

SEPTEMBER 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.)
8/2	175	82 devices
8/9	144	20 devices
8/16	195	31 devices
8/23	140	72 devices

Sunday School Average Attendance

August: 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:

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

October 4 – Carol Jo Droege
October 11 – Brian & Channa Crase
October 18 – Larry & Jan Droege
October 25 – Mark & Stephanie Duncan

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.



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 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 Pieszchalski
- 9 Ann Proctor, Jeremy Moore
- 10 Jenna Rueger, Katelyn Heidenreich, Jeri Sauve, Lincoln Price
- 14 Johlene Hoenert
- 15 Bill Smith, Twyala Carner
- 16 Amanda Pearson, Maddox Voegel
- 17 Pam Redman, Scott Bogard
- 19 Sandy Willett
- 20 Megan Voelker
- 22 John Pieszchalski, Taylor Pieszchalski
- 23 Alicia Becker
- 24 Carly Patterson, Noah Hoffman Adam Kendall
- 26 Brian Crase, Mitchell Key
- 27 Hilda Donner, Rylee Kern, Matt Kern
- 28 Brad Hollen
- 29 Lee Cullman

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 1 Adam and Jennifer (Juncker) Heim (2007)
- 2 Fred and Terri (Kessler) Freeman (1972)
- 5 Jeff & Jenny Droege (2009)
- 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)

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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*Do you love to sing? Choir practices have begun again, on most Wednesday evenings 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Contact Choir Director JJ Mohr if questions.*

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Monroe Jo Daugherty, daughter of Ryan & Miranda Daugherty, was baptized at Zion on July 31.

Raelynn Davis & Lilly Swope, daughters of Kyle Swope and Sidney Davis, were baptized at Zion on August 2.

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*A huge thank you goes out to the Ladies of Zion who provided side dishes and desserts for Janet Toler's (Gram's) funeral at Mt Zion General Baptist Church in Wadesville! The family truly appreciates the support they provided for such a wonderful lady.*

*Thank you – JJ and Kelli Mohr*

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***Pastor Jeff will be on vacation the week of August 31. Please contact Ruth Wintczak or a council member if pastoral care is needed.***



## **Looking Forward Together**

There is something about September that has always felt like a new beginning don't you think? The days begin to change. School is back in session. Calendars begin to fill again. There is a renewed sense of rhythm and routine. And here at Zion Lippe, I find myself looking ahead to September with a great deal of anticipation and excitement.

There are so many things happening in the life of our church that I am looking forward to. I am looking forward to the beginning of our **Sunday School classes** on September 13th and seeing our children and teachers together again. I am looking forward to the conversations, the questions, the laughter, and all of those little moments when faith begins to take root in the lives of our children and young people. Sunday School is about much more than curriculum. It is about relationships, belonging, and helping our children discover that they have a place in the family of God.

I am looking forward to the beginning of another year of **Confirmation Classes**. There is something especially meaningful about walking alongside young people as they begin asking some of life's bigger questions. My hope is that Confirmation will not simply be a class they complete, but an experience that helps them discover their own faith, their own questions, and their own place within the church.

I am also looking forward to seeing our **Youth Group** become active again. Our young people need a place where they can laugh together, serve together, ask honest questions, and simply know that they are welcome. I hope we can create opportunities this year for our youth to experience the church not simply as a place they attend, but as a community to which they truly belong.

And, of course, I am looking forward to **worship**. I hope September brings with it a renewed sense of energy and vibrancy in our worship together. Every Sunday is an opportunity to gather as a community, to sing, to pray, to listen, to laugh, to reflect, and to remember once again that we do not walk through life alone. I believe there is something powerful that happens when we come together and remind one another of God's presence and God's hope.

This fall will also bring some exciting changes to our **music ministry**. I am especially pleased to welcome **Gail Angel** to our Music Team. Gail will be serving as our organist and choir musician, and I am grateful for the gifts, experience, and energy she brings to our worship. We will also welcome **JJ Mohr** as our new choir director. I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for our choir and for the ways music can continue to enrich and deepen our worship together with our music staff... Carol Jo Droege, Kay Austin, Johlene Hoenert, and all the members of the church choir.

When I look at all of these things, I am reminded that the church is always becoming something new. We honor the traditions that have brought us this far, but we also remain open to the new things God is doing among us.

So, as September arrives, I find myself looking forward. I am looking forward to children filling our classrooms again. I am looking forward to young people finding their voices and discovering their faith. I am looking forward to our youth sharing life and laughter together.

I am looking forward to beautiful music and vibrant worship.

I am looking forward to new faces, new ideas, new opportunities, and new ways of serving our community.

Most of all, I am looking forward to **being the church together**. There is a wonderful word in the Christian faith: *hope*. Hope is not simply wishing that tomorrow will be better. Hope is trusting that God is still at work and that there are good things ahead of us—even when we cannot yet see exactly what they will be.

And I believe there are good things ahead for Zion Lippe. So let's step into this new season together—with open hearts, willing hands, curious minds, and a little excitement about what God might have in store.

September is here. And I, for one, am looking forward to it.

May we be those people.

Grace and Peace, **Pastor Jeff**

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Welcome to Confirmation Class!

There is something exciting about beginning a new journey, and this September, we are looking forward to beginning that journey with our **7th and 8th grade Confirmation students!** Confirmation is an important part of the life of our church. It is a time when our young people are invited to ask questions, explore their faith, learn more about the church, and begin thinking about what it means to make their faith their own.

And let's be honest—there are going to be some serious conversations, some challenging questions, and hopefully quite a bit of laughter along the way! Our Confirmation Classes will officially begin on **Sunday, September 13**. Throughout the year, we will explore Scripture, the Christian faith, the history and traditions of our church, and what it means to live out our faith in the world around us. Most importantly, I hope Confirmation will be a place where our young people feel comfortable being themselves, asking honest questions, and discovering that faith is not about having every answer. It is about continuing to grow, learn, and walk with God.

Before we begin, we will gather for a **Confirmation Orientation Meeting on Sunday, August 30, at 11:00 a.m.**, immediately following worship. We will meet in the **Sunday School Hall**. This orientation will give students and parents an opportunity to learn more about the upcoming Confirmation year, what we will be doing together, expectations for the class, and what everyone can anticipate as we begin this journey.

To our Confirmation students: **we are excited about you!** We are looking forward to getting to know you better, hearing your thoughts and questions, and sharing this important year with you. And to our parents and families: thank you for encouraging your young people in their faith. Your support and involvement are an important part of this journey.

I hope you will join us on August 30 for our orientation and then on September 13 as we officially begin our Confirmation year. **A new year. A new journey. New questions. New discoveries.**

And I can't wait to see where the journey takes us!



**Women's Fellowship Event
Fancy, Funny & Fabulous!
Thursday, September 10 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

Ladies, mark your calendars because our next **Women's Fellowship gathering is going to be a night to remember!** Join us on **Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m.** for an evening of fellowship, laughter, friendship, and just

a little bit of fashion chaos!

For this gathering, we want you to have some fun with what you wear. Come dressed in your **fanciest and funniest clothing combination!** Think elegant meets ridiculous. Fancy meets fun. Something you would normally never put together—but might just be perfect for this evening! Whether you show up looking like you're headed to a royal banquet, a red-carpet event, or somewhere that simply has a very questionable dress code, we want you to join in the fun.

Of course, the clothing is only part of the evening. The real purpose of the Women's Fellowship is the opportunity to gather together, enjoy one another's company, share some laughter, and strengthen the friendships that make our church family so special. So, ladies, start planning that outfit. Raid your closet. Borrow something from a friend. Mix the fancy with the funny. And most importantly, **come ready to laugh!** Everyone is invited, and we hope you'll join us for an evening that promises to be **fancy, funny, and unforgettable!**

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**Walking Together Through Grief**

Grief can be a lonely journey, but it doesn't have to be one we walk alone. Zion Church is excited to announce a new **Bereavement Group**, designed to provide a caring and supportive place for those who are experiencing the loss of someone they love. Whether your loss is recent or happened some time ago, grief has a way of continuing to shape our lives, and sometimes it helps simply to have others who understand.



This group will offer an opportunity to **share, listen, remember, laugh, cry, and discover ways to move forward while carrying the memories of those we have lost.** There will be no expectations and no pressure to share. Just a welcoming place where people can come as they are.

**You do not need to be a member of Zion Church to participate.** This group is open to the entire community, and **everyone is welcome.** If you or someone you know is walking through grief, we hope you will consider joining us. Sometimes the most important step we can take is simply knowing that we don't have to take the next step alone.

**Please see Pastor Jeff if you are interested or know of someone who might benefit from a group such as this.**

Come as you are. Bring your story. **Let's walk together.**

## **Council Highlights August 11<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting**

Council President Tim Hoenert called the meeting to order. 8 Council members were present.

July secretary's report & treasurer's reports were approved.

7/31 YTD Regular Offering: \$116,265.58

7/31 YTD General Fund Income: \$125,806.18

7/31 YTD General Fund Expense: \$136,464.70

### **Property:**

The Steeple project is complete, and the project cost was \$137,871.32.

Parking lot cracks were sealed. Work was done on handicap entrance push buttons.

### **Membership:**

Church Directory - all the membership portraits have been taken and are in the process of being passed out. Nancy is looking for people to help with getting the group pictures for the directory activity pages. Council reviewed list of members with no contact information and assigned council members to attempt to gather the information.

**Education** – Sunday School classes for children and youth will start after Labor Day and we are looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday School. Confirmation classes will begin Sept 13.

**Stewardship** – Several Endowment Requests were approved:

\$1,000 to Evansville Tri-State Association UCC

\$ 3,500 to North Posey Relay for Life

\$ 3,750 to Partners for Food

\$ up to 337.20 for books by Frank Rynkiewicz for the book signing at Zion on August 16.

**Next Council meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

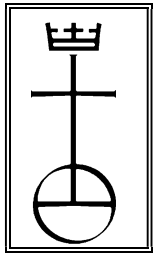
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Have you ever found yourself thinking, “**Maybe it’s time to find a church family?**” If so, we would love to hear from you! At Zion Church, we believe church is more than a place we come on Sunday morning. It is a community where we **worship together, laugh together, serve together, support one another, and grow in faith together.** And there is always room for one more!

If you have been visiting Zion, participating in worship or church activities, or simply wondering what it might mean to become a member, **we would love to have a conversation with you.** There is no pressure and no sales pitch—just an opportunity to talk about Zion, your faith journey, and what becoming part of this church family might look like.

Perhaps you have been thinking about joining for a while. Perhaps you are new to the area. Or maybe you have simply found yourself saying, “**I think I’ve found my church!**” If that sounds like you, **please let Pastor Jeff know!** He would be excited to sit down with you, answer your questions, and talk about the next steps.



ZION LIPPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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