

“And let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Hebrews 12.2

Stop looking at that clock!

The sound of our teacher’s voice called us back to reality. With summer vacation only two days away it was hard to focus. Two more days of school, then all the baseball-playing, bike-riding, tree-climbing, and hanging out with friends you could ever want. Not to mention the picnics, fishing, and vacation! Growing up in small-town Royal, Nebraska, vacation for my family sometimes meant a trip to the mountains; the Black Hills of SD, even better we’d drive out to Colorado to visit the Rocky’s. Whether it was the Black Hills or the Rocky’s, as we drew near the mountains the back seat of the car would grow strangely quiet. Quiet because the three occupants, the three Mitteis’ boys, were focused; eyes trained on the horizon, squinting and straining to be the first to spot a mountain, and the first to shout, “There they are!”

Yet today, summertime still means both work and play. And with so many things going on it’s easy to lose focus. For example: If you’re the one who sits in the driver’s seat, going to a place you’ve never been before, it’s easy to get off track. Or if you’re in the back, keeping a look-out for the mountains (or whatever it might be) you could get distracted by something else. Point is, this summer whether you work or play, don’t lose your focus on God. For example, just think of the time the Apostle Peter lost proper focus when Jesus called him to walk on water. Out of the boat went Peter and step, step, step . . . when his eyes were on Jesus, no problem. But then the wind and waves distracted him. Fear set in and Peter began to sink. What will summer bring for you this year? Fact is, when the waters calm, our hearts and minds are prone to focus more on creation . . . than on the Creator. Or maybe, because this summer the going gets tough. What then? Will you doubt God’s care like Peter?

God’s solution – Let us fix our eyes on Jesus. At our Lord’s ascension the disciples were, *“Looking intently up into the sky as Jesus was taken up before their very eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight.”* But then the angel reminded them that Jesus would soon return. Until that day, there was work to be done. So they returned to Jerusalem to take up that work. Whatever the circumstances, we are to look to Jesus. Let not your summer be a vacation from the Lord. Hold God’s word sacred; gladly hear and learn it, especially in His Divine Service. “Draw near to His holy mountain” each week in worship.

Please join us for the first **Zion Family Campout!!!**

When: August 13-14, 2021

Where: Rustic Acres Campground
12246 Binney Road
New Douglas, IL 62074

There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, this will be utilized to get a headcount for planned activities not for reserving campsites.

Booking Information: You can call to make your reservations, 217-456-1122, or book online at rusticacrescg.com. When booking online, please apply the discount code ZION.

*****Please make your reservation by June 13, 2021*****

<u>Campsite Type</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost after discount for Fri- Sun</u>
Lakeside Bungalow	East Lakefront rental camper sleeps 4	\$210.00
Sunset Chalet	Rental camper sleeps 4	\$202.50
Wildwood Lodge	Rental camper sleeps 4	\$202.50
East Lakefront	Lakefront campsite on east side of the lake	\$82.50
Full Hook Up	Water, Electric, Sewer campsite	\$75.00
Full Hook Up Premium	Easy back in Water, Electric, Sewer campsite. Sites tend to be larger than standard full Hooke up sites and most contain concrete patios	\$82.50
VIP Full Hook Up Premium	Water, Electric, Sewer campsite with concrete patio also has something extra like a nice fire pit area	\$90.00
VIP Pull Through	Pull through site with Water, Electric, Sewer and concrete patio	\$97.50
Lakefront	Lakefront campsite	\$97.50
Water & Electric	Water and electric campsite. All rock site. No Sewer	\$67.50
Tent Site	Primitive no water electric or sewer. Located next to bath house	\$60.00
Golf Cart Rentals	We have ten golf carts available for rent	\$170.00 for the weekend

For more information please call or text Elisabeth Wyatt at 618-670-6375

Spend the Summer with Esther

The Sunday morning adult Bible class will continue to meet throughout the summer, beginning study of the Book of Esther on June 13. The Book of Esther does not mention the name of God in the text, but the story is certainly one of God's interaction in the lives of His bold and faithful servants. Should be interesting! Starts June 13!



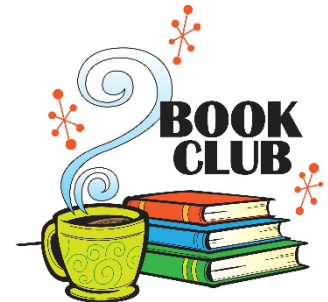
Vacation Bible School is coming to Zion July 19-23, 2021 from 9-11:30am each day. We are planning for an **in-person** VBS this summer, following CDC recommendations for safety. Vacation Bible School is open to children ages 3 thru entering 5th grade. Older children are welcome to volunteer as helpers. Registration forms are now available in the back of the church as well as electronically. They can be returned to the church or school office or directly to Rachel Mosser (rachel.mosser@zion-school.org). We are also looking for teen and adult volunteers for the week. Please contact Rachel Mosser by email or by phone (618) 363-5700 if you would like to volunteer! Thank you!

Women's Bible Study

Beginning Wednesday, June 2, at 5:00 p.m. there will be a bible study the book Divine Design. The bible study will meet in the Parish Center on Wednesdays. There is also an option to participate online. You do not need to purchase the book, but if you would like a copy, please contact Kim in the church office to place your order. The book is \$14.99. It is also available as an ebook from cph.org.

Book Club

The Board of Parish Education is hosting a book club on the topic of prayer. The book is 5 Things You Can Do To Have a Faithful Prayer Life. It covers questions like: How should we pray? & Why do we pray? It will meet Saturday evening following the 5:00 p.m. worship service. You are also welcome to read the book on your own. The books are \$5. Payment can be turned in to the church office or dropped in the offering plate.



Zion Lutheran Church & School
Better Together Update June
2021



Just two months ago, the members of Zion embarked on an ambitious fundraising effort in order to pay off the loan at Associated Bank. Encouraged by the matching fund offer from the PTL, individuals immediately responded. Their generosity was overwhelming. And the goal was reached after just a couple of weeks and the loan was paid off at the end of April.

Through the end of May, including the \$30,000.00 from the PTL, the amount donated stands at \$84,127.00. The loan payment was \$59,022.33, leaving a surplus of \$25,104.67. The Administrative Council has been meeting during the past month to formulate a list of much-needed projects which could be completed with the excess funds. What a unique opportunity has been presented to Zion!

Below is a list of those projects, including a short description and estimated cost.

Upgrade the church sound system for more stable performance, including wireless microphones, router, and video equipment	\$3,000
Contract with Illini Technology for improvements to church and school internet access, including long-term monitoring	\$3,000
Improvements to student pickup/dropoff area on east side of school. With cooperation from the city, new curbs, new wider sidewalks, oil and chip parking area.	\$6000
Replace concrete in front of school entrance and school driveway. The existing concrete is in very poor shape, and will require large equipment to remove because of its thickness	\$10,550
Replace church roof over the chancel area. The existing slate is deteriorating and will eventually cause problems. This project will require the rental of large lifts.	???
Removal of the old boiler in the school basement in order increase storage space. The boiler contains asbestos, and will require a professional contractor	\$27,000
Renovation of men's and women's bathrooms in the school gym.	???

These projects have all been deemed necessary for the continued Gospel presence at Zion Lutheran Church and School. The scope of work and costs are all estimates, and may be higher or lower than shown. We are waiting on cost estimates for a couple of projects. The excess funds from Better Together will be used to complete as much as possible; when those funds are exhausted, other sources will be creatively explored.

The Better Together fundraising effort will continue until the end of June. If you have already made a gift, thank you! If you are still contemplating a gift, this information should help guide your giving.

As we have already witnessed, when the members of the congregation work together in unity and faithful stewardship, God can use His resources to accomplish the seemingly impossible. Zion Lutheran Church and School has an important role in His plan for our member families, for the community of Staunton, and for the entire world. His Gospel must be preached in all places, and He will use us to make it happen. We need to remain faith-filled, and watch how He will use Zion long into the future.

May God bless us abundantly!
 The Administrative Council

2021 8th Grade Zion Lutheran Spotlights

TOMMY CAMPBELL

Tommy is the son of Tom and Danielle Campbell of Staunton. He played soccer from preschool to second grade, baseball from 3rd grade to 6th grade and football from 3rd-8th grade. At Zion, Tommy played basketball and was a member of the track team from 4th-8th grade. He broke the Zion junior boys shot put record in 6th grade and won the best teammate award in 7th grade football.

Tommy played the trumpet from 5th-8th grade and was involved in Boy Scouts from 2nd-4th grade. Tommy's other hobbies include playing the guitar, which he says soothes him and he loves to play and sing gospel songs. He likes Star Wars also.

Zion gives Tommy an opportunity to learn new things and learn about Jesus Christ. His favorite memory of Zion is when the basketball team went to Peoria this year. Although Zion didn't win it, he felt "it built character and taught us that even in a short time of practice, we can do anything even in if we have a short time to do it."

OWEN HALUSAN

Owen, the son of Dean and Jennifer Halusan of Prairietown, and brother to Olivia, enjoyed his time at Zion and learned a lot. His favorite memory was beating Zion-Belleville in the baseball conference tournament.

Owen played baseball for 10 years; basketball for 7 years, and football for 3 years. He played 4 years with the Staunton Falcons baseball team and has received trophies and medals from winning baseball tournaments. Owen played with the Staunton Jaguars football team for 3 years. Besides sports, Owen also enjoys fishing, hunting, playing video games, and camping.

Next year Owen plans to attend Metro-East Lutheran High School.

LOGAN HANNIG

Logan Hannig is the son of Dana Hannig and Craig Hannig and he has one sister, Della.

Logan participated in soccer for one year, baseball (2012-2018), and basketball from 2017-2021. He was involved with the Boy Scouts from 2014-2015. He enjoys fishing, hunting, riding bikes, and hanging out with friends.

One of the things he enjoyed about Zion were the fun field trips or walks to Mayfield's and learning about God.

ELI HENKE

Eli is the son of Ryan and Georgia Henke. He has one sister, Catania, who is in 2nd grade at Zion.

Eli played basketball for seven years; baseball for 4 years; soccer for 4 years, and flag football for 2 years.

He enjoys playing clarinet and while in band for 4 years, he went to state one time in band. He also went to the spelling bee twice. Another pastime he enjoys is building legos.

Zion meant a lot to Eli. He went to Zion his entire life growing up in Christ and had a lot of fun. He knows if he ever wants to see his old teachers again, he can always come to say hi.

His favorite memory from Zion is from 1st-3rd grade when we would gather acorns every recess and put them in a special place and throw them at each other.

RYAN KLECKNER

Ryan is the son of Eric and Pam Kleckner. He has an older brother, Seth.

Ryan enjoys playing sports and was involved in basketball in grades 4-8, football in grades 3-8; baseball, trap shooting in grades 5-8, and track, grades 4-7.

In the 5th-6th grade, he was in band and was involved in Scouts in grades K-5th. Other hobbies include sports, biking, hanging out with my friends and family, working, and just having fun.

Zion is a family and Ryan loved all of his years here. "We have grown together. Chapel is fun with the little kids and they look up to us." His favorite memory was when we would make gifts in preschool and my mom, who is the preschool teacher, would always know what her present would be!

SARAH LESKO

Sarah is the daughter of Kevin and Leslie Ann Lesko. Her siblings include, Abigail, Kate, Matt, Dan, Caleb, Shannon, and Megan.

Sports that Sarah was involved in included soccer; 4-5 Softball/T-ball 5-13, and Zion basketball-Grades 4-7; and Zion volleyball-Grades 4-7.

She also participated in Girl Scouts ages 5-14 where she earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award and the Girl Scout Silver Award. Sarah played flute in the Staunton band, Grades 5-8.

She loves reading, painting, drawing, and basically any type of art. Sarah says reading is like experiencing a whole new world with new people and places. Making art is much the same, except you're the one creating the new world, and you can control every part of it, which is pretty cool.

Sarah's favorite memory from Zion was in 7th grade when we finished The Giver and Tommy yelled "Time travel!" and how after that moment "Time Travel" was a constant with our class and just one big inside joke.

ZANDER MACHOTA

Zander is the son of Ryan Machota and Susan Fletcher. He has one sister, Anna who is in the 6th grade.

Zander played basketball for 7 years, baseball for 9 years, including Falcon Baseball, and football for 6 years.

He loves to fish and participates in fishing tournaments, where in one he won the "Next generation team of the Year" at Lake Shelbyville fishing division. Zander also loves hunting and the outdoors.

Zion was fun and where he received a Christian education. His favorite Zion memory was when they beat the public school in basketball in overtime off a buzzer beater.

MICHAELA MARTINTONI

Michaela has two brothers, Chase, a Zion 4th grader, and James, a Zion Kindergartner. She is the daughter of Mike and Stephanie.

She played basketball 4th-7th grade and played volleyball in 4th, 5th, and 7th grade and ran track in 4th and 6th grade.

Michaela played in the band for 3 years. She enjoys listening and learning about many bands and watches horror movies from different decades. She plays the piano and "messes around" with different instruments. She loves reading different genres of books, and hanging out with her friend.

Michaela has enjoyed her time at Zion Lutheran. "I have made several friends and I hope that our friendships continue after graduation. All of the teachers have helped me with my grade school journey and I appreciate them all for that."

Michaela enjoyed all of the field trips she went on throughout the years, but she especially enjoyed going to the city museum every year.

TYLER MELCHERT

Tyler is the son of Jennie Melchert and George Melchert and he has two siblings, Camille and Jesse.

Tyler played T-ball in preschool; soccer for 4 years and was in track in 5th and 6th grade. He played basketball in 7th grade.

He participated in Cub Scouts from 1st-5th grade and he played piano from 1st-5th grade, and clarinet from 5th-7th grades.

Awards he received were making it to the spelling bee in 5th, 6th, and winning first place in 7th grade. He has been on high honor roll all year. He was baptized in preschool and was confirmed on May 2.

He watches YouTube and tv, plays games, babysits, and helps cook sometimes. He enjoys riding his bike, eating out, and walking with his dog. At school Tyler likes to play kickball, knockout, and wiffle ball. He also likes to walk around the school and go to Wall's pasture.

Tyler explains he's learned to read, write, do math, and learned a lot about the Bible. This year he's learned Algebra and how to write better. During his time at Zion, he's also learned more complex things to build upon the basics previously learned.

His favorite memory from Zion would be the 5th grade Christmas party. We played different games, had candy, watched a movie, and played "Find Baby Jesus". He chose this because it was very fun and "we didn't have to do any work. It was also exciting because it was almost Christmas."

BRADY SEELBACH

Brady is the son of Tim and Rachel Seelbach and he has two sisters, Kaylee, and Taylor.

He participated in basketball and track since the fourth grade, excluding 2020 track, t-ball, pitching machine, and soccer since kindergarten, excluding 2020.

Brady has been in Boy Scouts since 2018 and Cub Scouts. He's played the trumpet in public school band since 5th grade.

Brady participated in a spelling bee and was recently confirmed on May 2. He enjoys playing video games and watching YouTube. He likes to play sports, card/board games, archery and make stop motion videos on his Chromebook.

When he thinks of Zion, "I think I'll always have Zion in the back of my mind, if not for the Christian education and Confirmation, then for the fact that it was my first school. I met my first friend, and it was where I first played sports more seriously. It was where I was first considered "a nerd" (☺) and God was with me the whole time."

ETHAN SHARP

Ethan is the son of James and Lisa Sharp and has 2 younger brothers, Colton and Jace.

While at Zion, Ethan was in track for 3 years, basketball-5 years, and baseball-3 years. He also participated in Little dribblers for 2 years, Terrier basketball-2 years, Falcon Baseball 6 years, tee ball-2 years, pitching machine 2 years, indoor soccer-1 year, city league soccer-8 years, and Staunton soccer club-1 year. While playing sports, he received numerous medals and trophies.

Ethan plays the trombone in the band for the past 4 years. He was in Cub Scouts for 4 years, where he received the Arrow of Light award.

His hobbies include video games, fishing, biking, playing sports and hanging out with his friends. He enjoys travelling and camping with his family, including to Disney World, Gatlinburg, TN, and the beach.

Zion has been a great experience for Ethan, making good friends and learning a lot about life and academics. Ethan feels he is closer to God and His word. He has had a lot of fun and excitement on a daily basis.

His favorite memories are going to Peoria for basketball tournaments, field trips to the City Museum in St. Louis, playing find "Baby Jesus", Tommy saying "Time Travel", walking to Mayfield's, and the last day of school parties.



JUNE

Baptisms

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | <i>Kevin Dal Pozzo</i> | | |
| | <i>Jodee Langer</i> | | |
| | <i>Braden Pfeiffer</i> | | |
| | <i>Bradley Pirok</i> | | |
| 2 | <i>Kelli Caldieraro</i> | | |
| | <i>Gregory Miller</i> | | |
| | <i>Lisa Miller</i> | | |
| | <i>Richard Miller, Jr</i> | | |
| 3 | <i>Merri Bogard</i> | | |
| | <i>Carol Hoog</i> | | |
| | <i>Zack Johnson</i> | | |
| | <i>Sherri Plan</i> | | |
| 4 | <i>Nancy Highlander</i> | | |
| | <i>Lucas Ocepek</i> | | |
| 5 | <i>Joshua Barnes</i> | | |
| | <i>Zack Painter</i> | | |
| 6 | <i>Nelda Bierbaum</i> | | |
| | <i>Dennis Brackman</i> | | |
| | <i>Jace Sharp</i> | | |
| 7 | <i>Wendy Harbison</i> | | |
| 8 | <i>Jacob Hughes</i> | | |
| | <i>Gabrielle Reising</i> | | |
| 9 | <i>Eric Heflin</i> | | |
| | <i>Kyle Heflin</i> | | |
| 12 | <i>Nathaniel Rosenthal</i> | | |
| | <i>Nova Rosenthal</i> | | |
| 13 | <i>Carrie Rucker</i> | | |
| 15 | <i>Wesley Crouch</i> | | |
| | <i>Kelsey Henke</i> | | |
| | <i>Alyssa Ridens</i> | | |
| 16 | <i>Claire Gorenz</i> | | |
| | <i>Ethan Sharp</i> | | |
| | <i>Kendra Sigafos</i> | | |
| | <i>Jewell Tate-de Groot</i> | | |
| 17 | <i>Kristina Pfeiffer</i> | | |
| | <i>Nathan Plan</i> | | |
| | <i>Sophia Sigafos</i> | | |
| 18 | <i>Alexis Carlen</i> | | |
| | <i>Allen Meyer</i> | | |
| 19 | <i>Brent Schmollinger</i> | | |
| 20 | <i>Matthew Cisler</i> | | |
| | <i>Keith Henke</i> | | |
| | <i>Kurt Henke</i> | | |
| | <i>Elyse Podwojski</i> | | |
| 21 | <i>Sara Hall</i> | | |
| 22 | <i>Richard Henry, Jr.</i> | | |
| 24 | <i>Gary Hoffstetter, Jr.</i> | | |
| | <i>Rowan Spudich</i> | | |
| 25 | <i>Amber Da Gama Rose</i> | | |
| 26 | <i>Eleanor Obert</i> | | |
| | <i>Logan Rushton</i> | | |
| 27 | <i>Elijah Meyer</i> | | |
| | <i>Gene Ruehrup</i> | | |
| 28 | <i>Roger Leetham</i> | | |
| 29 | <i>Jeffrey Coalson</i> | | |
| | <i>Zander Machota</i> | | |
| 30 | <i>William Voyles</i> | | |

June

2021

Zion Lutheran Church

Staunton, Illinois

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			9am Lydia Circle	6:30pm Trustees 7:30pm Men's Club		5pm Worship w/C Pastor Kirby
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Pastor Kirby			9am Lydia Circle			5pm Worship w/C Pastor Kirby
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Pastor Kirby	6:30pm School Board Stewardship	6 pm Evangelism 7pm Elders	9am Lydia Circle 10:30am Glenwood 6:30pm Communion	9am Bible Study		5pm Worship w/C Pastor Mitteis
Father's Day 20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Pastor Mitteis		7pm Parish Education	9am Lydia Circle 10:30am Glenwood	9am Bible Study 6:30pm Admin. Council 7pm Alumni & Friends		5pm Worship w/C Pastor Mitteis
27	28	29	30			
8am Worship w/C 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship w/C Pastor Mitteis			9am Lydia Circle			