

THE ECHOES

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SEPTEMBER ISSUE

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

I confess (and ask for grace) - this edition of The Echoes is tardy to you because of me. With a whirlwind end of summer break with the kids, a friend's emergency health situation and surgery, the parsonage flooding, and two weeks of orientation for seminary, I have been tasked with more than I can effectively and efficiently accomplish. Thank you for extending me grace and I will work to be more timely in the months to come.

September is upon us! As I write this, the Sandusky County Fair is underway. Another school year will soon begin. The seasons will begin to change. There is hope and anticipation all around. My hope for Zion this month is that we all work together and for one another to build up and encourage the body of Christ throughout our community during this season of anticipation.

This month, our youngest Zion family members gather in the classrooms here for another year of faith formation classes. Our dedicated Sunday School teachers are prepared for another year of guiding the youngest among us in their faith journeys. Would you join me and add these members of our Zion family to your prayers? Prayers for thanksgiving for the Sunday School teachers who answer the call to guide young hearts in faith and for patience, clarity, and understanding as they receive questions and behaviors that may leave them stumped and frustrated. Prayers for our young people too - that the joy of Jesus may fill their hearts and they may be led to follow him all the days of their lives and they may see and know the goodness of the family of Zion who loves and supports and walks with them on their journey of faith.

*But you, beloved,
build yourselves up
on your most holy
faith; pray in the Holy
Spirit; keep your-
selves in the love of
God; look forward to
the mercy of our Lord
Jesus Christ that leads
to eternal life.
Jude 20-21*

Another opportunity for encouragement and support is the Community Festival on September 12th, here at Zion. This is an extension of our 150th anniversary celebration for this year. This is a fun, casual opportunity for our Zion family to engage with the community of Gibsonburg and show our gratitude for 150 years of faithfulness and support. Please spread the word and encourage everyone to attend. There will be food, games, and fellowship. The only things you need to bring are your lawn chair and your hat and sunglasses. This old time festival will include carnival games (for kids and adults to enjoy), cornhole, the bounce house (kids only, sorry!), and lots of fellowship. Many things have changed in Zion's 150 years, but one of the constants has been Zion's presence in the Gibsonburg community. This is an opportunity to say thank you to the community that supports Zion and give back to the people who live as an extension of the mission of Zion.

Let us build on the anticipation and excitement that come with new seasons and continue to support one another in all we do.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6-Busy Hands	2 10-Bible Study	3	4	5
6 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10-Coffee Hour 7 - AA	7	8	9 10-Bible Study 7 - Choir - AA	10 7 - Church Council	11 Office Closed	12 150th Community Celebration
13 9-Worship/ Congregational Meeting 10-Rally Day Celebration 7 - AA	14	15	16 10-Bible Study 7 - AA	17	18 Hannah leaves for Luther Seminary	19
20 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion Transitional Mtg 7 - AA	21	22	23 10-Bible Study 7 - AA	24	25 Hannah Returns	26
27 9-Worship w/ Invitation to Service for Hannah 10:15-SS/ Catechism/ Coffee Hour 7 - AA	28	29	30 10-Bible Study 7 - AA			

Zion Church Council Minutes - August 11, 2026

Zion Council met at the home of President David Myerholtz on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. Those present were David Myerholtz, Beth Schlea, Becky Teal, Julia Popp, Connie Davies, Tom Fisher, Audrey Sneider, Rusty Burkett, and Dan Henery. Stacie Marquart and Carrie Strausbaugh were present through Facetime. Hannah Mapus was absent and excused.

Dave Myerholtz called the meeting to order and led in devotion and prayer. His devotion was from 1 Corinthians.

Julia moved, seconded by Beth, to accept the agenda as written. Motion approved.

Secretary's report: Connie moved, seconded by Julia, to accept the July Secretary minutes as written. Motion approved.

Financial report: Carrie moved, seconded by Stacie, to accept the financial report as given. Motion approved.

Old Business: Dave thanked Jeff Holcomb for doing the audit for Zion and for his involvement with the 150th Anniversary celebration for Zion. Jeff reported a satisfactory audit, no problems were noted, and he stated that the Treasurer (Beth Schlea) is a huge asset for Zion.

The 150th Celebration of Zion will continue on Saturday, September 12th, with outside games, food, and fellowship. Members are asked to come, enjoy the day and to bring your neighbors, family and friends with you.

There are two seats to be filled on council. Prayerfully consider filling either the position of Vice President, or Ministry of Property Management.

Dave, Hannah, and Pastor Jeff had a zoom meeting in July. On September 20th, following worship, there will be a question and answer time with Hannah. Zion members are asked to attend if possible. It is important to show our support and willingness to work together.

New Business: The use of the parking lot was discussed. Beth made a motion, seconded by Julia, to request that All Star Auto Education cease using the parking lot until the company submits proof of insurance liability protection. At the time of proof of insurance, council will set up the cost and rules of use for the parking lot.

Rusty stated that the parts needed for the sound system are to be delivered on Monday. Jerry Widmer has volunteered to build a sound and streaming system cabinet for the sanctuary. Beth moved, seconded by Connie, to have Jerry present a plan to council.

The Ministry of Outreach: The craft fair is October 24th. Kids Day Out is the 4th Saturday of the summer months at the church from 10 – 11:30. September 12th is the community celebration for our 150th celebration. Jan Kirwen will be collecting coats, hats, and scarves for all ages in October through February. She will also coordinate the distribution of these items. Next Kid's Nite Out is in October. Rose Widmer will resign from this committee at the end of 2026. Thank you Rose for serving on this committee for 6 years. God Bless You!

**How good and
pleasant it is
when God's
people live
together in
unity.
Psalm 133:1**

Continued on page 4

Council Minutes, continued

The Ministry of Property Management: A council representative is needed for this committee.

Executive Committee report and SAM report: Accepted as written.

Beth moved, seconded by Julia, to adjourn. Motion approved. All prayed The Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: September 8, 2026 at 7 PM (Having council on a different night was discussed, members will be notified if there is a change).

Reporting Next Month: Worship & Music and Staff Assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Teal

Zion Church Council

Interim Minister: Hannah Mapus

President: David Myerholtz

Vice-President:

Secretary: Becky Teal

Treasurer: Beth Schlea

Ministries

Christian Education: Carrie Strausbaugh

Outreach: Julia Popp

Staff Assistance: Connie Davies

Stewardship: Stacie Marquart

Worship & Music: Audrey Sneider

JOY - Just Older Youth

The JOY group will be traveling to Grand Rapids on September 17 to tour the canal and mill.

The current plan is to get lunch, tour the mill, then tour the canal last. The cost is \$12 per person. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00am and will leave shortly after. Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



The Ministry of Outreach is Busy!

Busy Hands

Busy Hands will be starting back up from our summer break. We will be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 1, 2026. I want to thank Rose and Beth for displaying the quilts that we have finished. They are on the shelves in the lounge/library. We have completed 35 quilts from last September until now. There are 27 on the shelves in the lounge, and we sent 8 quilts to a few families in North Baltimore that was without heat this last winter. In October we will take the quilts that we have done to a church in New Rochester, and they will drive them to Lutheran World Relief.

Coat Drive

If you have any gently used winter coats that you no longer need, please consider donating them here at the church. There will be a box in the coat room. We will reach out to the community to see what is needed and then we will supply the coat. If something is needed that we do not have on hand, we will notify the congregation to see if someone would be willing to help fill the need. You can also make a monetary donation that we can use to fill the needs. Thank you for helping in this mission.

Kids Day Out

The Ministry of Outreach held two sessions of "Kids Day Out" where children gathered in the morning instead of our typical evening: July 25th and August 22nd. The children had activities they could do (including the bounce house)! What fun and a great way to involve children in the community. Thank you to all who helped work the events, from setting up, to working with the children, to tearing down.

Lutheran World Relief Health Kits

Donations for Health Kits will be accepted through September 20



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The Committee asks for monetary donations only, as they have found a source where buying in bulk can save money. These monies help people in need due to fires, tornadoes, or other disasters.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

This year marks the 81st anniversary of Lutheran World Relief! Zion has been supporting LWR for all (or nearly all) of those years. What an incredible ministry! September 27th we will gather the items and have a blessing before they are shipped to those in need.



Christian Sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Paul Damschroder. Paul passed to life eternal on Sunday, July 12. The funeral was held at Zion on Saturday, July 25 with a luncheon that followed.

Memorials for Paul Damschroder:

Don & Kris Gerwin
Dan & Marsha Henery
Janis Fisher
Joel & Connie Davies
Tom & Judy Fisher
Jerry & Rose Widmer
Helen Myerholtz



Christian sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Dick Williamson. Dick passed to life eternal on Tuesday, August 4. The funeral was held at Zion on Tuesday, August 11 with a luncheon that followed.

Memorials for Dick Williamson:

Don & Kris Gerwin
Dan & Marsha Henery
Joel & Connie Davies
Tom & Judy Fisher
Helen Myerholtz
Tom & Barb Peiffer
Linda Williamson
Dave & Becky Teal
Rita Lemke & Randy Cook
Sheryl Krotzer
Keith & Marilyn Welling
Barb & Jon Ward
Fred & Linda Bursiek & Family
Gerry Damschroder
Sharon Blausey
Don & Virginia Richter
Jeff & Karen Lemke
Richard & Becky Depner
David Myerholtz Family
Kathy Vallance
Roger & Beth Schlea
Charlie Shanfelt

Acolytes/Readers

Sunday, September 6

A - Brynn Mapus
R - Becky Teal and
Bella Stevens
WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, September 13

A - Jacoby Evarts
R - Brad Krotzer and
Jacoby Evarts
WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, September 20

A - Elly Evarts
R - Sheryl Krotzer and
Brynn Mapus
WL - Rev. Jeff Bunke

Sunday, September 27

A - Grayson Burkett
R - Jeff Lemke and
Derek Reed
WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, October 4

A - Bryson Marinoff
R - Bryson Marinoff and
Elly Evarts
WL - Hannah Mapus

Please join us Sunday, September 13th as we kick off our Sunday School year! Celebrate after worship with "Happy New School Year" cake!

RALLY DAY

Presentation of Bibles for
second graders!

Sunday, September 13

Blessing of Backpacks
Be sure to bring your backpacks for a
blessing and special tag!

Worship begins at
9:00am

September Birthdays

2 – Joni Ernsberger

Mike Marinoff

4 – William Keller

Treva Shively

5 – Andrew Angelone

6 – Lily Gerwin

7 – Carl Depner

8 – Olivia Rogers

9 – Matthew A. Tille

10 – Denny Hohlfelder

11 – Glyn Ritchey

12 – Evan Mapus

13 – Audrey Samson

14 – Richard Depner

Roger Richter

15 – Renee Moscioni

Camden Mooney

16 – Paul Clark, Jr.

17 – Lindsey Keller

26 – Patti Clair

27 – Yulinda Burkett-Payne

Tom Samson

28 – Cash Crispin

You're invited to our
**COMMUNITY
FESTIVAL**

— Celebrating **150 years** of Zion —

WHEN

Saturday, September 12
3:00 – 7:00 pm

WHERE

Zion's side lawn & fellowship hall
-500 S. Brentwood Dr.

bring a lawn chair and a friend

FREE

EVERYONE WELCOME



**A CASUAL, FUN AFTERNOON
FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY**

- ◆ Brats, hot dogs, & chips
- ◆ Corn hole & yard games
- ◆ Carnival games & bounce house
- ◆ Fellowship & desserts

Come join us as we celebrate Zion's legacy and 150 years of service to the Gibsonburg community. No tickets, no RSVP – just bring your family and your neighbors - invite everyone - all are welcome!