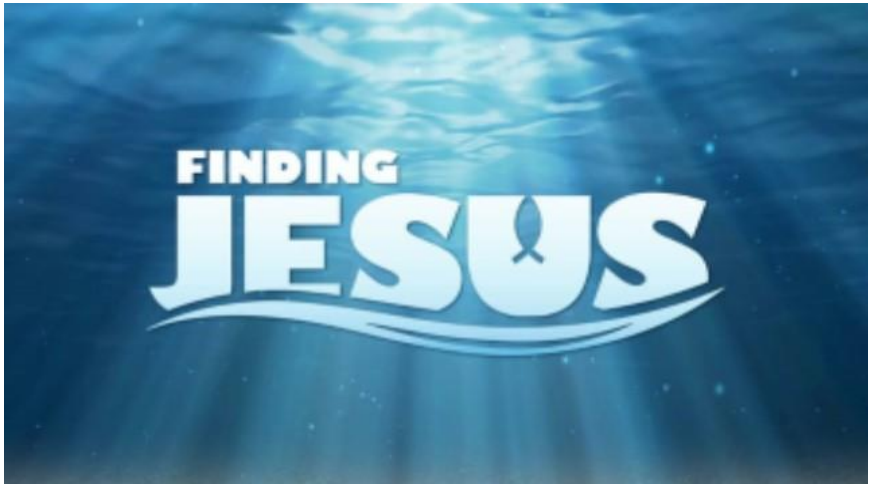


Zion Lutheran Church

September 2023



Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 3

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Sunday, September 10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Bible Sunday 1

Sunday, September 17

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Bible Sunday 2

Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

Pastor's Corner



I hope you have all been having a wonderful summer! I've had a good one which included being able to participate in my granddaughter's baptism in July as well as a couple of day trips up to the Heinz cottage north of Merrill.

But I've been noticing some leaves turning; the sumac is becoming fiery red. The end of summer approaches.

I sort of felt this way all summer long—that things were changing, that creation was morphing into something else, that time was inexorably moving along. My family and I were invited to help clear out my uncle's home this summer, and it felt like a long, slow slide into autumn followed by winter.

I practically grew up in that house; our two families were knitted together by blood ties as well as interests, lifestyles, and aspirations. We genuinely liked spending time together, and we fiercely loved one another through thick and thin.

Seeing that familiar space filled with familiar things and surrounded once again by familiar family units was like autumn; we all knew it was the last time we would be in that place together. It was a sad and emotional process, but it was also a time to acknowledge that a new family would come to inhabit that same location which was so loved by all of us. New will come out of the old, and the property itself will be invigorated with the new life it desperately needs.

Sometimes our lives feel like autumn—winding down, slowing down, disappearing—and we grasp at what we feel we are losing

rather than accepting the change and welcoming the new life to come.

God knows our uncertainty and our fear in the face of change; God walks alongside us through it all. God assures us of new life, not only for us but for that which we must occasionally set aside.

We're beginning a new programming year here at Zion. You'll see more experimenting, and we'll evaluate the experiments we've already tried. We'll tweak the tried and true, and sometimes leave things behind to make room for something new. We'll also leave many things as they are because they already blossom and produce the fruit of faith in lively ways. Through it all we'll ask questions, and actively listen to responses.

Our congregation and the manner in which we behave as the body of Christ in this place can, will, and must change as we walk Jesus' way together. Autumn brings change, and Winter brings rest, and Spring and Summer are ready to pop up again with new life, but God remains faithful through it all.

For nothing will be impossible with God.

-Luke 1:37

Special Congregational Meeting

There was a special congregational meeting on Sunday, **August 20th** immediately following worship. The topic of the meeting was the sale of gifted property. Zion met their quorum for a congregation meeting. The meeting proceeded with a question-and-answer section. A vote was taken, vote was in favor of placing the gifted property up for sale. Discussion about the proceeds of the sale will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in January 2024.

September's Faith Journey

Funeral

On **September 9, 2023**, Zion will have a funeral service for Robert Ulrich. Visitation begins at 10:00 a.m., and the service is at 12:00 p.m. Heartfelt sympathies go to the family and friends of Bob.

Tuesday morning Bible Study

Bible study starts again this month on **September 12, 2023!** We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Schedule 2023-2024 (10 am)

Date	Topic	Scripture Notes
<i>Sept 12, 2023</i>	<i>Creation</i>	<i>Gen 1:1-2:4</i>
<i>Sept 19, 2023</i>	<i>Abraham and Sarah</i>	<i>Gen 17:1-22</i>
<i>Sept 26, 2023</i>	<i>No session</i>	<i>Fall Theological</i>

Bible Sundays



Join us for Bible Sunday, **September 10th and 17th.** Zion will be presenting the children of our congregation with Bibles. Postcards have been sent to families with children who will be receiving Bibles. Please contact the church with the Sunday you would like your child to receive their gift. You may call the church office at 715-687-4110 or email office@zionstratford.org.

Christian Youth Education Programs.

Continue to pray for all the children and leaders as they begin a new year of their faith journey.

Little Lutherans/J-Team



Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on the Bible this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 3:15-5:15 p.m.

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>

Confirmation Begins September 13

Class runs from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation students are required to participate in all CORE classes. Elective classes are selected by the student. Sermon notes and activity verification are required throughout the year and should be returned to the office or dropped in the basket in the narthex or on the information table in the lobby.

Confirmation registration forms, class schedules, and more information are available at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

Disciples in Christ

Disciples in Christ (10th grade) will meet on:
Sunday, September 17th at 5:30 p.m.

Disciples and mentors this year are:
Ryan Christopherson / Connie Randow
Charlie Kolbeck /
Cody Randow / Tammie Christopherson
Colin Cournoyer / Tim Schoenherr
Jackson Dahlke / Keith Grell
Jaeger Ormond / Tadd Schoenherr
Riley Spindler / Joel Christopherson

Thank you to the mentors for the gift of their time. Please continue to pray for the Disciples and their Mentors.

The schedule and more information can be found at:
<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.

Let's Watch *The Chosen* Together!

The Chosen watch parties return on **September 10!**

If you're interested in binge-watching a few episodes of *The Chosen*, be sure to join us at **5:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, Sep. 10**. Bring a bible if you like, some snacks to share, a snuggly blanket, and something to drink.

“A charismatic fisherman drowning in debt, a troubled woman wrestling with real demons. a gifted publican ostracized by his family and his people. A religious leader struggling with his beliefs. See Jesus through the eyes of those that met him.” -

from angel.com/watch/the-chosen/about#departments.

We finished season one last year and just barely got started on season two, but you can join the story at any time, and we'll help you get caught up on who's who and what's what. You can also get caught up on your own by clicking the following link: angel.com/watch/the-chosen or downloading the app on your phone. The episodes are 30-45 minutes, leaving lots of time in between for snacks and discussion. Bring your kids (middle school and high school ages especially) and invite your friends!

First Communion Class



October 15th

following worship a First Communion class will be offered. If there is anyone interested in participating in the class, contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at

office@zionstratford.org. First Communion service will be on **October 29th.**

Germanfest 2023

Save the date: October 22, 2023

We have Germanfest annually at the end of October of every year. All proceeds from the dinner go to our Community Crisis Fund. Each Zion member household will receive 4 tickets in September that you can purchase, sell, or return them unsold. Each Sunday, beginning the last week of September someone will be in the narthex after each service. You may pick up more tickets to sell, turn in any money from sold tickets, or turn in your unsold tickets. Tickets will also be available in the church office from 8:00am-1:30pm, Monday-Thursday. Tickets this year for dine-in will be \$15.00 per adult and \$10.00 for children and all carry out tickets are \$15.00.

Our Germanfest dinner consists of Pork Hocks, Pork Roast, Sauerkraut, Potato Dumplings, Rye Bread, Applesauce and Cheesecake.

Please consider helping volunteer at this great fundraiser and sign up sheets for various duties and donation board for items that will be at the back of the church in the near future!

Healing Services Return for the Year

The Worship Committee is bringing back healing services on the fifth Sunday of any given month. During worship that day, we will have prayer stations available during Communion distribution where you may ask for prayer, a personal blessing, or anointing. There will be another healing service during worship on **October 29**.

Supporting Ministries

Simply Giving

Your congregation works hard to support your faith journey, respond to your pastoral needs, and plan for educational and worship opportunities all year long.

Make it easy for yourself (and for us) by signing up for Simply Giving. Through Simply Giving, you can “set it and forget it” when it comes to donating to Zion’s ministry. Your donation will automatically come out of your account in whatever amount and on whatever schedule is best for you.

Forms are available just outside the worship space and can be completed and returned to the office. Or just give Kathy a quick call in the office and she will be happy to help you out.

Treasurer’s Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer’s Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being a steward (manager) of God’s gracious provision in order to fuel Jesus’ ministry.

Through July 31, 2023, **income** received to the Current (general offering) was \$96,940.30.

The ministry **expenditures** were \$104,543.75. This means that our income (giving) has not been in line with our expenses by \$7,603.45. Note: Our ministry teams are well below their budgeted expenses for this part of the year.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion's ministry in Jesus' name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

As of July 31, 2023, the church's **undesignated cash balance** is \$9,114.79. This is money that is not designated for a specific purpose, such as utilities, mortgage debt reduction, lawn mowing, GermanFest, etc. The undesignated cash balance is like our savings account or reserve fund when our expenses are more than our income. This can be quickly depleted if actual income doesn't match expenses.

As of July 31, 2023, our **benevolences (ministry to the world)** were:

Crossways Camping Ministry	\$ 2.00	0.1% of goal
ELCA 10% Benevolence	\$10,328.70	64.6 % of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 550.00	30.6 % of goal
Missionary Support	\$ 1,121.00	32 % of goal
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 2,924.00	62.3% of goal

As of July 31, 2023, the balance available in the **GermanFest/Crisis Bank** account is \$8,679.43.

Building Update 2023

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 9,913.74
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 936.26</u>
Balance of loan as of 07/28/2023	\$ 83,086.09

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **08/01/2023** \$ 6,470.06

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
05/05 & 05/19	\$92,999.83	\$3,100.00	\$278.16	\$2,821.84	\$90,177.99
06/02 & 06/16	\$90,177.99	\$3,100.00	\$269.65	\$2,830.35	\$87,347.64
06/30	\$87,347.64	\$1,550.00	\$131.62	\$1,418.38	\$85,929.26
07/14 & 07/28	\$85,929.26	\$3,100.00	\$256.83	\$2,843.17	\$83,086.09

Thank you to all who continue to give generously toward the Building Fund.

Calling All Yarnies

Do you like to knit or crochet? Maybe you enjoy sorting and distributing? Or making tassels? Maybe you have unwanted yarn sitting around your house? Then have we got a project for you!



We are calling for hats, mittens, scarves, lap blankets (3'x 4' max), headbands/ear warmers in all sizes to distribute during the Trunk or Treat event and the

Christmas in the Park event. These items will be free for whoever needs them.

We also need that yarn you don't know what to do with, or that you were planning to throw out.

Drop-off bins for completed items and for yarn donations will be located at the entrance near the offices. Please note if an item is made of wool or a wool blend, and please wash all items before dropping them off.

We will begin collecting items on **September 1**.

If you have questions or want to help in some way, please contact Marsha Sipple, Pastor Amy, or the church office.

Fellowship

Join us each Sunday following worship for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa fellowship. It is a wonderful time to catch up with friends, family, and other members of your congregation. Often, there are tasty treats to enjoy as well.

Consider hosting fellowship for your fellow members, it is as easy as signing up.



If you have never hosted a fellowship, no worries! There are several people willing to help you out with making coffee and setting up. Let the office know and those arrangements will be made.

Meditation Garden

Sending out a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the meditation garden beautiful throughout the summer. Please take a moment out of your busy life and step into the garden to enjoy God's palette of beauty.

Homebound Visits



There are several members of Zion that are homebound. This makes it difficult for them to come to church and receive communion. Pastor Amy makes frequent visits to these members and encourages other members of Zion to visit their fellow members and serve communion.

Pastor Amy will walk you through how to serve home communion. Consider taking a few hours a month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day.

Evangelism

The Evangelism team would like to send cards to individuals or families who are hospitalized or have experienced a loss in their family. If you have someone that you wish the church to reach out to you can contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at office@zionstratford.org.

Choir

Choir practice will begin on September 10 at 8:00 a.m. in the balcony. The future schedule will be posted in the bulletins and on the announcement's slides. All are welcome to join.

Christ in Our Home

The devotional *Christ in Our Home* for the months of October, November, and December is now available in the Narthex or the information table in the church lobby.



Scrip gift cards are available for most retailers, restaurants, and gas stations. You pay the face value of the gift cards, and the retailer pays a percent back to Zion, designated for youth activities and mission trips. Let's prepare Zion youth to

participate in upcoming opportunities by using Scrip cards for your shopping and gift-giving needs. It's easy! Simply contact Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth at 715-615-2500. Each card purchase returns a percentage to Zion, netting hundreds of dollars to the youth fund each year. Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth experiences! Thank you, June Krueger, for your dedication to this program for many years.

Worship Duty Signup via Signup Genius

Please take a moment to sign up to participate in our worship service as an usher, reader, acolyte, media, communion assistant (server), or assisting minister. The fall signups are now available. Sign up by September 17 for October 2023. I really appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up!

Brenda Huther

Here is the link for October:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-october1#/>

Stratford Food Pantry Drive

Stratford Food Pantry would like to extend a thank you to individuals who have generously given to the Food Pantry during the summer months. There continues to be a need in the Stratford community for support from the Food Pantry.

Please prayerfully consider donating supplies to the Food Pantry. You can drop off donations in the lobby of the church or in the Narthex here at Zion.

The Stratford Area Food Pantry provides food to individuals and families within the Stratford School District. If you are in need of food, we are here for you! The hours are Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or by appointment. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan Wieland at wieland.dandeb@gmail.com or at 715-506-0020 and he will help you get connected.

Technology Ministry

Council Minutes

Council minutes are available on the church website at zionstratford.org/publications. You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.

Sermons by Phone or Podcast App

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>9am Worship/ Communion</i>	4 <i>Labor Day</i>	5 <i>6 pm Worship Team Meeting</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Bob Ulrich Funeral Visitation 10am Funeral 12pm</i>
10 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion Bible Sunday 1 5:30 pm Watch "The Chosen"</i>	11 <i>6 pm Executive Team Meeting</i>	12 <i>10 am Bible Study 7 pm Faith Formation Team Meeting</i>	13 <i>3 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6 pm Confirmation CORE class</i>	14	15	16
17 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion Bible Sunday 2 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ</i>	18 <i>6 pm Council Meeting</i>	19 <i>10 am Bible Study</i>	20	21	22	23
24 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion Pastor Amy gone to conference after worship</i>	25 <i>Pastor Amy gone to conference</i>	26 <i>No Bible Study 6pm Evangelism Team Meeting Pastor Amy gone to conference</i>	27 <i>3 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6 pm Confirmation Elective 6:30—7:30 pm Yoga</i>	28	29	30

Date	9/3/2023 Pent 14 9:00 AM	9/10/2023 Pent 15 9:00 AM	9/17/2023 Pent 16 9:00 AM	9/24/2023 Pent 17 9:00 AM	10/1/2023 Pent 18 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Terry Schoenherr	Brenda Huther	Marge Kollmansberger	Dan Thompson	Riley Spindler
Reader	Terry Schoenherr	June Krueger	Marge Kollmansberger	Brenda Castellano	Riley Spindler
Acolytes	Sierra Kreft Anika Weber	Ella Schultz Avery White	Cooper & Brynn Wiesman	Emmercyn Schiller Abby Ballerstein	Jackson & Jevin Spindler
Ushers	Frank & Angie Guralski	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Lois Miller Sharla Dreikosen	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr
communion assistants	Terry Schoenherr Marge Kollmansberger Tadd Schoenherr	June Krueger Nancy Schoenherr Brenda Huther	Marge Kollmansberger Brian & Darla Leick	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Brenda Castellano	Riley Spindler Tadd Schoenherr Brenda Garrigan
communion steward	Rhonda Thompson	Patti Casperson	Wendy Spaeth	Amy Grell	Sandy Andersen
Fellowship	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Eliot & Kaitlyn Waddell	Brian & Chris Stroetz	Rod & Brenda Huther	Pat Emon, Angie Guralski, Amy Reno
Host	President Dan Thompson	Secretary Carmella Moon	Vice President Maryel Schoenfuss	Treasurer Marge Redetzke	Evangelism Brandon Aschenbrenner
Bell Ringer	Frank Guralski	Phil Schultz	Lois Miller	Mark Andersen	Tom Schoenherr
Media	Connor Kreft	Rod Huther	Kevin Miller	Marge Kollmansberger	Ted Dasler

Bible Sunday 1 Bible Sunday 2