The TIDINGS

Zion Lutheran Church

VOLUME 86 | November 2026 | Number 511

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit."
1 Corinthians 12:4

Members and Friends of Zion,
As I've been reflecting on my time at Zion winding down and thinking about the next chapter at Zion, my mind keeps coming back to one of my favorite Lutheran theological concepts: the Priesthood of All Believers. This is one of my favorite teachings because it gets at one of the central messages of the Gospels: we have all been given gifts that we can use to live out our faith, allowing God's grace to pass through us into the world God so loves. We all have a part to play.

So, where did this concept come from? In Martin Luther's day, priests were often understood to have a higher spiritual standing than ordinary Christians. Luther challenged this idea by returning to Scripture, particularly its teachings about the priesthood of all believers. He emphasized that the mission of Jesus doesn't flow through only a select few, but that every Christian is called to live out their faith and serve their neighbor. Pastors have a particular role to play, but the mission of the church belongs to all of us.

I know many of you already understand this, but it's a good teaching to highlight as we look toward the next chapter of Zion and begin the process of calling another pastor. Sometimes that process takes a while, and sometimes it moves quickly. When it takes a while, remembering this teaching can encourage us to think about our own gifts and how we might use them in the ministry of the church, especially during times of transition.

Please think and pray about this. Vibrant churches aren't simply places that have a pastor; they are places where the members truly live into the understanding that *the people are the church.* The building is nice, but without you, it's just a building. The church is the people God has called together, the faith we share, the ways we care for one another, and the love we carry into the world around us. As Zion looks toward its next chapter, I hope we can remember that God is already at work among us. A new pastor will bring gifts, ideas, and leadership, but God has already given this congregation so many gifts to build upon. My encouragement to you is to keep asking yourself: *What gifts has God given me, and how might I use them to help Zion continue to live out its mission?*

The next chapter of Zion's story isn't simply about who will stand in the pulpit on Sunday mornings. It's about how all of us continue to be the church together, sharing God's love and grace with our neighbors. After all, we have a calling in our baptism and into this mission and find out what Jesus meant when he told his disciples, "I came that you might have life, and have it abundantly."

It's not good bye yet, but thank you for your partnership in this ministry with me and my family. And God's blessings to you as you pray and reflect on the ways God is calling you through this ministry at Zion Lutheran Congregation.

God's peace ><>
Pastor Joe Iverson

Contact Information

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Youth Ministry & Education	Kristy Braunreiter	608-386-4394

Summer Lunch Program

Dear Zion Lutheran Church Members,

Year 10 of the Galesville Community Summer Lunch Program was very successful in so many ways. We served over **2,439** lunches during the 12 weeks of summer lunches to people in our community, especially to families with young children, in the Cance Park shelter. Each meal consisted of a hot main dish with a variety of fresh vegetables and fruits. Fruit smoothies on Fridays were a big hit. Free gallon milk coupons were sponsored by the Dairy Pricing Association from Taylor, Wisconsin. The Galesville Elementary School Garden, under the leadership of Jean Wallner, was a significant provider of fresh food for the Galesville location. Over **900** pounds of lettuces, cucumbers, carrots, zucchini, garlic, onions, strawberries, raspberries, and so much more were shared with everyone. Over **60** volunteers, with some helping as many as 14 times, prepared and served the meals. Since this program began in 2017, the Galesville program has served over **15,511** lunches to very grateful people and families.

The Galesville Community Summer Lunch Program also supported needy families during the 2025-2026 school year. Over **755** weekend food bags were given to Galesville Elementary, the GET Middle School, and the GET High School for school counselors and staff to distribute. Since 2018, we have given over **2,396** food bags. We will continue this support of needy families during the 2026-2027 school year.

All of this community service happened because of your tremendous support! Thank you for helping so many people through your financial support, providing kitchen facilities, and for helping prepare and serve lunches.

Sincerely yours,

Barb Longwell
Galesville Community Summer Lunch
Program Coordinator

Electoral Meeting



November 8th — following worship

Please make every effort to attend!

October Reports

Attendance & Giving Reports

Sunday October 4	**75 people**
Sunday October 11	**57 People**
Sunday October 18	**61 People**
Sunday October 25	**54 People**

Please include in your prayers those of our Zion family who reside in extended care facilities in the area.

- Anna Marie Brudos
- Carol Fratzke
- Janice Engen
- Larry Jacobs

Baptism

We want to lift up a word of celebration for the two newest members of the body of Christ, baptized at Zion Lutheran:

Emersyn & Rowan Trim

Congrats to Ashley Miller and Dylan Trim on this big milestone!



Operation Christmas Child

Please contact **Lori N** at **(608) 865-0630** to find ways to support this ministry!
Financial donations are always welcome.

Monthly Financial Report:

As a response to requests for a more current financial picture, the monthly budget, offerings and expenses will be published in Tidings. Following are the totals for **September** plus year to date. In **September**, we spent less than was budgeted, and expenses were more than offering income. Please keep this information prayerfully in mind as you make your offerings.

	September	**Year to date**
Offerings	$11,420	$132,351
Dale Trust	$0	$11,034
Other Receipts	$559	$8,474
Budget	$21,251	$191,259
Actual expenses	$20,524	$170,858

Expenses this year at the end of September are $18,999 more than receipts.

Additional Reports & Updates:

The following memorials were received for July, August, and September 2026

IMO/IHO	GIVEN BY
IHO Joanis 55th Anniversary	Jerald & Jackie Joanis
IHO Russ & Betty Glomstad	Russell & Betty Glomstad
IMO Donna Parkhurst	Randy & Lori Nastvold, Anonymous
IMO Michael Dale	Laurie Dale
IMO Perry Trim	Jane Johnson, Jim & Marilyn Reedy, Betty Crawford
	Non-members

FUND	AMOUNT
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	$55
UNDESIGNATED MEMORIAL	$245
GENERAL FUND	$25
IMPROVEMENT FUND	$20
DRIVEWAY FUND	$25
FOOD PANTRY	$120
SUMP PUMP	$400
TOTAL	$890

W-ELCA Workings — October Report

Jane Johnson opened with a "*Morning with Jesus*" selection. Prayers included asking for our nation's leaders and those facing medical procedures. Humorous Christian readings were shared.

We read and discussed **Isaiah 7:10-19**, pertaining to hope in the Messiah.

The business meetings included:
-257 quilts were made this year, **24** went to our food pantry
-Kits were made and included
- **-63** school kits
- **-29** personal care kits
- **-18** baby care kits
- **-10** fabric kits

A big thank you to Earl Trim for transporting the quits with the help of Jim Reedy and Jane Trim Schmidt.

Thanksgiving baskets were discussed. Recipients are especially grateful for homemade treats. With this in mind, **we are asking for donations of cookies** (limit two to a snack bag please) **or small breads.** Please no peanuts or nuts in recipes. Thank you for supporting this ministry! We will enjoy a potluck luncheon as we organize and distribute these at our November meeting.
We closed with prayers, song, and a delicious apply treat from Kathy Filkouski. Thank you Kathy!

W-ELCA meets on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00pm in the Fireside Lounge for a bible study and/ or meeting! No meetings in January or July.

All women of Zion are welcome!

Children & Family Ministries









Sunday School Overview:

- Children will be dismissed for class during worship after the Children's Sermon and will return to the Sanctuary by Communion
- Children are encouraged to utilize the Prayground area before and after Sunday School!
- Kristy Braunreiter is serving as our Sunday school teacher and has AMAZING lessons in store!

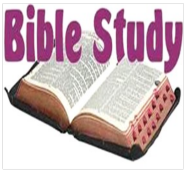


All are welcome to join for Sunday School!

If you would like to volunteer as a Sunday School assistant, please contact the office or Kristy Braunreiter to get plugged in!

November Bulletin Board

Join us in the Fireside Room following Sunday worship service for Bible Study at 10 a.m.



Women of the ELCA

W-ELCA Bible Study November 19th; 1:00pm Fireside Lounge

Monthly WIC Clinics at Zion

Fireside Lounge — all day!

November 12th December 10th

November Noisy Offering

Each week, we will take time for a noisy offering to raise money for **The G.E.T Food Pantry**

Check out the calendars in the narthex with suggested donation items!

Christmas Senior Luncheon "Peace on Earth"

Sunday, December 6th — 10:45am Senior Luncheon will follow a cake and coffee reception for Pastor Joe and family upstairs after worship.

Zion members 62 and older and welcome to come and enjoy a time of fellowship, merriment, and tasty food! No gift exchange, just come, relax, and enjoy our special time for seniors and their significant others!

RSVP to the office (608)-582-2818 by December 3rd.

Co-sponsored by Thrivent

QUILT RAFFLE:



Our quilt is being raffled off! Proceedings are ongoing. Tickets available in the Office!

We officially have the raffle license through June 2027. Contact the office or Nancy Goller for more information!

Mark your Calendars!

November 8th *— Electoral meeting*

November 15th *— Pancake Breakfast*

November 25th *— Thanksgiving Service*

December 2nd *— Eden House Caroling*

December 5th *— Advent decorating*

December 6th *— Pr. Joe's final Sunday*

December 6th *— Senior Luncheon*

December 10th *— Noel Night*

December 13th *— Beers & Hymns with Eddie Kim*

Wreaths across America

Zion will not be donating to "Wreaths across America" this year. If anyone wishes to participant individually, please place your donation in a Zion envelope and designate for "Wreaths across America".



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

Nov 1	Nolan Burken
Nov 1	Temperance Thill
Nov 4	Harry Janke
Nov 4	Laurie McCutchen
Nov 6	Kevin Hauge
Nov 7	John Breitung
Nov 8	Sue Breitung
Nov 9	Kendra Hauge
Nov 11	Joan Burken
Nov 11	John Gardner
Nov 12	Brady Seiling
Nov 13	Nora Iverson
Nov 13	Norah Racich
Nov 14	Ronald Johnson
Nov 16	Michael Oslie
Nov 18	Kobe Johnson
Nov 19	LaVerne Dale
Nov 19	Jacqueline Joanis
Nov 20	Debbie Stenberg
Nov 22	Ben Henderson
Nov 22	Lynda Mason
Nov 26	Lesley Thompson
Nov 27	Grady Alverson
Nov 29	Mary McKeeth
Nov 30	Kristy Braunreiter

HAPPY Anniversary

Sandra and Richard Heinz
November 4th

Jeffrey A. and Beth Osborn
November 4th

Guy and Margo Thill
November 5th

Daniel and Doris Schuld
November 27th

Roger and Jennifer Seiling
November 28th

Did we forget someone?
If you do not see your birthday or anniversary date in the Tidings, please contact the church office so we can update our records.
Thank you.

Zion Lutheran Congregation Council Minutes September 15th, 2026

Present: Carmen Nuland, **President**; Dave Erickson, **Vice-President**; Betty Crawford, **Secretary**; Dave Nuland, **Property and Grounds**; **Pastor** Joe Iverson; Sheryl Arms, **Treasurer**; Marilyn Braunreiter, **Financial Secretary**; Beth Meunier, **Music and Worship** Kathy Meunier, **Membership and Shepherding**; Jennifer Seiling, **Outreach and Social Concerns**.

Absent: Kristy Braunreiter, **Youth and Education**;

The meeting was called to order by President Carmen Nuland at 6:33 p.m. Devotions and prayer were led by Pastor Joe. A motion was made by Dave Nuland to approve the August Council Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made to approve the August Treasurer's report by Marilyn Braunreiter. This was seconded and passed.

Old Business:

Noisy Offering for October: The Noisy Offering for October will go toward **Trunk or Treat**.

Computer in Office: The computer in the Office is not working well. A small task force will be looking at options and provide recommendations.

New Business:

Wreaths Across America: Kathy Meunier made a motion not to participate with "Wreaths Across America"**.** This was seconded and passed. If anyone wishes to participate individually, please place your donation in a Zion Envelope and designate for "Wreaths Across America".

Information and reports:

Pastor Joe: The second Apple Picking Service Event had a great turn out. A thank you to Ruby Guertler for facilitating the use of the orchard and supplying the apple bags. Pastor was able to make two home visits and a phone check with members of the congregation. A visit to the Eden house was made "over Bingo". Pastor's full report is on file.

Property and Grounds: Dave Nuland reported that he is waiting for a new sump pump. He is working on the leak in the elevator roof. A pump on the boiler will be placed with fall maintenance.

The next council meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2026 in the Fireside Room at 6:30 p.m.
A motion was made by Beth Meunier to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Crawford

Update from the October Council Meeting:

1. We will be replacing the non-working refrigerator in the kitchen with recommendations from those using it. The money will come from the Kitchen Fund.

2. Sarah will be helping with the Confirmation classes. In addition, the Executive Committee will be meeting to determine additional items for Sarah.

A Letter from Pastor Joe

Dear Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church,

With both a heavy heart and high hopes for the future ahead, I am writing to formally share with you that I have accepted the call to serve as the Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in La- Crosse.

This update is truly bittersweet. Zion has been home to me and my family and a blessed place to serve and do ministry for almost 9 years. I am deeply thankful for the relationships, ministry, and memories we have shared together. I am thankful to have walked alongside so many of you through celebrations, and challenges, ordinary days, and special sacred moments, that left me changed and inspired my faith.

From our very start, my family and I will not forget the warm welcome you extended when we moved here in 2018—in the middle of that snowstorm, no less!—and we have made so many wonderful memories here, both at church and while raising our family in the parsonage.

As difficult as it is to leave, I do so with assuredness that Zion is in a good place for the next chapter of ministry. This faith community has a healthy, strong foundation, with faithful people, and a good sense of our gifts and how God has called us to use them. It's normal to have a range of emotions during times of transition, but remember God has been working through this church long before and long after any pastor has come and gone, and will continue to do so.

When I reflect on our years together, so much comes to mind: the building projects—the kitchen, elevator, and driveway; building the vibrant, annual VBS with 6 other churches, now hosting over 120 kids! We've strengthened our partnership with the Presbyterian church; and the Sunday School we started again, and 5th Sunday Potlucks! Together we worked to gain vibrancy after covid, and even grow our confirmation program. These ministries are just a few of the highlights that remind me of what we have been able to accomplish together.

Regarding transition details, I will continue to serve this call until December 13th at Zion. My *Final Sunday in the Pulpit is December 6th. My final Zion event will be the Noel Night December 10th.* After my Call at Zion ends, according to synod guidelines, I will be unavailable to lead any services at Zion including Baptisms, funerals or weddings. But I am in prayer for you, this faith community, and the Pastor God is preparing to step into leadership at Zion.

But until that time, we can simply keep being Zion together in our mission, called to **"Love Jesus, Grow in Faith, and Serve our Neighbors,"** trusting God will continue to lead us.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor. Thank you for trusting me, challenging me, encouraging me, forgiving me when I needed it, and allowing me to be part of your lives. I will always be grateful for the nearly 9 years we have shared, and I will carry the people and ministry of Zion with me wherever God leads.

With deep gratitude and in the love of Christ ><>
Pastor Joe Iverson

November Serving Schedule

Date	Ushers / Greeters	Organist/Pianist	Communion Server
November 1 **9:00 am**	U: Earl Trim G: Mary McKeeth	Judy Byom	Craig Schiller
November 8 **9:00 am**	Kathy & Jim Filkouski	Eddie Kim	Chuck Forster
November 15 **9:00 am**	U: Gordon Hoff G: Jane Johnson	Nancy Martinovici	Barb Longwell
November 22 **9:00 am**	U: Wayne Meunier G: Linda Dale	Kathy Meunier	Craig Schiller
November 29 **9:00 am**	Mike & Sherry Brady	Selisa Erickson	Lori Nastvold

Date	Lectors	Offering Counters	Coffee Fellowship
November 1 **9:00 am**	Craig Schiller	Sheryl Arms & Arlene Severson	Beth & Gary Meunier
November 8 **9:00 am**	Chuck Forster	Sheryl Arms & Arlene Severson	Jennifer Seiling
November 15 **9:00 am**	Barb Longwell	Sheryl Arms & Arlene Severson	Pancake Breakfast
November 22 **9:00 am**	Craig Schiller	Sheryl Arms & Arlene Severson	Karen Weltzien
November 29 **9:00 am**	Lori Nastvold	Sheryl Arms & Arlene Severson	Linda Dale & Sherry Brady

Communion: Jane Johnson **Candle Care:** Steve Putz



Volunteers needed to serve as a greeter/usher, lector, or for other worship service tasks, please sign up on the sheet that is on a clip board in the Narthex.

PowerPoint Assistants Needed

Contact the office to learn more!

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 **9:00 am** Quilting **9:30 am** Pastor Meeting	4 Confirmation 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	5	6	7
8 **9:00 am** Worship 10:15 Word after Worship **Electoral Meeting**	9	10 **9:00 am** Quilting **9:30 am** Pastor Meeting	11 Confirmation 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	12 **WIC Clinic—Fireside Lounge**	13	14
15 **9:00 am** Worship 10:15 Word after Worship Pancake Breakfast	16	17 **9:00 am** Quilting **9:30 am** Pastor's Meeting / Fireside room Council 6:30	18 Confirmation 5:15pm Worship 6:30pm	19 **W-ELCA Meeting 1:00pm Fireside Lounge** **Tidings articles due**	20	21
22 **9:00 am** Worship 10:15 Word after Worship	23	24 **9:00 am** Quilting **9:30 am** Pastor's Conference Meeting at Zion	25 No Confirmation Thanksgiving worship 6:30pm	26 **Tidings crew folders**	27	28
29 **9:00 am** Worship 10:15 Word after Worship	30					

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 9:00am
Wednesday 6:30pm

Church Website: ziongale.com

Contact Information

Church office

Phone: 608-582-2818

Open 9:00 am to 2:00 pm,
Monday-Thursday

e-mail: *zziongale@gmail.com*

Pastoral emergency:

Pastor Joe Iverson

608-865-0203

ADDRESS **SERVICE REQUESTED**

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