

SEPTEMBER 2025

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
Sunday School at 9 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Virtual (est.)
8/3	163	64 devices
8/10	172	51 devices
8/17	156	72 devices
8/24	135	64 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

August: Adult = 14

Youth & Children not meeting 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:

Sept 7 – Linda Messel
Sept 14 – Mike & Stacy Wagner
Sept 21 – Bill Meyer
Sept 28 – JJ & Kelli Mohr

Oct 5 – John Moyer
Oct 12 – Delwin & Patti Parker
Oct 19 – John & Miranda Pieszcalski
Oct 26 – Katie Primus

We will have magnetic name tags available for our greeters, and hand-shaking is optional. If possible, 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, you can let Rosie Bogard know – but if something comes up and you can't make it don't fret!





SEPTEMBER

We share the celebrations of our lives as a congregation by publishing a monthly list of birthdays and anniversaries of members and friends of Zion. Numbers in () represent year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 2 Hadley Seitz, Mark Duncan
- 3 Kayla Baird, Doris Strupp
- 4 Devon Hautman, Laura Droege, Kris Long
- 5 Katie Primus, Rodney Schroeder, Richard Schroeder, Claire Chamberlain
- 6 Lora Commens, Isaiah Voelker, Averyn Key, Linda Messel
- 7 Arin Commens
- 8 Paul Schorr, Gary Lashley, Kirstin Gibson, Matthew & Sean Pieszcalski
- 9 Ann Proctor
- 10 Jenna Rueger, Katelyn Heidenreich, Jeri Sauve
- 13 Ruby Ostermann
- 14 Johlene Hoenert
- 15 Bill Smith
- 16 Amanda Lashley, Sarah Muntzer, Maddox Voegel
- 17 Pam Redman, Scott Bogard
- 19 Sandy Willett
- 20 Megan Voelker
- 22 John Pieszcalski, Taylor Pieszcalski
- 23 Alicia Becker
- 24 Carly Patterson, Noah Hoffman, Adam Kendall
- 26 Brian Crase, Mitchell Key
- 27 Hilda Donner, Rylee Kern, Matt Kern, Ellen Baird
- 28 Brad Hollen, Russell Schroeder
- 29 Lee Cullman
- 30 Gary Barnett

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 Adam and Jennifer (Juncker) Heim (2007)
- 2 Fred and Terri (Kessler) Freeman (1972)
- 5 Jeff & Jenny Droege (2009)
- 6 Jared & Kayla (Hoenert) Baird (2020)
- 7 John and Tina (Deal) Spears (1996)
- Brian & Maizee (Sauve) Goebel (2013)
- 15 Ronald and Annette Schroeder (1990)
- 17 Shelby & Jeri (Droege) Sauve (1988)
- 23 Chuck & Susan (Fischer) Schroeder (1978)
- David & Stacey Hyslop (2006)

- 26 Carl and Darlene (Schroeder) Bosse (1987)
- Brian & Channa Crase (1998)
- David & Audrey Key (2015)
- 28 James and Amber (Willett) Barrow (2008)
- Cory & Kelsey Lingafelter (2019)
- 29 Steve & Sandra Brown (1997)
- 30 Zach & Kari (Hoenert) Green (2023)

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is not correct, please call the office, so we may update our records. Thanks for your help!

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### Women's Fellowship

***Women of Zion will start another season of fellowship meetings on Thursday, September 11 at 6 pm.***

***We will welcome Charlotte Pfeiffer who will speak on the ministry provided by Trotter House.***

***All Women of Zion are invited!***

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### With Sympathy

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Jay P. O'Risky. Jay passed away August 3, 2025 at the age of 55. Funeral services were held August 16 at Pierre Funeral Home, with burial in Immanuel UCC Cemetery.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Marcia Droege. Marcia passed away August 23, 2025 at the age of 72. Funeral services and burial were held at Zion on August 27.

We cherish good memories of Jay and Marcia.



I grew up in Norfolk, Nebraska. A town in the northeast corner of the Cornhusker state. 60 miles directly south of Yankton, South Dakota and just about the same distance southwest from Sioux City, Iowa. When I was a child my mother enrolled me in Catechism classes at St. Mary's

Catholic Church. A parish right in the center of Norfolk.

It was during that time I was introduced to the scriptures with some depth and substance. I can remember that one of the Psalms that I felt was one of my favorites during those class sessions was Psalm 150. It is a Psalm that I still find meaning and foundation for my own life journey.

But as I read through that Psalm now, of course it means something different to me these days. Back then I was just being introduced and was just starting to learn about God and God's presence. I have some miles behind me now and many more life experiences. Yet, in this chapter of my life, the Psalm invites thankfulness for God's presence in all sorts of contexts and experiences. As I look back over my life, even in those moments when God seemed absent or irrelevant, I understand now that God's spirit was not void. It was steady. It was committed. It was inspiring. It was sustaining.

Psalm 150 reads this way... from Eugene Peterson's interpretation, *The Message*.

***"Hallelujah! Praise God in his holy house of worship,  
praise him under the open skies; Praise him for his acts of power,  
praise him for his magnificent greatness; Praise with a blast on the trumpet,  
praise by strumming soft strings; Praise him with castanets and dance,  
praise him with banjo and flute; Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum,  
praise him with fiddles and mandolin.***

***Let every living, breathing creature praise God! Hallelujah!"***

Sit back and take this chapter all in. It is as if the writer wants us to be in praise of God for everything we have every minute of our lives. And the writer is correct. Everything we have from the very breaths we take and every beat of our hearts is a gift from God and we should celebrate.

I'm not saying that we need to go out and buy God a cake or a Dairy Queen blizzard of the month, but what I am saying is that we should be throwing God a party ... and we do, something that we try to do each Sunday when we come to worship.

So do me a favor, take time right now, today, to give God thanks for every gift you have been given and start keeping track. Write it down somewhere so you can experience how present God really is in our lives. It's O.K. to celebrate God today, tomorrow, and always.

Blessings on the journey friends... **PJ**

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Confirmation Meeting - September 7th @ 9:00 a.m.

One of the great joys and privileges of ministry is the opportunity to accompany young people on their spiritual journey. We do this in many ways here at Zion Church, but one of the most important is through the Christian rite known as "Confirmation." In our tradition, we believe a person is joined to the universal church – the Body of Christ – through the Sacrament of Baptism. When an infant or very young child is baptized, the baptismal promises are made by one or more parents and/or sponsors (Godparents). As the child approaches adolescence, the local church offers that person the opportunity to publicly affirm their baptism. That affirmation of baptism is called Confirmation.

This year's Confirmation Classes will be led by Pastor Jeff as well as Carol Embrey and Donna Hartig.

If you were in 7th grade confirmation classes last year, we welcome you for your 8th grade year. If you are currently a 7th grader or know of someone in 7th grade that might be interested in confirmation, please let us know by contacting Pastor Jeff or by calling the church office. Anyone older than 7th grade age who has not yet attended confirmation classes, but would like to attend now, please contact Pastor Jeff.

In preparation for upcoming classes, we will have **an information meeting during our Sunday school time beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the church basement on Sunday, September 7th.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jeff. We look forward to seeing you very soon!!!

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## **FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES BEGINNING -**

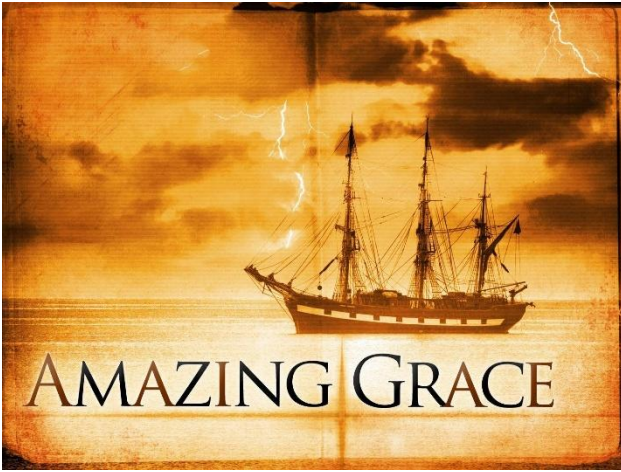
**SEPTEMBER 7th @ 9:00 A.M.**



We are excited to announce that we will begin Sunday School Classes for all ages on Sunday, September 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be classes for children that will meet downstairs, Steve and Nancy DeClaiss-Walford will continue to teach adult classes in the upstairs Sunday School area and we will have a Jr. and Sr. High class available for our youth in their youth room as well as confirmation for both 7th and 8th grades.

We hope that these Christian educational opportunities will meet the many and varied topics, perspectives, and provide spiritual growth in a number of ways. We hope that you will find time to join us for any of these great Sunday morning opportunities beginning **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.**





**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SUNDAYS**  
**AT 9:00 A.M.**  
**Upstairs Sunday School Hall**

**Current Study Program: Portraits of Jesus**

Did you know John Newton, the man who wrote “Amazing Grace”, was once a slave trader? Or that there are other “gospels” written around the time of Jesus that didn’t make it into the New Testament?

We are studying how Jesus is portrayed in various forms– written (gospels, history), visual (art, movies) and in music (hymns, praise songs, sacred music). Each week includes a review of previous lessons and the introduction of new material.

**Come join us as we discover Portraits of Jesus through history and the arts!**

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Exciting News: Launch of Our New Small Group Ministry!



We are thrilled to announce the start of our **Small Group Ministry** — a new way to connect, grow, and build community within our church family.

Small Groups are designed to bring people together outside of Sunday services for:

- * Encouragement and fellowship
- * Bible study and discussion
- * Prayer and spiritual growth
- * Serving and supporting one another

Whether you’re new to the church or have been here for years, Small Groups are a place to belong, be known, and be encouraged in your walk with Christ. **Please use the sign up sheet in the foyer or contact Pastor Jeff to either host a small group in your home, be a small group leader, or are interested in being a participant in a small group.**

Come be part of this exciting new ministry as we grow stronger together in faith and community!

Council Meeting Highlights: Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 6pm

Present: Bob, Roger, Andrea, Tim, Lauren, Pat, Jeff
Absent: Stacy, Nancy, Adam

Financial 7/31 YTD Regular Offering \$104,785.36
 7/31 YTD General Fund Income \$110,850.29
 7/31 YTD General Fund Expense \$130,967.39

Property – Roger
Installed timer on flagpole lights to leave flags up at night. Thank You to Tom Paul for his help.
In June the elevator quit working. Murphy came June 18 and found a limit switch bad and replaced the bad roller. Roger & Bob were here when repair was done.
Roofs have been installed on Parsonage. Both sides of Sunday School Hall and block garage.
The siding should be done in about 2 to 3 weeks.
A Toilet in women's restroom in foyer has been replaced.
Have samples and numbers for the 4 options of steeple repair in foyer. The options will be voted on by the congregation at the semi-annual meeting on 8-17-2025.

Recreation – Adam
Otters baseball game Aug. 15th

Pastor – Jeff
Basketball court - Carl is having issues getting it resurfaced.
All Sunday School classes (Adult, Youth, Children) will be held again September 7th
Confirmation information meeting for students and parents will be Sept 7 at 9 am

New Business
Request from Hoenert family to use Don Hoenert Memorial Funds of \$2,915 toward new flag poles on New Cemetery. Patrick motioned to approve disbursing these Memorial Funds as requested, Andrea seconded.
Lora Commens resigned as Church & Upstairs Sunday School Custodian effective the end of July.
Molly McCutchan was hired to replace Lora starting beginning of August.
Jonathan Schmitt resigned as Media Coordinator effective August 31. Emily Schmitt will replace him.

Next Meeting Sept 9, 2025 at 6 pm.

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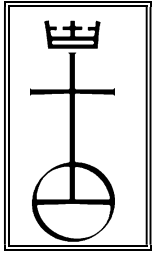
2026 Family of Faith  
Retreat Interest Survey



Your opinion matters to us. Please use the QR code by opening the camera on your phone and snapping the code provided in the image to the left. This will take you to a simple survey that will help us determine interest in a possible retreat in the future.

Thank you so much for helping us out!!!





ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
9000 COPPERLINE ROAD E  
MT. VERNON IN 47620

4 Heroes needed @  
**Sister Joanna's Table**

**September 13th** from  
11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

Contact:  
Chris Wolsiefer  
812-774-2345

Thank you very much!!

