



Zion Lutheran Church

The Messenger

August 2026

A Message from the Zion Lutheran Council President:

AUGUST – that month in the year when things are both winding down and gearing up. Flip-flops and swimsuits are pushed aside by school supplies and sweatshirts, apple cider and lemonade share the same shelves. We linger over the last weekend at the beach or campfire while anticipating the first day of school, the first football game.

It is no different at Zion. We are winding down summer as we held our annual picnic on July 19th. I want to thank everyone who helped to make it a success: the Music & Faith Formation committee, grill masters Pastor Jason and Dan, (the pineapple was wonderful), to everyone who contributed delicious food and certainly the Ukulele band who provided great music for our church service and well during the meal. The only sour note was the necessity to move from the beautiful nature in Erb Park to the sanctuary due to the poor air quality from smoke from Canadian wildfires that are destroying acres of lovely forests. The old adage of “better safe than sorry” certainly applied because of the health concerns.

July 26th was our Christmas in July, bringing “gifts” as the wise men did in Bethlehem. Actually the gifts are donations for our Blessing Box which continues to be a valuable resource for our neighborhood. Thank you to Tommy Meltz and the volunteers who need to stock the box almost daily. Remember, the Christmas spirit should not be confined to once a year, (in our case, twice a year). Please keep those generous donations (gifts) coming.

Zion uses the summer to serve meals at the Habitat building site. The builders are always so appreciative and this is an outreach aligned with our mission of Affordable Housing. Additionally, Thankful Thursdays continues whereby Zion members hand out ice cream at various parks around the community, asking only for what the individual is thankful. It has been an enlightening experience.

At the same time as all of this is occurring, Faith Formation is into the planning for the start of Sunday School and Confirmation classes. God’s Heart, Our Hands happens in September. Zion continues to look forward! On that front, the Affordable Housing Project continues to move ahead. Our architect, Martin Riley, continues to work with the Real Estate Committee with the feasibility study of the most valuable use of our property. This will involve change which is never easy, but change is often necessary for survival. Please keep the Real Estate Committee in your prayers as they seek to determine God’s vision for Zion.

We have done much over the “relaxing” summer months and there is much to be done moving ahead. We are a strong community of faith. So, savor these last lazy, crazy days of August, yet sense the excitement when we feel the first nip in the September wind and see the first falling leaf. God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end so as one season ends, celebrate the beginning of the next.

If you have any questions or concerns, don’t hesitate to call: 920-734-5138

A Message from the Pastor:



Pivot

Summer at Zion has had a good rhythm to it this year. Thankful Thursdays have been a bright spot each week, and the church picnic was a wonderful opportunity to share worship and a meal outside. There is something about summer that slows us down just enough to notice each other again — and that noticing has been a gift.

Even as we enjoy these slower months, planning for fall is already underway. Confirmation, adult education, fellowship opportunities, worship and community events are all taking shape, and we will have more details for you as we move into the coming months. It is shaping up to be a full and good season.

August also opens a new chapter for our congregation's leadership. This fall, Zion's Church Council will begin an eight-month program offered by the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin called Pivot! — a process designed to help congregations lean into God's call through deep listening, prayer, and holy imagination.

Pivot! is not about fixing a problem or chasing a new program. It is about bringing us together as a congregation and refocusing on the basics of who we are and what our ministry looks like, together and in community. Over eight sessions, the council will engage in dwelling in scripture, team building, honest conversation, and active learning — all with the guidance of a trained Pivot Facilitator.

This is intentionally council-led work. Rather than forming a separate committee, our council has chosen to take this on directly, because how our leadership listens and discerns together matters for the whole life of this congregation.

I am also happy to share some good news: Zion applied for and was awarded a synod "Doing a New Thing" grant, which will cover the cost of our participation in Pivot! It's a gift to be able to enter this season of discernment without that being a financial worry, and I'm grateful to the synod for their support of this work.

We are glad to share that our facilitator for this journey will be Pastor Ben Williams of Calvary Lutheran Church in Green Bay — who, as it turns out, lives here in Appleton. We are grateful for his gifts and glad this work will be guided by someone who already knows and loves this community. Please keep the council in your prayers as this process begins. We will share updates along the way as we listen for where God is leading Zion next.

+Pastor Jason





WAFFLE CHURCH – IT'S A REAL THING!

Join us on Labor Day Weekend Sunday, September 6 for a special and unique worship service called "Waffle Church". This service will take place at the regular service time of 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and will include...waffles! The worship will blend a typical Sunday service with the sharing of a delicious breakfast all in one. On the menu will be waffles, sausage, orange juice, and REAL maple syrup (Pastor Jason has a story behind the syrup choice). There is nothing you need to bring but yourself. Come and enjoy a different style of worship that is a service and a shared meal all in one.

Live Music | Good Times | Neighborhood Fun!



Tuesday, August 25th
5:30 PM-8:30 PM

*Porch start times may vary!

Zion will be sponsoring a tent with food and drinks on the Columbus School grounds.

If you are able to help, please let Lynn Walter or Pastor know. This event features live music, food trucks, and community gatherings on porches throughout the neighborhood.

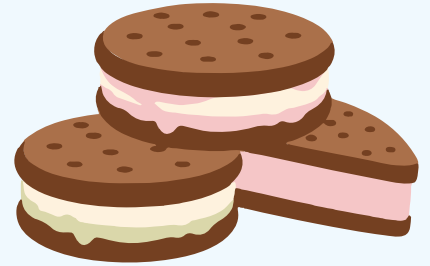
thank you

The following remembered Dar Steger with their gifts to the General Fund: The family and friends of Dar Steger, Gwen Schwandt, Chuck & Karen Hall, Ralph & Nicole Schultz, Altrusa International.

Thrivent Choice Dollars received from:

Bonnie Arps, Douglas Becker, Terry Staedt, Janice Staedt
Karen Eggert for Thankful Thursday
Tammy Mossholder for Blessing Box

THANKFUL THURSDAYS



This summer, Zion is heading into the community!

Running through Labor Day, we'll be at a local park every Thursday evening handing out free ice cream — no strings attached.

We'll simply ask one question: What are you thankful for this week? That's it. No agenda, no pitch, just neighbors sharing a cold treat and a moment of genuine connection. This is outreach at its most human: simple, joyful, and open to everyone.

Sponsored by Zion's Worship, Music & Faith Formation Team, Thankful Thursdays is a chance for all of us to show up for our neighbors in the most delightful way possible.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex — it's less than a two-hour commitment each week, and it might just be the best two hours of your summer.

Questions?
Talk to Pastor Jason!



FAITH *formation*

Do you have children in your life who are ready to explore their faith? Our Faith Formation classes will begin again in the fall. Children, age 3 (by September 1st) - 5th grade participate in our Sunday School Program and 6-8th graders participate in confirmation.

Interested in more information?

Please go to:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/yzBsmXbxj>



RaiseRight

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 purchase them right away.



Mary Beth Nienhaus
ACTIVITY CENTER

COME FROM AWAY - FIRESIDE THEATRE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

In the remarkable true story of COME FROM AWAY, what started as an average morning on September 11, 2001 in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland turned into an international sleepover, when 38 planes carrying 7,000 people from around the globe were diverted to their airstrip.

Member Cost: \$145 Non-member cost: \$150

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

Register by: Friday, August 7, 2026



CRANBERRY FEST: A WISCONSIN FALL TRADITION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Join us for a day at the Warrens Cranberry Festival, the largest of its kind. Explore arts, crafts, and antique vendors, enjoy tasty food, and experience the cranberry harvest season. Spend time shopping and soaking in the festive atmosphere.

Member Cost: \$65 Non-member cost: \$70

Depart: 7:30 am Return: 6:45 pm

Register by: Friday, September 11, 2026

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS

PREMIER WORLD TRAVEL

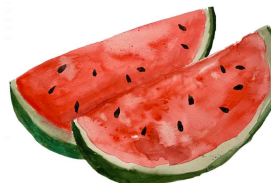
SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

Experience the charm of New England on a 7-day journey through Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Newport. The trip features 6 hotel nights, 9 meals (including a lobster dinner), a professional Tour Director, motorcoach transportation, and guided sightseeing, ensuring a blend of learning and leisure for a memorable adventure.

Cost: \$3775 pp double, Single add: \$900

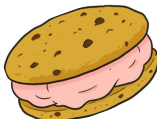
Questions about the Trip - Please Contact Premier World Travel: (877) 953-8687

August



2026

Zion Lutheran Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship 9:00 AM No Fellowship Flower Waterer: Diana Staedt	3	4	5	6 Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Thankful Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 City Park	7	8
9 Worship 9:00 AM Fellowship Flower Waterer: Gwen Schwandt	10	11 ZMH Committee Meeting 10:00 AM Real Estate Committee Mtg 5:30 PM Conference Rm	12	13 Thankful Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 Telulah Park 	14	15
16 Worship 9:00 AM No Fellowship Flower Waterer: Bonnie Arps	17 Zion Council Meeting 6:30 PM	18	19	20 Zion Lunch Social 11:30am Thankful Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 Erb Park	21	22
23 Worship 9:00 AM Fellowship Flower Waterer: Gary Busch	24	25	26	27 Thankful Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 Arbutus Park 	28	29
30 Worship 9:00 AM No Fellowship Flower Waterer: Diana Staedt	31					

Aug. 2nd: Rev. Jason Poole Xiong
Assisting Minister: Deb Reis
Musician: Heather Watney
Greeters: Colleen Malchow
Opens: Gwen Schwandt Closes: Jodi Hoesli

Aug. 9th: Rev. Jason Poole Xiong
Assisting Minister: Tommy Meltz
Musician: Jim Schley
Greeters: Mary McDonald
Opens: Greg Pettigrew Closes: Jim Schley

Aug. 16th: Rev. Jason Poole Xiong
Assisting Minister: Tricia Staedt
Musician: Jim Schley
Greeters: Judy Wiese
Opens: Gene Wiese Closes: Tammey Mossholder

Aug. 23rd: Rev. Jason Poole Xiong
Assisting Minister: Gwen Schwandt
Musician: Heather Watney
Greeters: Jo Schiedermayer
Opens: Gwen Schwandt Closes: Jodi Hoesli

Aug. 30th: Rev. Jason Poole Xiong
Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs
Musician: Heather Watney
Greeters: Elmer & Karen Luedtke
Opens: Greg Pettigrew
Closes: Tammy Mossholder

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2026 Meeting began at 6:30pm

Opening Devotion: Amanda Kuba

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

Absent: Kyle Moseng, Pastor Jason

Guests: Wendy Sachs, Tammy Mossholder

Approval of Agenda: motion was made and approved.

Approval of Minutes: motion was made and approved.

Pastor's Report: A handout was given. Pastor Jason was not present for questions.

Financial Secretary Report: Wendy gave an oral report. Total expenses at the end of May \$183,115.50; Year to Date total income \$87,969.40;(Member Giving \$76,116.87); Year to date deficit \$95,146.10. A recommendation was made to clear the World Goals fund by making a donation to these 3 organizations; World Relief, Lutheran World Relief and ELCA World Hunger. Motion made and approved. A receipt of a gift from the estate of Daryl Tessaen was received of \$50,000. A motion was made to give 10% (\$5000.00 distributed equally to these 2 organizations) to Pillars and to ELCA Disaster Relief and the remaining \$45,000 to remain in the cash savings account for future operation expenses. Approved. We received \$1000.00 from a donor for the community garden. A motion was made to split \$500 for water bills and \$500 back to NEW Hmong, approved. A motion was made to adjust our books by writing off our internal loans for ZMH and specials memorials accounts. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Zion Mutual Homes - handout was given. Tammy M gave an oral update. Rent increases go into effect in July.

Worship, Music, and Faith Formation - handout was given. Thankful Thursdays are all set to go. A few more volunteers are needed for a few Thursdays. Christmas in July will be on July 26. Father's day cookies are being ordered. No scholarship applications were received this year. Church Picnic will be on July 19 at Erb park. A sign-up sheet will be available on June 21. The theme will be Hawaiian with games for young and old. Pastor Jason will be grilling.

Real Estate Committee - things are moving ahead quickly. Carrie is a great asset.

Personnel - A job description was posted. 2 interviews were had. A motion was made to accept the new hire for Office Administrator Jodi Hoesli. Approved.

Next Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:30pm

Devotion will be led by Ray Pittman

Motion to dismiss at 7:20pm.

Closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Amanda Kuba



A Ministry of Fox Valley Lutheran Homes



Quilting Group

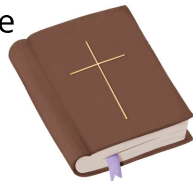
Monday Aug. 17, 8:30-11:30am
Gather with us for fellowship and knot quilts for persons living at Pillars. No special skill required!

Cycling Without Age

Join our tenants this summer for trishaw. Trishaws provide a slow ride, piloted by a certified volunteer that allows older adults an opportunity to spend time outdoors. "Make the Ride Happen" will offer trishaw rides to our tenants, families and friends on Tuesday, August 18 from 1:30 - 3:00.

Worship Opportunity

Wed., August 19, 1 PM
Rev Erik Roth & Vicar Chip Wood
from Christus, Greenville



Three Bible Study Groups

You are welcome to join us as we learn more about God's Word and grow together in faith and friendship.

Friday Mornings 9 AM (weekly)

Sunday Evenings 6 PM (twice monthly)

Wednesday Mornings 9 AM (twice monthly).

Please contact Lynn Ann for more details regarding events at Linwood Community 920-734-7225, Ext 0.

2026 Summer Concert Series

In Support of Linwood Community
Supportive Independent Living for Adults (62+)

50/25/25

Raffle

Sunday, Aug 23 2pm

Sunday, Sept 13 2pm

**REMINGTON'S
RIDE**

**VINTAGE
WESTERN SWING**

**ELVIS
JOHN**

Bring your lawn chair...
Get ready for Great Music & Fellowship at Linwood Park Pavilion.



SPONSORED BY:



**HENRY KROKOSKY &
ANONYMOUS FRIENDS OF LINWOOD**

FREE WILL DONATION

Zion Lunch Social Group

Please plan to join Zion Lunch Social Group on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:30am. Check the sign-up sheet in the narthex to see where they are heading. Everyone is welcome. Please come and learn something new about someone at Zion.

EDISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Our central-city Appleton neighborhood school is seeking donations for its school supply drive for the 2026-2027 school year. Please see the list of supplies on the box which can be placed in the box in the narthex by Sunday, August 23rd. The staff at Edison deeply appreciate the generosity of the people of Zion.



2026 LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

FREE ORGAN CONCERTS ON WEDNESDAYS AT 12:15 P.M.
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

AUGUST 5 — KEN HILL

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 325 E FRANKLIN ST, APPLETON

AUGUST 12 — VASHNI SEITZER, CAGO

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH 528 2ND ST, MENASHA

**AUGUST 19, 1:00 P.M.
DR. SHERI MASIAKOWSKI**

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH 404 W LAWRENCE ST, APPLETON

AUGUST 26 — DR. DAVID BOHN

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH 912 N ONEIDA ST, APPLETON



**SPONSORED BY: NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER OF
THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.NEWAGO.ORG**

Zion Lutheran Church

912 N. Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54911
(920) 739-3104 - www.zionappleton.org
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Rev. Jason Poole-Xiong
Pastor

jason@zionappleton.org
Pastoral Emergencies: (920) 268-4809

Staff

Jodi Hoesli
Office Administrator
jodi@zionappleton.org

Heather Watney
Worship & Music Coordinator
heather@zionappleton.org

Lynn Walter
Hospitality Coordinator
lynn@zionappleton.org

Brianne Connelly
Outreach Coordinator
brianne@zionappleton.org

Jeremy Stanton
Church Maintenance Engineer & Zion Place Property Manager
maintenance@zionappleton.org zmhmanager@zionappleton.org

Wendy Sachs
Financial Secretary
wendy@zionappleton.org

Volunteers

Kandie Wilz
Parish Nurse
kandie@zionappleton.org
(920) 442-1333

Pennie Reis
Faith Formation Coordinator
childfaithformation@zionappleton.org

Stephanie Draheim
Confirmation Coordinator
zionappletonconfirmation@gmail.com

Cheryl Meyer
Choir Director

Paula Staedt
Handbell Director