

AUGUST 2026

VOICE OF ZION

A Monthly Publication of
Zion Lippe United Church of Christ
9000 Copperline Rd E
Mt Vernon IN 47620
812 985-2437
website: zionlippe.org

Secretary email:
zionlippesecretary@gmail.com
Secretary Hours:
Tues, Wed and Thurs 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Rev. Jeff Long, Pastor
Pastor cell: 812 306-4675
Pastor email: zionlippepastor@gmail.com

Sunday Family Worship at 10 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
6/28	162	78 devices
7/5	122	47 devices
7/12	120	58 devices
7/19	125	57 devices
7/26	130	59 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

July: Adult = 13

Children & Youth do not meet in summer

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVE STREAMED and RECORDED FOR LATER VIEWING ON YOUTUBE !

You can always join us for Sunday worship wherever you might be. To easily view the live worship service simply go to our church webpage... www.zionlippe.org... and click on the "Watch Live" tab and you will be able to view the worship service when it goes live. For later viewing of recorded services, go to YouTube and search for Zion Lippe.



Greeter Schedule for upcoming Sundays:

Aug 2 – Martha Ziegler
Aug 9 – Brian & Arin Commens
Aug 16 – Robin & Travis Crowe
Aug 23 – Brian & Channa Crase
Aug 30 – Janie Cummings

Sept 6 – Nancy Dougan
Sept 13 – Elwood & Laverne Deal
Sept 20 – Miranda & Ryan Daugherty
Sept 27 – Anna Mae Droege

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and shaking hands is optional. Please try to be here about 9:30 am or so. If you know ahead of time that you can't greet the Sunday you are scheduled, please let Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!

Thank you to those who have volunteered to serve as greeters, your turn to greet usually comes up about once over a 2 year period. If you would like to be added or removed from the greeter list please contact the church office.



AUGUST

To share the joys and celebrations of our lives we publish a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion.

Birthdays

- 1 Rosie Bogard, Isaac Hautman,
Karen Campbell
- 2 Bill Meyer, Nathan Perry, Blake Elkins,
Nicole Hoffman, Nick Hahn
- 3 Alex Barnhart, Kay Austin, Jennifer Cotton,
Tom Paul
- 7 Kimberly White, Sandy Schmitt
- 8 Nancy Dougan, Jan Droege, Steve Martin
- 10 Cameron Calvert, Jennifer Rotelli,
Joyce Hendrix
- 11 Shannon Vandagriff, Beth McCutchan
- 12 Jacob O'Risky
- 14 Austin O'Risky, Rick Becker
- 15 Allison Hoffman
- 16 Maizee Goebel
- 17 Elwood Deal, Cathy Schroeder, Breanna
Phelps, Dave Ford
- 18 Stephanie Fifer, Dan Koch
- 19 Randy Stierley, Amanda Green-Adams
- 20 Dustin Smith
- 21 Gary Droege
- 22 Jessie Juncker
- 23 Robin Fluty
- 24 Zachary Schroeder
- 25 Parker Voelker
- 26 Amy Schroeder
- 27 Monte Anderson
- 28 Chuck Schroeder, Mallory Hatzinikolaou,
Linda Reutter
- 30 Miranda Daugherty, Leah Dugan, Ryder Hast

Anniversaries

- 2 Brad & Alicia (Sander) Becker (2008)
- 5 Austin & Claire (Schroeder) Lensing (2022)
Tom & Kim (Schroeder) Paul (1989)
- 6 Tim & Johlene (Boring) Hoenert (1988)
Jon & Stephanie (Herrenbruck) Fifer (1994)
Jeff & Missy (Morrow) Ludwig (1994)
- 7 Eugene & Kelley (Elkins) Esche (1982)
Dwayne & Peggy Mahrenholz (1981)
- 8 Anthony & Devon (Parker) Hautman (2009)
- 9 Steve & Mary Ann (Lang) Fuelling (1996)
- 10 Mike & Stacy (Herrenbruck) Wagner (2002)
- 11 Roger & Joyce Klenck (1962)

- 13 Shawn & Michelle (Ford) Heneisen (2005)
- 15 Warren Hildebrand & Sharon Krietenstein
(2015)
- 17 Dennis Jr. & Lori (Embrey) Davenport (1985)
- 19 John Jr. & Carla (Valier) Breiner (1984)
- 20 Nicholas & Arra Schroeder (2016)
- 21 John & Judith (Schroeder) Hanebutt (1976)
- 23 Glenn & Ann Proctor (1997)
- 28 Robert & Linda Juncker (1976)
- 31 Wesley & Sarah (Herrenbruck) Taylor (2010)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or not correct or your address changes, please call the office at 812 985-2437 so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

Zion Nursery Center 2026-27 School Year

Zion Nursery Center will officially begin its 55th year on Sunday August 16th with our Orientation that afternoon. Classes will begin Monday, August 17 and are held Monday through Friday from 9 – 12:30 every day.

Students will be dropped off at the back of church from 8:50 to 9:10 every morning. Please be aware of vehicles pulling around the church during this time, and if possible plan your visits to the church around this time frame, as students gather in the foyer until everyone has arrived.

We are looking forward to another great year at Zion Nursery Center!

Sandy Schmitt, ZNC Director, 812-598-1722,
zionnurserycenter@gmail.com

***Thursday, August 13
at 11 am
Sr. Citizen Dinner***



Memorial Fund of Aletha Meeks was given to Zion Nursery Center in June 2026. We thank the family and donors for this gift.



Choosing Hope... There seems to be a heaviness in the air these days. Maybe it's because summer is winding down. Maybe it's because another school year is about to begin. Parents are buying school supplies, teachers are preparing classrooms, and children are wondering what the year ahead will bring. August has a way of reminding us that life is always moving forward.

But I think there is something more. Over the past several months, our community has experienced its share of uncertainty. Conversations about the future of Posey County have filled coffee shops, church parking lots, front porches, and kitchen tables. Friends have found themselves on opposite sides of important issues. Questions have often outnumbered answers. When the future feels uncertain, it's easy to become anxious. It's easy to imagine the worst. It's easy to allow fear to become louder than faith.

As Christians, however, we are called to something different. Not because we have all the answers. Not because we pretend everything is fine. But because we believe that God is already present in tomorrow.

Hope is not wishful thinking. Hope is not ignoring reality or pretending difficult conversations don't exist. Christian hope is the quiet confidence that, no matter what tomorrow holds, God will still be with us. It is the belief that God continues to bring life where we see only uncertainty, peace where we experience conflict, and new beginnings where we think only endings exist.

Throughout Scripture, God's people rarely knew exactly what the future would look like. Abraham didn't know where he was going. Moses didn't know how everything would unfold. The disciples certainly didn't know what would happen after Jesus ascended into heaven. Yet they kept taking the next faithful step because they trusted the One who was leading them. Perhaps that's what God is asking of us today. Take the next faithful step. Choose kindness over criticism. Choose listening over assuming. Choose prayer over panic. Choose hope over fear.

As a church, we cannot control everything happening around us. But we can choose the kind of people we will be. We can be a community where neighbors are loved, differences are respected, and Christ remains at the center of every conversation. We can be people who refuse to let disagreement become division.

As we enter a new school year and another season of ministry together, my prayer is that Zion Lippe will continue to be known as a place where hope is practiced—not because life is easy, but because God's faithfulness has never failed us.

The Apostle Paul reminds us, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (Romans 15.13)

Our world doesn't need more voices shouting. It needs more people quietly living with hope. May we be those people. Grace and Peace, **Pastor Jeff**

Council Highlights July 14th Church Council Meeting

Tim Hoenert called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. 7 Council members and Pastor Jeff attended.

June meeting minutes and treasurer's report were approved

- 6/30 YTD Regular Offering: \$101,364.38
- 6/30 YTD General Fund Income: \$109,642.48
- 6/30 YTD General Fund Expense: \$119,239.44

Solar Batteries: Carl is working with EG4 (manufacturer of our inverters) to investigate the options to tie-in all the solar.

Property:

Steeple roof repair will be completed soon by Helming, then Turpen will begin painting the trim. New countertops and small sink in the kitchen downstairs have been installed at no cost to the church. Scott Lewis repaired the roof in the foyer. Roger replaced a bad receptacle outside. New hot water heater was installed for foyer restrooms.

Music: Pastor Jeff and JJ Mohr met with Gayle Angel, she wishes to accept the part time pianist/organist to start in September, the Council approved her request as a part time musician.

Christian Education: Pastor Jeff and Lauren will meet soon to discuss Children's Sunday School classes this fall.

2026 Lenten Offering will be used to provide a Christmas Party at United Caring Shelter. Planning is underway for that event.

Semiannual Congregation Meeting is August 16th after church.

Next Council Meeting is August 11th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

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Our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 16, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. All members are encouraged to attend as we gather to reflect on the past six months, celebrate the work God has been doing through our church, and look ahead to the opportunities and ministries that lie before us.

The meeting agenda will include: Financial reports - Cemetery Board report - Endowment report - Property and facility matters - Other church business. Your participation is important, and we hope you will join us as we continue to prayerfully shape the future of our church together. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Hoenert, Church Council President.

If you would like to have a pdf of the meeting packet emailed to you, contact Ruth Wintczak in the church office by Thursday morning August 13.

## Blessing of the Backpacks - Sunday - August 2nd

Even though it still feels like summer, a new school year is just around the corner! As students, teachers, and school staff prepare to head back to the classroom, we want to send them off with our prayers and blessings.



We invite all students to bring their backpacks to worship as we celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks. During the service, we will offer a special prayer for students, teachers, school staff, and all who help make our schools places of learning and growth. May this new school year be filled with wisdom, kindness, courage, and God's abiding presence.

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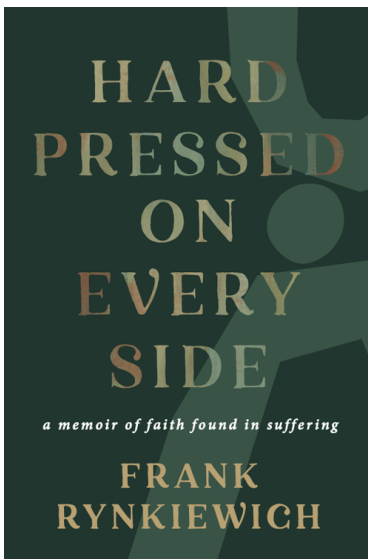
**The North Posey Relay for Life event will
occur on Saturday, August 15
at Murphy Park in New Harmony.
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Schedule and Events

- **Kids' Dash (75 yards):** Starts at 7:45 AM CDT.
- **5K Run/Walk:** Starts at 8:00 AM CDT (\$25 registration fee).
- **Day Activities:** Includes a survivor celebration, lunch, and a live auction.
- **Registration Deadline:** Online registration closes on August 14, 2026, at 11:59 PM CDT via the [RunSignup Relay for Life 5K Page](#).

If you would like to donate, are a survivor who wants a T-shirt, would like to decorate a luminary bag in memory or honor of someone who has battled cancer, or have any questions, please contact Hans Schmitz or Nancy Dougan.

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## **Special Guest – Sunday, August 16**

*Join us as we welcome Frank Rynkiewicz to our worship service on August 16. Our service will center on the theme "Faith Found in Suffering", inspired by Frank's book, **Hard Pressed On Every Side**.*

*We plan to have copies of the book available and hopefully also offer an opportunity for Frank to sign copies and visit with folks that morning.*

## **Important Property Tax Changes for Indiana Veterans**

Beginning with the **2026 assessment year** (which affects **2027 property tax bills**), Indiana has made significant changes to property tax relief for veterans through **House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1210**. The new law simplifies the previous system of assessed-value deductions by replacing it with a combination of property tax credits and exemptions. It is expected to return approximately **\$46 million each year** to Indiana veterans and their families.

### **Here's what you need to know: Veterans with a 100% Service-Connected Disability or Individual Unemployability (IU)**

- Qualify for a **100% exemption** from property taxes on their primary residence.
- This means **no property tax will be owed** on the homestead.
- The previous **\$240,000 home value limit has been eliminated**, allowing more veterans to receive the full benefit.

### **Wartime Veterans with a 10%–90% Service-Connected Disability**

- Eligible for a **\$350 annual property tax credit**.

### **Veterans Age 62 or Older with a 10%–90% Service-Connected Disability**

- Eligible for an additional **\$250 annual property tax credit**.

### **Credits Can Be Combined**

- Veterans who qualify as both wartime disabled veterans and are age 62 or older may receive **up to \$600 in annual property tax credits**.

### **Surviving Spouses**

- **Unremarried surviving spouses** of qualifying veterans continue to be eligible for these benefits.

**Don't Forget to Reapply** - One of the most important parts of the new law is that **eligible veterans must actively register or refile** to receive these new benefits. Previous deductions will not automatically transfer to the new system.

If you or someone you know may qualify, consider contacting your **county assessor's office** or your local **County Veterans Service Officer** for guidance on the application process. We are deeply grateful for the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families. If these changes can provide even a small measure of financial relief, we encourage you to take advantage of the benefits available.

### **Veterans: Please don't assume you're automatically enrolled!**

These new benefits require eligible veterans to **reapply or register**. Contact the Posey County Assessor's Office or your County Veterans Service Officer for assistance.