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ANNOUNCEMENTS – November 23, 2025

This Week at Zion

Sunday, November 23 – Last Sunday of the Church Year

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
Ohio District Sr. High Youth Gathering

Monday (11/24)

[Thank God for the Ten Commandments.]

Tuesday (11/25)

[Thank God for creation.]

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

6:45 p.m. Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study

Wednesday (11/26)

[Thank God for His Son.]

9:00 a.m. Forest-Aires

7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service

Thursday (11/27) – Blessed Thanksgiving!

[Thank God for the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ.]

Friday (11/28)

[Thank God for the promise of Christ's return.]

Saturday (11/29)

[Thank God for the Holy Spirit, who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church.]

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary / with communion

NO Sunday School or Bible Classes

11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC / with communion

From The 66...

Colossians 1:18a

“And he is the head of the body, the church.”

We are part of the Body of Christ; He is our Head. Where He goes, we follow. His thoughts direct our actions. This is how the people of God learn how to give and why they give. Because Jesus gives, indeed He gives all He has.

& the book of numbers.

LAST WEEK:

God's People Assembled: (as of 11/16/2025)

Classic 8:30 am: 74

Contemporary 11:00 am: 128

Online: Facebook & Instagram; www.zionlc.org (Worship Tab)

Children's Church Total: 17

Christian Education Youth: 21

Adults: 36

God's People Give with *Treasure* (as of 10/19/2025)

Offering: \$6,239.15

God's People's Response through August 2025:

Giving: \$361,704 Expenses: \$350,585

Budget: \$369,953

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).

Sunday Bible Study – In the season of thanksgiving, how do you find the time to give thanks? *Gratitude* is a 4-session study that explores ways to slow down, find the joy in the life, and reminders of God's grace. This goes through Dec. 7. - PJ

Young(er) Parent Bible Study – Sundays Starting November 2nd; Tony Evans' - "Raising Kingdom Kids" from RightNow Media. No Study on 11/23 & 11/30; *Our Next & Last Session* will be on December 7th, 2025.

Zion's Children's Ministry is looking for some volunteers to support the program by doing some simple but important tasks. We could use another person or two to work at our Sunday School check-in table. We could also use a person or two (or three) to wash toys in the nursery. Contact Chris Graves if you would be willing to do these things.

Maddux News – We will be shifting gears to Christmas next week. We will be supporting IPM Christmas drive. Take an ornament from the tree, bring it to church unwrapped, or order from amazon (use QR code on handouts in Narthex). *GIFTS MUST BE TURNED IN BY DECEMBER 14.*

Youth Notes — Youth Quake, January 9-11, Holiday Inn Eastgate. Registration info was sent to families. For middle school and high school youth. ** Save the dates: lock-in – January 30, spaghetti dinner – February 14, OH District Jr. High Youth Gathering – March 13-15 (watch for registration info soon!) ** -- **Camp Restore Detroit servant event – June 21-27 – Additional details TBA. **Please RSVP for all events.** Contact Chris Graves with questions and RSVPs.

Zion Photo Updates -- Everyone loves to put a face with a name. Please, if you'd like, update your profile picture in the "Member's" directory on the Website. All you need to do is click on the gray profile icon...click "Choose File" to upload the image. After selecting a photo, click "Accept". If you have any questions or need any help, contact Nancy Shaffer at 513-231-2253 or Businessmanager@zionlc.org.

Advent Devos – On table in the atrium. There are various ones for youth, children, and families (first come first served). There are two choices for adults. One by LHM and the other by Rev. Dr. Joel Heck. Blessed Advent!

Advent and Christmas Events: The Christmas season is upon us, and we have several upcoming fellowship opportunities to help us get into the Christmas spirit! The first is our **decorating** event on Wednesday, December 3 from 6-8 p.m. at Zion. Help us beautify the sanctuary, MMC, and atrium for the Christmas season.

* The second event is the **Zion Christmas party**, which will be on **Saturday, December 6 from 12-2:30 p.m.** We will start with appetizers and socializing followed by lunch and singing. This will be in the Fellowship Hall. Follow the link to sign up for an appetizer, side dish, dessert, or drink - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44A8AF2FA7FEC25-60463319-zion>.

* The final event is one that we are bringing back to Zion this year - **Christmas caroling!** Join us for an evening of caroling at some local nursing homes and homes of Zion members on **Wednesday, December 17**. We will meet at Zion at 6 p.m. and then head out to the selected locations. We will all meet back up at Graeters after caroling. Contact Halle Raicevich at 330-329-2338 if you are interested in joining.

Sunday School Christmas Story — The Sunday School will be presenting the Christmas Story on Sunday, December 14, 9:45-10:45 a.m. They will use costumes, song, and Scripture to tell the story of Christ's birth. The presentation will be in the fellowship hall. We hope you will be able to join us!

Sunday School Parents — Kids will be practicing for the Christmas Story presentation on Sunday, December 7, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Please be sure to bring them to Sunday School on that day! On December 14, please come to church by 9:30 a.m. so that they can get ready and get their costumes on. If you have any questions or to let us know that your child will or will not participate, please contact Cindy Ripak (cabauer99@gmail.com).

New Members – Received this weekend! Please take a look at the special print out and extend a 'welcome.'

Congregational Meeting, TODAY, between the services – 9:45am-10:45am, Fellowship Hall.

Flowers given for the Glory of God are provided by: Jim Berry, In Celebration of Jane Berry's Birthday & Debbie Bunce, To the Glory of God. If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact: Bill Miller

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

Praying. Asking. Seeking. Knocking.

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

We pray for...

- **The blessings that we see and for those that we don't.** Great is God's faithfulness!
- **The veterans of our country.** We are thankful for their service!
- **Teachers, students, aides, helpers, leadership in local schools; colleges and universities.** 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.
- **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 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Florence, KY.**

IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for . . .

- **Those that are lost & separated from God's loving embrace. The forgotten, pushed aside, and marginalized.**
- **Those affected by natural and man-made disasters.** God, grant peace & resources they need for body/ soul.
- **A deeper appreciation for whole-life, God-gifted stewardship** – financial, relational, physical, and spiritual.
- Healing for **Karen Vollbracht, Al Born, Larry Neack, Linda Geisselbrecht, Laura Mikow, Sharon Ruppel, Sheryl Childress, Bill Spies, Linda Jenkins, Ayers Family, and other family/ friends** in need of relief and restoration.
- **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 and all families walking through the valley of death's shadow.** Comfort and strength in *the* Resurrection.
- **Opportunities to grow in God's Word.**

Telling the Stories

A large, elegant cursive script that reads "Thank You!". The letters are thick and fluid, with a classic, slightly romantic feel. The "Y" is particularly large and decorative, with a long, sweeping tail that loops under the word "You".

"Thank you." Thank you to those who give so generously with your time. There are so many that show up early, stay late, and hang around to have another conversation, make another phone call, or to straighten up another space for ministry.

"Thank you." Thank you who give so freely of your talents. This is a talented place. People from all walks of life that have attained many degrees and specializations in formal ways from prestigious universities and those that have received their "PhD in life". Thank you for using your talents in humble ways for the good of God's people and for the spread of His kingdom. Sometimes working with people is messy and difficult. The pay is sometimes great and sometimes low. But you do what you do for a different reason. Thank you.

"Thank you." There are so many who bless this ministry in material ways. If there is a need – you meet it – generously, joyfully, and without strings. Thank you.

"Thank you." Thank you for telling about Jesus. Thank you for doing that courageously, consistently, and creatively. Thank you for sharing your testimony so freely, because in the end it's about Him, not you and I. To God be the glory. And, in case I don't say it enough, "Thank you."

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

Devoting Ourselves to the Word

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Romans 5:6-11 (ESV)

Stuart Jeffries, in *The Guardian*, explores the reason why too much choice is stressing us out. We all know the debilitating feeling one can get when you have no choice, but having too many choices creates a debilitating feeling as well. As one example, you decide you want to watch a movie. But do you want to view it via Netflix, AppleTV, Pay-Per-View, Amazon, Chromecast, Hulu, Roku, or YouTube? And then do you want to watch it on your phone, tablet, laptop, desktop computer, or your TV? That's thirteen choices for a simple movie.

As Jeffries writes, "The standard line is that choice is good for us, that it confers on us freedom, personal responsibility, self-determination, autonomy and lots of other things that don't help when you're standing before a towering aisle of water bottles, paralyzed and increasingly dehydrated, unable to choose." Stuart goes on to say, "Increased choice, then, can make us miserable because of regret, self-blame and opportunity costs. Worse, increased choice has created a new problem: the escalation in expectations."

*(Stuart Jeffries, "Why Too Much Choice Is Stressing Us Out," *The Guardian* (11-21-15))*

I'm thankful in a new way today that God made the choice when I couldn't. (PJ)

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

Drawing Prompt: What are you thankful for?