

September 30, 2023

Zion Connection

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[Zion Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

The Altar flowers for the month of September are graciously provided by Ann Schultz in loving memory of her husband, Rick Schultz.

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church! Our newsletter serves to help you stay connected -

With one another, with your faith, with the greater church, and with opportunities to serve our community & beyond.



Article from Pastor Karin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This time of year, I would usually write something about the changing of the seasons, the smell of crisp autumn air and falling leaves...but...we live in Florida, so we hope for cooler weather, no more hurricanes, recognize that here, the leaves fall in the Spring. We are into the season of football, so I Googled "theology of football." What an amazing array of results! There was an article from Times magazine, <https://time.com/3561559/football-and-prayer/>, and a dissertation for a PhD in Theology. What struck me was the noted disconnect between religion and football. Besides the moneychangers in the temples, Jesus was a peaceful guy, preaching to *turn the cheek*. I see an interesting parallel: teams and coaches, maybe not as much anymore, pray before games and ask God's blessing, then go out onto the field and play the game, pummeling each other in the process. Not very Christ-like. Plenty of Americans go to church Sunday morning (or Saturday night), then go home to watch the games, and root for their team to beat the other guys. Not that we want serious injury to anybody, but we enjoy watching them run into each other. Lately, we have seen team fanatics fighting in the stands, and taking lives, literally, in the process - but let's leave that anger for another time.

I honestly don't know quite where I was going with this, but it crossed my mind, so I am sharing. How do we conduct our lives, after we worship and go out into the world? Does it become an eye for an eye? Or a turn the other cheek?

CHURCH CALENDAR

WEEKLY WORSHIP SERVICE

11 AM on Sunday, in person and via
livestream @ [LINK](#)

PASTOR KARIN'S OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT

Tuesday and Thursday,
9:00 AM-11:00 AM at Shepherd of the Hills
TEXT: (240)-285-5454
EMAIL: revkmalbaugh@gmail.com

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mondays, 8:30 AM at [Rainbow](#)

MAH JONGG FELLOWSHIP

Fridays, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, Oct. 8th following service

Announcements

- **God's Work, Our Hands** - On Monday, Sept. 25, 15 pizzas were delivered to the Groveland Police and Fire Departments at the Public Services Building. Fire Chief Carroll responded with the following: "On behalf of Groveland Fire and Police Departments, we would like to thank you and the members of Zion Lutheran Church for taking the time to recognize our public safety professionals by bringing pizza to them. I cannot express how much this gesture lets the men and women of both departments know that their community certainly does think about them and most certainly does care about them. (See photo on next page)
- **Memorial Service** - Malcolm Collins - 1946-2023. The members of Zion are invited to a memorial service celebrating Malcolm's life. The service will be held at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, **13600 Caspian Lane, Clermont FL, 34711** on Saturday, October 14, at 10:00 AM. The service will be livestreamed from <https://shephillsclermont.org/>. It will be followed by interment at the Africa Inland Mission (AIM) Retirement Center. **1000 Media Rd. Minneola, FL.**
- **WELCA** - October 2, 10:15 Bible study, business meeting to follow.
- October 22 - Zion Picnic, Lake David Park following the service.



September Birthdays

- Sept. 7th, Rae Starke
- Sept. 21st, Ruth Stoyer
- Sept. 22nd, Penny Slifer

Sunday Scripture Readings



Sunday, Oct. 1st

(18th Sunday after Pentecost)

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday, Oct. 8th

(19th Sunday after Pentecost)

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms 80:7-15

Philippians 3:4-14

Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, Oct. 15th

(20th Sunday after Pentecost)

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalms 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, Oct. 22nd

(21st Sunday after Pentecost)

Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

Community Activities

Read to Sydney - There's still time to donate books or funds for the distribution box at The Neighborhood Center.

Volunteer opportunities available - Thank you to Louise for offering to handle the coordination of next year's altar flowers. In addition to the items in our last newsletter, the following opportunities are also available:

Please reach out to any council member for details:

- Create Zion prayer list as needed.
- Prepare communion prior to Sunday services.
- Assist WELCA with monthly programs and bible study.
- Print 6 large-print photocopies of the weekly Celebrate.
- Deliver food donations to The Neighborhood Center as needed.
- Administrator(s) for Zion's Facebook page and website. Our sites need to be updated and maintained with current information for those who reach us via these online sources.
- Landscape maintenance - Now that the weather is cooling just a bit, light weeding of our planted areas helps to show the community we care about our property.
- Liturgical banners - Changing these out as the season necessitates.

Many of you already share your time for the sake of Zion and we are grateful. We hope you will feel called to increase your opportunities to serve.

News from Pastor Karin - Everyone is invited to Shepherd of the Hills, **13600 Caspian Lane, Clermont FL 34711**, on Tuesday mornings at 10 AM. You do not need to be able to sew; there are other ways you can help.

Pastor Karin will be supplying at Shepherd of the Hills, Sundays October 1 and 8, while Pastor Dennis is on vacation. You know the drill. Quilting and Sewing and Stuffing.



The Show Must Go On
Dinner Theater, Orlando
Sunday, December 3, 2023
5:30pm

Bus leaves from SOTH at 4:00pm
(based on minimum of 30 people)

***Cost: \$104.00pp**

Price includes: transportation, tip to driver, dinner (choice of Bourbon Chicken, Lasagna with or without meatballs—Prime Rib is extra \$8.52), unlimited soda, beer and wine.

Sign up sheet in the back of the church.
??'s see Kathy or Ray Thorby

Church Finances

As requested by the congregation earlier this year, Zion's full monthly Treasurer's Report is being posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Each month, highlights of the report will be listed below.

	August 2023	YTD
Income	\$4,706.00	\$50,634.00
Expenses	\$6,429.54	\$52,337.38
Total	(-\$1,723.54)	(-\$1,703.38)

NOTE:

Moving forward, announcements, prayer requests, and praise reports will be shared prior to the beginning of Sunday's service. These will be followed by the prelude and the lighting of the candles, offering a chance to quietly prepare for worship before the Order for Confession and Forgiveness.

For any help with newsletter information, or to share something you'd like included, please reach out to Kassidi via email at KassidiSikes@gmail.com. Thanks!