November Issue

The ECHOES

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Grace and peace to you! What a sacred season to be thankful! God's blessings abound! Warm sunshine, plentiful (and safe) harvest, colorful landscapes, energetic children (and sometimes adults), delicious apples, pumpkins and squash of all kinds (ask Dave Teal about squash!), friendly neighbors, and Christ-like friendships – we have plenty for which we thank God in this season! As we gather in worship, I know God hears our gratitude and blesses our thankful hearts.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

Unfortunately, in this season of the year, there seems to be a non-grateful secular presence in our lives too. Different stressors of all kinds dampen our gratitude and work to destroy our alignment with God and God's beautiful creation. Angry political ads air non-stop, we hear of violence and unjust practices happening in the world, unpredictable storms and weather threaten our safety and our plans, and sometimes in the quiet, we are coveting things we do not have. We become frustrated by situations at work and at home, by arguments and unpredictable relationships. All these things work to separate us from God and unravel our gratitude for all our blessings.

As Christians, we know we are called to a life with Christ – living with grateful hearts and encouraging words and redemptive action for one another. To love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our minds; and to love our neighbors as ourselves. As we work to spread God's love in the world, let us lead with our gratitude – giving thanks to God for all the benefits to us, for all the goodness in our lives, for our Zion family and other Christian sisters and brothers who work with us to restore gratitude and awe for God's beautiful creation. Let us continue to pray for, uplift, and serve those who are cast aside, in the margins, forgotten, hurting, or vulnerable. In this work we will restore gratitude and encourage ourselves and others in their walks of faith, drawing us all closer to Jesus.

So in this season, let us focus on gratitude and thankfulness. Always remembering our praise and thanksgiving for The One who created all things – and saw it was good. Each and every one of us is precious in God's sight – loved and supported through all situations and endeavors. As a gathered community, we are united through the life-giving body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15-Coffee Hour/ Sunday School/Extended Catechism	2 9-Yoga 6:30-Busy Hands 7:30-Dartball @ St. John's #33	3 Election Day	4 10 – Bible Study 7-Choir AA	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15- Catechism Coffee Hour/ Sunday School	9 7:30-Dartball @ Grace #24	10	11 10 – Bible Study 7-AA	12 7-Council	13 Office Closed	14
15 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15- Annual Meeting	16 9-Yoga 7:30-Dartball (Home)	17	18 10 – Bible Study 7-Choir AA	19	20 Office Closed	21 Hall Rented
22 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15- Catechism Coffee Hour/ Sunday School	23 9-Yoga 7:30-Dartball @ Clyde #5	24	25 10 – Bible Study 7-AA	26 Thanksgiving	27 Office Closed	28
29 9-Worship w/ Holy Communion 10:15- Catechism Coffee Hour/ Sunday School	30 9-Yoga 7:30-Dartball (Home)					

Zion Church Council Minutes – October 8, 2026

Zion Council met in the Barb Moellman Media Center on Thursday, October 8, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 P.M. by President Dave Myerholtz. Dave shared a prayer. Those p

resent were Dave Myerholtz, Becky Teal, Beth Schlea, Connie Davies, Tom Fisher, Audrey Sneider, and Dan Henery. Absent were Stacie Marquart, Carrie Strausbaugh, Julia Popp, and Hannah Mapus.

Beth Schlea moved, seconded by Connie Davies, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Tom Fished moved, seconded by Audrey Sneider, to accept the Secretary's Report from September as written. Motion carried.

Connie Davies moved, seconded by Tom Fisher, to accept the Financial Report as written. Motion carried.

Old Business: Transition next steps: On Sunday, October 18th, following worship, the congregation will meet with Pastor Bunke. It is very important that all members attend if possible. This will be an interactive time to meet to discuss finances.

The annual SAM evaluations need to be returned by October 9, 2026.

New Business: The Drive Thru Nativity will be Saturday, Dec. 5th and Sunday, Dec. 6th. Please do what you can to help in this community effort.

Council was asked by Dave Myerholtz to review the budget for 2026 and to submit suggestions for 2027. There will be an electronic vote on the 2027 budget before October 25, 2026.

The executive committee asked that Council consider forming a financial committee. Discussion was held. The Treasurer should not be the person taking in the money, but the person paying the bills. Beth Schlea moved, seconded by Connie Davies, to form a financial committee to have more involved in the finances to increase transparency. Motion carried.

Annual staff contracts and updates were discussed. Beth Schlea moved, seconded by Becky Teal, to give each staff member a yearly contract. Motion carried.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be November 15th following worship. Topics to be addressed will be the 2027 Budget and the parsonage. Committees need to have their annual reports into the office by November 7th.

Ministry of Stewardship and Ministry of Christian Education reports were accepted as written. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be on odd years (starting in 2027). This is opposite of The Drive Thru Nativity. No Sunday School Christmas Program this year. Students will sing with the Choir for Christmas Eve, Easter, and the last day of educational classes. Dave Myerholtz commended the youth for the Carnival event and the Bingo games. He felt these were great times to have the congregation interact with the youth.

The Executive Committee Report was accepted as written. The SAM Report by Hannah Mapus was accepted as written.

Correspondence was a thank you from Osterlen for a donation and from Cheryl Everett for the efforts put forward for the 150th Anniversary of Zion.

Beth Schlea moved, seconded by Connie Davies, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Next meeting is November 12, 2026 at 7 P.M. Outreach and Property Management to report.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Teal

JOY

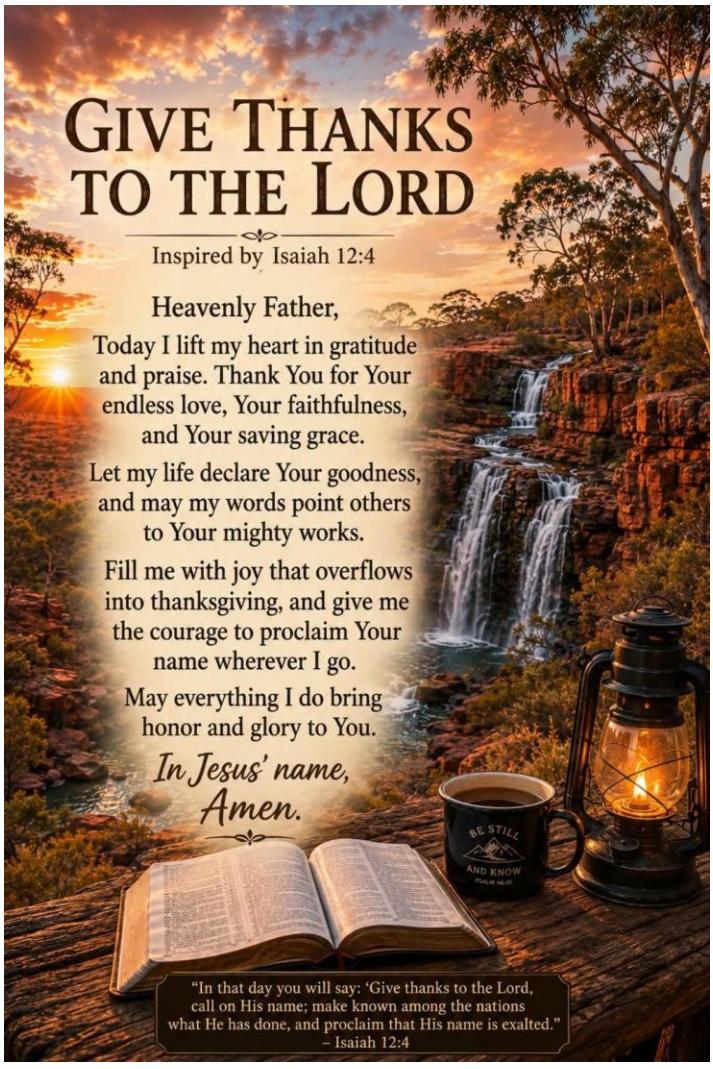
In October, JOY enjoyed lunch at Jolly Rogers in Port Clinton and then the ladies toured a fascinating castle filled with Barbies! Our next outing is Thursday, December 3 at Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont. The Toledo Symphony Orchestra will be performing their Christmas concert at 7pm. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, you can purchase them at Grace Lutheran Church office from 9am-4pm Monday through Friday.

Adults - $15
Students & Seniors (65+) - $10

Stay tuned for our following outings – we'd love to have you join us!







November Birthdays

1- Brodie Thoss
4 – Heather Rubel
7 – Kolt Burkett
Erika Esker
9 – Stephen Marquart
Martin Myerholtz
14 – Nicholas Cramer
17 – Barb Peiffer
Sarah Bursiek
19 – Tammy Gerwin
Laine Shively
Bella Stevens
20 – Mason Tille
Mitchell Tille
22 – Dan Clair
Julia Popp
25 – Emily Moscioni

October Attendance	
10/4	94
10/11	102
10/18	85
10/25	108

Acolytes/Readers

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

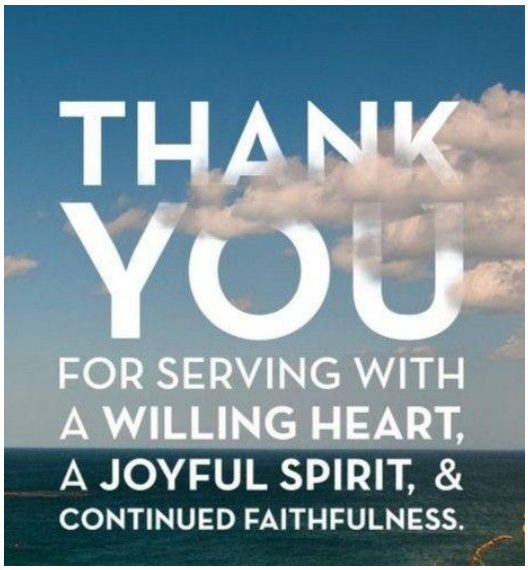
Sunday, November 8
A – Grayson Burkett
R – Becky Teal
And McKenna Thacker
WL – Pastor Larry Michaels

Sunday, November 15
A – Derek Reed
R – Brad Krotzer
and Owen Kirwen
WL – Hannah Mapus

Sunday, November 22
A – Keegan Strausbaugh
R – Jill Allport
and Bella Stevens
WL – Pastor Larry Michaels

Sunday, November 29
A – Claire Mapus
R – Linda Bursiek
and Payton Kirwen
WL – Hannah Mapus

Sunday, December 6
A – Jacoby Evarts
R – Beth Schlea
and Elly Evarts
WL – Hannah Mapus



Zion Church Council

Interim Minister: Hannah Mapus
President: David Myerholtz
Vice-President:
Secretary: Becky Teal
Treasurer: Beth Schlea

Ministries

Worship & Music: Audrey Sneider
Christian Education: Carrie Strausbaugh
Outreach: Julia Popp
Staff Assistance: Connie Davies
Stewardship: Stacie Marquart
Property Management:



Drive Thru Nativity

Saturday, December 5 & Sunday, December 6

5:30-7:30pm

Sign-ups are available in one-hour increments. You can sign up for a specific scene if you wish. See Stacie to sign up and for more information.

There will also be caroling at the end of the parking lot to entertain visitors while they wait to enter the parking lot. Chairs will be available.

KIDS NIGHT OUT HELP NEEDED

Saturday, December 12th from 4:30-7:30pm. Please consider helping.

We are looking for leaders for each age group: preschool, K-1st, 2nd-3rd, 4th-5th. The leader's job is to take the kids to each activity (craft, bounce house, & games).

We are also looking for individuals to lead crafts,

which will be Christmas theme, and lead the games.

The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.





Congregational Meeting – SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday, November 15th, following worship

Agenda items include:

2027 Proposed Budget

Youth Update

National Youth Gathering:

Registration is open for the National Youth Gathering, taking place June 27-July 2, 2027 in Minneapolis. The youth have been working continuously over the last few years to raise the money necessary to fund the trip. Please continue to pray for the young people in our congregation as they discern their call to travel to Minneapolis for a life-changing opportunity to worship and fellowship with other ELCA from around the country.

Our current plan is to travel to Minneapolis by charter bus (which we will be sharing with other youth from the Eastern Conference of NWOS) on Sunday, June 27th. We will have hotel accommodations there and will participate in the Gathering until we return by bus on July 2nd. At this time, registration, food, hotel, and bus fees will be covered by the funds raised by the LYO in the last couple years. Thank you to the Zion congregation and others in our community for your generosity in supporting this opportunity.

If you are currently in 8th-12th grade and are interested in joining the group on this journey, please see Rusty or Hannah (or call the church office) for more details. You won't want to miss this! We hope you'll join us!

Eastern Conference Youth Event:

Sunday, November 15th from Noon-6pm we will gather with other youth from congregations throughout the Eastern Conference of the NWOS at Grace Lutheran Church in Fremont. This will be a day for learning and experiences and service to the community. Our tentative schedule is to share pizza for lunch, sing some praise songs, gather for an inspirational talk with Bishop Daniel, be led in a Poverty Experience, and then prepare and serve a meal to the hungry in Fremont. Every Thursday, Grace Lutheran operates a soup kitchen for those who are in need. This meal will be served to those who normally partake in the soup kitchen. Our youth will have an opportunity to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus as we live-out God's commands to feed the hungry and care for the poor.

I hope you will join us for this meaningful experience. Our team has spent time prayerfully planning this day and are grateful for the opportunity to spend it together.

You can meet us at Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State Street, Fremont or we can ride together, meeting at Zion at 11:45am. There is no dress code; any school-appropriate clothing is acceptable. Ask others to attend, invite friends! Please RSVP to Hannah as soon as possible. There is no cost for the event, but we need to make sure we have enough pizza for us and enough hands to serve the food to the community. I would like Catechism students to attend as part of our faith formation class curriculum (please see Hannah if this is not possible for your schedule).





“Thank you for Playing!” (Church Resource Game Review)

On October 18th, sixty brave Zion-ers took up the challenge to “Spend, spend, spend!” precious dollars, representing members’ tithes in 2026 and hoped-for in 2027. The spin-off from *Monopoly* and *The City Game* invited members to identify the ministry & mission priorities they sense God’s Spirit calling Zion to support through its budget in the year ahead. The game provided a way for the membership-at-large to gain an appreciation for the work Council undertakes on their behalf every year – and lend help in discerning a vision for Zion’s ministry in the year to come.

On the surface, the players expressed desires to control administrative and staff costs, while deepening support for Formation, Fellowship, Youth/Young Adult, and Evangelism efforts. How will this play out? We have yet to see – but this wonderful “time in between” gives Zion the opportunity to freshly explore our neighbors’ hopes and needs, and to discern ways that God is calling Zion into action.

Special thanks are due: Lisa Reed, Beth Schlea, and SAM Hannah for helping to construct our game boards. A more complete interpretation of the Church Resource Game’s results is available from SAM Hannah and/or the church office.

Pastor Jeff

