

Zion Lutheran Church  
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Pastor Erin Evans  
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Office Hours  
Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.-Noon  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-Noon  
Friday 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

## A Note from Your Pastor

November and December are always seasons of gratitude and giving. Perhaps in the winter months we have more quiet time inside to reflect on our abundance and to think about what we have to give. Our faith leads us to thank God for what we have, and to give gifts to each other as we remember the greatest gift, Jesus Christ come down among us. However, even just the secular parts of the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas point to gratitude and giving.

Gratitude and Giving are also the best place to start when we think about our congregation's finances and budget to be passed. Many congregations only start to talk about money when it's running low and anxiety is running high. It sounds like a cry for help, a plea to give, shaming those who have not, and ignoring those who have given faithfully. It is scarcity language - "if you don't give, we'll run out of money in five years!"

The scriptures point us again and again to the language of abundance rather than scarcity.

**I want to remind you of the abundance that we have with ZHLM.** Both small congregations have a vibrant worship life, faithful members, wise investments, and generous givers. We not only welcome all ages; we include all ages in our activities. We not only support our community; we show up with hospitality. We are building faith in young people and strengthening Christian education in our adults. We are good stewards of our resources and share what we have been blessed with to bless our community. We are building the kingdom among us, with relationships of love and trust between us. We give thanks for all this, and know we have much more to grow! And you should **want** to invest in that, not be guilted into giving more.

Humans have a spiritual need to give. As we recognize that all we have is a gift from God, who created the heavens and the earth, and us too, we know that we have been created in the image of God. We also have a need to create, to give, to share and build. We invest our time talents and treasure into the things we care about, but the flip side is also true - the more we invest in something, the dearer to us it becomes. Jesus puts it like this - "Where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

The ministry and witness of Zelienople Harmony Lutheran Ministries is built on the shoulders of all who have come before us, faithfully investing their money, abilities, and time. Whether it be serving as worship assistants, preparing community dinners, caring for the buildings and property, making decisions as a council, building a culture of service and compassion, and stewarding the resources they were given - **we are the result of that love and commitment.** And we give thanks to God for the faith of our fathers and mothers, spiritually or literally related.

This is your invitation to be a part of that legacy of stewardship, and recognize your spiritual need to give. Not just because it feels nice to do it, but because we build this community with what we have to offer it. This season we'll be giving thanks - and giving of ourselves.

With you in Christ, Pastor Erin Evans



*It's Friday afternoon on the school bus ride home. "Katie" hears the other children talking about their weekend sporting events, visiting family, going out to eat and suddenly there is a pit in her stomach. "What am I going to eat for dinner tonight? What will I have for Saturday and Sunday? What about my little sister? How can I do my homework with my hunger pangs?"*

*"My senior project is coming up. I need to look and do my best if I have any chance of making an impression that could possibly lead to a job after I graduate. Maybe if I can get these better jeans washed and wear a shirt that fits a little better. That will have to do"*

*"I hope we get that knock on the door again this year with holiday "fixins" that make it feel like a Christmas dinner. Someone told me their aunt gets food monthly since she cannot afford to feed her family. I have to find out how that can happen for me and my brother and mother"*

*Christmas is coming and I pray every day that our electric will not be shut off. My teenage kids are great about living on such a restrictive budget and they know it is hard for a single mother who didn't plan on her husband leaving, but I had to pay for the gas and water this time and push the electric bill for later. Will I ever catch up?*

All of these scenarios are all too common in our community. The Ethel Verney Grant through the SWPA Synod is going to help us help them this holiday season through The Miracle on Main event. Yes, we will continue to have a presence with hot chocolate and treats for this terrific event, but this year we will do more with the \$10,000 grant we were awarded. We will help those hungry kids in Butler County who need food on days off from school through the backpack program. We will help those in the Seneca Valley School District who cannot dress appropriately for major life events or even dress for the weather through the No Cost to Shop program. We will help those families put food on their tables for the holidays and every day through the Food Cupboard. And we will help that single mother catch up a bill or purchase a dining table to sit at with her family.

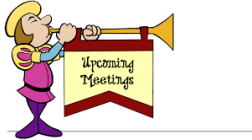
Watch for upcoming dates to get involved with this giving hands-on. Through your grateful hearts and in the spirit of pure stewardship, we will accomplish a lot with this gift to gift to so many!



November 1 – Betty Miller  
 November 8 – Oscar Domhoff  
 November 12 – Doug Trimble  
 November 14 – Al Stephens  
 November 16 -- Dale Wright



November 15 – David & Joretta Kennedy



November 5 -- Worship at 10 a.m.  
 November 14 – Council at 6 p.m.



November 3 – At St. Paul  
 November 10 – Jessica Gasior  
 November 17 – Marsha Davis  
 November 24 -- Vicki Moyer



November 3 – At St. Paul  
 November 10 – Marsha Davis  
 November 17 – Pam Ferrainolo  
 November 24 – Doug Trimble



November 3 – At St. Paul  
 November 10 – Carla Wright & Sally Measel  
 November 17 – Chris & Doug Trimble  
 November 24 – Bill Gasior & Sthela Holly



November 3 – At St. Paul  
 November 10 – Chris Trimble  
 November 17 – Bill Gasior  
 November 24 – Bill Gasior



November 3 – At St. Paul  
 November 10 – Trimble  
 November 17 –  
 November 24 -- Hall

### BUTLER COUNTY FOOD CUPBOARD

November food cupboard needs: Cereal, canned chicken, canned tuna, macaroni & cheese, pasta, ramen noodles, canned veggies, canned soup, stuffing mix, PB& J.



Place your donation in the collection box located in the church narthex. Food donations can also be dropped off at Zion Lutheran Church.

- Volunteers are needed on the following days:
  - Second Tuesday of the month to stock shelves, 9 a.m.– noon
  - Third Monday of the month, 9 a.m.– Unload Food Bank delivery truck
  - Third Tuesday of the month, 9 a.m. – Pack food; 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., hand out food.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Phyllis Metz at 724- 452-5993.



### **Ladies Night Out**

On December the ladies of Zion and St. Paul will gather together at Zion Church to have a night of fun and fellowship. Please arrive at 6 p.m. with a gift to exchange under \$10. Please also bring a donation of famine hygiene products for Miracle on Main. Come ready for a night of wonderful food, games and getting to know one another a little bit better. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board so we know how many to plan for. See you then.



### **Passavant volunteer opportunity**

On Saturday, November 16, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., we are invited to help decorate the campus for Christmas. Many hands make light work, and the maintenance department will be with us to direct and supervise. High school students are welcome with parent or adult accompaniment. Work will be outdoor so dress appropriately and meet at the main building entrance.



### **Christmas Shoe Boxes**

On November 3, after church and fellowship we will pack 100 shoe boxes with lots of school supplies and fun gifts for those less fortunate than us. These boxes are sent around the world to children that may only receive this special box for their Christmas present. Please come and help pack these boxes and help make a child's Christmas a happy one.



### **School and Hygiene Bags**

Remember all those school and hygiene bags we packed in October? During the second week of October all of our packages and many more were collected at St. Paul's to be shipped out. People from both churches gathered at St. Paul to help unload cars and trucks from as far away as Erie, Ohio and West Virginia. By October 16, St. Paul's fellowship hall was filled with boxes and buckets. Once the tractor trailer truck was ready to leave, it was almost filled with supplies to be sent around the USA and Athena world. This truck still had to make a stop in Indiana before getting to its final destination. They were hoping they had enough room for that stop. It's so wonderful to see how many people are willing to help those less fortunate.



### **Depot Day**

This year's depot days were a huge success. The depot took in 2,958 kits and quilts. We had 38 churches participate this year. Phylis would like to thank everyone who helped, especially Doug Trimble for helping the truck driver load the truck. Ed is turning 70 and appreciated the help. Phyllis is very proud of both churches for contributing in making the school and hygiene kits.



**Christmas Eve Services**

As you are making holiday plans with family or friends, please take note that ZHLM will have two Christmas Eve services this year. Both will include Holy Communion and Candle-lighting. Join us!

**6:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran**  
**7:30 p.m. at St Paul Lutheran**

November 2024 Calendar					
ZION		ST. PAUL		ZHLM	
<i>November 2</i>	Hall in Use				
<i>November 3</i> <i>10 a.m.</i>	Combined service at St. Paul	<i>November 3</i> <i>10 a.m.</i>	Combined service at St. Paul	<i>November 3</i> <i>10 a.m.</i>	Combined service at St. Paul
<i>November 5</i> <i>10 a.m.</i>	Worship team	<i>November 5</i> <b>ALL DAY</b>	Hall in use		
<i>November 6</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study	<i>November 6</i> <i>11 a.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study		
<i>November 13</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study	<i>November 13</i> <i>11 a.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study		
<i>November 14</i> <i>6 p.m.</i>	Council				
<i>November 16</i> <i>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</i>	Passavant Christmas decorating	<i>November 16</i> <i>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</i>	Passavant Christmas decorating	<i>November 16</i> <i>10 a.m.-2 p.m.</i>	Passavant Christmas decorating
<i>November 18</i> <i>8:30 a.m.- noon</i>	Food Cupboard				
<i>November 19</i> <i>8:30 a.m.- noon</i> <i>and 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.</i>	Morning- Food cupboard packing Evening- distribution				
<i>November 24</i>	Hall in use				

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**ZION SHUT-INS (Please ask the office for contact information):** Arlene Cameron, Fay Collins Sally K. Davis, Pat Givens, and Eleanor Dindinger,

**In our prayers:** Bill Birkhimer, Nancy Cable, Cory and Cindy Latch, Cole Nasky, Tony Trapuzzano, Rebecca Smith Densmore, Kim Muntz, Debbie Ridgely, Denny Barkley, Alice Short, Jeff Michaels, Sandy Goetze, Shirley Fichter, Don Grubbs, Beau Boozel, Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley, Jetty Kennedy, Oscar Domhoff, John Komidar, Earl Goehring, Peg Kaltenbach, Luke Gardner, Pat Bricker, Don & Donna McDonough, the family of Bill Warner, and the family of Gloria Rice.

*(If you have a name that should be added or removed from our list, please contact the church office.)*

**St. Paul's Prayer Request:** Luke Mangola, Cheri Mihalik, Tina Rombach, Roger Lees, Gracie McClelland, Brian Ward, Martin Matscherz, Jason Sarver and Randy Cunningham, Patricia Frishcorn, Steve Pilon, Bill Nofsinger, the family of Shane Nolan, and Burt McFaden.

**St. Paul's Shut-Ins:** David Peeples, Marliss Loveridge, Martha Henry, Susan Deitrich,

**Those in the military & reserves:** Zachory Boozel, Technical Sergeant John Burgh, Jeffrey Hock, Kristen Latch, Josh Miller, Jeff Petty, Ryne Rhodes, Jeffrey Shaffer, Matt Van Arsdale, James Schott, Adam Reichert, Aaron Reichert, Andrew Reichert, Landon Peeples (Air Force), Granger Peeples (Army), Jaydon Peeples (Army).



### **Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday, October 10, 2024**

**In Attendance:** Pr. Erin Evans, Tom Bickert, Bill Gasior, Sthela Holly, Sally Measel, Chris Trimble, and Doug Trimble

**Absent:** Carla Wright.

The meeting was opened with **Devotions and Prayer** by Chris Trimble, written by Pat O'Brien from Bethlehem ELC in SE Washington County. Pat said the scripture that guides their community mission is from Matt. 25, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me." She described the extensive service they provide for their impoverished community through free provision of clothing, housewares, furniture and food. The gospel and love of Christ is shared with all. They provide 200 local students with a new book bag, school supplies and two new sets of clothes each fall; do a large Christmas distribution for over 600 children and adults; and the last two years, sponsored a Community Prayer breakfast in September with 350 people attending in 2022 and 450 in 2023. What an amazing outreach! Bless their work.

**Secretary's Report** – One correction on last month's minutes: It was brought to our attention that the high chair and clip-to-table chair to be ordered will be paid for from Barkley memorial money. Motion to accept amended minutes was made by Doug and seconded by Sthela.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Contributions by envelope and plate, as well as rental income, for September (five Sundays) totaled \$11,873, compared to the budgeted amount of \$11,060. Giving was \$813 MORE than needed to meet monthly budget. For the year, contributions and rental income total \$97,980, compared to our budgeted amount of \$86,268. Giving and rental income year-to-date is \$11,712 MORE than budgeted.

Our average weekly attendance for the five Sundays at Zion in SEPTEMBER was 46.

Chris asked Tom to have \$1,500 sent to Lutherlyn for the 3-year campaign we are collecting money for. The remaining \$1,500 will be sent upon its receipt.

Tom told Council there will need to be a few changes made in the 2025 budget, but the system for creating the next budget has been significantly made easier the past couple of years.

The money received from the Roots Learning Academy each month is being put in the Building Fund.

We currently have \$74,285.20 in available budgeted funds.

**ZHLM PASTOR ERIN'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1-30:**

**HOME COMMUNIONS/HOMEBOUND: Gloria Rice, Cindy Latch, Dave Peeples**  
**HOSPITAL: 0**

**Visitation Attempts/Reach out: 5**

**Counseling Hours: 4**

**MEETINGS:**

Zelienople Ministerium

Zion Council Meeting

St. Paul Council Meeting

St Paul Budget Meeting

**Mileage for September: 203 miles**

- Funeral for Chuck Ferrainolo (9/3)
- Rehearse with St Paul Choir and make kits at Zion
- Wednesday Bible studies - approximately 20 people attending between the churches
- Pre-baptismal meeting with Owen and Kara Kirkpatrick (Maryn and Owen 9/29)
- First Holy Communion Classes on 9/15 and 9/22 - 4 students
- Met with Williamsons and coordinated planning for Fall Festival
- Preparing for Madagascar Presidents' visit
- Working on updating St Paul Constitution
- Finished updating Parish Register at Zion - entering 4 baptisms, 23 funerals, 5 new members
- Prepped newsletter articles and announcements

**Looking ahead**

All Saints Joint Worship

1st Sunday of Advent - I'll be on vacation.

Tentative Advent Vespers for the Longest Night, December 18, 7 p.m. at Zion

Christmas Eve Worship, Tuesday, December 24, 6:00pm at Zion; 7:30pm at St. Paul

Dear ZHLM members,

So many of you have asked for ways to give to support the relief effort happening now in the Southern states affected by the recent catastrophic hurricanes. First, we keep those communities in prayer, as well as praying for all first responders, aid workers, and government officials. Second, there are a couple ways to give.

1. Give financial aid directly through [this link to Thrivent Financial Services](#). They support Lutheran Disaster Response directly and are matching each gift, giving \$1 for every \$2 given. Lutheran Disaster Response comes alongside local community organizations and congregations and is in it for the long haul.
2. Write a check to your congregation with the memo line: hurricane relief. This money will be collected and donated to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity. Please contact your church's office with any questions about how to give.

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Erin Evans

**Old Business:**

1. Call Committee Update: Nothing to report at this time.
2. Audit: will be completed either Monday, October 14 or Wednesday, October 16.
3. AV Upgrades: Bill will be meeting with the gentleman the first week of November to look over our entire recording system to see what needs to be done with it.
4. Sign-up for Passavant decorations help: Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pastor Erin has six volunteers so far but is looking for more to help decorate the campus for Christmas at Passavant home in Zelienople. High school students are welcome with an accompanying adult.
5. Update on RLA: Water usage is up almost half and electric is up about a third. Chris asked that the social hall lights be turned off when the children are downstairs. Bill will relay this to Jessica. With the anticipated increase in the heating bill, Sally recommended that we review the bills for several months before making any determination about increasing/adjusting the rent costs to the Roots Learning Academy. It can be decided at that time whether the increased costs will be paid in full by the academy OR to be split between Zion and them.
6. Update on recent and upcoming donations: St. Paul has agreed to split the postage costs for both the CWS donations of 177 school and 125 hygiene kits (\$302) and the postage for the Samaritan's Purse donations of 100 shoeboxes (\$1,000) we will put together on November 3. We will have Linda Flora submit bills to both churches for the funds to then be paid through the ZHLM account. Zion will pay this out of Misc.

**New Business:**

1. Butler Eagle Ad: Both St. Paul and Zion Councils voted to not submit an ad at this time. We hope to continue putting ads in at Christmas and Easter times.
2. November congregational meeting: Sunday, November 24 following church. Purpose of this meeting is to approve the 2025 budget and elect Council members and the Treasurer.
3. Establish 2025 Budget: Zion's Executive Team which includes the President, V. Pres., Secretary and Treasurer will meet on Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m. to produce the 2025 budget.
4. Electric stapler for Megan: Creating the bulletins for both churches has created a physically challenging job for Megan. Chris motioned, Sthela seconded, that we purchase a \$265.00 stapler that staples the center seam of the bulletins and also folds them. Motion carried unanimously. Zion will cover the entire cost of this purchase.
5. Other: Chris found the best electric rate going forward for the next two years is Better Buy Energy at .97 cents/kwh.



## **TEAM REPORTS:**

### **Property:**

9/18/24 - Church safety check.

9/27/24 - Trim hedges on side of church.

Trimble family moved the Creche to a permanent spot.

Trimble family mounted quilts on wall.

9/28/24 - Trimmed weeds in front of garage. Will need to be shoveled out.

Thanks to Joanne for help.

Tested snow blower. It is in good working order. Hopefully won't be needed too much.

Submitted by Frank Porter.

### **Fellowship: No Report**

### **Human Needs and Services: No Report**

### **ZHLM Joint Worship Team meeting report for October 2024**

The Worship Teams from Zion and St. Paul met on October 7, 2024 at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's. In attendance were Pastor Erin Evans, Nancy Williamson, Bev Brosenitch, Jen McMurray, Marti Goetz, Pam Ferrainolo, Tom Bickert, Marsha Davis, and Doug Trimble. Joanne Porter was unable to attend.

Pastor Erin opened the meeting with a prayer.

All Saints Sunday will be on November 3; this will be a joint service, 10 a.m. at St. Paul. We discussed the traditions of both churches regarding the reading of a list of deceased members/loved ones (Zion has a large list; St. Paul does only those deceased in the past year). It was decided that this year, we'll ask worshipers to add names to a list by calling Megan or as they enter the sanctuary, and that's the list that will be read. We'll announce this during upcoming services at both churches. Pictures of loved ones may be brought to this service to display on the windowsills at St. Paul if desired.

The first Sunday in Advent is December 1, 10 a.m. joint service at Zion. Pastor Erin will not be available that Sunday, so she asked Pastor Peggy if she would supply and she has agreed.

Pastor Erin discussed having one evening vespers/prayer service, possibly on Wednesday, December 18 at 7 p.m. This service would be geared toward those who may not "be in the spirit" for a variety of reasons. No communion is planned, but a worship assistant would be needed for extra prayers, etc.

Much discussion was had regarding the alternating Christmas Eve services we've had the last couple of years. It was determined that there will be two services this year: Zion at 6 p.m. and St. Paul at 7:30 p.m. Nancy Williamson will be the music leader at both. She mentioned that Isabella Muthler may assist with the prelude music at St. Paul, in case the Zion service runs a little late.

With nothing further to discuss, the joint meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Erin and the Zion folks then held a brief meeting of their own.

*Note:* At this Council meeting, Tom suggested that we alternate the first Sunday of the month joint services from year-to-year. For example, allowing All Saints Sunday to be at Zion in 2025. This means since St. Paul had the first (January) joint service in 2024, Zion would take January in 2025.

### **Zion Worship Team meeting report for October 2024**

Pastor Erin provided a list of hymns for the November services.

Worship assistants for November are as follows:

November 3 - Joint Service at St. Paul (10 am); Tom Bickert will be the reader

November 10 - Marsha Davis  
November 17 - Pam Ferrainolo  
November 24 - Doug Trimble

The next regular Worship Team meeting will tentatively be on Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day) at 6 p.m. or possibly in the afternoon.

We closed our meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Doug Trimble

**Christian Education:** Pastor Erin continues her Bible Study on Revelation on Wednesdays, 11 a.m. at St. Paul; 6:30 p.m. at Zion.

**Stewardship:**

On Friday, October 11, the school and hygiene kits will be taken down to St. Paul to be shipped out with the rest of the kits made by various churches and organizations. They are asking for help on Friday and Saturday to get the items being collected from cars into the hall. The decision about covering the postage was made at October's Council meetings.

We will pack Christmas shoeboxes on November 3 at St. Paul after church. There will be 100 to be packed. I will be going down to St. Paul on Friday, November 1 to set up. Diane will open up for me. I am asking for people to meet me there at 10:30 to help put together the 100 shoeboxes.

The Nativity stable has been moved to its final location. The outside has been repainted. The inside needs to be painted this coming spring. We are looking for suggestions to the color for the inside. New Plexiglas will also be installed once we figure out how it is going to be attached.

Submitted by Chris Trimble

**Executive Team will meet on Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m. to work on 2025 budget.**

**Next ZHLM meeting – date to be selected in November.**

**The next Council meeting will be Thursday, November 14, 6 p.m.**

Devotions for next meeting: Doug

**Offering Counters/Recorders for November are as follows:**

**November 3** – none needed; joint service at St. Paul

**November 10** – Carla and Sally                      Chris

**November 17** – Chris and Doug                      Bill

**November 24** – Bill and Sthela                      Bill

Motion to Adjourn was made by Sally and seconded by Sthela, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sally Measel, Council Secretary