

**November 2023**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, November 5**

All Saints Sunday/Communion

**Sunday, November 12**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

**Sunday, November 19**

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

**Sunday, November 26**

Christ the King Sunday/Communion



## Pastor's Corner



When I was small, I loved getting into bed on Monday nights. Monday was wash day, and my mother would hang the sheets on the outside clothesline to dry. Then they went right back on

the beds, and oh, did they smell wonderful! They smelled fresh, brand new, clean, like fresh air and sunshine. I always slept really well those nights; covered by something familiar, but something that had been refreshed and made a bit new.

The word fresh conjures up more than one feeling, though. It does mean new or redone or different, but it also can mean sassy or challenging, as in, "Don't get fresh with me, young lady!" (I heard that one a few times in my younger days!)

The participants at the Fresh Expressions workshop in October were challenged by data trends which showed us that, while faith itself is still present in our country, the congregational setting is changing dramatically. We must be innovative in finding out where people are gathering and building relationships, then plant ourselves there as people of faith who love Jesus.

Where are people gathering? At workplaces, in classrooms, at sporting events, at school board meetings, at coffee shops and diners, at bars, at festivals and dinners... What are people doing there? What might God already be doing in and through these people? What might it look like for us to tag along and see how we might participate in God's building of relationships?

Our job is to be present with others. We do a great job of that in our beautiful building, but are we doing it outside

our doors? When we repeat our vision statement, “Open doors, open hearts, open hands,” do we understand that the door not only welcomes everyone in but also sends us out? These are some of the questions several of us are asking as we engage in the Fresh Expressions process. We’ll be updating you on what we learn as we process information and dream about what we at Zion can do to participate in the work of the Holy Spirit.

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

*-Isaiah 43:19*

Council



Corner

**Media Updates - Mid November**

**Live Nativity - December 2: 3 p.m.-6 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting - January 28 after 9 a.m. worship service.**

# November's Faith Journey

## Tuesday morning Bible Study

Bible study will be each Tuesday morning. 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)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Scripture Notes</b>
<i>November 7, 2023</i>	<i>David &amp; Bathsheba 2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:15</i>
<i>November 14, 2023</i>	<i>Despair and Celebration Psalms 22,23,149,150</i>
<i>November 21, 2023</i>	<i>No Bible Study Thanksgiving Week</i>
<i>November 28, 2023</i>	<i>Call and Comfort of Isaiah Isaiah 6; 40:1-11, 26-31</i>

## First Communion

On October 29<sup>th</sup> two youths from Zion received their First Communion. Turner Southwick and Talan Zawislan, these young men attended the First Communion instruction which prepared them for this day. Continue to pray for these youth who have achieved this milestone in their faith journey.

## **Blessing of the Orange**

November 12th there will be a blessing of the orange during worship. This is a blessing for all those who enjoy the hunting season. Consider wearing orange to worship that Sunday. Good luck hunters.

## **Live Nativity Volunteers Needed for Christmas in the Park**

When: Saturday, December 2, 2023

Time: 3-6 pm

Who: St. Joseph parish, The Mill church, Zion Lutheran church

Where: Zion parking lot

We're bringing back the Live Nativity for Christmas in the Park on December 2! If you are interested in participating as an angel, a shepherd, one of the Magi, Mary, or Joseph you can sign up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080E4BA5AE2DA7FE3-45593517-christmas>

- Each time slot is for one hour, but you may sign up to cover multiple hours if you like.
- Costumes will be provided. Please dress accordingly as this is an outdoor experience.
- Hot chocolate, apple cider, and snacks will be provided.

Thank you for your generous donation of time to proclaim Jesus' love to our community.

## **The Chosen Begins Again January 14!**

If you're interested in binge-watching a few episodes of The Chosen, be sure to join us at 5:30 pm on

Sunday, January 14. Bring a bible if you like, some snacks to share, a snuggly blanket, and something to drink.

We're at the beginning of season 2, but we'll be happy to help you catch up. You can also google "The Chosen" to watch season 1 for free.

## **All Saints Sunday**

All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint, sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus.

On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be reading the names and lighting candles for each name we receive. We will remember those in our congregation who died during the past year and those whose names are submitted by the congregation. Names can be submitted by contacting the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto: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**

**November 15, 2023**

*Fiery Furnace*

**November 29, 2023**

*Jonah, Christmas Program Practice*

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**

**November 15, 2023 /CORE**

*Old Testament: Prophets*

**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 available at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

## **Disciples For Christ**

**Sunday, November 19 at 5:30 p.m.**

*My Faith Today & Tomorrow*

*Book: Following Jesus pages 13-16,*

*My Mission pages 21-24*

The schedule and more information can be found at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.



# 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 good stewards (managers) of God's gracious provision to fuel Jesus' ministry.

January 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023:

- General Offering Received \$121,083.50
- Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) \$152,014.52
- **Giving vs. Expense Deficit \$ 30,931.35**  
(Larger deficit than reported earlier due to an expense item that did not flow through to an accounting report.)
- Undesignated Cash Balance (9/30/23) \$ 1,104.51

(This is like a reserve fund when expenses are greater than Income. It is nearly depleted because our actual income has not been matching our expenses.)

**Note: Our ministry teams are well below their budget expenses through this part of the year.**

Benevolence Goals through September 30, 2023: (These are additional goals, not included in annual budget.)

Crossways Camping Ministries	\$ 2.00	0.1% of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 725.00	40.3% of goal
Missionary	\$ 1,479.00	42.3% of goal
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$ 2,737.00	84.2% of goal

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.

## Building Update 2023

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 8,555.27
Total monthly interest payments	\$ 744.73
Balance of loan as of <b>09/22/2023</b>	<u>\$ 77,373.99</u>

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **10/10/2023** \$ 6,772.06

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
07/14 & 07/28	\$85,929.26	\$3,100.00	\$256.83	\$2,843.17	\$83,086.09
08/11 & 08/25	\$83,086.09	\$3,100.00	\$248.25	\$2,851.75	\$80,234.34
09/08 & 09/22	\$80,234.34	\$3,100.00	\$239.65	\$2,860.35	\$77,373.99

**Thank you to all who continue to give generously toward the Debt Reduction (Building) Fund.**

## Year End Statement

Zion sends out at the beginning of each year an end statement from your generous giving from 2023. If you wish to have your gifts reflected in the 2023 year-end statement those gifts need to be given to the church by 10:00 am on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Any donations after that time will be posted to 2024 giving.



## ***Germanfest 2023***

Germanfest went well! We served around 539 people with 359 carry-outs and 180 dine-in! Thank you to all of the people who donated, volunteered, and helped in any way. This Germanfest dinner with the funds going to the Community Crisis Fund would not be possible without the prayers and support the members of Zion provide.

## **Christmas Program Treat Bag Donations Needed**

The Faith Formation Team is looking for your sweet treat donations for the treat bags for the Children's Christmas program. Please drop your donation off at the church office before Sunday, November 12. We will be making 48 treat bags this year. Thank you for your generosity.

## ***Time and Talent Surveys***

The Evangelism Team announces the winners of the Time and Talent challenge. Germanfest tickets went to Sharla Dreikosen and June Krueger. The three \$15.00 gift cards went to Kevin Miller, Amy Cournoyer, and Frank Guralski. Thank you to all who filled out the Time and Talent sheet or used the link to complete the survey.

## **Calling All Yarnies**

Do you like to knit or crochet? Maybe you enjoy sorting and distributing? Or making tassles? 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 Christmas in the Park event. These items will be free for whomever 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.

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.



Packers

## How 'Bout Dem Packers?

Want to get together for fellowship and football? Zion's Evangelism committee is exploring the possibility of hosting a Packer game watch party/potluck on November 12. The Packers play the Steelers at noon, and we thought it'd be fun to get together after worship for a football-themed party and some game-watching sign-up sheet will be available beginning mid-October to assess interest. If a minimum of fifteen people sign up, we'll plan the party.



## 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 for the church to reach out to you can contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).



**Choir** Anyone interested in offering special music for the Wednesday Advent services or Christmas Eve services please contact Mary Wussow ([gmkjmwus@gmail.com](mailto:gmkjmwus@gmail.com)) or the church office at least 2 weeks in advance of the service.

Instrumental or vocals are welcome and encouraged.

## **Scrip Shopping Supports Ministry**

Looking to buy your college student supper? Got a special birthday coming up? Already thinking about Christmas? Zion Scrip is the answer for quick, easy gift card giving! We have many



shopwithscrip

retail card options on hand but can also special order from thousands of retailers. Each purchase supports Faith Formation Youth Programs such as Camp Scholarships, National Gatherings, and more.

It's easy! Simply download the RaiseRight app and shop right from your couch or contact Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth at 715-

615-2500 and they will help you get started.

You will need a one-time enrollment code for Zion; for security reasons, please contact Janet, Wendy, or the church office for the code. If you are curious as to what Scrip has to offer, visit [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com).

Janet or Wendy will be in the Narthex selling Scrip before and after church service on the following dates:

November 5

November 12

November 26

December 3

December 10 Christmas Order Deadline

### **Scrip Holiday Bonus!!**

For every \$50.00 of Scrip purchased between October 1st and December 10th, you will be entered into a BONUS drawing for a free \$25.00 Scrip card of your choice!



## **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 November 17 for December 2023. I really appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up!

Here is the link for December:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-december1#/>

## **Positions Open on Church Council**

If you've ever had a suggestion, a complaint, or an idea about how our congregation should or could run, now is the time to throw your hat in the ring for church council! We have three council openings coming up for 2024, and we need you!

Meetings are held the third Monday of (almost) each month, and generally last 1 to 1 ½ hours. There is prayer and scripture study, receiving of reports, discussion of any congregational issues, and a whole lot of laughter. Please prayerfully consider whether the Holy Spirit is calling you to fill one of these openings in the coming year.

If you have questions or want to find out more (with no obligation other than to pray about it), talk to any current council member or Pastor Amy.

## **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.

## **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! 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](mailto: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](http://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.

### **Prayer Requests**

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the ZionStratford.org website? You can also let people know that people are praying for them too. Check it out at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer>



Listen on  
**Podbean**

### **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/>.

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**[www.zionstratford.org](http://www.zionstratford.org)**

Phone: 715-687-4110

Fax: 715-687-3541

Email: [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org)

**We're on the web!**

Return Service Requested

# November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 <i>Wedding McKenzie Ford &amp; Darrin Luepke</i>
5 <i>9am Worship/ Communion All Saints Sunday</i>	6 <i>6pm Worship Team Meeting</i>	7 <i>10 am Bible Study</i>	8 <i>6:30pm Yoga</i>	9	10	11
12 <i>9am Worship/ Communion Baptism Hadley Viola Meyer Blessing of the Orange</i>	13 <i>6pm Executive Team Meeting</i>	14 <i>10 am Bible Study 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting</i>	15 <i>3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6pm Confirmation CORE 6:30 pm Yoga</i>	16	17	18
19 <i>9 am Worship/ Communion 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ</i>	20 <i>6 pm Council Meeting</i>	21 <i>6pm Evangelism Team Meeting</i>	22 <i>6:30 pm Yoga</i>	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26 <i>9am Worship/ Communion Christ the King Sunday</i>	27	28 <i>10 am Bible Study</i>	29 <i>3:15 pm JTeam/Little Lutherans Christmas Program Practice</i>	30		

Date	11/5/2023 All Saints Sunday 9:00 AM	11/12/2023 Pent 24 9:00 AM	11/19/2023 Pent 25 9:00 AM	11/26/2023 Christ the King 9:00 AM	12/03/2023 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Connor Kreft	Marge Kollmansberger	Dan Wieland	Terry Schoenherr	Brenda Huther
Reader	Connor Kreft	June Krueger	Dan Wieland	Rhonda Thompson	Brenda Huther
Acolytes	Emmercyn Schiller Lily Courmoyer	Ella Schultz Ruby Casperson	Avery & Dayton White	Ian Maguire Anika Weber	Ella Schultz Ryleigh Schiller
Ushers	Ryan & Trenton Courmoyer	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Ray & Lindsay White	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Phil & Kerri Schultz
communion assistants	Amii & Connor Kreft Casey Dasler	June Krueger Lois Miller Marge Kollmansberger	Dan Wieland Jill & Casey Dasler	Rhonda Thompson Terry Schoenherr Brenda Castellano	Angela Guraski Brenda Huther Brenda Garrigan
communion steward	Amy Grell	Wendy Spaeth	Deb Wieland	Rhonda Thompson	
Basket Holders	Averi & Mila Johnson	-----	Griffin Peirce Jordy Spindler	-----	Natalie Messerschmidt Harvey Waddell
Fellowship	Sharla Dreikosen	Dan & Rhonda Thompson	Dan & Deb Wieland	Volunteer	Volunteer
Host	FFYouth Casey Dasler	President Dan Thompson	Secretary Carmella Moon	Vice President Maryel Schoenfuss	Treasurer Marge Redetzke
Bell Ringer	Trenton Courmoyer	Phil Schultz	Ray White	Tommy Schoenherr	Phil Schultz
Media	Rod Huther	Kevin Miller	Ted Dasler	Marge Kollmansberger	Rod Huther
		Blessing of the Orange			