

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

“Think global. Act local.” has been a common phrase in our conversations for a few decades. It originally described grassroots organizing to care for specific environmental concerns within a community. But now it’s been used in many contexts, from education to business and even the church.

Our baptismal vows call us to care about the things God cares about. St. Paul urges us to be of one mind and have the “mind of Christ,” living with sacrificial love even for our enemies. We know that when we care for the hungry, thirsty, sick, naked, and imprisoned, we care for our Lord himself. When we show preference to the widow and orphan, we provide for those who are in the margins in our society. Both how we think and how we act are guided by our faith.

The cool part about the way the Church works is that we are able to do it all!

We can think globally and think locally. We can act globally and act locally.

The Church is connected through time and space as the body of Christ in our world. Through the communion of the saints we are connected to those who have gone before us, and through our worship, we know we are spiritually connected to Christians all over the world. This is a great blessing in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, because we live out these connections in concrete ways.

Not only are we connected to one another in the ZHLM yoke, but we are connected through the SWPA Synod. The synod staff and resources make it possible to have interim ministry, coordinate the calling of pastors and deacons, oversee local ministries, and so much more for the sake of our ministry together.

Locally, we serve our community and care for our community. We support the Southwest Butler County Food Cupboard and Miracle on Main projects. We are present in community events like Horse Trading Days and the Fall Festival. We have many opportunities to minister to our neighbors and friends at Community Dinner, Blessing of the Animals, and other events and worship services we host. We are raising money for Lutherlyn to be able to impact the lives of hundreds of kids and adults each year. Locally, we build deep and abiding relationships of care and compassion.

But the work that we are able to do globally is also a gift of the Church. Because of our connections, we serve people with compassion literally all over the world. The school and hygiene kits we made will go to countries all over the world. St Paul has served as a drop-off location for ALL the kits in this area, and quilts and emergency buckets for decades. We are a partner in a global ministry through Lutheran World Relief and now Church World Service. We’ll provide a shoebox full of small presents and a note of hope for a child somewhere in the world who probably never received a present through Operation Christmas Child.

The mission support we give each year goes in part to the synod and in part to the ELCA. We fund global missionaries, Lutheran seminaries, Lutheran colleges, social ministry programs, and Lutheran camps. We support education programs for lay persons, clergy health and well-being, new mission starts, revitalization of congregations, ecumenical dialogues, and an abundance of social services organizations like ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Recently, we are blessed to be able to provide Christian hospitality to sisters and brothers in Christ from Madagascar. They are visiting from across the globe to promote our companion synod relationships with the Tulear Synod.

We are reminded of our connections each time we gather at the communion table, where we join with the faithful of every time and every place to proclaim the wondrous things God has done for us, and join in the song of praise of the heavenly hosts around the throne.

Thanks be to God for the gift of our brothers and sisters in Christ and the relationships and connection we develop!

God's Peace,

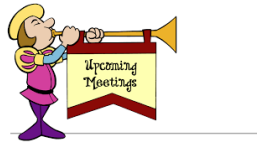
Pastor Erin



October 6 – Debra Ridgley
October 8 – Carla Wright
October 11 – Charles Burgh Jr.
October 21 – Emily Cekella
October 22 – Caleb Cekella
October 24 – Gary Rader
October 26 – Joretta Kennedy



October 6 – Tom & Edie Brain
October 25 – Al & Evelyn Stephens
October 29 – Blair & Kyoko Hall



October 7 – ZHLM Worship Team at St. Paul 6 p.m.
October 10 – Council 6 p.m.



October 6 – Frank Porter
October 13 – Chris Trimble
October 20 – Oscar Domhoff
October 27 – Peg Kaltenbach



October 6 – Pam Ferrainolo
October 13 – Tom Bickert
October 20 – Doug Trimble
October 27- Marsha Davis



October 6 – Bill Gasior & Sthela Holly
October 13 – Bill Gasior & Sally Measel
October 20 – Carla Wright & Sally Measel
October 27 – Chris & Doug Trimble



October 6 – Bill Gasior
October 13 – Bill Gasior
October 20 – Chris Trimble
October 27 – Chris Trimble



October 6 –
October 13 – Trimble
October 20 –
October 27 –



Thank you to everyone from Zion and St. Paul who came to help pack the many school and hygiene bags. This year we packed 177 school bags and 125 hygiene bags. This is almost twice what we packed last year. This is to two \$250 grants from Thrivent and the items contributed by our churches. Each year that we do this worthwhile outreach has amazed me how generous you are with your money and time. I'm sure each person who receives these items will be very thankful. Thank you again for being the faithful people we all strive to be.



While we just finished packing school and hygiene bags, in just two months it will be time to pack Christmas shoeboxes. A lot of the leftover items from the bags will be used in the shoeboxes. We have received two \$250 grants once again for these. We are hoping to pack at least 100 boxes. We purchase most of the items in bulk from online stores, so we have found out that it would be easier if we asked everyone to donate money toward the project instead of purchasing individual items. If you wish to help with this project, please put your contribution either in the plate with a note stating it is for the shoeboxes or give it to the office. You will get credit this way for your donation and it will help to purchase the items needed. We will be putting the boxes together on November 3 at St. Paul after the combined service. We will once again have a fellowship lunch before starting to pack. Thank you for helping with this wonderful project to give some children maybe the only Christmas gift that they will receive.

Zelienople Fall Festival



The festival will be October 12-13 from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. ZHLM will have a tent at the St. Paul front door, just like we did for Horse Trading Days. We'll have a free craft for kids, cold bottles of water, and hot apple cider!

This is a great way to interact with our neighbors, showcase our beautiful church to the public, and have fun doing it! Look for sign-up sheets and ways you can help this month. Because the event will take place on a Saturday and Sunday, we'll have a special invitation to worship with us on October 13 issued to the community. Please anticipate a crowded parking lot, carpool together, and plan accordingly.

BLESSING
Of the
Animals



Blessing Of The Animals

On October 5, Christians around the world celebrate a ritual inspired by St. Francis of Assisi by blessing animals and pets. We remember that human beings are only one of God's many creations, but all, including animals, are blessed by God. As stewards of creation, pet owners have a special responsibility and relationship to creation. At 10 a.m. , bring a pet, or a picture (if your pet doesn't play well with others). We will have a short liturgy, prayers, and a song, and then Pastor Erin will offer an individual blessing for each pet.

Coffee and refreshments will be provided, and we'll be under cover, in case of rain, at Zion's large pavilion.

Mark Your Calendar

On December 3, we will once again join the ladies from Zion and St Paul to have our annual Ladies Night Out for the Christmas season. This year it will be held at Zion with a delicious meal, some fun games and a gift exchange. Please purchase a gift for at least \$10 and plan to come and have an evening filled with lots of fun and fellowship. Watch next month's newsletter for more information.



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. See Pastor Erin to sign up by October 10.



Depot Days

It is that time of year again for Strobel Hall to be used as a drop-off location for Church World Services kits. We are always more than welcome to have any help we can get accepting the donations and loading the truck. The dates are as follows:

Drop-off dates:

October 11, 9 a.m.-noon

October 12, 9 a.m.- noon

October 14, 9 a.m.-noon & 4-6 p.m.

Truck day:

October 16, 8 a.m.





First Holy Communion

Pastor Erin has met with these young members and they baked communion bread together in their last class. We'll use this bread in each congregation on the Sunday that the girls celebrate their first communion.

Zion on October 6: Scarlett Kristophel

St. Paul on October 27: Madeline Dougherty, Madalynn Houk, and Lexi Stanek Williams

BUTLER COUNTY FOOD CUPBOARD

October 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; 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., hand out food.
- If you would like to volunteer, please contact Phyllis Metz at 724- 452-5993.



OCC - Some Interesting Facts – 2024

- Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has delivered more than 220 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 170 countries and territories.
- In 2023 over 11.3 million shoebox gifts were distributed worldwide to over 100 countries with over 10 million collected in the U.S.
- In 2023 the Mid-Atlantic North Region (PA & NJ) collected 632,597 shoebox gifts. 12,125 were from our Butler/Armstrong Area (our goal is 13,001 in 2024). Since our Butler/Armstrong area was created in 2014 we have collected 121,365 shoeboxes.
- Pennsylvania collected more shoeboxes than any other state in the country.
- There are nearly 5,000 Drop-off sites in the U.S. with more than 187,000 volunteers, almost 11,000 of whom are year-round volunteers. There are almost 500,000 volunteers worldwide.
- Shoebox gifts are collected in the U.S., Australia, Finland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, South Korea, New Zealand, Canada, Spain, and the U.K.
- There are nearly 5,000 Area Teams active just in the U.S.
- There are 8 major processing centers in the U.S. - Atlanta; Baltimore/Washington; Boone, NC; Charlotte, NC; Dallas/Fort Worth; Denver; Minneapolis; and Southern California.
- In countries that restrict the preaching of the Gospel the shoebox gifts very often opens the door to spreading the Good News just because of the promise of a gift.
- Since 2009 over 40.5 million children have participated in The Greatest Journey – a 12-lesson discipleship program. More than 20.3 million of these children made decisions for Christ. This year it will also be available in Braille piloted in the Phillipines and Liberia! It has been estimated that 7 to 9 family members and friends accept Christ for each child that comes to Christ. That's a lot of outreach for one simple shoebox gift.
- 80% of decisions for Christ happen before the age of 15!
- In 2023 there was a 12% growth in participating churches and since 2020 900,050 donors have been added! There was an 8% increase in shoebox numbers, but only a 2.4% increase in financial gifts.
- In Ukraine over the past two years:
 - a. 200,000,000 pounds of food was distributed by churches who first received OCC shoeboxes. They now have accepted the role to help Samaritan's Purse help their neighbors.
 - b. Church participation has seen an increase in attendance of 26%.

October 2024 Calendar					
ZION		ST. PAUL		ZHLM	
October 2 6:30 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study	October 2 11 a.m.	Revelation Bible Study		
October 5 10 a.m.	Blessing of the animals at Zion	October 5 10 a.m.	Blessing of the animals at Zion	October 5 10 a.m.	Blessing of the animals at Zion
October 6 10 a.m.	Combined worship at Zion with Dan Schall	October 6 10 a.m.	Combined worship at Zion with Dan Schall	October 6 10 a.m.	Combined worship at Zion with Dan Schall
October 7 6 p.m.	ZHLM worship team at St. Paul	October 7 6 p.m.	ZHLM worship team at St. Paul	October 7 6 p.m.	ZHLM worship team at St. Paul
October 8 9 a.m. - noon	Food Cupboard stocks shelves	October 8 6 p.m.	Council		
October 9 6:30 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study	October 9 11 a.m.	Revelation Bible Study		
October 10 6 p.m.	Council				
		October 11 9 a.m.-noon	Depot drop off day		
		October 12 9 a.m.-noon	Depot drop off day		
October 12 10 a.m. -7 p.m.	Fall Festival	October 12 10 a.m. -7 p.m.	Fall Festival	October 12 10 a.m. -7 p.m.	Fall Festival
October 13 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Fall Festival	October 13 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Fall Festival	October 13 10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Fall Festival
		October 14 9 a.m.-noon 4- 6 p.m.	Depot drop off day		
October 14 9 a.m. -?	Food bank truck				
October 15 9 a.m.-? 5-7:30 p.m.	Morning: Food cupboard pack food Evening Distribution				
		October 16	Depot truck pick up		
October 16 6:30 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study	October 16 11 a.m.	Revelation Bible Study		
October 19	Hall in use				
October 19 2 p.m.	Boat outing at Moraine	October 19 2 p.m.	Boat outing at Moraine	October 19 2 p.m.	Boat outing at Moraine
		October 19	Open Mic Night		

<i>October 23</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study	<i>October 23</i> <i>11 a.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study		
<i>October 26</i>	Hall in use				
<i>October 30</i> <i>6:30 p.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study	<i>October 30</i> <i>11 a.m.</i>	Revelation Bible Study		

PRAYER CONCERNS

SHUT-INS (Please ask the office for contact information): Gloria Rice, Arlene Cameron, Sally K. Davis, Bill Warner, Pat Givens, Eleanor Dindinger, and Pastor Susie Esseck.

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, Barbara Burgh, Shirley Fichter, Don Grubbs, Beau Boozel, Pastor Peggy Suhr-Barkley, Jetty Kennedy, Oscar Domhoff, Sandy Mullins, John Komidar, Earl Goehring, Sthela Holly, Vao, Antoine and Peg Kaltenbaugh.

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

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).

St. Paul's Prayer Request: Luke Mangola, Cheri Mihalik, Tina Rombach, Roger Lees, Kathy M., Gracie McClelland, Brian Ward, Martin Matscherz, Jason Sarver, Randy Cunningham, Patricia Frishcorn, and Steve Pilon.



Minutes of Council Meeting Thursday, September 12, 2024

In Attendance: Pr. Erin Evans, Bill Gasior, Sally Measel, Chris Trimble, Doug Trimble, and Carla Wright by phone in.

Absent: Tom Bickert and Sthela Holly

The meeting was opened with **Devotions and Prayer** by Sally based on the story of Gideon in Judges 7:1-8 where God reduces the army from 24,000 to 10,000 and then to 300 to take Midian for Israel. Why did God choose a small group for Gideon's mission? So that they would know that the victory was God's. The vitality and health of congregations is not measured by the size of membership or finances. It is based on putting God first and doing things His way. It is measured by clarity of mission and united effort to carry it out. This was written by Pr. Linda Theophilus from Emmanuel L.C. of Eastmont.

Secretary's Report – Motion to accept was made by Chris and seconded by Doug.

Treasurer's Report:

Contributions by envelope and plate, as well as rental income, for AUGUST (four Sundays) totaled \$9,865, compared to the budgeted amount of \$8,848. Giving was \$1,017 MORE than needed to meet our monthly budget. For the year, contributions and rental income total \$86,107, compared to our budgeted amount of \$75,208. Giving and rental income year-to-date is \$10,899 MORE than budgeted. The average weekly attendance for the four Sundays at Zion in AUGUST was 46. There were 74 in attendance at the combined service on August 4.

ZHLM PASTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 1-31

HOME COMMUNIONS/HOMEBOUND: Sally Davis, Arlene Cameron, Marliss Loveridge

HOSPITAL: Chuck Ferrainolo x 2

Visitation Attempts: 4

Counseling Hours: 1

MEETINGS

St. Paul Council

Zion Council

Willing Workers

St Paul Worship Committee

Zion Worship Committee

Mileage for August: 174 miles

- Helped coordinate details with Roots Academy and use of space
- 2 new Members joined Zion, Antoine and Vao
- Worship planning and bulletin changes
- Finally Scheduled First Communion Classes! September 15 and 22
- Note: Dave and Nancy Williamson's granddaughter will be joining the first communion classes.

- Helped put together newsletter and announcements about upcoming events
- Planning and reading for Revelation Class
- Planning for Fall Festival (October 12 and 13)
- Continuing Ed. Days and Vacation Days (1 and 8)
- Planning Chuck Ferrainolo's Funeral, September 3
- Planning for Malagasy Visitors on September 29
- Planning Baptism of Maryn Kirkpatrick at St Paul, September 29

Looking ahead

Revelation Bible Study - Wednesdays. 11am at St Paul and 6:30pm at Zion

Blessing of the Pets - October 5, 10am @ Zion Pavilion. Can we serve Coffee, etc? I'll buy dog treats, cat treats, advertise, etc.

Dan Schall @ Joint Worship Service, October 6 - with communion

ZHLM tent for Fall Festival at St. Paul October 12-13: Coloring Contest, Cider, and Water.

Note: Pr. Erin has a friend who is designing a coloring page for us for this event.

CWS drop off and pick up at St. Paul, October 11-16

Old Business:

1. Audit Update – The audit committee will meet on either a Monday or Friday in the next couple weeks to complete the audit.
2. Boat Outing – The boat at Moraine holds approximately 44 people. A sign-up sheet will be posted in both churches to see how many are interested in this event on Saturday, October 19.
3. Call Committee Update – The committee completed training on interviewing candidates and now the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) is available through the Synod.
4. Purchase of high chair and attach-to-table chair – these were voted on by Council and will be purchased from the Pflug Memorial Fund money.
5. Roots Learning Academy agreement/insurance – They have liability insurance. Our company has not replied as to whether we need any additional coverage from our end. We will ask the academy to purchase additional paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, consumables above what Zion uses.
6. AV video and recording equipment update – The person Bill was working with had a death in the family so this is still needing to be worked on.

New Business:

1. Calling post issue – As some people have not been receiving the messages from calling post, Chris called the company. The service we have been using is old. Chris motioned, Sally seconded, that we upgrade to their new system costing \$12.98 per month. This will include phone calls, text messages and emails simultaneously when messages are sent out. We will ask Megan to send a TEST MESSAGE to see if everyone received it. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Postage for CWS kits – The school and hygiene kits put together on September 8 totaled 302 kits. The request is for a \$2 postage charge be given for each box totaling \$604. Bill will talk to Diane to see if ZHLM is willing to cover this expense.
3. Passavant Volunteers – Passavant in Zelig has requested volunteers to assist their maintenance staff in putting up Christmas decorations inside the buildings and around the grounds. Pr. Erin is willing to lead

a group from ZHLM on Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The home will be decorating all the Saturdays throughout November.

4. Zelie Fall Festival, October 12 and 13 (after church) – Pr. Erin will post sign-up sheets asking for helpers to assist at this event. Bill will make available a QR code to give out about our churches. Pastor requested a QR code to link to the full cover brochure that has been created and to a joint blog/newsletter titled “Leaflet”.
5. Madagascar Guests on September 29 – We will have three Madagascar pastors, the Bishop of Madagascar, an interpreter and our missionary to Madagascar attending our services (both churches) on September 29. There will be a lunch following at Zion in their honor. We are putting together welcoming gifts that include crosses, “God’s Hands, Our Work” t-shirts and ornaments.
6. Road Cleanup – Last one for this year will be Saturday, September 21.
7. Weeding around the parsonage garage – Bill will do.
8. Operation Christmas Shoebox – Chris attended a seminar about this project and learned that for every child who receives a shoebox for Christmas and becomes a believer, seven additional people accept God. This shoebox may be the ONLY gift the child receives for Christmas. Last year 11 million shoeboxes were received worldwide with 10 million of those coming from the U.S. Included in the boxes are a booklet about God and sent to the different locations, teacher’s guides and study books. It is requested that \$10 per shoebox be included for postage (up from \$9 last year). Chris received 50 shoeboxes for attending the seminar and will purchase 50 more at \$1 each. Chris is able to purchase items for the shoeboxes at much less cost that persons donating things individually can so is requesting financial donations be made to her to cover the cost of these purchases and cost of postage. 100 boxes at \$10 a box is \$1,000 just for postage. We ask that you be generous this November in assisting in this outreach project. The boxes must be put together by mid-November so there is time for them to be shipped around the world.
9. Microphone test before September 29 – Bill will test the AV equipment to be sure all is working for the taping of Zion’s service when the quests from Madagascar will be with us.

TEAM REPORTS:

Property:

8-16-2024 - Fixed plumbing in small bathroom.

9-3-2024 - Conducted Guardian test for church safety.

Doug and Chris did a great job with the stone around the front sign and Doug did all the stone around the church/mulch pits. It will make mulching and trimming much easier. It looks great!

The new refrigerator Chris had delivered looks great too. And now there is room to pass by it into the offices hallway which creates another exit from the kitchen in case of fire. Submitted by Frank Porter

Fellowship: NO REPORT

Human Needs and Services: NO REPORT

Worship:

Due to extenuating circumstances, the Worship Team meeting scheduled for September 2, 2024, was canceled. The worship assistant schedule and a joint worship team meeting are being set up via email. Information will be dispersed as it becomes available. Respectfully submitted, Doug

Trimble

Christian Education:

Pastor Erin began her Bible study on the book of Revelation on Wednesday, September 11. This will continue each Wednesday for nine additional weeks. Either meet at St. Paul at 11 a.m. or Zion at 6:30 p.m.

Stewardship:

I am happy to report that on September 8, we packed 177 school bags and 125 hygiene bags. This was due to having two \$250 grants from Thrivent, plus all the items and money donated by members of both churches. Thanks to everyone who stayed and had lunch then helped pack. With everyone's help it went off very smoothly. Believe it or not, it is only two months before we will be packing Christmas shoeboxes. With that in mind I attended a seminar about the shoeboxes at Zion Methodist Church in Sarver. They explained where everything was distributed and how the money collected for postage is used. For attending the seminar, we received one free case of the shoeboxes. This saved us over \$50. We will be putting the shoeboxes together here at Zion on November 10.

Submitted by Chris Trimble

The next Council meeting will be Thursday, October 10, 2024, 6 p.m.

Devotions for next meeting: Chris Trimble

Offering Counters/Recorders for October are as follows:

October 6 – Bill and Sthela	Bill
October 13 – Bill and Sally	Bill
October 20 – Carla and Sally	Chris
October 27 – Chris and Doug	Chris

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Sally Measel, Council Secretary