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ANNOUNCEMENTS – September 28, 2025

This Week at Zion

Sunday, September 28 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC/ with communion
12:15 p.m. Youth Gaming
4:00 p.m. Pre-Confirmation

Monday (9/29)

[Pray for yourself especially when tempted to focus on ourselves, the world, and the problems of the flesh exclusively.]

Tuesday (9/30)

[Thanksgiving the God continues to give Word and Sacraments!]

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study
6:45 p.m. Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study
7:15 p.m. Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study

Wednesday (10/1)

[Pray for people to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.]
9:00 a.m. Forest-Aires

Thursday (10/2)

[Pray that we might study scripture.]
7:00 p.m. Monthly Trustees Meeting
7:00 p.m. Sunday School Teacher Meeting

Friday (10/3)

[Thanksgiving for the shepherds of the church's history.]

Saturday (10/4)

[Pray that God would keep us from being led astray.]
9:00 a.m. Help Build Hope

Sunday, October 5 – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary/ with communion
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC

From The 66...

Amos 6:1a

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion."

The Book of Amos is a warning to God's people who have been given great material wealth. As Jesus Himself mentions, material blessings can turn into temptations — chiefly the temptation to think of ourselves as self-sufficient and independent. What does Amos suggest as a way to combat this temptation? First, faith in the Lord and dependence upon Him! And if our faith is right, we will want to follow the rest of Amos' instructions — to bless the poor with our alms and to make sure the Lord's House is properly cared for. In other words, we are called to align our actions with God's priorities and put others ahead of ourselves.

& the book of numbers.

LAST WEEK:

God's People Assembled: (as of 9/21/25)

Classic 8:30 am: 92

Contemporary 11:00 am: 105

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

Children's Church Total: 18

Christian Education Youth: 28 Adults: 32

God's People Give with *Treasure* (as of 9/21/25)

Offering: \$7,410.00

God's People's Response through July 2025:

Giving: \$321,430 Expenses: \$302,167

Budget: \$323,708

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!

"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."

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).

October Sermon Series: The Creed -- Big Idea: This four-week series examines the Nicene Creed and its development from the Council of Nicaea. Through examining the work of the early church in the Word, we see the importance of leaders being led by the Spirit to help clarify needed issues. We also see the heresy that led to the need for the creed and the importance of affirming the divinity of Jesus and the beauty of the Trinity.

Fall Bible Study -- Are farmers the only people who work out in the field? Are church workers the only people who can be a witness of Christ? The answer to both of these questions is a resounding NO! In our upcoming Sunday morning Bible Study, "Witnessing in the Field", we will be discussing what it looks like to be a witness to Christ in the world, using Mark Wood's Book *Connected to Christ: Witnessing in Everyday Life* as a guide for our study and discussion. **Please join us in September and October as we learn to be farmers for Christ!**

Maddux News - Due to a generous gift from one of our Women's bible study groups, we are only in need of stocking up on two things: FRUIT CUPS and PACKS OF COOKIES. Thank you again for your wonderful support.

Help Build Hope -- Join us for a service opportunity on **October 4th from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Nagel Middle School** as we join Help Build Hope in assembling wall frames for the Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity. This opportunity requires no previous experience and is open to all people aged 5 or older. So, bring your friends and your family and join us in this opportunity to share the love of Christ by serving our neighbors! If you would like to help even more, or are unavailable to serve on Saturday, there will also be a lumber cutting event for those 16 and older on October 3rd from 5:30-8:00 p.m. You can sign up at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/250159050719051>

Sign in instructions for accessing "Member" information on our Zion Church Website are located on the Information Table in the Atrium. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Shaffer, Zion Business Manager at Businessmanager@zionlc.org or 513-231-2253.

The Upper Room is a digital gathering place for young adults at Zion Lutheran Church in Cincinnati! Here, you can connect with other young adults, catch the verse of the day, read devotions, share prayer requests, and keep up to date with any activities or ministry opportunities at Zion. Join the Discord Server at: <https://discord.gg/tgD8xM2knc>

Youth Notes — Gaming Day (grades 6-12), **Today, 12:15 p.m.-4:00 p.m.** Bring \$\$ for lunch and your favorite game to play! ** **Oktoberfest**, Saturday, October 18, 4:00-8:00 p.m. Hot dogs and brats, root beer tasting, games, and more! @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church. ** **Ohio District Sr. High Youth Gathering**, November 21-23. Registration information was e-mailed to families with high school youth and also placed in their church boxes. ** **Please RSVP for all events.** Contact Chris Graves with questions and RSVP's.

Kids in grades 4-6 are invited to a preparing for confirmation activity on **Today, Sunday, September 28**. We will do some Bible activities, play some games, and eat a snack! **4:00-5:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Chris Graves.**

Got rhythm? Or at least the ability to count to 8? The Chime Choir is looking for a few good ringers to join us this fall! No musical experience? No problem! If you're 11 or older, can count to 8 without breaking a sweat, and want to help us make joyful (and occasionally coordinated) noise at the 8:30 a.m. service, we'd love to have you. To sign up or get more info, call or text Karen Lathrop at 513-706-4130. Bonus points if you can tell left from right—we won't judge.

ZION PR: Be Seen! Have questions about ZION's PR? No problem, we have you covered! Please visit www.zionlc.org/zion-pr/ for the information you seek! Where to send it? What do I need to do? When are Deadlines for publishing? What is proper content?

Some may remember Betty Finzer who served in the church office a few years back. Her husband, Pete, recently died. Obituary: <https://www.tpwhite.com/obituaries/peter-finzer> . If you'd like to send a card to Betty her address is: 7214 Baltic Court, Cincinnati, OH 45244. May God console Betty and the Finzer Family in this time.

Flowers given for the Glory of God are provided by Robin Greene, For Thankfulness.

If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact: Patty Varney – Trustee (Sept.); Larry Neack (October)

"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."

Praying. Asking. Seeking. Knocking.

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

We pray for...

- **Teachers, students, aides, helpers, leadership in local schools.** May they learn Your world, Lord. May they also find ways – be given ways – to learn of You and Your love for them in Christ.
- **Colleges and those that attend.** May they find ways to deepen their faith.
- **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 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH.**

IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for . . .

- **Those that are lost and separated from God's loving embrace.**
- **For those affected by natural and man-made disasters.** 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 **Barb Berner, Karen Vollbracht, Sheryl Childress, Bill Spies, 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, Jody Wiebe.
- **The Stratton Family (Jean, 9/19/25), the Finzer Family (Pete, 9/10/25) 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

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"

- Matthew 16:24-26 ESV

Scripture, God's holy Word, is such a wonderful gift. It shows us an unvarnished view of people and the things that we all fight with and suffer from. It shows us sin, death, and Satan. It also shows us the work of God in our lives. It shows the love of the Creator, Sustainer, and Provider – the Father. It shows us the work of the Comforter, Counselor, and New-Life Giver – the Holy Spirit. It shows us the divine mystery of the Incarnate Son of God who gives up His life on the cross and rises again on Easter victorious – for us and for our salvation – Jesus our Savior and Lord.

Scripture shows us comfortable and affirming truths – like forgiveness, life, and salvation – received by grace through faith. It shows us the reconciliation of peoples, genders, and enemies. It shows us the change of tax-collectors, sinners, harlots, and women at Samaritan wells. It gives us the understanding to move against racial, and economic differences. It gives us the promise of everlasting life in the very presence and promise of the One and only Savior. *Come and see* is God's invitation to all. Come and receive these gifts for free and receive them by faith in Jesus alone.

Then, if we follow Jesus long enough – there are challenges. Challenges to our faith and understanding. A passage, a teaching, a reading. And when those challenges from God's Word come, do we use the world to understand the Word or the Word to interpret the world? Do we read the Word in context – not letting one phrase or thought simply define a topic? Do we discount the Word as culturally irrelevant, out of touch, or outdated – or do we let the Word speak and ask for the right tools and grasp that we continue to follow? *Do we understand that the call to follow Jesus: is to come and die – to carry the cross as He did for us?* I love both invitations. I struggle with one more than the other. And I ask God to grow me as I follow – so that there's more of Him and less of me. If you ever want help on a particular thought, teaching, or section of scripture, please know Chris, Julia, and I are ready to help. Thanks be to God for His Word! -PJ

"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."

Devoting Ourselves to the Word

If you've ever tried to read through Leviticus, you know it's not exactly beach reading. It's full of laws, sacrifices, and instructions that make our head spin. But buried in all of that detail is something powerful that points straight to waters of Baptism. The priests of Israel had one job above all others: bring God's people into His presence. But before they could even *step foot* in the temple, they had to wash themselves with water. Not because they were sweaty. Not because they tracked mud in from the desert. No, it was because a holy God can't be approached by unholy people. Washing was about holiness.

Now flip forward a few centuries. Jesus shows up and says something radical: *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"* (John 2:19). People thought He was crazy. But John tells us Jesus wasn't talking about bricks and stone. He was talking about His body. Jesus Himself is the new temple. The meeting place of God and man.

And then Paul drops another truth bomb in my confirmation verse. *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?"* (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Did you catch that? First, priests had to wash before they could enter the temple. Then, Jesus says *He* is the temple. Now, through Jesus, *we* are temples of the Holy Spirit.

So what about the washing? This is where Baptism comes in. Just like those priests couldn't walk into God's presence without being cleansed, neither can we. But here's the good news: you don't have to scrub yourself clean with rituals or rules. **God has already washed you.** Titus 3:5 says it like this: *"He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit."*

That's Baptism. God takes you, broken and unclean, and He washes you with living water connected to His Word. He makes you holy. He marks you as His temple. He fills you with His Spirit. It's all about what He does for you! How cool is that! Let's be honest: some days we don't feel very holy. You feel messy. You feel like your past defines you. You feel like God couldn't possibly want to live in someone like you.

That's when you go back to Baptism. Not to re-do it, but to re-claim it. You've been washed. You've been made holy. You are God's temple. His Spirit lives in you.

Next time you doubt your worth, remember this:

Baptism is God's declaration that you are clean, holy, and His dwelling place.

The priests had to wash before they entered God's presence. You've already been washed, which means you *live* in God's presence every single day.

Rev. Derrick Hurst (<https://www.derrickhurst.org/>)

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

Drawing Prompt: How does God make you clean?