

# THE MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER OF ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, SUNBURY PENNSYLVANIA



## Zion Lutheran Church

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**Sexton**

from the  
**PASTOR**

August is the month of **preparation for fall events**. Jonathan Moser and I have even set a date to begin Advent and Christmas worship planning. Silly me thought there would be some down time after day camp! But just like the seasons, the church year marches on.


Adult Sunday School will start up on Sept 14th. In this class, we look at the worship texts and go deeper into them than is possible in a sermon. I know 8:30am on a Sunday morning is pretty early for some of you but give us a try. The discussions are fun and we learn from each other. Same goes for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings.

I'm looking forward to all the fall activities and missions this year - God's Work Our Hands, Abundance Dinner, Mission Mall, Giving Tree, and concerts. Join us for as many of these activities as you can. We are blessed to be able to give back to our Sunbury community in thanksgiving to God.


Pastor Beth







**BIBLE STUDY**  
Wednesdays  
@ 5:30pm  
ROOM 203



**Annual ELCA**  
**Day of Service**  
**September 7**  
**God's Work | Our Hands**

# fall events



**Tuesday, September 2**  
2:00p Executive Committee

**Thursday, September 4**  
1:00p Property Committee

**Monday, September 8**  
6:00p Worship & Music

**Tuesday, September 9**  
6:00p Congregation Council

**Wednesday, September 10**  
1:30p Book Club

**Thursday, October 2**  
1:00p Property Committee

**Monday, October 6**  
6:00p Worship & Music

**Tuesday, October 7**  
2:00p Exec Committee

**Wednesday, October 8**  
1:30p Book Club

**Tuesday, October 14**  
6:00p Cong. Council

**Monday, November 3**  
6:00p Worship & Music

**Tuesday, November 4**  
2:00p Exec Committee

**Thursday, November 6**  
1:00p Property Committee

**Tuesday, November 11**  
6:00p Congregation Council

**Wednesday, November 12**  
1:30p Book Club

**Zion's Council:** **President** Ken Heim  
**Secretary** Julie Nevin

**Vice Pres** Greg Wenrich  
**Treasurer** Steve Dagle

Troy Drasher  
Lisa Mertz

JoEllen Freida  
Ann Varias

Marianne Menapace  
Youth- Lydia Moore



# COMMITTEE news



## MINISTRY EVENT

### CO-ORDINATORS:

- ◇ God's Work Our Hands - Greg Wenrich
- ◇ Abundance Meal - Keith Kurtz and kitchen team
- ◇ Giving Tree - Pam Wenrich - Haven Ministry Giving Tree
- ◇ Mission Mall - Sam Drasher and Linda Everitt

## ABUNDANCE DINNER



... a free meal for **Our Community- October 11th 3 - 6pm**

- ◇ We acknowledge the blessings we have received, and this is our way of sharing those blessings with Sunbury. Join us for this Abundance Dinner where we will eat and have fellowship with our neighbors. Please consider volunteering to serve, clean up, or just talk to those who come to share in our abundance.

**This will be a meal served with joy!**



**ELIJAH'S  
BOWL &  
TAKERY**

Zion supports *Elijah's Bowl* and *The Takery* with monetary offerings, volunteers and ongoing collection drives of staple items for distribution

Ask Marianne Menapace or Ken Heim about how you can be involved.



## Book Club's latest chapter...

*The Book club has outgrown the Parlor space and now has it's "own" designated room to meet. The former church nursery has been repurposed to host this group of 20+!*

Here are the selections chosen for the fall:

September: - *The Forrest of Vanishing Stars*

**MARINA PICNIC -12PM**

by Kristen Harmel

October - *Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon

November - *Comfort and Joy* by Kristen Hannah

December - *Amish Grace* by David Weaver-Zercher, Donald Kraybill & Steven Nolt

**2nd Wednesday**

**of the Month**

**1:30pm**

**ROOM 201B**



## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ~ NOVEMBER 2

Remembering Zion members & close relatives who have died this past year, rejoicing in their new lives in Christ. **To include a family member** for remembrance, please **email**

zionsunbury@ptd.net by **Friday, October 24th.**



Memorials received/recorded  
April 1, 2024 to July 31st, 2025

**given in Memory of Hazel Campbell**  
by family to Zion's Sunday School

**given in Memory of Cheryl Beeler**  
by Robert & Rebecca Zimmerman

**given in Memory of Joan Mertz**  
by Robert & Rebecca Zimmerman



## SEPTEMBER

- 1 BRADY WOLFE
- 3 BILL BECK
- 4 Mary weaver
- 5 HOLLY ZIMMERMAN
- 7 PETE DAUBERT  
EMILY ENGLE  
DEKLAN FISHER  
ABBIE RUTHS  
JIM SIEGFRIED
- 11 MELANIE MOORE
- 12 ALEXANDRIA HEIM  
KEITH MIELKE
- 13 JANE KEENER  
LINDA KISTNER  
ROBERT REITZ
- 16 STACEY RANCK  
IRIS YALCH
- 17 TJ BURK  
LINSEY FASOLD  
JORDAN KUHN
- 21 JOHN AUTEN III  
MARIANNE MENAPACE
- 22 COLLINS EVERITT
- 23 LEVI STONEROD
- 24 JAMES FLEMING  
MATT WILLIAMS
- 25 RORI FISHER
- 26 JESSE MOORE  
HARPER SCHOLL
- 27 MADISON COOK
- 29 JACKIE BURK
- 30 SARAH WITMER

## 1st Sunday of the month - Celebration of Birthdays In the Social Hall after the service!

## OCTOBER

- 2 KENNETH HEIM
- 3 LINDA EVERITT
- 4 JENNIFER ISENBERG  
JULIE FETTER
- 5 ANN BIDELESPACH  
BARRIE WIRTH
- 6 SUSAN KERSTETTER
- 7 LINDEN BLESSING  
EILEEN FANGMANN
- 10 DARVIN FEGER
- 11 MILAH CALDERON  
JENNA FISHER  
BOB ZIMMERMAN
- 12 BRANDON BIDELESPACH  
HILARY COOK
- 13 MAXTON MIELKE
- 14 DALE JARRETT  
NATALIE SHOCK
- 15 DIANE FASOLD  
SHARON GASS
- 19 ROBERT CELLITTI
- 20 JUDY HOOVER  
KENZIE SANDS  
TODD SNYDER
- 22 LILY PINCOSKIE
- 25 RICH FANGMANN
- 26 ZACHARY TORRENS  
EVERLEIGH TRUTT
- 28 CINDY RUSSELL
- 31 GINNY PRENTICE

## NOVEMBER

- 1 JOHN CONRAD
- 5 ABBY HIGLEY
- 7 MARY BEAVER  
MELISSA PHILLIPS
- 8 ELIZABETH GEISER
- 10 PASTOR BETH  
LINDA LYTLE
- 13 LYSTRA BECK  
SUSAN TROMETTER  
LISA WALTER
- 14 KATHY KNOEBEL  
JULIE RANCK
- 15 RILEY HUNT  
ROB WALTER
- 16 ISLA MIELKE
- 17 SETH BURK  
BARRY CONRAD  
JENNA ERDMAN  
LINDSAY GUNN  
TROY ZIMMERMAN
- 21 JOHN AUTEN, JR.  
TOM SANDS
- 23 COLE CAMPBELL  
DAVE HUMMEL
- 25 ALEX GEISER
- 27 KERRY TROMETTER
- 28 DORCAS DAILEY  
CASSIDY MOYER
- 30 ROBERT NEITZ



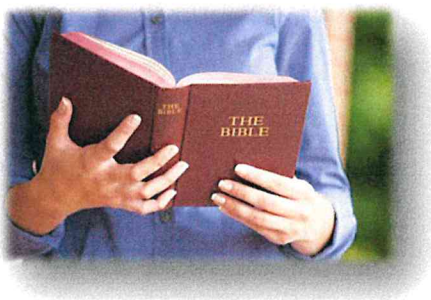




- **"Tea" at the Towers** outreach of fellowship to residents in high-rise apartment buildings
- **LWR School Kit project** please return your LWR school kit by September 7th to be included in the Upper Susquehanna Synod shipment
- **Shik Weekend Food Program**— donations of food supplies are being gathered to supplement this program for children in need
- **Kettle Cook Meal in the Garden** for everyone to enjoy!

**GWOH Sunday  
September 7**

**Adult Sunday School  
resumes  
September 14th.  
8:30am ~ Parlor**



## **SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY CHORALE FALL 2025 – Gloria & Te Deum**

**Sunday, October 19, 2025 • 3:00PM  
at Zion Lutheran Church, Sunbury**

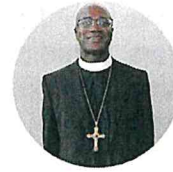
*Classic meets contemporary! First, a new composition by composer Michael Glasgow, paired with the choral standard by Antonín Dvořák. This fresh setting of the Gloria had its world premiere at Carnegie Hall in 2022. The popular Te Deum, while written over 100 years ago, is infused with a sense of grand ceremony as the Czech composer was exploring new American styles of instrumentation at the time. This program will feature guest soloists **Jill Gardner** and **Tim LeFebvre**.*

**For Tickets-**



## We Are Pleased to Announce the Election of

the **REV. YEHIEL CURRY**  
as **ELCA Presiding Bishop**



### **For the Life of the World**

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with 2.7 million members in more than 8,400 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands.," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly is the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

The Theme for the 2025 Churchwide Assembly was **"For the Life of the World"**.

There were 800 voting members and up to 400 visitors present each day. 137 of the voting members were youth and young adults.

One of the first items was a land acknowledgment: The 2025 Churchwide Assembly was held on the original and ancestral homelands of the Hohokam, O'odham, and Piipaash peoples. We give thanks for their presence on the land since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call the land their home. When we gather for the Churchwide Assembly in 2025, let us remember the Indigenous peoples and tribal nations who were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum, dance and sing upon the lands where we will be assembled.

Later in the assembly we were able to participate in a pow wow along with native Americans from various tribes and states in the U.S.

The Reverend Yehiel Curry was elected on July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the ELCA. Reverend Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Rev. Curry received 562 votes and will be the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Rev. Curry reflected on his service in the ELCA. “I’m what a return on your investment looks like,” he said. “Perhaps I’m out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So, if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

There are dozens of topics to share with our home congregations, and it’s very difficult to speak to just one. What kept surfacing in my mind, during the entire week, was the diversity of the assembly. There was such a variety of skin tones, languages, nationalities, religions, men, women, LGBTQ+, young, old, musically inclined, and on and on. What was evident was the shared respect among us. Voting members had opportunities to question or comment about items brought to the assembly meeting. When you are in a room of 1,200 people, you expect that opposing opinions will bring some friction. However, what happened was respectful listening and responses. You might not agree with the choices of an individual, but you must respect and love each person as God so graciously loves you. Love is the greatest of all human qualities and it is an attribute of God himself. Love involves unselfish service to others to show it gives evidence that you care. Faith is the foundation and content of God’s message; hope is the attitude and focus; and love is the action. When faith and hope are in line, you are free to love completely. Because you understand how God loves. The 2025 ELCA Assembly, as a group, understood this kind of love. Remember that we are a community of believers united in faith and purpose. It is up to each of us to spread God’s message of love to all.

The first Council of Nicaea was convened 1,700 years ago, beginning the process of setting forth Christian convictions in what we know today as the Nicene Creed. The creed proclaims the life-giving truth of the triune God and our steadfast faith in Jesus Christ “for ... the life of the world to come.” These convictions continue to live and breathe among us in word and sacrament.

Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

*We are church for the sake of the world* — for the abundant *life* promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

We recognize the wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, “The church is the church only when it exists for others.” Our constitution’s “Statement of Purpose” boldly proclaims this commitment to be a people “called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.”

Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God’s mission of reconciliation **for the life of the world.**