OCTOBER ISSUE

THE ECHOES

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

500 S Brentwood Drive
Gibsonburg, OH 43431
Phone: 419-637-2812
Email: zionlutherangib@gmail.com
www.zionlutherangibsonburg.org

September is flying by! Thank you to everyone who helped with the 150th anniversary event on September 12th. God blessed us with beautiful weather, great fellowship, and delicious food. We are honored and humbled to be witnesses to the 150th year of Zion's faithfulness in the community of Gibsonburg.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.
1Peter 4:10

As we work to continue that faithfulness, it is important we discern our vision for mission together as a family living for Christ in all we do. This time of transition is a time for the family of Zion to decide where and how we will serve the community of Gibsonburg as we faithfully live into the calling from Jesus to care for our neighbors. Where can we make a positive impact in living out the gospel of Jesus? What can we do to make that positive impact? These are the questions for our time of transition.

I began my seminary classes yesterday. My hope throughout my journey at Luther Seminary is to faithfully serve with the congregation of Zion. With is the key word. I want to lead and guide and inspire where the Holy Spirit directs the people of Zion. I am full of hope and anticipation as we begin this next phase of our time of transition. I know God is leading us to be the people he has called us to be. My prayers continue to be that we are opening to listening and receiving God's plans. We know God's plans are much greater than ours.

Currently we have two sessions planned for our time of transition. One is September 20th (which will be over by the time you're reading this). This session will focus on what "Hannah goes to seminary" means for me and for Zion. We will share questions and hopes and apprehensions. We will be guided by Rev. Jeff Bunke and will work to answer questions and quell anxieties surrounding the next steps. The next session will be guided by Rev. Bunke and will be (tentatively) October 18th. We will participate in a game where we can vision the direction we would like our ministry (and financial support) to go. This is a vital step in our mission and visioning time for the future of Zion. Please plan to join us for both events. If you can't be present, please ask someone who was there for information and share your ideas with council members and transition team members. This process will work best when we all work together.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15 - Catechism/ Sunday School/ Coffee Hour 7 - AA	5	6 6:30-Busy Hands	7 Walk to School Day 10-Bible Study 6 - Outreach	8 7 - Council Choir	9	10
11 9-Worship 10:15 - Catechism/ Sunday School/ Coffee Hour 7 - AA	12	13	14 10-Bible Study 7 - AA	15	16	17 Hall Rented
18 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15 - Transition-al Meeting 7 - AA	19	20	21 10-Bible Study 7 - Choir AA	22	23	24 Craft Fair
25 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15 - Catechism/ Sunday School/ Coffee Hour 7 - AA	26	27	28 10-Bible Study 7 - AA	29	30 7am-5pm - Officer Maria Kisha Blood Drive	31 5:30-7:30pm Trunk-or-Treat

ZION CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Zion Council met in the Barb Moellman Media Center on Thursday, September 10th. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by President David Myerholtz. He introduced Cheryl Sondergeld from Synod and Pastor Tim Philabaum, intern pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pemberville. They were invited to help council understand Hannah Mapus' journey into seminary and ministry and what it means for Zion. On September 20th there will be a workshop to help all members of Zion learn what will be expected by the path we choose to take from here on out. Cheryl and Pastor Tim spent approximately one hour and fifteen minutes in discussion and question answering.

President Myerholtz led devotions and prayer with a prayer for Hannah, Council, and Zion as we begin this new phase. Those present were David Myerholtz, Becky Teal, Beth Schlea, Tom Fisher, Stacie Marquart, Julia Popp, Carrie Strausbaugh, Audrey Sneider, Dan Henery, and Hannah Mapus. Connie Davies was absent and excused.

Julia Popp moved, seconded by Beth Schlea, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Julia Popp had a correction for the minutes. She stated that she believes Rose Widmer is planning to stay on the Outreach Committee, but does not want to be the chair of that committee. Beth Schlea moved, with this correction, seconded by Carrie Strausbaugh, to accept the Secretary's minutes as written. Motion carried.

Julia Popp moved, seconded by Carrie Strausbaugh, to accept the financial report as given. Motion carried. Beth Schlea moved, seconded by Julia Popp, to transfer $25,000 from the General fund to the building fund. Motion carried.

Old Business – Zion's Community Celebration is set for Saturday, September 12, from 3:00 to 7:00. It's hoped everyone can attend and bring a friend and a chair. Games, food, and fellowship are planned.

The word "transition" was discussed as it pertains to where Zion is at and if it is the best word to describe where we are at. Whether we call an outside minister or Hannah, there are steps we must go through to meet Synod requirements. It is very important that we keep working toward these goals. On September 20th, Pastor Jeff Bunke will be leading us in worship and will be with the congregation for a question and answer time after service. On September 27th, during worship there will be an Invitation to Service for Hannah so we might extend our SAM contract with her for another year.

September 13th worship will not be outside as previously planned.

New Business – A special congregational meeting has been called for September 13th. The parsonage had a broken water pipe that caused flooding throughout the first floor. Estimates to remove the mold that has occurred have been between $10,000 and $15,000. Council cannot spend over $10,000 without the permission of the congregation, so this meeting will be to move forward on getting the mold removed.

COUNCIL MINUTES, CONTINUED

New Business, continued

Due to a conflict in schedules, Council meeting nights will be the second Thursday of October (the 8th), November (the 12th), and December (the 10th).

Annual SAM evaluations were passed to Council members. These must be returned to David Myerholtz by the end of October.

The Ministry of Music and Worship report was accepted as written.

The Ministry of Staff Assistance report was accepted as written.

The Executive Committee Report and the SAM report were accepted as written. Correspondence was shared.

Beth Schlea moved, seconded by Carrie Strausbaugh, to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed by all praying The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting is Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 7 pm. Reporting next month is Christian Education and Stewardship.

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

Just an FYI that the Hilfiker PTO has been authorized to utilize Zion's parking lot for their mum sale pickup. Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10, they will be set up in the southwest corner of the parking lot.

MINISTRY OF OUTREACH IS STAYING BUSY!

BUSY HANDS



QUILT RAFFLE: This quilt was made at the last Busy Hands Quilting Retreat in January. Raffle tickets are available for $5.00 each or 6/$25.00. All money raised goes to buying fabric backing and batting for the quilts we send to Lutheran World Relief. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, October 24th at 3:30pm at the conclusion of the craft show.

COAT DRIVE

Thank you to all that have donated your gently used coats! 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.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

HEALTH KITS

200 kits were put together. We will be blessing them on Sunday, October 4th and will be delivering them to New Rochester to be shipped out on October 10th. Thank you to all that made monetary donations to ensure this project continues to move forward.

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!

QUILTS

40 quilts were made by Busy Hands this year! Amazing! 32 of those quilts will be blessed on Sunday, October 4th and sent to Lutheran World Relief.

8 of the quilts were sent to the North Baltimore schools that had several families without heat this past winter. What a blessing for us to provide a source of warmth and comfort in their time of need!

JOY (JUST OLDER YOUTH)

JOY visited the canal in Grand Rapids on Thursday, September 17. They met for lunch at The Whitehouse Inn, then toured the mill, and finally got to take a boat tour of the canal. Such a wonderful time of fun and fellowship!



In October, the group will travel to Port Clinton for lunch at Jolly Rogers and then tour a castle! There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

Looking forward to December, (seems so far off, but it is right around the corner!) the group will once again be traveling to see the Toledo Symphony perform at Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont on Thursday, December 3rd. Tickets have to be purchased ahead of time, so, we ask that you sign up by November 1st so the tickets can be purchased as soon as they go on sale.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the drive-thru nativity this year. We are hosting the event this year on Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th from 5:30-7:30pm each evening. Please consider helping us to share the greatest story ever to be told! Please see Stacie, Stephen, or Jean, or call the office for further information.





Join us on Saturday, October 31st, from 6-7:30pm in the parking lot for our annual Trunk-or-treat event during Gibsonburg trick or treat! We will have music, hot chocolate, and lots of fun! Please be parked before 5:30 so everyone will be safe as the children begin their trek to get all the candy and goodies!

ACOLYTES/READERS

Sunday, October 4
A - Bryson Marinoff
R - Bryson Marinoff and Elly Evarts
WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, October 11
A - Jacoby Evarts
R - Kim Marinoff and Owen Gerwin
WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, October 18
A - Amaya Marinoff
R - Amaya Marinoff and Henry Bursiek
WL - Rev. Jeff Bunke

Sunday, October 25
A - Seraphina Welling
R - Jamie Evarts and Jacoby Evarts
WL - Hannah Mapus

Sunday, November 1
A - Payton Kirwen
R - Sheryl Krotzer and Mason Miles
WL - Hannah Mapus

September Attendance	
9/6	92
9/13	118
9/20	78
9/27	88



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4 - Anna Gerwin
5 - Lynn Fox
6 - Michelle Kohler
Linda Williamson
Lilly Bursiek
7 - Ladd Beck
8 - Donika Burkett
Ruby Randolph
9 - Hannah Bursiek
10 - Elise Reed
Roger Schlea
Brendan Frey
Simon Thomas
11 - Owen Gerwin
13 - Sara Fork Waggoner
Mariah Reyes
16 - Fred Gerwin
Belinda Burkett
18 - Jean Berger
Mason Miles
21 - Kim Nickel
Krista Johnson
22 - Roger Esker
Jacoby Evarts
25 - Diane Beck
Lee Bursiek
27 - Judy Fisher
Jeremy Pritt
28 - Christine Linke
Emory Gonazales
31 - Braxton Maenle

"They're playing Games with My Money!!"

If you've never served a term on Council or a Church Finance Committee, you may have thought (if not said) those words. I can testify that it just isn't true! But… let's *actually* play a game with the amount of money Zion's Council had to budget for mission and operating in fiscal year 2026.

Join me following worship on October 18th, as we turn the Fellowship Hall into a giant Monopoly Board – our time together more appropriately named, *"The Church Resource Game©."* You can expect to be faced with decisions about where exactly to spend the $$ put into your hands that day. While our game board will show how Council chose to budget for this year, you'll have opportunity to weigh in on how YOU (hopefully guided at least a bit by the Holy Spirit talkin!) see Zion's priorities to be funded, giving an evaluation of Council's priorities as well as guidance as they begin to plan the 2027 budget. All of that will take some time – probably about a solid hour. But the REAL fun comes for those who give us a second shot at budgeting – with the $$ available if Zion members upped their giving back to God, through the Church, by 10% next year. The second round gets really exciting (and probably will take half the time of round one). What might we learn about what's *really* important to God's people at Zion?

Come help me play with your (well, it's really GOD's…) money on the 18th.

Play on!

Fr. Jeff+