



Zion Lutheran Church



The Messenger

September 2025

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

“Thirty days hath September”; thirty days in which we shift from the lazy days of summer to an uptick in activity, beginning with the last hurrah, the Labor Day holiday. It is time to retire shorts and white clothing for the warmer tones of autumn. Even the leaves take on the reds and golds and the chill in the wind reminds us of what lies ahead.

The church, too, witnesses this change in tempo. September 7th is the kickoff of “God’s Work, Our Hands.” It is Zion’s opportunity to do needed work in our church as well as more outreach ministry in our surrounding neighborhood. This is something Zion does well as it witnessed by joining with Brianne Connelly, our Outreach Coordinator, in holding a summer playground program, utilizing Columbus School’s playground and Zion’s facilities. Thank you to Linda VanBommel for her help in making this program a success.

One of Zion’s ongoing outreach efforts is our blessing box which continues to be used daily. Thanks go to Tommy Meltz for keeping the blessing box full and to the generous donors who make this a successful ministry. Additionally, Zion members Ray Pittman, Colleen Malchow, Judy Wiese, Diana Staedt, Karen Luedtke, Jim Schley, Tommy Meltz, Sue Joosten, Sue Bunkert and Barb Dunlap prepared and served noon meals to the selfless Habitat volunteers who donate their skills to build homes for those in need of affordable housing. Thank you everyone.

September 14th will mark the beginning of our Faith Formation program for 2025-26. This represents Sunday School, Pennie Reis, coordinator, and confirmation, Stephanie Draheim, coordinator, who present meaningful lessons for our children and youth regarding our Lutheran faith. Parents and others also assist in making this program a success and thanks is due to all who participate.

Our choir and bell choir will begin again to uplift us with beautiful music thanks to Heather Watney, Worship & Music coordinator, Cheryl Meyer, choir director, and Paula Staedt, bell choir director. If you love music, please consider joining one of the choirs. Zion’s bells and chimes were refurbished over the summer and will once again ring out in joy. However, on a flat note, God once again reminded us of who is in charge. Lightning struck Zion’s steeple, damaging our sound system. Repairs are ongoing as we assess what is needed in way of repairs.

The Stewardship Committee, chaired by Jon Meyer, is working on new program to address our future giving as we look at ways to replace the rent revenue lost by the departure of the Appleton Bilingual School on August 31st. To that end, the Real Estate Committee is working diligently with our consultants to find a developer for the Affordable Housing Project. Pertinent information on any positive developments will be shared with the congregation in a timely fashion.

Brianne Connelley has brought to our attention a neighborhood family, a Mom and four young children, who are in great need of assistance, especially as school begins on September 2nd. The Zion Council has approved adopting this family. Donations for the family (needed items are listed in the bulletin or call the church office) are very much appreciated. Remember, “Whatsoever you do unto the least of these, you do unto Me!”

So, again, these thirty days of September will be busy, full of opportunities to “do unto others” to continue to make Zion a vital part of the surrounding neighborhood and a strong, vibrant faith community.

WELCOME AUTUMN

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2025 Meeting began at 6:25pm

Opening Devotion: Ray Pittman

Present: Sue Bunkert, Molly Kuba, Ray Pittman, Tom Meltz, Kandie Wilz, Amanda Kuba, Linda Van Bommel, Kyle Moseng

Guest: Liaison Barb Dunlap for Zion Mutual Homes and Council, Wendy Sachs

Absent: Vicar Jake

Opening Devotion led by Ray Pittman

Approval of Agenda: motion made and approved

Approval of Minutes: motion made; Added was The council did approve sending out the RFP request for proposal on July 16. After the addendum, minutes were approved.

Church Administrators Report: Wendy gave an oral report. Wendy reported that the air conditioner parts for the fellowship are on backorder. Wendy met with the real estate committee for affordable housing. Wendy has had conversations and met with office staff and volunteers.

Vicar Jake's Report: handout was given.

Committee Reports:

Finance - Wendy gave an oral financial report. Income is greater than expense for June and year to date. Online access is straightened out. Grace is doing research on affordable housing.

Finance recommended that \$1,000 be given to the community clothes closet motion was made and approved. A financial report for June was passed around and discussed.

Zion Mutual Homes - handout was given. Barb Dunlap gave an oral report. Anita and Brian are leaving August 1. Linda Gleason has resigned from the committee. Requests that a resident from ZMH serve on the committee. After ballots were counted Albert Schroeder will take Linda's spot. Advertisements for new managers will be happening.

Old Business:

Affordable Housing - Kandie reported that we are waiting to see what replies we get. August 19 is the next real estate meeting.

New Business:

Zion received a thank you note from Habit for humanity. Zion will prepare meals on July 29 and 30. Roof inspection was conducted by Borsche roofing. Waiting it out is what we will be doing for now.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 18, 2025 at 6:30pm

Devotion will be led by Ray Pittmann

Motion to dismiss at 7:25pm.

Closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer



The Vicar's Views

God's work. Our hands.



“Disciples of Christ”

Martin Luther's teaching on discipleship emphasizes a faith-centered life lived in response to God's grace, characterized by trust in Christ, listening to and reading God's Word, and service to others through one's calling or "vocation". Discipleship begins with God's initiative through the gospel, leading to a life where believers serve their neighbors, recognizing their daily work as a meaningful way to glorify God and encounter Him.

There has been plenty of glorifying God going on this summer at Zion and in the neighborhood. Here are some examples:

- serving food to volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity building sites
- collecting food and money on the “Christmas in July” Giving Tree
- contributing to and stocking the Blessing Box
- Adopting a family in need in our neighborhood
- sponsoring and volunteering at the Playground Program for over 20 children led by our Community Outreach Coordinator, Brianne Connelly
- serving brats and hot dogs at the Neighborhood Association Porchfest
- school supplies for students at Edison Elementary School

By serving the needs of our neighbors, we are not only glorifying God but are living out our Baptismal promise to be God's disciples. The way of discipleship, the way of Jesus, is a way of love, service and sacrifice. Strengthened by the gift of grace, we seek to answer God's call to love and service.

More opportunities will be available to serve when we kick-off the “God's Work. Our Hands” program in September. You can either volunteer to do some projects on the Zion campus or contribute to the “Haircuts for Kids” program in conjunction with the Neighborhood Association. Donations for the haircuts can be made by sending in your gift to the church office or dropping it in the collection basket in early September.

Thank you for your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure as we live out our faith as “Disciples of Christ”.

Let us pray, renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Amen!



Zion Lutheran Church

September 2025

Monday, September 15, 2025

Submissions due for October's calendar

Monday, September 1

Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day

Wednesday, September 3

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, September 7

Isa 35:4-7a; Ps 146

James 2:1-10 [11-13]; Mark 7:24-37

Worship Service 9:00 am

Followed by

Coffee Hour

Lectionary 23 (Pentecost 16) Baptism of Eldon Lee Delfosse

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens and Closes: Gwen Schwandt

Greeters: Joyce List, Colleen Malchow

Tuesday, September 9

Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am

Wednesday, September 10

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, September 14

Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 116:1-9

James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Lectionary 24 (Pentecost 17) Rally Sunday

Pastor Jan LaVake

Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt

Musician: Jim Schley

Opens: Greg Pettigrew

Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Greeters: Gary Busch, Linda Wirtz

Monday, September 15

Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm

Wednesday, September 17

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Saturday, September 20

Northern Michigan University Concert 2:00pm

Sunday, September 21

Jer 11:18-20; Ps 54

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Lectionary 25 (Pentecost 18)

Pastor Karen Jewell

Assisting Minister: Tommy Meltz

Musician: William Surtees

Opens and Closes: Jim Schley

Greeters: Jo Schiedermayer, Diane Moseng

Wednesday, September 24

Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm

Sunday, September 28

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Ps 19:7-14

James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am

Worship Service 9:00 am

followed by

Coffee Hour

Sunday School & Confirmation

Lectionary 26 (Pentecost 19) Camp Sunday

Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer

Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt

Musician: Heather Watney

Opens: Gene Wiese

Closes: Jodi Hoesli

Greeters: Elmer & Karen Luedtke





Stewardship Notes: Generosity Time



The word “stewardship” has a broad meaning, and is used in many different ways:

- In the environment -- for discussions about use of the air, of water, or soil,
- In leadership and human resources discussions -- how we are being stewards of the lives that are put in our hands, utilizing each person’s unique gifts...
- In the church -- stewardship as it relates to giving and generosity.

Often the first thing that comes to mind when many people in the church hear the word “stewardship” is the Fall Pledge Campaign. Stewardship is not about what the Stewardship or Finance Committee does in August or September in preparation for the pledge campaign in November. It is not about financial statements that show the amount of donations needed to make the budget.

This fall, we will do our best to “unlearn” this concept of stewardship.

Do not be mistaken: raising money for the operation of the church is important, and the money we give or do not give will either enable or hinder ministry that Zion must be about and that the world around us desperately needs. Creating revenue for the church is important, but it is not the true purpose of stewardship. In fact, because the word “stewardship” is so strongly identified with an autumn fund-raising event, we are going to use the word “generosity” as a way to embrace a focus that is not so limited. Our focus in our fall Generosity Time is about each of us and our need to give.

In John 10:10, Jesus says “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly,” referring to a spiritual and fulfilling existence beyond mere physical life. This “abundant life” is not just about quantity, but about a superior quality of life characterized by love, joy, peace, and other fruits of the Spirit. It's a life lived in a right relationship with God, others, and creation, experiencing the fullness of God's grace and blessings. In our Generosity Time we will learn much more about this. Look for more information about Generosity Time in the newsletter and bulletin.



Thank you to all donors-we could not keep our doors open without you!

Thank you to our numerous volunteers who assist with building and grounds maintenance, fellowship, worship, outreach, and office work!

Blessing Box: Nancy Gold, Michelle Carbiener, Sue & Tom Joosten, Linda Wirtz, Tammy Mossholder, Barb Dunlap

Neighborhood Family: Kandie Wilz, Elmer & Karen Luedtke in memory of Darryl Tessen

Neighborhood Family Hair Cuts: Kandie Wilz

Bell/Chime Repair: Judith Brown, Marilyn Hetzler, Paula Staedt, Tricia Staedt

Sanctuary Repairs: Marilyn Hetzler

Fellowship: Kandie Wilz



Join Zion's Choir

Time to warm up your voice!

If you enjoy singing with others and would like to enrich Sunday morning worship, you are most welcome to be a part of Zion's choir! Rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 14 at 8 am by the piano in the sanctuary. Come, sing unto the Lord! For questions or more information, contact Cheryl Meyer (920)252-1735.



Zion Tower RingerZ

Zion Tower RingerZ will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3rd. 4:15 pm in the balcony. We are looking for a couple more ringers. I'd be happy to introduce you to Paula's handbell basics. You won't know until you try. Please give me a call, we'll set up a time. Paula Staedt 920-810-2225

Join our Lunch Social Group

On the 3rd Thursday of each month there is a lunch social. We meet at 11:30 and go to a different restaurant each month. There is a signup sheet in the narthex each month that lets you know where the lunch social will be. Please consider joining us for a fun & friendly time had by all.



Raise Right Fundraising



Raise Right. What is that? It is a program where gift cards are sold & the group selling them gets to keep some of the money collected for the gift cards. There is a long list of gift cards to choose from. Depending on which gift card you choose determines how much we get for selling the gift cards. Please keep this in mind when you are doing any of your projects, a special occasion or just your normal grocery and/or other shopping. An order is usually placed about every month and if you order something you usually get the gift card within 1 week. Lynn Walter is in charge of this program, so if you have any questions please talk to her. She also has a limited amount of gift cards available for sale each week so you can have them right away.

Rally Sunday – September 14th

We're excited to splash into a new year of Sunday School and Confirmation. If you have a student who would be new to faith formation, please contact us at childfaithformation@zionappleton.org to register. Sunday School: Ages 3 (by September 1st) through Grade 5.

Confirmation: Grades 6–8.

We look forward to plunging into God's Word with you!

On Rally Sunday we will be blessing backpacks so anyone, whether it is children or adults, that would like their backpack blessed please bring them on Sunday, September 14th.



Beacco, Berchem, & Cahoon, in Concert!



Saturday, September 20, 2PM

Zion Lutheran Church
912 N Oneida St.
Appleton, WI 54911

Vocalists and longtime friends Tony Beacco and Ann Berchem bring their powerful and expressive voices in a dynamic mix of solo and duet performances.

Accompanied by the masterful pianist Keith Cahoon, the trio delivers a rich and memorable musical experience.

With a diverse repertoire spanning Broadway, pop, folk, and original compositions, Beacco, Berchem, & Cahoon promise an unforgettable concert full of heart, harmony, and artistry.

Don't miss this special event!

Concert is FREE to the public, donations appreciated.



The Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center provides opportunities for people 50+ to thrive through meaningful collaboration socialization, education, and wellness programming

3000 E College Ave,
Appleton, WI

+1 920-939-3088

Upcoming Special Trips & Excursions

Fireside Theatre: Oklahoma!

Friday, Sept. 26

"Oklahoma!" is an American classic, marking the start of the Golden Age of American Musical Theatre. This vibrant musical comedy features colorful costumes, impressive dancing, humor, and popular songs like "People Will Say We're In Love," "Surrey With the Fringe On Top," and the title number "Oklahoma!"

Cost: \$140 (includes all tickets, tips, and lunch)

Depart: 8:15 am **Return:** 6:30 pm

Register by: Friday, August 22

Scenic Beauty, Tasty Treats & Autumn Adventures

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Join us for a fall adventure at **Holy Hill**, exploring the basilica and enjoying autumn views. We'll tour **Lake Winnebago**, have lunch at **LeClare Creamery** while learning about cheesemaking, and visit **The Little Farmer** for apples and seasonal treats. Experience a colorful and fun autumn day with us!

Cost: \$80

Depart: 7:30 am **Return:** 5:30 pm

Register by: Thursday, Sept. 11

Fireside Theatre: It's a Wonderful Life

Friday, Nov. 21

The story of George Bailey in Bedford Falls inspires hope and celebrates human goodness. The Fireside presents a live stage adaptation of Frank Capra's beloved film, featuring music by Pulitzer Prize-winning Sheldon Harnick and Grammy-winning Joe Raposo. A WONDERFUL LIFE captures the film's magic and embodies the spirit of Christmas.

Cost: \$140 (includes all tickets, tips, and lunch)

Depart: 8:15 am **Return:** 6:30 pm

Register by: Friday, October 17

Old World Christmas Market & Wreath Factory

Thursday, Dec. 11

Join us for a delightful day with our December Bus Trip! Start your morning exploring the vibrant **Old World Market**, where you can enjoy a variety of unique shops and stalls. Afterward, we will stop for lunch as a group. In the afternoon, we'll stop at the **Wreath Factory**, where you can enjoy a fascinating wreath-making demonstration. Don't miss out on this enjoyable outing filled with discovery and creativity!

Cost: TBD (includes all tickets, tips, and lunch)

Depart: 8:30 am **Return:** 5:00 pm

Register by: Friday, November 7

New to the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center...?

Obtain and Complete a Participation Form - can be found online or in person at the Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center

Sign up for programs in advance - Programs can be signed up for through the following methods:

- Online registration - www.mbnactivitycenter.org
- Calling ahead - (920)939-3088
- Visiting the front desk in person - 3000 E. College Ave. Ste. B, Appleton, WI 54915

If a program you wish to attend has a fee:

- Ensure there is sufficient money available in your prepay account.
- Alternatively, bring the required fee each time you attend the program.
- Civic League/Bus Trips - must be paid in advance



Register for
Classes Online

If you'd like the
newsletter sent to you
electronically, e-mail
register@mbnactivitycenter.org



A Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes

425 N Linwood Ave
Appleton, WI 54914
920-734-7225

Fall Prevention

A simple accident like tripping on a rug or slipping on a wet floor can change your life. If you fall, you could break a bone, which thousands of older adults experience each year. A broken bone can be the start of more serious health problems and can lead to long-term disability.

If you or an older adult in your life has fallen, you're not alone. More than one in four people age 65 years or older fall each year. The risk of falling - and fall-related problems - rises with age. However, many falls can be prevented. Join us on Thursday, September 18 at 11 AM as the staff of Gold Cross Ambulance helps us understand what causes falls and how to lower our risk of falling.

"Remington Ride's Trio" in Linwood Park

We are excited to announce that our musical event on September 21 at 2 PM will continue with an exciting group called "Remington Ride's Trio." Remington's Ride is a Wisconsin-based band of veteran musicians bringing the great sounds of Vintage Western Swing and Dance Hall Honky Tonk. Bring your lawn chair and join us for great music, fun and fellowship

Daryl Tessen passed away July 28th. His memorial service was held at Zion on August 23rd with Vicar Jake presiding. Internment followed at Highland Memorial.

