



Zion Live Life in Christ Lutheran Panther Paws

The mission at Zion Lutheran School is to guide students toward academic excellence and to be Christian Leaders!

September 12, 2025

Bible Verse of the Week

"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."-Isaiah 41:10

School News



Important Upcoming Dates

NOTE ATHLETIC DATES ARE LISTED UNDER SPORTS

Monday 9/15-16: 5th/6th grade outdoor ed.

Tuesday 9/16: 3rd/4th Field Day at MELHS

Thurs. 9/18: Youth Board Meeting 7pm

Sun, 9/21: "Joyful Noise" Choir 10:30

Sun, 9/21: NLSA Certificate presentation service with meal to follow 10:30 church service.

Weds. 9/24: Prek4-K Apple Farm Field Trip

September Birthdays-Happy Birthday!

Mrs. King

Dinal Agaj

In our prayers this week

- Birthday blessings Mrs. King and Dinal
- We pray for God's guidance, mercy, and blessing, as well as for healing

Worship Opportunities

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30am

Contact Information

School 618-635-3060 ext 1
Daycare 618-635-3060 ext 2
Church 618-635-2880
email Office@zion-school.org

and restoration for our country. For comfort of all who are hurting and for the healing of the wounds from our past. Unite us as one people under You and guide us toward a future of righteousness and peace. Please protect us from all harm and make our nation a land that honors You.

Announcements.

Dress Code

Please review the school policy for the dress code at Zion Lutheran School. Students are expected to dress with cleanliness, decency, and modesty as their guidelines. Keep in mind that everything fashionable is not necessarily wholesome or appropriate for Christian growth and development. Students are to avoid any manner of attire that is disruptive to the smooth operation of the school, which creates a health or safety problem, or attracts undue attention.

I want to highlight a few guidelines that the students are expected to follow at Zion.

- **NO TUBE-TOPS, HALTER TOPS, CROPPED TOPS, OR STRAPLESS SUNDRESSES.**
- **NO SHIRTS THAT EXPOSE THE BELLY OR MIDRIF AREA.**
- **NO SHIRTS WITH SPAGHETTI STRAPS.**
- **NO SHORT SHORTS. NO SPANDEX OR "CHEER" SHORTS. SHORTS MUST BE AT LEAST TO "FINGERTIPS LENGTH" (WHEN STANDING WITH ARMS TO THEIR SIDES, THE LENGTH OF THE SHORTS MUST REACH THE FINGERTIPS OR LONGER).**
- **SHORTS MUST BE WORN UNDER SKIRTS OR DRESSES.**
- **NO FLIP FLOP SANDALS.**

- **CROCS MAY BE WORN BUT THE BACK STRAP MUST BE UP AND THE SHOE SECURED ONTO THE FOOT. TENNIS SHOES FOR RECESS AND PE ARE PREFERRED.**

The teachers and staff, when deemed necessary, may make additional guidelines to those stated.

It is the responsibility of parents/legal guardians to attend to what their child wears to school each day. Parents/legal guardians should help implement the intent of these guidelines by making sure their child is dressing appropriately for school and school activities. The dress code will be enforced using any one of the following that is deemed necessary:

1. Parents/legal guardians will be notified of the inappropriate attire.
2. Students may be asked to turn the inappropriate attire inside out.
3. Students may have other clothing brought to the school by parents/legal guardians.

If you have any doubts, or are questioning if it is appropriate please have your student wear a different outfit to school

NLSA Accreditation Certificate Service

Last year the school went through the National Lutheran School Association (NLSA) accreditation process. Sunday, September 21st Mr. Jeff Fick from the Southern Illinois District (SID) will be presenting the NLSA accreditation certificate to Zion. We would like to invite all families to join us at the 10:30 worship service as this is a huge accomplishment. The "Joyful Noise" choir will be singing. Following the service we will gather in the school gym for a luncheon. Main dish and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share.



MELHS Cheer Camp

Camp Date: Friday, October 17th, from 4:30-6:00 pm at MELHS in the Gym

Details: Campers will learn a band dance, sideline cheers, and crowd cheers to perform at the MELHS football game that evening at 7:00 pm.

Cost: \$40 includes a bow and t-shirt (register by 10/1 to get a t-shirt). Payment is due when registering via Venmo at @Sarah-Koch-26 or a check to the MELHS office.

To sign up please complete [this form](#). Contact Sarah Koch with any questions regarding the camp at skoch326@gmail.com.

Schedule Change

Due to the Lutheran Elementary School Association conference that is being held Thursday, October 2nd Zion will be not have school. This day was originally scheduled as an early 12:00 dismissal but due to the change in time that the teachers need to be at the conference we will now have this day off. Daycare will be open.



13th Annual Brew in the Lou Festival Returns to Francis Park October 11

St. Louis, MO – St. Louis' premier fall tasting event is back! The 13th Annual *Brew in the Lou* Festival returns to the Lily Pond at Francis Park on **Saturday, October 11, 2025, from 1–5 p.m.**, sponsored by Gene Lehr and John Gerber.

Guests will enjoy unlimited tastings of the region's best **beer, wine, spirits, and food**, plus live music, shopping, and family fun — all while supporting scholarships and educational services for **9,700 students at 38 Lutheran schools in the St. Louis metro area.**

Tickets

- **General Admission:** \$55 in advance / \$65 at the gate (includes unlimited tastings while supplies last + commemorative glass).
- **VIP (Pre-Sale Only):** \$125, with exclusive food and beverage offerings,

VIP-only pint glass, and private restrooms.

- **Designated Driver:** \$25.

Brew in the Lou sold out last year — advance purchase is strongly encouraged!

Tickets & Information

Advance tickets are available through **11:59 p.m. on October 9** at www.brewinthelou.com.

About LESA

More than 9,700 children attend LESA-member Lutheran schools in the St. Louis metro area, making it the second-largest private school system in the Bi-State region. A Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, LESA represents 38 elementary and high schools and five related agencies. Learn more at www.LESAstl.org.

September Tuition Payments

Reminder that **September tuition payments are due Sept.30**. September tuition invoices were sent out Tuesday Sept 2. If you did not sign up for auto-debit through the office, cash or check payments can be dropped off in the school office. If you have any questions please email the school Ms.Heather.

Student Illness Policy Reminder:

School has started and so has the first round of sickness. It seems that fevers, sore throats and even some vomiting has started to make its way around. Please remind your child to wash their hands (we talk about it a lot at school), keep their hands out of their nose and mouth and keep their hands to themselves to prevent the spread of germs. If your child is sick, please be sure to keep them home. Thank you so much to all of our parents who do keep their children home in the event of an illness. We greatly appreciate your help with keeping all absences to a minimum.

Just as a reminder though to all parents, please review the following guidelines for when to keep your child home from school.

A child should stay home from school if he or she:

- Has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher
- Has been vomiting or has diarrhea
- Has symptoms that keep him or her from participating in school, such as: very tired or lack of appetite, cough that he or she cannot control, sneezing often, headache, body aches, or earache, severe sore throat which could be strep (other symptoms of strep include headache, stomachache or rash).

Please follow these guidelines for when to keep your child home to hopefully help keep absences to a minimum:

- Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medicine. Colds/flu can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow recovery or allow them to be exposed to other germs while they are still getting better. Sending them back too soon exposes other people unnecessarily to illness.
- Keep your child home until 24 hours after their last vomiting or diarrhea episode.
- Keep your child home if he or she is coughing or sneezing frequently to keep from spreading germs to others.

If you are unsure if your child can return, please call the school office for guidance.

If your child will be out sick, please email their teachers and the school office or call the school office to report their absence.

Action Plans:

New and updated action plans need to be turned into the school office as soon as possible. Please make sure that any inhalers, epi-pens or other medications that you may have in the office is current and not expired. If your student has a medical condition that may require intervention or treatment while at school please let the office know. You can have your doctors office email to Ms. Heather at heather.girardin@zion-school.org.

Mark your calendars: Choir Dates

"Joyful Noise" 3rd-8th grade

"Praise Him" 4yr PreK-2nd grade

September 21 10:30 am Joyful Noise

October 18 5pm Joyful Noise

October 26 10:30am Praise Him

Lunch Bites

(Monthly Lunch Menu Attached Below)

Lunch Changes:

This year in an attempt to reduce waste and to make prepping for making meals students will be able to request a second entrée when ordering lunch in the morning. For example if lunch for the day is a hot dog, when ordering your student can let their teacher know that they would like to order a second hot dog. They can only order one additional entrée and the cost for that item will be charged as a snack.

Sunday School Classes are every Sunday from 9:30-10:15

In addition to adult classes, we have classes for Early Childhood (3 years old through 1st grade), Elementary (2nd- 5th grade), and Youth Bible study (6th-12th grade). Please consider joining us!

More information to come with location and teachers.

Chapel Offerings

Every Wed. the students/staff attend chapel service at 8:30am in the church. Parents and friends are invited to join us as well. Offerings are collected weekly and given to a selected charity per quarter. This quarters offerings will be collected for Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dogs.

Schedule Your Health Exams for 2025-2026

If you have not turned in your health forms, please do so ASAP.

See below what tests are needed for certain grades entering 2025-2026 school year.

PreK: Health form w/updated immunizations & Birth Certificate

Kindergarten: Health form with updated immunizations, Dental Exam, Eye exam, Lead Level Test, and Birth Certificate

2nd grade: Dental Exam

6th grade: Health Form, Dental Exam,

Sports Physical: As some 3rd graders may play sports next year, we encourage them to receive a sports physical as well.

Grades 4-8 (Any student wanting to play a sport) Please note 6th graders may use their health form as a sports physical.

Sports/Activities Schedule

Any child playing a school sport needs to complete the concussion information sheet along with the sports handbook policy waiver before they begin their sport. This will be kept in their student file. Please stop by the office if you are in need of these.



Girls VOLLEYBALL

Coaches Heather France and Sam Hunt

Practice and Games 9/12-18

Friday/Saturday (9/12-9/13) - Holly Reeb Tournament @ Zion, Bethalto (Schedule is attached below) -

Our first game on Friday is at 7pm. Please plan to arrive in Bethalto by 6:15 as games may be running ahead of schedule. We will have 3 games on Saturday, one at 10am, and another at 1pm, and a third game to be determined.

Sunday and Monday (9/14-9/15) - Days off

Tuesday (9/16) - D team practice 5:30-7pm

Wednesday (9/17) - A/B practice 3:15-5:00 in Staunton (C and D teams are welcome to join)

Thursday (9/18) - VB @ Bethalto vs Holy Cross - D team 5pm, A team 7pm

Friday/Saturday (9/19-9/20) - C team tournament @ Zion, Belleville

Volunteers Needed:

To help keep the sports program running smoothly we ask that parents and families sign up to help with concessions or working the gate or scorers table. Please click the link below for available times and dates to help with upcoming games. If you do not have a student athlete but would like to help out we would love to have you. Thank you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A45AAA82BA7FD0-57727712-volleyball>

Zion PTL

If you would like to volunteer for the 2025-2026 school year to assist with planning/executing the Christmas Shoppe or would be interested in taking over the 2026 Golf Tournament (and moving forward), please reach out to any of the current PTL members, Nikki Fraser, Jenn Davis, BJ Davis or Heather France.

Up Coming Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to anyone to attend.

Board of Youth: Thursday, September 18, 2025 7:00 - Parish Center

PTL: TBA

Raise Right (Formerly Scrip)

Go to RaiseRight.com or download the new RaiseRight app on your phone to get

started. The Zion enrollment code is FC3ALE174778. program.

Orders may be placed on line at [RaiseRight.com](https://www.RaiseRight.com) or you may also call Michelle (618-660-5044) or e-mail her at michrant@gmail.com. You may drop off scrip orders and payments at the school, daycare, or church office during their regular hours. All orders placed by noon on Monday will be available for pickup by Thursday of each week. Orders may be available sooner if items requested are currently in stock. For immediate purchases, scrip is available during school office hours. We continue to carry our local retailers and our most popular national retailers in inventory.

If you have additional questions, please contact Michelle Rantanen. **Remember, a percentage of all of your scrip purchases will be deducted from your monthly tuition!**



Formerly ShopWithScrip

There are many local businesses that are a part of this program as well such as Mayfields, Blackbird Bakery, Bills IGA, Cavataios and R&B's Family Restaurant to name a few. You can help Zion PTL raise money and receive money off of tuition all while using your scrip cards for your everyday spending. Don't forget birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and any special occasion that comes your way! Plenty of travel scrip cards available as well.

What is Scrip?

Scrip is just another term for gift cards. Scrip fundraising is an easy, no-selling program that allows families to raise money by purchasing scrip cards at face value. Then Zion PTL purchases them for less than face value through Great Lakes Scrip Center. Retailers offer different rebate amounts on scrip cards. Half of the rebate amount goes back to the Zion PTL. **The other HALF of the rebate can be applied toward school tuition, preschool tuition, or daycare payments!** There is also the option to have all of the rebate amount return to the Zion PTL.

Get Started

Go to **RaiseRight.com** on your computer or download the new **RaiseRight** app on your phone to get started. Enroll your family by following the prompts on the screen. **You will need Zions enrollment code: FC3ALE174778** There is no cost to sign up.

There are three kinds of scrip:

Physical Scrip Cards: Many cards are available in the school office or they can be ordered.

eGift Cards: Perfect for last-minute purchases and available to print from home or pull up on your phone.

Reload Existing Card: Add funds on the spot to a card that has already been purchased from ShopWithScrip.

Payments Made Easy

RaiseRight offers three ways to pay:

***Cash or Check:** You can send cash or check to the school, daycare, or church office.

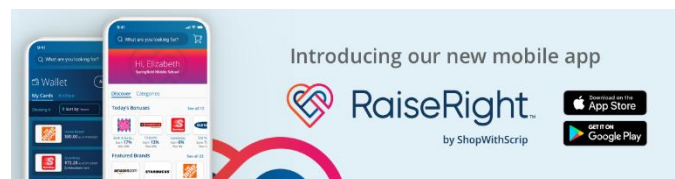
***Bank Account:** Securely link your account. There is a \$0.15 convenience fee per transaction.

***Credit Card:** Securely link your card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover) with a 2.60% credit card fee per transaction.

****Online Payments** are for a more convenient, on-the-go way to pay. By making online payments, your eGift cards will be immediately ready to print from home, you will be able to instantly add money to your reloadable cards, and you can shop wherever, whenever on your phone!

How Do I Order?

Orders can be placed and received anyday, anytime. You can call, text, email or send an order form to the school, daycare or church office or contact **Michelle Rantanen: call/text (618)660-5044 or email michrant@gmail.com** Orders can be placed online at **RaiseRight.com** or from your phone with the **RaiseRight** app. There are many scrip cards available for immediate purchase in the school office. For any order not readily available, as long as your order is received by 10am on Monday, it should be ready for pick up on Thursday. Orders may be picked up at the school, daycare or church office. Let us know your preference. Watch for updates in the school Panther Paws. Family and friends can purchase as well. Contact Michelle with any orders or questions.



****Be sure to check the website/app weekly for bonus rebates on your favorite brands!****



September 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 No School Labor Day	2 Hot Dog Buttered Noodles Peas Cooked Apples Milk	3 Chicken Tacos Lettuce Salad Chips & Salsa Pineapple Milk	4 Egg & Cheese Biscuit Sausage Patty Tater Rounds Peaches Milk	5 Pork Riblet Sandwich French Fries Green beans Applesauce Milk
8 Chicken Nuggets Loaded Mashed Potatoes Corn Vanilla Pudding Milk	9 Chili Peanut Butter and Honey Sandwich Carrott and Celery Sticks Milk	10 Doritos Taco Salad Pinto Beans Apple Slices Milk	11 French Toast Sticks Scrambled Eggs Orange Smiles Milk	12 Lasagna Casserole Garlic Bread Side Salad Pears Milk
15 Sloppy Joes Fries Green Beans Brownies Milk	16 Grilled Chicken Sandwich w/Bacon Cheesy Broccoli and Cauliflower Pears Milk	17 Burrito Casserole Lettuce Salad Mexican Rice Pineapple Milk	18 McGriddle Muffins w/Sausage Hash Browns Peaches Milk	19 Pepperoni Bosco Stick Side Salad Mandarin Oranges Jello Milk
22 Chicken Patty Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Carrots Sliced Apples Milk	23 Hamburger or Cheeseburger Pasta Salad Peaches Chocolate Pudding Milk	24 Tacos Mexican Rice Corn Fruit Salsa w/ Cinnamon Chips Milk	25 Biscuits with Sausage Gravy Breakfast Potatoes Fruit and Yogurt Milk	26 Toasted Ravioli Italian Green Beans Fruit Cocktail Milk
29 Beef Gyro Wrap w/Feta Tomato and Cucumber Salad Lemon Bars Milk	30 Toasted Cheese Chips Veggie Sticks Peaches Milk			Entrée Alternate: Peanut Butter & Jelly w/ Mozzarella Cheese stick



Zion Lutheran

2025-2026 School Calendar

August 5	Final Registration (All families need to attend)
August 10	Blessing of the Backpacks/Back to School Service
August 13	First Day of School
August 18	First Day of 4-year-old PreK
August 19	First Day of 3-year-old PreK
August 29	No School-LESA PD Day
September 1	No school-Labor Day
October 2	12:00 Dismissal
October 3	No School-LEA Conference
October 13	No School-Columbus Day
October 17	<i>(End of 1st Quarter)</i>
October 29	2:00 Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 30	2:00 Dismissal Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 31	No School
November 11	No School-Veterans' Day
November 24-28	No School-Thanksgiving Holiday
December 19	<i>(End of 2nd Quarter)</i>
Dec 22-Jan 5	Christmas Break
January 6	School Resumes
January 19	No School-Martin Luther King Jr Day
February 16	No School-Presidents' Day
Feb 23-Feb 27	IOWA Testing Week
March 6	12:00 Dismissal-Special Friends' Day <i>(End of 3rd Quarter)</i>
March 13	<i>(End of 3rd Quarter)</i>
March 30-April 6	No School-Easter Break
April 7	School Resumes
April 29-30	Parent-Teacher Conferences (no change to the day)
May 1	No School
May 22	12:00 Dismissal-Last day of school (if no emergency days are needed)

Free Family Event Hosted by the City of Staunton-Tourism

When: Saturday, September 13th

Where: Duda Park

Time: Movie Starts at Dusk

Come and enjoy a free showing of Lilo and Stitch at Duda Park. Free popcorn, sno-cones and cotton candy!



Student Council Sticker Sale

From September 10th - 17th

Small stickers 2 for 25 cents

Big stickers 1 for 25 cents

5 stickers for 1\$

All proceeds will benefit student council goals



BE THE REAL MVP

Volunteers Needed!

To help keep the sports program running smoothly we ask that parents and families of student athletes to help with concessions or working the gate or scorers table at home sporting events. Often times this leads to parents or family members missing out and not getting to watch their athlete play.

We are calling out to all current and former Zion families to volunteer to help work a shift in the concession stand so that the parents of the athletes can cheer them on to victory. You can check out open shifts through the sign up genius or show up to one of the upcoming home volleyball games and ask how you can help.



STAUNTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



BOOK



CLUB

BOOK DISCUSSION - SNACKS - ARTS & CRAFTS - GAMES

FIRST MEETING

**17 SEP,
2025**

AT 4:00PM

3RD WEDNESDAY

OF EVERY MONTH

4PM - 5PM

PICK UP THIS MONTH'S BOOK
AT THE CIRCULATION DESK!

306 W MAIN ST, STAUNTON, IL



618-635-3852

Staunton Public Library

6/7/8TH GRADE

BOOK club

Meetings times have changed! We will now meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4pm.*

First Meeting:

WEDNESDAY, 10 SEPT 2025 | 4 PM

Pick up this month's book at the circulation desk.

Join us for book discussion, snacks, arts & crafts, and games!

*** EXCEPTION:** October meeting will be held on the 22nd.

306 W Main St | 618-635-3852

OFFERED BY

Macoupin County Public Health Department



REAR-FACING
CAR SEAT



FORWARD-FACING
CAR SEAT



BOOSTER SEAT



SEAT BELT

CAR SEAT INSTALLATION & SAFETY CHECKS

*Provided by MCPHD's Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians
with additional certification in Safe Travel for All Children:
Transporting Children with Special Healthcare Needs.*

- ✓ **CHECK YOUR CAR SEAT FOR SAFETY AND FIT**
- ✓ **ENSURE IT FITS YOUR CHILD AND YOUR VEHICLE**
- ✓ **LEARN HOW TO INSTALL YOUR CHILD'S CAR SEAT WITH CONFIDENCE**

Call to Schedule an Appointment:
(217) 854-5322

CELEBRATING
Child Passenger Safety Week



FREE CAR SEAT CHECK EVENT

*Friday, September 26th, 2025
1:00-4:00pm*

*205 Oakland Avenue
Carlinville, IL 62626*

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY



safefamilies@mcphd.net | (217) 854-5322 | www.mcphd.net

26
OCTOBER
2025

OPEN HOUSE

1PM-3PM

6305 Center Grove Rd
Edwardsville, IL 62025
www.melhs.org



LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Come check out Metro-East Lutheran High School!

Tour our School

Meet our Teachers

Find out what it takes to be a Knight!

- applications will open 10/26/25