

The Echoes

September 2025

Monthly Meditation

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of
my heart be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." -Psalm 19:14*

*"Lead me,
guide me
along the
way;
For if You
lead me, I
cannot
stray;
Lord, let me
walk each
day with
Thee.
Lead me, O
Lord, lead
me."*

-Doris Akers

Change is difficult. New is difficult. Unknown is difficult. And through it all, God is with us. Are we praying? Are we listening? Are we quieting our hearts and minds for God to lead us?

Sometimes the worries of the day are overwhelming. There are disagreements and misunderstandings, hardships and illnesses. Are we praying? Are we listening? Are we quieting our hearts and minds for God to lead us?

God is here and always has been; moving and working and creating all things new. God has a plan for Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gibsonburg, Ohio. With prayer and patience, communication and grace, we will recognize that plan and fulfill it for the glory of God. Because it isn't our desires, plans, and wants that reign, but God's - Soli Deo Gloria - to God alone be glory. So instead of being anxious about what is next, practice prayer. Instead of pressuring leadership, practice patience. Instead of perpetuating rumors, practice communication. And through it all, extend grace. Grace for someone who doesn't understand. Grace for someone who reacted harshly. Grace for someone who is trying something new. Because life is difficult and as children of God, we're called to be like Christ - prayerful and filled with grace.

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 6:30 Busy Hands	3 6:00 - Outreach in Lounge 7:00 - Choir 7:00 - AA	4	5	6
7 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 -RALLY DAY! and Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	8	9 7:00 Council	10 10 - Bible Study 7:00 - AA	11	12	13 Hall Rented
14 9:00 Worship 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	15	16	17 10 - Bible Study 7:00 - AA	18 10:00 - JOY (Mystery Trip)	19	20 Hall Rented
21 9:00 Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 10:30 - Visitation Ministry Training 7:00 - AA	22	23	24 10 - Bible Study 7:00 - Choir 7:00 - AA	25	26	27
28 9:00 Worship (Blessing for LWR) 10 - Sunday School & Catechism; Coffee Hour 7:00 - AA	29	30				

Zion Council met at the parsonage to tour the residence before the meeting and then returned to the church for the meeting. Rusty Burkett called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer. Those in attendance were: Rusty Burkett, David Myerholtz, Becky Teal, Beth Schlea, Stacie Marquart, Julia Popp, Carrie Strausbaugh, Connie Davies, Tom Fisher, and Dan Henery. One visitor, David Gerwin, was present. Beth Schlea made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Stacie Marquart, motion passed.

Secretary's Report – Received as printed. This was the June 2025 minutes and the July Council retreat minutes. Motion to approve by Dave Myerholtz, seconded by Connie Davies, motion passed.

Financial Reports – Received as printed. Motion to approve by Dave Myerholtz, seconded by Julia Popp, motion passed. Auditor's Report by Jeff Holcomb was shared. All financial monies were found to be in proper order. A motion to accept the Auditor's report by Tom Fisher, seconded by Carrie Strausbaugh, motion carried. A motion to authorize movement of up to \$20,000 from the Memorial Fund to Capital Improvement fund was made by Connie Davies, seconded by Stacie Marquart. Motion carried.

Old Business

Dave Gerwin addressed the Council concerning the 150th Anniversary Celebration to be held July 12, 2026. He has been gathering pictures and documents which are in the process of being scanned and will be saved to a flash drive. He recommended Council forms a committee to handle the events of the actual day. Dave also noted that there are 3 record books from the beginning of Zion that record baptisms, confirmations, weddings and deaths. He would like to have these scanned to save the records at the church, but place the original books in storage at Hayes Presidential Library & Museum. Tom Fisher moved to photocopy the record books and place the original books at Hayes Presidential Library & Museum, seconded by Beth Schlea, motion carried. As of August 31, 2025, the church website will no longer be able to use the services of Aplos. A new committee has been formed to reorganize Zion's website.

David Myerholtz reported that a letter was sent to every member of Zion concerning the Capital Campaign. Members were urged to pledge if they had not already done so, or to submit their pledge. Dave would like to see some sort of fellowship celebration when the parking lot project is completed.

New Business

Beth Schlea made a motion to change the "Authority to Approve Purchase Orders" forms from Gene Fox to Zion Council Vice-President and/or Treasurer. Julia Popp seconded, motion carried.

Visitation protocols were discussed.

Clergy Update – Zion is currently looking for an interim presence during this transition time.

Health Kits were discussed and it was decided that the noisy offerings for August and September will be switched as the Health Kits have a deadline of when they must be sent. The August noisy offering will be for Health Kits. Dave Myerholtz made a motion, seconded by Tom Fisher, that we endorse Lutheran World Relief and support the work Rose Widmer is doing with a special donation to go to LWR.

Ministry of Christian Education Report

Missions: Oct. – Dec. \$3000 for ELCA Good Gifts, Jan. \$655.27 for VBS, Feb. \$551.95 for Nat'l Gathering, March \$554.42 for Bear's Den, April/May \$1,198.08 for HopeWood Outdoor Ministries. June collection will go to VBS, July to Youth Gathering, August to Sunday School (this was changed and will be going to Health Kits/LWR because of the Health kit deadline and Sunday School will be in September).

(continued on next page)



"Access to clean water is a critical need in the wake of a humanitarian crisis. We deliver supplies of water in emergencies to affected areas, while also installing or rehabilitating storage tanks and reservoirs. Where water is scarce or unsafe, we drill and decontaminate wells, install hand-pumps, protect natural springs, tap aquifers, rehabilitate damaged infrastructure, and pipe water into hard-to-reach communities and health centers."

-from LWR.org

Lutheran World Relief

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS of Lutheran World Relief

LWR was founded in 1945, helping our neighbors in Europe after World War II. With each passing year, God has opened hearts to the ever-growing needs in our hurting world, and their ministry has grown.

Zion is dedicated to celebrate with LWR for the entire month of September. Look for more information in the coming weeks regarding the critical work they have been doing all over the world for the past 80 years and Zion's support. We will be accepting donations through out the month to be sent directly to this organization, just mark LWR on your offering envelope or go to www.lwr.org/80 to donate.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Council Minutes, Continued

VBS went very well. This committee is working with Outreach Committee on window coverings for the J. Fork Gathering Room. Jill Allport will be painting a mural of Jerry with his paraglider. All classrooms have been painted, door frames to be done this summer.

LYO – Flamingo Fundraiser collected funds for the parking lot project & served lunch during the Rummage Sale

Ministry of Stewardship – reported under old business

Ministry of Property Management - as reported

Executive Committee Report – as reported

Correspondence: HopeWood - thank you for \$1,208.08; ELCA - God's Work, Our Hands is Sept 7th, 2025

Meeting adjourned. All prayed The Lord's Prayer.
Recorded by Becky Teal

GAMA Minutes

On Wednesday, August 20, 2025, the Gibsonburg Area Ministerial Association met at St. Michael Catholic Church. Those present were: Patti Wasserman, Father Tad Oxley, Karen Peck, Sue Sleek, Pastor Michael Holcomb, Pastor Charlene Miller, Gerry Williams, Connie Carnicom, and Becky Teal. The meeting was opened with prayer by Father Tad, he included prayer for Pastor Matthew, his family, and for Zion. The June minutes were approved as printed. There was no meeting in July. It was decided to gift Pastor Matthew Zuehlke with a gift card for coffee. Karen Peck and Becky Teal will work on getting this delivered. The work on a banner for GAMA will begin again.

Food Pantry: In June 2025, the Food Pantry gave 21 boxes of food and 7 Kirwen vouchers to area residents. This served a total of 56 people. In July, 24 boxes of food and 9 vouchers were given, serving a total of 70 people. The Pantry received a check from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation.

Habitat for Humanity: The Helena home is going very well. There was a blessing of the home Aug 16th .

Mega Huddle: The Mega Huddle was sponsored by the Gibsonburg and Clyde chapters of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). It took place on July 31st at White Star Barn and was well attended and received. The money GAMA was going to give to this program was not needed. GAMA will support them at a later time. Father Tad suggested that Ashley Brown, local chairperson, be invited to GAMA so we might learn what we can do to help in the future.

New Business:

- GAMA will continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 12:30, at St. Michael's Hall Conference room.
- There is no longer a Bear's Den at the High/Junior High School.
- There will be a Village Trunk or Treat in the Logyard in early October.
- The 9/11 Remembrance will be 6:00pm September 11, 2025. Lt. Governor Jim Tressel will be the speaker.
- September 24th is "See You At The Flagpole". More information to come.
- GAMA is planning to Christmas Carol as the Firemen Deliver Santa and his Christmas Goodie Bags to area residents.
- An Open House to show the remodeling done at the food pantry was discussed.
- Pastor Michael proposed that Father Tad and Pastor Charlene be co-presidents of GAMA with Karen Peck continuing to do the minutes. Motion carried.

Area Churches:

Church without Walls – Pastor Charlene reported receiving a donation that has allowed her to work to help 5 families. She has High School helpers that are planning Santa gifts for families. Pastor Charlene likes to ask the question: "Where have You seen God this week?"

Gibsonburg Community Church – Continues the meal on Tuesday evenings followed by Bible Study. You can go for the meal only. On August 30th they will be having a car show.

First English Lutheran - They continue to show The Chosen. Season 5 will begin in a few weeks.

St. Michael's – Father Tad and Patti W. attended Lunch with a Cop and Meet the Team. The Hispanic Festival will be Sept. 28th . They are beginning a study entitled "The Pathways to a Thriving Parish".

Shiloh – They were able to donate 58 boxes of cereal to the Food Pantry.

Zion Lutheran Church – We will be going through the call process following the departure of Pastor Matthew. JOY met and is reorganizing. We had a successful VBS.

The next GAMA meeting is Wednesday, September 17th at 12:30 at St. Michael's Hall.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Teal

Financial Fitness Focus

August 2025:

August Gross Income: \$25,839.82

August Gross Expenses: \$24,776.11

\$1,063.71

Income designated for the Parking Lot: \$11,602.04

Gross, Non-designated Revenue for August: \$-10,538.33

As of 8/31/2025:

Year-to-Date Income: \$253,747.33

Year-to-Date Expenses: \$167,148.18

\$86,599.15

Income designated for the Parking Lot in 2025: \$108,117.28

Gross, Non-designated Revenue for 2025: \$-21,518.13

“ From everyone
to whom much
has been given,
much will be
required, and
from the one to
whom much has
been entrusted,
even more will
be demanded.”

-Luke 12:48b

Acknowledging that a large capital project and fundraising was necessary this year, we want to highlight the necessity of continuous giving for the mission of Zion. Without the generosity of the congregation, this Capital Campaign wouldn't have been successful; thank you for your generous giving during this time. After the project is complete, let us not settle into complacency and forget the operational expenses and mission outreach focuses of Zion. May we all prayerfully consider our financial gifts and tithes for the future of Zion and God's global church.

GRIEF AFTER SUICIDE: LET'S TALK ABOUT IT BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO

Herman-Karlovetz Funeral Home & Crematory
900 North Street, Fremont, OH, 43420

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

6 PM ~7:30PM

Free grief seminar led by Monarch Grief Center
for anyone impacted by loss from suicide.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please RSVP by Sept. 23, 2025
call: 419-332-7391 or use our QR code



TIM POLAKOWSKI
COFOUNDER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& GRIEF COUNSELOR



"Give rest unto
your servants with
your saints, O Lord.
Where there is
neither pain nor

sorrow, neither sighing, but life
everlasting."

- The Kontakion



PARKING LOT UPDATE

As long as the weather holds,
the paving portion of the
parking lot project will begin
Tuesday, September 9th.

Please be mindful of the construction area and workers when you park at the church. As long as the ground isn't too wet, parking can be on the grass around the church.

Please take care and be careful!

STRUGGLING WITH GRIEF?

Grief 101 with Stein Hospice

Free bereavement support group where you can find a safe space to explore your grief, engage in discussions, or simply listen to shared experiences related to the loss of an adult loved one.

ALL ARE WELCOME At

HERMAN FUNERAL HOMES

900 North Street, Fremont, OH, 43420

OCTOBER 16, 2025

4 PM ~ 6PM

RSVP BY Oct. 14th

CALL 419-332-7391

OR SCAN QR
CODE



Congregational Connections

So many members of our Zion family participate in activities outside the congregation. Each month, this section of The Echoes will feature events happening in and around Gibsonburg that may have our Christian brothers and sisters participating. Like traditional families, showing support of our loved ones is important. Let us continue to show support and lift up each member of our Zion family, both in prayers and in cheers! Ask them for more information - we'd love to see you there showing support!

Gibsonburg HS Marching Band - Miles and Lincoln Thomas, Amaya Marinoff, Claire Mapus, Ella and Zander Shreffler, Jacob and Lucas Aelker

- performing at halftime for GHS varsity football game: Friday, Sept 19th 7:00pm at home
- performing 9/20 at the Elmwood Band Spectacular and 9/27 at the Clyde Band Show

Gibsonburg HS Golf Team - Grayson Burkett

- matches 9/2 at Chippewa; 9/3 at Green Hills; 9/8 at Mohawk; 9/10 at Sycamore Hills; 9/15 at Eagles Landing; 9/17 at Sycamore Hills; 9/22 at Sycamore Hills; 9/25 at Green Hills

Gibsonburg HS Volleyball Team - Sofia Rogers

- home games: 9/6, 9/9, 9/11, 9/16, 9/20, 9/27

Gibsonburg HS Cross Country Team - Bryson Marinoff, Claire Mapus, Zander Shreffler, Jacob Aelker

- races 9/6 at Seneca East; 9/13 at Lakota; 9/20 at Findlay Owens; 9/27 at Old Fort

Gibsonburg Youth Cross Country - Owen, Payton, Holly, Brady Kirwen; Simon Thomas; Cash and Ophelia Crispen; Evan Mapus; Dave & Becky Teal

- races 9/6 at Hedges-Boyer Park; 9/11 at Terra; 9/13 at Lakota; 9/18 at Bowling Green; 9/24 at Eastwood; 9/29 at Hedges-Boyer

Toledo Top 64 Basketball Showcase - Elly Evarts

- tip-off 11:00am 9/20 at Scott High School

Pioneer Days at Historic Lyme Village, Bellevue - Hannah Mapus demos wheel-thrown pottery;

- Sept 6-7, 10am-5pm (but not during the CC races, she'll be watching the kids)

Please call or email the office if you have events or suggestions to add to this column.

We'd love to learn more about our church family's interests.

Also, if you'd rather not be listed, please let the office know.

*** SAVE THE DATE***

We will host Kids' Night Out Saturday, October 11th, 5:00-7:30pm

A volunteer sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.

More information coming soon!

With Grateful Hearts

Norman and Joanne Minich's family would like to thank the members of Zion Lutheran Church for providing a delicious luncheon on Saturday, August 2nd as part of Norman and Joanne's Celebration of Life. We are grateful to everyone who put it together! The food was wonderful and your kindness was greatly appreciated. We really appreciate your fellowship and support during this time. The church and faith of the members of Zion Lutheran Church has been a blessing to our family.

Thank you,

The Minich Family (Jeannine, Janice, and Ruth)



*Interesting note from Zion's office: The statue of Jesus in the photo with the Minich girls was from Zion and is now at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brook Park, Ohio. There were three statues: Jesus, St. Paul, and Martin Luther. The statue of St. Paul was last known to be in New Guinea at a mission congregation there. The statue of Martin Luther is at Trinity Seminary in Columbus. All three were given from Zion and distributed by Pastor Minich throughout his ministry.

August 2, 2025

Zion Lutheran Church
500 S Brentwood Dr
Gibsonburg, OH 43431



HopeWood
Outdoors

Dear partners in ministry at Zion Lutheran Church,

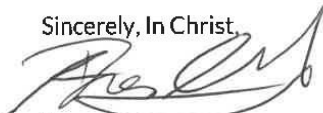
Thank you for your gift of \$1,208.08 to HopeWood Outdoors. You are making a difference through this ministry! We are grateful and humbled by your faithful stewardship of God's gifts.

We rely on the generosity and faithful stewardship of donors to help us with our mission. Thank you once again for your gift which helps to make this ministry possible.

Summer is in full swing! Our theme verse, *The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart. —Romans 10:8*, reminds us that God's comes near to us as we learn to see our neighbors as beloved children of God and that God will stop at nothing to show love for us and the whole world.

We encourage you to please take a moment to visit our website for our summer schedule at: www.hopewoodoutdoors.org. We look forward to seeing you at camp soon.

Sincerely, In Christ,


Drew Tucker
Executive Director

*Thank you!
Your support means the
world to us!*

Our mission is faithfully inspiring people to embrace their callings in creation and community.

Thank
You



"For where two
or three are
gathered in my
name, I am
there among
them."

-Matthew 18:20

Visitation and Home Communion Training

Please save the date!

After worship, September 21st we will
have someone here to guide us in
rebuilding our visitation ministry at Zion.

If you are interested in participating, or intrigued and
would like to learn about this ministry, please plan to
join us on the 21st.

We plan to begin about 10:30am.



Choir

Practices

Sept 3
Sept 24

Singing in Worship

Sept 14
Sept 28

"And let us
consider how to
provoke one
another to love and
good deeds, not
neglecting to meet
together, but
encouraging one
another."

-Hebrews 10:24-25a



Bible Study

Bible Study will be held in the Media Room begin-
ning Wednesday, September 17th at 10:00am.

Everyone is welcome to some share in an hour of
study to hear and reflect on God's call for us.



Acolytes and Readers

Sunday, September 7

A - Amaya Marinoff

R - Brad Krotzer and Sophia Foos

Sunday, September 21

A - Sofia Rogers

R - Beth Schlea and Hannah Crispen

Sunday, September 14

A - Grayson Burkett

R - Cindy Crispen and Amaya Marinoff

Sunday, September 28

A - Claire Mapus

R - Bo Evarts and Derek Reed

Council Members

President: Rusty Burkett

Vice President: David Myerholtz

Secretary: Becky Teal

Treasurer: Beth Schlea

Christian Education Ministry: Carrie Strausbaugh

Outreach Ministry: Julia Popp

Property Ministry: Tom Fisher

Staff Assistance Ministry: Connie Davies

Stewardship Ministry: Stacie Marquart

Worship & Music Ministry: Jill Allport



2 - Joni Ernsberger
Mike Marinoff

4 - William Keller
Treva Shively

5 - Andrew Angelone

6 - Lily Gerwin

7 - Carl Depner

8 - Olivia Rogers

9 - Matthew A. Tille

10 - Denny Hohlfelder

11 - Glenn Ritchey

12 - Evan Mapus

13 - Audrey Samson

14 - Richard Depner
Roger Richter



15 - Camden Mooney
Renee Moscioni

16 - Paul Clark, Jr.

17 - Lindsey Keller

26 - Patti Clair

27 - Yulinda Burkett-Payne
Tom Samson

28 - Cash Crispen

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 S Brentwood Drive

Gibsonburg, OH 43431

Phone: 419-637-2812

Email: zionlutherangib@gmail.com

www.zionlutherangibsonburg.org



JOY

The JOY group met Wednesday, August 20, at Zion to discuss whether to continue, disband, or what we wanted to do in the future. There were 11 present. It was decided overwhelmingly that JOY should continue. Many great places to visit were named. Sometimes it will be a historical place, sometimes a good place to eat, sometimes a place to learn about the area.

Mystery trips will even be added from time to time. Are you brave enough? We hope if you are able, you will join us and continue the great fellowship begun with JOY. This is certainly a time we need to stick together.

After a great discussion everyone enjoyed a charcuterie board provided by Becky and Hannah and fellowship continued.

Please join us Thursday, September 18th for our Mystery Adventure. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:00am. The cost will be \$8 + lunch. We're excited for another opportunity to share in fellowship.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex; we'd like to make reservations, so if you can, please sign-up before Sept. 15th. We hope to see you there!