

ANNOUNCEMENTS – July 27, 2025

This Week at Zion

Sunday, July 27 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
 10:00 a.m. Combined Worship – MMC / with communion
 11:00 a.m.-ish Deaconess Welcome Light Luncheon

Monday (7/28)

[Pray that God would bless the work of all students.]

Tuesday (7/29)

[Thanksgiving for a new school year!]

Wednesday (7/30)

[Pray for recent college graduates.]

Thursday (7/31)

[Pray that students have those that share God's Word with them.]

Friday (8/1)

[Thanksgiving for the many church workers in the LCMS.]

Saturday (8/2)

[Pray for the synod's pastors.]

Sunday, August 3 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary / with communion
 9:45 a.m. NO Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC

From The 66...

Luke 11:11

"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent?"

A generous, giving spirit comes from knowing that you have a generous, giving Father. He will care for our needs. We are therefore free to reflect His generosity in our lives. We can be generous in raising our children, supporting the church and serving our neighbor in the community. In these three areas — home, church and society — the Lord has called us to show His grace and generosity to those around us.

& the book of numbers.

LAST WEEK:

God's People Assembled: (as of 7/20/25)

Classic 8:00 am: 69

Contemporary 11:00 am: 90

Online: see us on Facebook and zionlc.org (worship tab)

Children's Church Total: N/A

Christian Education Youth: 13 Adults: 22

God's People Give with Treasure (as of 7/20/25)

Offering: \$13,361.77

God's People's Response through June 2025:

Giving: \$283,842 Expenses: \$263,309

Budget: \$277,464

To hit stewardship forecast for 2025: \$11,561/ week

For ways to contribute please go to our website
www.zionlc.org and look under the "Give" tab.

Thank you for your continued support!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

For the safety of our members and friends we have blocked out this section. If you'd like a copy in full, please contact Zion, office@zionlc.org. Thanks!

Looking Ahead. Giving Back. Noting an Opportunity.

Our staffed **Nursery** is for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is downstairs in the children's ministry area. Parents are welcome to keep their kids in the service, but if they have the wiggles, the nursery is for you. Would you like to help out in the nursery? If you would like to be on the sub list, contact Carolyn Remmele (carolyn.remmele@gmail.com).

Sunday School meets 9:45-10:45 a.m. Parents, check your kids in and out and when Sunday School is over, please come and pick them up. The summer topic is Old Testament history. Youth topic is Servant Leadership.

Summer Songs Sermon Series — This summer we'll be looking at the songs that have guided people of the Book for generations – the book of Psalms. Hymns, songs, poetry, and words of wisdom wrapped up for our walk as disciples.

Joint Worship Services -- The Advent/ Christmas Joint Service this past year was so much fun that we decided to do a few this summer. Today, **July 27 and August 31 will be the next joint services.** They all will be at 10:00 a.m. They all will have communion. And they all will be in the MMC. They will either be Classic or Contemporary in feel (depending on the Sunday) and we look forward to seeing you there. Questions, ask PJ

Maddux News - We have 3 more weeks left in the Summer program. Thank you to all who faithfully supplied the families. They were very grateful and special thank you to Marla St Martin and Steve and Carol Tomes for their wonderful help. Now we need to get the bare shelves restocked for school, ASAP. We need the following: Ramen Noodles, fruit cups, cheese snack crackers, small packs Ritz crackers, cookie packs, cheese or peanut butter crackers, mac n cheese single serving size. Thank you for any help you can give us. In October I will go back to 2 items a month.

Youth Notes – Zion's high school youth are sharing this Sunday about what they learned at the LCMS Youth Gathering last week. It was an exhausting and fun week of growing through Bible studies, breakout sessions, mass events (20k people!), and many other opportunities to learn and serve. The kids will be sharing during the sermon time. Thank you for the many prayers and much support from the congregation for this experience at the gathering!

New Sunday Entrance Procedures: To mitigate unknown visitor entry and provide a safe worship environment, Zion leadership has decided to limit access to the main entrance doors during our primary service times. This will ensure that we can identify and greet our visitors, in addition to having a better awareness of who is in the building at all times. Notices will be placed on the following doors to communicate this new policy.

- Fellowship Hall Parking Lot Door Near Elevator – Door will be open for 8:30 a.m. service entry and Sunday School entry. Door will be locked to further entry after Sunday School ends. The rear parking lot entrance and circle drive doors will remain open.
- MMC South Parking Lot – Door will be locked to further entry once 11:00 a.m. service begins to avoid disruption to the service. The rear parking lot entrance and circle drive doors will remain open.

Installation, Unpack, Brunch - Zion will install Julia Witt as our deaconess intern at the combined service, this Sunday (10 a.m.); we will hear from our LCMS-Youth Gathering participants; and the Women's Guild will host a **brunch** welcoming Julia to the congregation! **Julia's installation is today, July 27 and her start date is July 28!** Please pray for her start and our ministry together!

Flowers given for the Glory of God are provided by Bob and Jan Remmele, In Honor of Marshall and Carolyn Remmele's Anniversary. If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact: Dylan Boone (July); Dave Boyles (August) -- Trustee

Praying. Asking. Seeking. Knocking.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING; JOYS IN GOD'S +WORK AND WILL

We pray for...

- **Summer** trips. Summer work. Summer activities. Those that work and serve in extreme heat.
- **LCMS Youth Gathering** that begins this week and all those, including Zion's group, that will be participating in it.
- **Julia Witt, our deaconess intern** and our ministry together.
- **Schools and Colleges, medical and first responders** – all in our communities who make it work and thrive.
- **Those who protect and serve** in our lives (governmental, law enforcement, military, many more). For officers mourning the recent loss of one of their own and for peace for our community.
- **The mission of Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Hamilton, OH.**

IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for. . .

- **Those that are lost and separated from God's loving embrace.**
- **For the citizens and residents, neighborhoods, law-enforcement/ military, leaders of L.A., flooding in Texas and North Carolina, and our country.** God, grant peace and the resources they need for body and soul.
- **For the forgotten, pushed aside, and marginalized.**
- **For a deeper appreciation for whole-life, God-gifted stewardship** – financial, relational, physical, and spiritual.
- Relief of pain, strength, and healing for **Karen Vollbracht, Jerry Porter, Doris Motley, and Linda Jenkins and other family/ friends** in need of healing.
- **Those in Care Centers/ Those at Home:** Debbie Rose Howard, Bill Siegel, Janet Brunner, Vera Zimmerman, Anna Moynahan, Ty and Michele Arendall, Bob and Sharon Ruppel, Vida Musselman, Jean Stratton, Jody Wiebe.
- **Donna Fenner and family as they mourn her sister's passing, Deanna Plourde and family as they mourn her sister's passing, and all families walking through the valley of death's shadow.** Comfort and strength in *the* Resurrection.
- **Those who suffer with no voice, place, or advocate.**

Telling the Stories

Over the summer we have done the somewhat usual adult summer Sunday School class. A topic was chosen. The Bible was turned to. The *Names of God* were learned. And honestly, that's sometimes what it looks like even to me. I have been doing this *pastor-thing* for over two decades and we do the summer Sunday School because we're supposed to do it, right? The weather is warm – what better time to turn to God's Word? The topic is rich – why wouldn't we want to be in God's Word? But somehow, to me, it can become fusty and worn.

That is until, Allyson Graves steps in and takes her experience in church leadership on various levels and leads a class. She did an awesome job (and not just because she's a Graves). Jack Hoerth - yes, he's the pastor's kid – but have you talked to him lately? That kid knows some stuff. He loves the Bible, he loves the Lord, and he's becoming a D-Group (*Discipleship Group*) leader at Cedarville-U this year and he led one of our studies.

Ryan Petrey is the mild-mannered PR Coordinator – turned honest and transparent Bible lover and sharer. Ryan took the class in a real direction he led and I still hear him saying how much the Lord loves him even with all his challenges. He did a great job. Dan and Laura Mikow then took a week. Yes, they've done this before, but they are always learning, always growing, & always wanting people to get connected to the Word they love and the Lord they love.

I so appreciated hearing different voices, with different points-of-view, with different challenges, and different backgrounds – as they all turned us to the One and only Lord and Savior named Jesus. That is my greatest joy as a pastor. Not that people get a ton out of hearing me only – but that they catch the joy of getting into God's Word and teaching it to others. Making disciples who make disciples.

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Ephesians 4:4-7 ESV

“TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE...”

Devoting Ourselves to the Word

Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

Mark 1:16-17 ESV

I was reading the Bible in one particular morning here lately and I realized I needed a new habit. So, I decided to borrow Jack's Cedarville Bible. I told him I was in a rut and needed a new... *perspective*. I have my own Bible, but I, honestly, wanted a little piece of the excitement I see in my son's college experience.

...I remember those days. Yes, I get it. When a lot of people start to wax eloquent about their college days in a manner like what I just did, such stories can unfortunately end in inebriation-induced forgetfulness, or sports-related euphoria, or scenes that belong best in either of the movies: *One Crazy Summer* or *Animal House*. We all have fallen short of God's glorious ideal (you and me) but friend, that's not what I'm remembering. After sadly abusing my opportunities in the front part of my college career, God thankfully, called me to something better – brighter – & more blessed. God planted me in a church. He gave me great friends. He placed me on a path. God gave me the Word.

And He made a huge change with one little word... *become*. As in, "Follow me, and I will make you *become* fishers of men." St. Paul – I deeply admire you – but my path is not: one big dummy, a Damascus Road experience, and "poof" out comes the greatest disciple. Yes, I know Paul had real struggles after his initial calling, but I admire people that get it faster than I obviously do. I'm more Jonah, Gideon, and Moses – than Ruth, Elisha, or Abraham. I have been known to have the brick wall marks be all-too visible on my forehead.

God has been patient with me. God has molded me and made me – and then smooshed me into a pile to start over again. I have been prodigal in the way that I've spent my life – only then – to realize that Jesus was prodigal in the way He spent His for me. (psst... *prodigal* can mean "recklessly lavish"... and that's what Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross were for a lost sinner like me, then and now). So, I hear Him call me again, "Follow me, and I will make you *become* fishers of men." In one word, God made it less about me – and all about Him. In one word, He said its not about the altar call but about who's altar you're called to. Justification – His act of declaring me clean by Christ's blood – a one-time-thing. Sanctification – a lifelong process of *becoming* His. More and more each day. That's why I followed then in college and why I can even today. Thank you for such a call, Jesus. -PJ

Letting the Little Ones Come to God (Draw us something)!

Drawing Prompt: What is "prayer"?