



Zion Lutheran Church



The Messenger

October 2025

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President :

BOO! It's October, a scary time, a time of change when the season moves into autumn and little witches and goblins are seeking treats. It is also a scary time of change at Zion.

On October 5th Zion's congregation will hold a meeting to vote on extending a call for a new pastor. This is a crucial step in moving Zion forward into the future. It also gives Vicar Jake a well-deserved retirement. Thanks to our Call Committee: Deb Reis, Tricia Staedt, Ray Pittman, Jon Meyer, Kyle Moseng and Cheryl Meyer for bringing this candidate to us. They assure us this is a personable individual who shares an interest in Affordable Housing. I look forward to seeing everyone on October 5th.

At the same time please continue to pray for guidance to our Real Estate Committee as they review proposals and possibilities for our housing project.

I want to say thank you to our "exterior decorators", Bonnie Arps, Gwen Schwandt and Diana Staedt for the lovely autumn displays by our entrances. They definitely capture the beauty of the season.

Zion Mutual Homes has hired a new Manager/Maintenance person, Jeremy Stanton. He is a highly qualified individual and while he doesn't live on site, I hope both the residents and Zion members will be supportive and make him feel welcome.

For those who have looked for the opportunity to delve deeply into the lessons the Bible holds for us, grab a cup of coffee and join Jon Meyer in the chapel after worship for meaningful Bible study. Thanks, Jon, for leading this study.

Our Sunday School and Confirmation programs are well underway thanks to the efforts of Pennie Reis, Stephanie Draheim, Cheryl Meyer and all our parent volunteers. They offer enriching experiences for God's "lambs" since the future of Zion's "flock" rests with them.

I know many of you are frustrated with the slow progress with repair to our sound system. Unfortunately these repairs cannot be rushed since damage must be thoroughly assessed by the power company as well as the various providers, then estimates must be submitted to our insurance carrier. Please keep our office staff, Kimberly and Lynn, and Wendy Sachs, our church administrator, in your prayers as they continue to juggle the various pieces to this electrical puzzle. We want to be sure the installation of a new sound system will serve us for years to come.

A big thank you to all our members who generously donated to our "adopted" family; a mom and four young children. As the needs of this family are ongoing, please consider giving as you are able. This is also true of our generous donations for the Blessing Box, so well maintained by Tommy Meltz. Jesus fed 5,000, certainly Zion can help support a young family and the hungry in our neighborhood.

While those Halloween ghost and goblins roam and colorful leaves continue to fall, we need not be afraid of the change that lies ahead. God's message comes clearly, "Fear not, for I am with you to the end of the age."



The Vicar's Views

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

The changing of the seasons is a natural rhythm God built into creation, and it's often used in Scripture as a metaphor for life, growth, and God's faithfulness. Autumn is a season of harvest, thanksgiving, and preparation. Spiritually, it can represent a time of reaping what has been sown and reflecting on God's provision.

In Scripture, the changing seasons remind us that nothing stays the same forever, and that God is constant, even as the world changes around us.

As we enter the Season of Autumn and the Zion faith community prayerfully calls a new pastor it is important to remember that God's promises remain constant in the midst of change. God's love remains constant as we experience times of blessing, waiting, pruning and harvest.

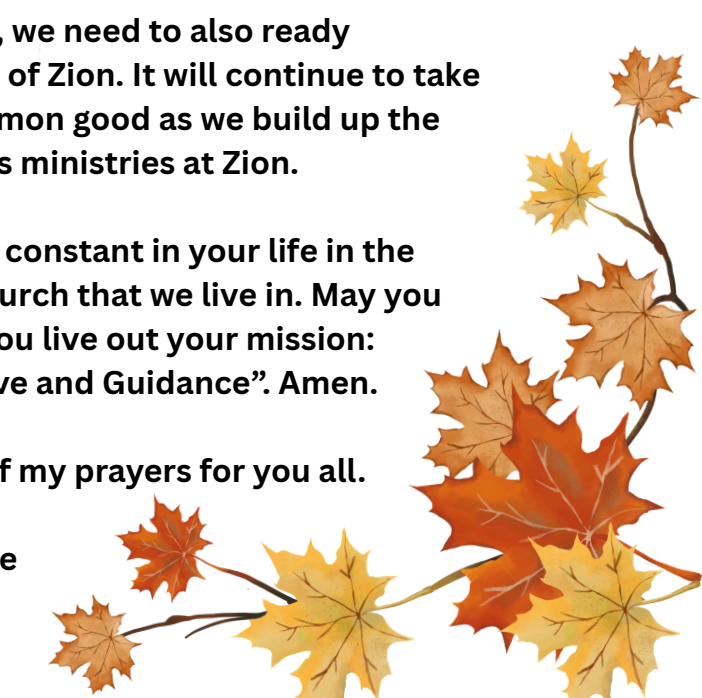
We have much to be thankful for at Zion as we consider all the ways we have been blessed in our lives by the people, sacraments, worship, education, prayer, service and fellowship opportunities. Long-standing friendships and family traditions at Zion have kept this community of believers together for many years and will do so for many years to come.

Now, as we prepare to call a new pastor, we need to also ready ourselves for this new season in the life of Zion. It will continue to take everyone working together for the common good as we build up the new pastor, one another and the various ministries at Zion.

Let us Pray, May you experience God as constant in your life in the face of an ever changing society and church that we live in. May you be strengthened by our loving God as you live out your mission: "Creating Community through God's love and Guidance". Amen.

God bless you and be assured of my prayers for you all.

Vicar Jake





Zion Lutheran Church

October 2025

Monday, October 13, 2025	Submissions due for November's calendar
Wednesday, October 1st	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Sunday, October 5th	Lectionary 27 (Pentecost 17)
Hab 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Ps 37:1-9	Pastor Jan LaVake
2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10	Assisting Ministers: Grace Van Eyck
Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am	Reader: Cheryl Meyer
Worship Service 9:00 am	Musician: Heather Watney
followed by	Opens: Greg Pettigrew
Coffee Hour	Closes: Jodi Hoesli
Sunday School & Confirmation	Greeters: Carol Gipp, Diane Moseng
Wednesday, October 8th	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Sunday, October 12th	Lectionary 28 (Pentecost 18)
2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Ps 111	Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
2 Tim 2:8-15; Luke 17: 11-19	Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt
Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am	Reader: Cindy Czarnik-Neimeyer
Worship Service 9:00 am	Acolyte: Freya Budde
Followed by	Musician: William Surtees
Coffee Hour	Opens/Closes: Jim Schley
Sunday School & Confirmation	Greeters: JoAnn Salm, Diana Staedt
Tuesday, October 14th	Zion Mutual Homes Meeting 10:00am
Wednesday, October 15th	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Sunday, October 19th	Lectionary 29 (Pentecost 19)
Gen 32:22-31; Ps 121	Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
2 Tim 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8	Assisting Minister: Tom Meltz
Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am	Reader: Pennie Reis
Worship Service 9:00 am	Acolyte: Lily Gruselle
followed by	Musician: William Surtees
Coffee Hour	Opens/Closes: Gwen Schwandt
Sunday School & Confirmation	Greeters: Joyce List, Gary Busch
Monday, October 20th	Parish Council Meeting 6:30pm
Wednesday, October 22nd	Tower RingerZ Rehearsal 4:15pm
Saturday, October 25th	Men's Ecumenical Retreat Day
Sunday, October 26th	Reformation Sunday
Jer 31:31-34; Ps 46	Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
Rom 3:19-28; John 8:31-36	Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs
Choir Rehearsal 8-8:40 am	Reader: Diana Staedt
Worship Service 9:00 am	Musician: Heather Watney
followed by	Opens: Gene Wiese
Coffee Hour	Closes: Tammy Mossholder
Sunday School & Confirmation	Greeters: Linda Wirtz, Joe Schiedermayer

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2025 Meeting began at 6:30pm

Opening Devotion: Ray Pittman

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

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

Opening Devotion led by Ray Pittman

Approval of Agenda: motion made and approved.

Approval of Minutes: motion made and approved.

Church Administrators Report: Handout was given. Wendy gave an oral report stating that there was a lightning strike on Saturday. Someone was here looking at the organ. The sound board was reviewed by Heather. ZMH was also affected by the lightning strike. They replaced the panel for the elevator; and the fire alarm person was able to change wiring to get the elevator to work. The lightning strike also affected the office on Monday. The lightning strike blew out the switch in the office. There were no computers or phones working until a loaner switch was put in place.

Vicar Jake's Report: handout was given. Vicar Jake presided over a wedding on Saturday. 200 people were in attendance for the wedding. Jon Meyer wants to do a generosity time in October. Porchfest is on Tuesday August 26. Neighborhood hotdogs and brats. Adopting a family; single mom with 4 kids. Vicar Jake is removing himself from affordable housing because of exceeding hours.

Committee Reports:

Finance - Wendy gave an oral financial report. They are getting the bookkeeping straightened out. Received the last check from ABS in August.

Personnel - Motion was made to approve Wendy Sachs as church administrator/finance. Approved

Zion Mutual Homes - handout was given. Barb Dunlap gave an oral report. Wendy and Linda are in charge of work orders, apartment preps etc. Some interviews are scheduled in the coming weeks.

New Business:

Zion is adopting a neighborhood family; single mom with 4 kids. Motion made to adopt the family and give an initial donation of \$100 from neighborhood mission fund. Approved.

Motion was made to approve the National trust for historic preservation grant. Approved.

Next Meeting: Monday, September 15, 2025 at 6:30pm

Devotion will be led by Ray Pittmann

Motion to dismiss at 7:20pm.

Closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Amanda Kuba



Announcement from Zion's Administrator, Wendy Sachs:

Zion Lutheran Church was hit by lightning on Saturday, August 16, 2025. Zion Mutual Homes was also affected. Some of the impacts have been corrected and others are still being addressed. Two of the impacts you may experience are the lack of a full sanctuary sound system and no online worship. We are waiting to coordinate an electrical system shutdown and test with Faith Technologies and WE Energies. Once we have an understanding of how the lightning strike effected the electrical system at Zion, we can begin repairs. More news to come as details are known.

Stewardship Notes: Generosity Time

Generosity is our response to the call of Jesus Christ. In the two great commandments of Matthew 22:37-40, he says for us to "love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

To love God requires a deep, all-encompassing commitment:

- With your Heart – placing God at the center of your life.
- With your soul – surrendering your entire being, will, and purpose to God.
- With your mind – focusing your thoughts on God's truth and living it in your daily life.

To love your neighbor means:

- To choose compassion, service, forgiveness, and unity over criticism, self-interest, bitterness, and division, extending it to everyone, including those who are difficult to love.

Generosity is a basic human need to express our love for God and empathy for neighbors:

- To give of our time, time granted to us by the love of God.
- To give of our possessions, given to us by the love of God, for us to act as caretakers.
- We share our gifts of money to further and maintain the work of Jesus through Zion Lutheran Church's extended community and our gifts of food, clothing, and other goods to help those who are in need of them.

Generosity can happen at any time. It happens weekly during the worship service, as we give ourselves again to Jesus. It happens when an appeal for help, food, assistance or funds occurs. It can happen daily as we extend forgiveness and friendship to those around us. For those who confess Jesus as Lord, it is as natural as breath itself.

Used Equipment for Sale

Zion Mutual Homes is selling the following items. Please contact ZMH Manager Jeremy Stanton at 920-475-5262 for details.

Craftsman 29cc string trimmer \$50

Stove \$75

Ryobi corded leaf blower \$10

Freezer \$15



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 and friendly time had by all.



Raise Right Fundraising



Raise Right. What is that? It is a program where gift cards are sold and 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.



Thank you



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!

Designated Donations for Special Projects

Donations for the Neighborhood Family from: Gene & Judy Wiese, Colleen Malchow, Tom & Sue Joosten, Barb & Arne Carlson, Tricia Staedt, Tom Meltz, Jon & Cheryl Meyer

Donations for the Blessing Box: Alden & Carla Kuschel

Donations for the Bells Refurbishing: Tom Sutter

Donations for Fellowship: Dave & Janice Weber

Memorials

Marilyn Hetzler donated to the general fund in memory of Daryl Tessen.

Diana Staedt donated to the general fund in memory of Daryl Tessen.



Men's Ecumenical Retreat Day

Theme: God's Word is Near

Saturday: October 25, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church,

912 N. Oneida St., Appleton, WI

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Cost: \$25

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”

~Romans 10:8

A day of reflection on how God comes near to us
and equips us for lives of faith

For more information or to register, contact:
Rev. Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer: jake@zionappleton.org



God's work. Our hands.



Join us for a day of service!

Lynn Walter continues to seek volunteers for service projects both at Zion and in the community, please contact her for more information on opportunities to serve.

Veterans Day Lunch

Mary Beth Nienhaus Activity Center

Entertainment
CRYSTAL RIVER TRIO

Speaker
KEITH SCOTT

NO WALK-INS ALLOWED

**MONDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

11:30 - 2:30 PM
MARY BETH NIENHAUS ACTIVITY CENTER
FREE ADMISSION
RSVP: (920)939-3088

REGISTRATION OPENS: OCTOBER 1

Upcoming Special Trips & Excursions

Fireside Theatre: It's a Wonderful Life

Friday, November 21

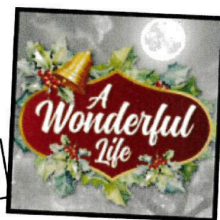
The story of George Bailey in Bedford Falls inspires hope and celebrates human goodness. The Fireside presents a live stage adaptation of Frank Capra's beloved film, featuring music by Pulitzer Prize-winning Sheldon Harnick and Grammy-winning Joe Raposo. **A WONDERFUL LIFE** captures the film's magic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

**TRIP IS FULL:
WAITLIST STARTED**



Old World Christmas Market & Wreath Factory

Thursday, December 11

Join us for a delightful day with our December Bus Trip! We'll begin at the **Old World Christmas Market** at The Osthoff Resort, inspired by the centuries-old Christkindlesmarkt of Nuremberg, Germany. Stroll through a grand heated tent filled with fragrant evergreens, the scent of roasted almonds, and unique treasures from international and regional artisans. After exploring, we'll enjoy lunch at **Roadside Bar & Grill**. In the afternoon, we'll visit the **Wreath Factory** for a festive wreath-making demonstration and time to shop before heading home.

Cost: \$85 (includes all tickets, tips, and lunch)

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

Register by: Friday, November 7



Fireside Theatre: Beehive: The Musical

Thursday, January 22

BEEHIVE honors the influential female voices of the 1960s, showcasing music from artists like Lesley Gore, Janis Joplin, and Aretha Franklin. The show depicts six young women growing up in this era, featuring live performances of iconic hits such as "My Boyfriend's Back" and "Me and Bobby McGee."

Cost: \$145

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

Register by: Friday, December 19



FALL FESTIVAL

Monday, October 13, 2025 | 12PM - 2PM

\$10

Lunch Included

Pre-Registration Required

MARY BETH NIENHAUS ACTIVITY CENTER

3000 E College Ave., Suite B., Appleton WI 54915

Entertainment By:

Sponsored By:

Oak
Park
place



If you'd like the
newsletter sent to you
electronically, e-mail

register@mbnactivitycenter.org



Worship Opportunity

**11 AM, Thursday,
October 9 - Pastor Erik
Roth from Christus is
leading us in worship.
All are welcome!
Advent Worship is
being planned**

Seeking Donations for our Online Auction

We are seeking donations of items and experiences for our upcoming Online Auction to be held from November 14 - 24. Do you have a vacation home or cabin? Are you an artist, woodworker, baker or chef? Do you have gift certificates or tickets to sporting events, performances, theaters, or concerts that you'd like to donate?

If you are interested in donating an item or experience, please contact Lynn Ann at 920-734-7225 or by email at lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com.

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

We are planning an Advent worship series to be held on Wednesdays, December 3, 10th and 17th. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are hoping to provide a luncheon for worshipers. Are you or your friends able to provide a light luncheon?

Your support nourishes our tenants' bodies and also fosters meaningful connections among them, enhancing their overall well-being. Please contact Lynn Ann at 920-734-7225 or by email at lynnann.fvlhomes@gmail.com if you can help.

"Living Our Best Life"

Join our friend Michelle Graf, owner of Care Patrol, on Monday, October 7 at 10 AM where we will explore inspiring ways to "Live Our Best Life."

Come enjoy snacks, engage in meaningful conversations, and participate in a bit of fun as we share experiences and support one another in enhancing our physical, mental, and social well-being. Joy and fellowship know no age limits at Linwood.

