiving Office Closed	28	29 Hall Rented
30 9:00 Worship 10 - Sunday School, Catechism, Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA						

Zion Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2025

Zion Council met in the Barb Moellman Media Center on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:10. Rusty Burket opened the meeting with prayer, Connie Davies gave the devotions. Those in attendance were: Rusty Burkett, David Myerholtz, Becky Teal, Beth Schlea, Stacie Marquart, Julia Popp, Connie Davies, Tom Fisher and Dan Henery. Carrie Strausbaugh and Jill Allport were absent. There was one addition to the agenda. Connie moved, seconded by Stacie, to approve the agenda with the addition of flooring for the office to be added to New Business, motion approved.

Secretary's Report: Connie moved, seconded by Julia, to accept the secretary's report as written, motion approved. Three pieces of communication were shared. Two asking for money, one promoting an investment.

Financial Reports: Received as printed. Julia moved, seconded by Stacie, to accept the financial reports as written. Approval of proposed budget for 2026 was discussed. The amount for Pastor was divided in half as we do not know when we will have a permanent Pastor. Normal giving is down. The congregation is asked to remember that the parking lot pledges are in addition to the normal, day to day costs of running Zion and to give with this in mind. Julia moved, Dave seconded, that guest Pastors that give communion be paid \$250.00 per Sunday and those that are not able to give communion receive \$200.00. Motion approved.

Old Business: The church website is up and running. WS Designs from Bowling Green has worked with Rusty on this project. If they continue to maintain the site, they will charge \$50.00 per month. Rusty has volunteered to maintain the website after he receives training from WS Designs. He will be looking for help to do this for those times when he is out of town on business. Rusty made the motion, Dave seconded, to have Rusty be the webmaster of our Zion website. Motion passed. It was also requested that Zion constitution and fund definition be added to the website.

A workday for outside cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18 at 8:30 am. Preference will be given to the outside and any extra help will be able to work inside the parsonage. Thanks to Denny Hohfelder for the work he has done inside the parsonage.

New Business: Tom moved, Becky seconded that Grayson Burkett, Claire Mapus, Amaya Marinoff, Bryson Marinoff, and Sofia Rogers be recommended as Zion confirmands. Motion approved.

Tom moved, Beth seconded, that the James Mapus family, James, Hannah, Claire, Brynn, and Evan be accepted as transfers to Zion. Motion approved.

There has been a request by a local homeschool co-op that they be allowed to use the building on Fridays. They have outgrown the church they are currently using. More information is needed before going further on this request.

There will be a congregational celebration on October 26th. It will be a time to dedicate the parking lot, celebrate the harvest, and to honor the confirmands. A meal will be included.

Dave moved, Connie seconded, to renovate the office. This would include painting and new flooring.

Council Minutes, continued

Beth has secured \$2000.00 toward the project and estimates the it will cost approximately \$1500.00 more. Motion carried. The paint would be that left from the painting of the Sunday School rooms.

The Ministry of Education: Classes have started and are running smoothly. Sunday School students will sing during worship on October 26. There will be no Sunday School that day, Reformation Sunday. Sunday School and catechism students will sing on Christmas Eve. Working on Christmas program on December 14th.

Missions/Noisy Offering/Coffee Hour: Sept.- collected for Hunger Network of Ohio, (raised \$543.88); Oct. through Dec. - collecting for ELCA Good Gifts; Jan.- collecting for VBS; Feb.-collecting for National Gathering; March through May-collecting for Hopewood Camps; June-collecting for VBS; July-collecting for National Gathering; and Aug.-collecting for health kits.

LYO: Met on Oct. 5th, helping serve lunch at craft show on Oct. 25th, next meeting is November 16th.

Ministry of Worship & Music: figuring out the computer, Jill Allport will do the murals as she is able

Special Events: Reformation celebration and brunch on Oct. 26th. New Year's Potluck on Jan. 4th.

VBS: Starting to plan. Looking at the kits for curriculum. It will be July 16-18, 2026.

Ministry of Stewardship: Stacie ordered some Stewardship books from Augsburg to read and brainstorm new Stewardship ideas. Planning a Litany of Thanksgiving and a meal after worship October 26th to show thankfulness for confirmands, parking lot, harvest and everyone's gracious stewardship.

Rusty adjourned the meeting. All prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 7 PM.

Reporting Next Month: Outreach and Property

Congregational Meeting – SAVE THE DATE!!!



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Sunday, November 16th, following worship

Agenda items include:

2026 Proposed Budget

Interim Pastoral Leadership

GAMA Minutes

On Wednesday, October 15, 2025, the Gibsonburg Area Ministerial Association met at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Those present were Sue Sleek, Patti Wasserman, Becky Teal, Gerry Williams, Karen Peck, Father Tad Oxley, and Pastor Charlene Miller. Father Tad called the meeting to order and offered a prayer. Minutes from September were accepted as read.

Food Pantry Report: Twenty-two boxes plus 10 vouchers were given out during September. This helped 67 people from our community. An Open House was held on October 11th at the Food Pantry. Judy Reno recently renovated the Food Pantry room and the Open House was to showcase the improvements. Approximately 50 people attended. Subway donated sandwiches for the event.

Thanksgiving Community Worship Service will be Nov. 16th at 3:00 PM at St. Michael's Hall. Thanksgiving food baskets will be given out after a brief worship service. There will be light refreshments. Three dozen cookies are needed from Zion for this event.

Blue Christmas service will be held Sunday, December 14th at 7:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. Refreshments will be served after in the hall. Again, three dozen cookies will be needed. If you can furnish a dozen or two cookies for either of these events, please contact Becky Teal.

Community Christmas Caroling was discussed. One time may be after the tree lighting in Williams Park on Dec. 6th. Another possibility will be when the Firemen take Santa to visit people in town. More information will be coming for this event.

Area Churches: Church Without Walls – Pastor Charlene will be speaking with the Fremont Kiwanis on Oct. 16th. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and she will be speaking on this.

First English Lutheran: John Austin is a young man that has become an intern at First English. His internship will be a 2 year field study. The showing of The Chosen continues. Lydia's Closet will be open the first Saturday of each month for anyone needing help. It is mainly for children's clothing, but does have some older coats. You are allowed 5 items for each visit. There is no charge.

St. Michael Catholic Church: They are doing a leadership training program with members of the church including their recent confirmands. They are sponsoring the Christmas boxes again. If you would like to fill a shoebox for a deserving child, contact St. Michael's office.

Shiloh Church: They are having trunk or treat on October 26th from 4:00 – 6:00 at the church. Hot dogs and chili will be served. On Nov. 7th at 10:00 AM there will be a Veteran's brunch at the church hall. Call to make a reservation. On Nov. 16th there will be a road rally.

Zion: Zion recently hosted a very successful Kid's Night Out and walk to school event, will be confirming 5 of our youth on Oct. 26th, will have trunk or treat on Oct. 31st, and will celebrate our confirmands, dedicate our new parking lot, and celebrate harvest on Oct. 26th.

There were no liaison reports.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at St. Michael's Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Teal

Sunday School Events – SAVE THE DATES!

Our Sunday School Youth will be performing their annual
Christmas Program
Sunday, December 14th during worship

They will also be singing during the
7:00pm service Christmas Eve.



*“Jesus said,
‘Let the
children come
to me, and do
not stop them,
for it is to such
as these that
the kingdom of
heaven
belongs.’”*

- Matthew 19:14



Catechism Youth Update

Five of Zion Lutheran’s teenagers were confirmed on October 26, 2025 during the worship service. Congratulations to the following confirmands:

Grayson Michael Burkett, son of Rusty and Jennifer Burkett

Claire Elizabeth Mapus, daughter of James and Hannah Mapus

Amaya Leigh Marinoff, daughter of Michael and Kim Marinoff

Bryson Michael Marinoff, son of Michael and Kim Marinoff

Sofia Ann Rogers, daughter of Eric and Stefanie Rogers

A reception was held after church service to honor our students, and to also give thanks for the fall harvest and for the completion of the parking lot project.

This year’s Catechism students will be focused on learning Luther’s Small Catechism, which is a vital portion of the 3 year journey toward Confirmation. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are part of this year’s catechism class.

Cookie Exchange



Date: November 22, 2025

Time: 1:00 pm

Church Fellowship Hall



There is a sign-up sheet; put your name and the type of cookie you are making. You can bring cookies, fudge, or buckeyes. Please bring 2 dozen homemade items and the recipe. We will have drinks, a few snacks and be able to sample the cookies that you bring.

Stewardship Ministry

Have you ever wondered what it means to be a disciple?

Basic tasks of discipleship: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, weekly worship, growth in giving to the tithe or beyond, serving others in Jesus' name, and sharing the faith story with the unchurched.

When you talk about discipleship it is not the primary relationship of the congregation, discipleship is the relationship with Jesus.

Stewardship is so much more than talking about money. "It should be to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents and finances God has entrusted to you."

Matthew 6:24 says, "No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

Be encouraged to prayerfully consider your discipleship with the help of God.

Financial Fitness Focus

October 2025:

October Gross Income:	\$20,173.80
October Gross Expenses:	\$129,691.99
	\$-109,518.19
(Income designated for the Parking Lot:	\$3,105.38)
(Expenses spent on the Parking Lot:	\$119,655.00)

As of 10/31/2025:

Year-to-Date Income:	\$302,682.46
Year-to-Date Expenses:	\$317,755.70
	\$-15,073.24
(Income designated for the Parking Lot in 2025:	\$120,492.36)
Gross, Non-designated Revenue for 2025:	\$-15,910.60



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 Boys' Basketball - Bryson Marinoff

- Home game: 11/19 6:00pm

Gibsonburg HS Girls' Basketball - Elly Evarts, Bo Evarts

- Home games: 11/5 at 6:00pm, 11/28 at 7:00pm

Gibsonburg HS Drama Dept. One Act Festival - Sofia & Oliva Rogers

- November 14, 15 at 7:00pm; November 16 at 2:00pm

Zion's Dartball Team -

- Mondays: home games: 11/3; 11/17; 11/24

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.

"The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is the people."

Successful Happenings

We're grateful for the successes of Zion's Kids' Night Out, Craft Show, Busy Hands Quilt Raffle, and Trunk-or-Treat. Twenty-nine children participated in KNO and 22 volunteers made it happen. Busy Hands raised over \$600 with the quilt raffle and had 22 vendors at the annual craft show. The vendors were complimentary about the venue and we hope they will return next year. Trunk-or-Treat was quite chilly this year, but Zion warmed the hearts and bellies of attendees with kind smiles, cookies, cider, and hot chocolate. Thank you to all who volunteer to help with Zion's events. We are a family living for Christ in all we do!



Zion's Council Members

President: Rusty Burkett

Vice President: David Myerholtz

Secretary: Becky Teal

Treasurer: Beth Schlea

Christian Ed 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, Readers, and Worship Leaders – Oh, my!

Sunday, November 2

A - Hannah Crispin

R - Becky Teal and Payton Kirwen

WL - Rev. Larry Michaels

Sunday, November 23

A - Elly Evarts

R - Kim Marinoff and Braxton Maenle

WL - Rev. Cindy Ritter

Sunday, November 9

A - Sofia Rogers

R - Tom Peiffer and Miles Thomas

WL - Alana Bates

Sunday, November 30

A - Amaya Marinoff

R - Brad Krotzer and Bryson Marinoff

WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, November 16

A - Bryson Marinoff

R - Linda Bursiek and Bella Stevens

WL - Rev. Greg Olsen



November Birthdays

1 - Brodie Thoss

4 - Heather Rubel

7 - Erika Esker
Kolt Minick

9 - Steven Marquart
Martin Myerholtz

14 - Nicholas Cramer

17 - Sarah Bursiek
Barb Peiffer

19 - Tammy Gerwin
Laine Shively
Bella Stevens

20 - Mason Tille
Mitchell Tille

22 - Dan Claire
Julia Popp

25 - Emily Moscioni



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

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JOY

October 16th, JOY traveled to Creek Bend Farms in Lindsey. They enjoyed a program led by the Sandusky County Parks District and toured the Wilson Nature Center, homestead house, and historic barn. After the program and tours, they enjoyed lunch and fellowship at The Village Inn in Elmore. They had a wonderful day, blessed by our ever-giving God.

On November 21st, JOY will travel to West Unity, Ohio to browse and buy at the Holly Jolly Christmas Shops. There are spots for lunch there before they travel home. If you're interested in joining the group, please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex.

The December outing for JOY will be the Toledo Symphony Orchestra Concert at Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont on Thursday, December 18th at 7:00pm. Tickets will go quickly, so if you forgot to sign-up, please go to Grace soon and get your ticket (\$10 for seniors and students, \$15 for adults).

We hope you will join us for our events - it's a great opportunity for fellowship and some excitement too! We'll see you next time!