Zion's News & Notes

November
Newsletter
2025

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As I type this, I am waiting for Sass to return with yet another inhaler as I try to rid myself of this bronchial infection, which has been hanging on for weeks. Earlier this week I attended our Fall Ministerium at the Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua. There I participated in bible studies with my colleagues, led by Rev. Leila Ortiz, former bishop of the Washington DC Synod. At the end of this spiritually rich two days, Rev. Lee M. Miller II, bishop of the Upstate New York Synod, sent us out with these words:

"Cry Out! Proclaim! Lean In…"

I have been using this three-fold benediction as a guideline since I returned to set my priorities as I work when sometimes, I am literally gasping for breath.

I cry out to God for help. I cry out to Sass, "have you seen my inhaler?" I cry out on behalf of all of you as I hear about your struggles, witness your pain, listen to the plans you are making to bury loved ones. I cry out to God for help as I read the news, collaborate with colleagues, witness cruelty.

I cry out with joy upon hearing of successful surgeries, the arrival of a newborn child, and the celebration of decades of marriage.

I proclaim the Good News every Sunday, and I study to proclaim between Sundays. I proclaim the goodness of the God who will not abandon us, even in times as unsettling as the ones in which we are living. I proclaim the difficult—problems not yet resolved—and the easy—dinner is ready!

I lean in…to prayers, to apologies and words of reconciliation, and to stories of trauma that remain long after the traumatic events have ended.

I lean in…to serving the Lord with each of you, for the sake of the Gospel. Day in, day out, at dawn, at dusk, again, and again, as steady as breathing. As challenging as a respiratory infection. As lifegiving as inhalers, tea with lemon and honey, and a warm blanket, made warmer by the beloved pup on top of it. The rhythm of our days invites us to lean into the challenges and the joys over and over again.

As we enter this month of Thanksgiving, I give thanks to you for inviting us in, to share the work to which we each are called, to cry out, proclaim, and lean into God's grace and the healing presence of one another. For we do not do the work of ministry, or the work of healing, alone. Thanks be to God.

With You, Pastor Marie

November Announcements

2026 Stewardship Campaign
All members of Zion are invited to be a part of the 2026 Stewardship Campaign! Please check your mail in the coming week for this year's stewardship letter and pledge card. During this time, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can give of your time, talent, and treasure this coming year in support of Zion's ministry. Please return your pledge card on Sunday, November 30th, as well as plan to join us on that day for a special "*Thank You Lunch*" following worship service to celebrate the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. Lunch will be served in the Fireside Room. A sign-up sheet for the soup and sandwich lunch is posted in the Narthex. *(If you didn't receive a stewardship letter and pledge card, please see Jim Marscher or Joni Pulliam.)*

Poinsettias
The sign-up sheet for poinsettias is now posted! Please consider purchasing a poinsettia to help decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season.

Walking With Friends
Please contact Kim Marscher if you are interested in walking with us! She will share the days/times.

Church Office
Please use **315-765-8035** when calling the church office. Our original phone number still works, but to avoid any busy signals if someone's on the phone, it's best to use our Spectrum-provided number. Also, we recently transitioned to a new computer, which has brought a few unexpected challenges. At the moment, we're having some difficulty accessing original documents. We appreciate your patience as we work through these technical adjustments and get everything running smoothly again.

Worship and Music
W & M will meet Wednesday, November 12th at 11:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Committee members and all who are interested, please bring your ideas and suggestions.

YouTube
Subscribe to Pastor Marie's YouTube channel! www.YouTube.com/@MarieNDuquette.

Website
If you are the chair of a ministry, we need your help to keep our church website as accurate and welcoming as possible. Please send your updated announcements to the church office on a regular basis so that we can make sure everything is current. Visit our website at www.zionlutheranny.org, click on your ministry's tab, to review. Thank you for your help!

Christmas Gifts to the Lutheran Home
Social Ministry contacted Pastor Janet at the Lutheran Home about the possibility of resuming the Zion Christmastime collection for residents. Sue Peck, the Activity Director at the Home responded with a spirited "Yes!" A box is now in place by the elevator in the Narthex for any donated items - the collection ends Sunday, December 7th. Here is a list of gift items suggested by Sue: candies - both regular & sugar-free, socks, aftershave, perfume or cologne, body wash, body lotions, small bodywash/lotion sets, small knick-knacks, suncatchers, slippers with sides & non-slip bottoms, lap robes, sweaters, cardigans, and wraps. Thank you for helping make this a Merry Christmas for Lutheran Home residents!

Christmas Decorating Party
Save the date for Thursday, December 5th at 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM as we come together to decorate the church for the Christmas season!

We Need Your Voice!
If you've been blessed by our worship, could you take a moment to leave us a review on Google? Your kind words help others find us and feel welcomed. Thank you!

November Worship Team Schedule

Date:	Pastor	Worship Asst.	Greeters	Ushers
Nov. 2	Pr. Marie Duquette	Wendy Stevens	Laurel McCurdy	Jeanne Gymburch & Doreen Nicholls
Nov. 9	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Mark Thompson	Jan Corn	Darlene Hill & Nancy Thompson
Nov. 16	Pr. Marie Duquette	Karen Toepp	Linda Bennett	Kim Marscher
Nov. 23	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth		Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Debbie Murdock
Nov. 30	Pr. Marie Duquette		Laura Hilt	Kim Marscher

Join Our Prayer Fellowship Card Ministry!

Zion's Prayer Fellowship Team is looking for a caring person to help us write and send cards to members of our church family. These include notes of encouragement, birthday wishes, and get well cards.

We're hoping to welcome a new team member to begin in March (covering cards for March and April). If you enjoy sharing God's love through thoughtful words, we'd love to have you join us! Please contact the church office if you're interested.

Gifts Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:	To:	Given by:
Mary Etta Skinner	Zion Food Ministry	Jeanne Gymburch
Mary Etta Skinner	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Mary Etta Skinner	General Fund	Bob & Bonnie Loomis
Fran King	General Fund	Claudia King
Henry Healy	Zion Food Ministry	Jeanne Gymburch
Randy Richards	World Hunger	Linda Bennett
Mary Etta Skinner	Memorial Fund	Claudia King
Robert Youngkrans	Memorial Fund	Mark & Darlene Youngkrans
Henry Healy	Memorial Fund	Todd Healy
In Honor Of:	To:	Given by:
Isabel Silva	Technology Fund	Linda White
John & Carol Blackburn	Food Pantries	Anonymous

Birthdays

October Birthdays

David Stevens	4	Timothy Owens	18
Kerstin Soykan	4	Megan Free	21
David Meneses	8	Jacky Marscher	21
Wendy Barrett	11	Isabel Silva	22
Betty Schieble	11	John Dowd	25
Jeanne Gymburch	12	Sandra Russell	26
Curtis Pulliam	16	Abigail LaFave	30

November Birthdays

Duff Campbell	2
Shane McLennan	2
Doreen Nicholls	10
Shirley Carlson	14
Janet Kowalczyk	16
Norm Jeche	18
Colin Richards	25
Cindy Weir	28

WOMEN OF FAITH

Phillis Becker from Trinity will lead a Bible Study via Zoom on:
Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 PM. Please be on the lookout in your emails for study materials and the Zoom link as the date nears.
(W*e'll have a brief planning meeting after the Bible study!)*

Save the Dates

Tuesday, January 20th - Study will be led by Patsy Glista at 7:00 PM.
Tuesday, February 17th - Patsy will lead another Zoom Bible study.

Treasurer's Reports

		August 2025 Treasurer's Report		
	Aug-25	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	$ 6,819.00	$ 97,823.35	$ 104,133.36	$ (6,310.01)
Other Income	$ 1,616.50	$ 54,019.30	$ 61,619.40	$ (7,600.10)
Total Income	$ 8,435.50	$ 151,842.65	$ 165,752.76	$ (13,910.11)
Total Expense	$ 21,166.38	$ 183,247.53	$ 173,383.88	$ 9,863.65
Net Income	$ (12,730.88)	$ (31,404.88)	$ (7,631.12)	$ (23,773.76)

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

Psalm 107:8–9

		September 2025 Treasurer's Report		
	Sep-25	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	$8,041.50	$105,864.85	$117,150.02	$(11,285.17)
Other Income	$12,732.45	$66,786.20	$69,321.80	$(2,535.60)
Total Income	$20,773.95	$172,651.05	$186,471.82	$(13,820.77)
Total Expense	$16,756.18	$200,003.71	$195,056.66	$4,947.05
Net Income	$4,017.77	$(27,352.66)	$(8,584.84)	$(18,767.82)

Social Ministry

ANGEL TREE: The Angel Tree will benefit the children at Thea Bowman Center. The greater need again this year is to continue to help the children and their families through gift cards. The gift card contributions Zion has provided continue to be a lifeline for the families. If you would like to participate in this year's Angel Tree tradition, please send your monetary contributions directly to Zion Lutheran Church with the notation of "Angel Tree" so it is clear where the monies are to be directed. This year, members will again be able to take an angel off the tree which will have an envelope attached to it to make it easier to contribute directly to Zion and identify your donations for Thea Bowman. All the monies received will be converted into Walmart gift cards that will then be handed to Thea Bowman for distribution to the families. The Angel Tree will be up for the November 2nd church service, and contributions will be collected through Sunday, November 30, 2025. Thea Bowman is deeply appreciative and grateful for all the assistance Zion has provided to their organization throughout the years to aid in their efforts to service the community.

MITTEN TREE: The Mitten Tree will benefit the children at Thea Bowman Center and The Center. The greatest need at The Center is for women's gloves and men's gloves sizes medium and large. Handmade and store purchased hats, mittens/gloves, scarves are also in need and will be collected through November 30, 2025. Children's sizes will go to Thea Bowman, and the women's and men's sizes will go to The Center. The Mitten Tree will be up for the November 2nd church service. Items can be dropped off Monday – Friday during church office hours beginning November 3rd, and also during Sunday in person services.

Social Ministry Committee members gratefully appreciate all of your contributions this year for the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree. (Debbie, Jeanne, Laurel, Carole, Jan, Doreen)

Zion's Social Ministry Food Bank Support:

This quarter (October/November/December) Zion is supporting Foothills Food Pantry located in Holland Patent at The First Presbyterian Church, 7835 Church Street. Our contact, Pat Cannon, shared the list of their current needs, & the list is now posted in the Narthex next to the food cart. Here is the list of food products most needed: peanut butter, canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned soups, canned chili, canned baked beans, canned pasta dishes, canned tuna, and canned sauces. If you would like to donate perishable items, they have refrigeration for storage on premises, and share they are in need of: butter, margarine, and cheeses of any type.

As the holidays get closer, Foothills distributes Turkey Gift Cards to families in need. They would welcome donations of $15 gift cards from any local grocery store to be distributed. Most of all they could use volunteers! Pat would welcome anyone interested in touring the food pantry & hearing about the Foothills Food Pantry operations. If interested, please leave a message with Sara for Pat.

Zion's Bottle/Can redemption donations so far this quarter: September: 365 cans/bottles = $18.25; October: 652 bottles/cans=$32.60 — these funds are added to our Zion Food Ministry collection for gifting to the four Oneida County sites Zion is supporting this year - three within Utica & one rural food pantry. Thank you Zion congregation for your generosity towards our local food pantries!

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

Dear Zion,
Thank you again for the very kind gift and wonderful messages! It was fun working with everyone!!
Love,
Isabel Silva

Dear Zion,
Thank you once again for your donation of food that you collected during the Boilermaker. It is greatly appreciated and has been a HUGE blessing to the Seeds of Hope food pantry. Your generosity is a big help in supporting our mission of feeding those in need in our area. Thank you so very much!!
Cindy Molesky, Coordinator of Seeds of Hope food pantry.

Dear Zion members and friends,
Thank you so much for all of the prayers, calls, and messages during my time off. Words cannot express how much your efforts and reach outs during that time meant to me.
Sincerely,
Sara

Dear Justina/Trinity
Thank you for helping us with the bulletins through October. We appreciate your help and support!
Sara

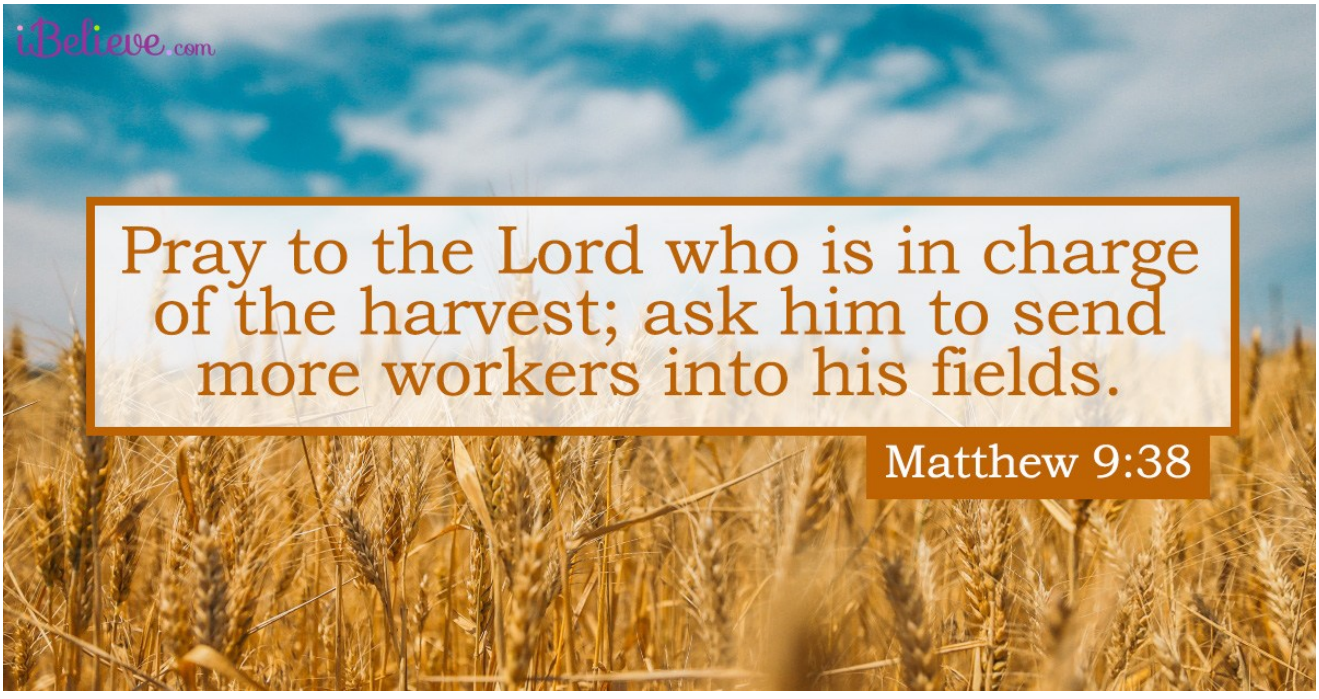
A heartfelt thank you to everyone who brought in meals and/or stayed to help package food during our Cook-In for Your Neighbors. A total of 79 meals and 12 soups were packaged into meals.
What a wonderful example of God's work through our hands.

Zion Lutheran Church

630 French Road

New Hartford, NY 13413

CONTACT INFO:
Phone: 315.765.8035
Email: office@zionluth.com
Website: www.zionlutheranNy.org
Like us on Facebook at:
Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully discern God's call to help people to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

God's Work Our Hands