



# Zion Messenger



November  
2024

## *Pastoral Ponderings from Pastor Phil....*

What are you thankful for? November tends to move the minds of people to apple cider and pumpkin spice, the smell of fall leaves, and even a slight change of attitude as people begin to take consideration of the gifts that they have been given, and give thanks for them. In recent years, this is seen by people creating lists of things they are thankful for and then talking about them one a day over social media. Most certainly, while there are so many things in the world that may bring us a little fear, we have so much to be equally thankful for. I would like to make a couple options for your considerations this year.

Perhaps one person to be thankful for, that is often times overlooked, is the Father. In the first article of the Apostle's Creed we acknowledge that the Father is the creator of all things, and only by His loving hand do all things continue to exist. In other words, only because of the love of the Father can we even be thankful. His preserving hands keeps the planets suspended. His hand allows time to continue to flow. His hand provides rain, food, shelter, everything we need, and so many of our wants. It's all covered there in the first article. We truly have a great Father.

Another thing that we don't often give thanks for are our trials. James tells us in chapter 1, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." Challenges and trials are tough, but they have a remarkable effect upon the person who suffers through them, to eventually conquer. The ultimate gift that comes out of the challenge is strength. When we speak

First Wednesday

of the Month

"Alternate Worship  
Services"

Next service is on

November 6th.

At 6:00 p.m.

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Bible Classes on  
Wednesdays

November 13, 20,

at 6:00 p.m.

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Thanksgiving Services

November 27

@ 3:30 & 7:00 p.m.

*Join Us!*

of strength in terms of faith it's incredibly paradoxical. The strength that we receive isn't ours. Instead, as we work through the trials and challenges of life, we realize that we simply aren't strong enough... but Jesus is. Our strength comes by leaning into Him when life becomes hard. By accepting that there is a greater plan, and we need to simply follow- even if it's miserable. As we do this, faith becomes less centered on ourselves, and more centered on our Savior Jesus.

While trials and challenges are certainly not the highlight of our lives, when they come we also remember the words of Jesus in John 16, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." While the trials and challenges appear, we rejoice knowing that they have already been overcome. All we do, empowered by the Holy Spirit, when all else fails is to stand. Place the edge of your shield in the ground, put your shoulder into it, and simply let the world bluster around you. Christ has won, stand in that victory. This trial will only last a moment.

While you make your list of things your thankful for this year, don't forget to thank God for His incredible presence, and for the challenges that come your way. Through your challenges and trials it becomes very plain how big God truly is, the incredible love of Jesus is for you. Brothers and sister, may you have a blessed November and a happy Thanksgiving.

In Christ,

Pastor Phil

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### **Zion Alumni and Friends Update for 2024 Appeal Letter**

Zion Alumni and Friends mailed out the 2024 Summer Newsletter and Appeal Letter mid-July. As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and clean environment, essential improvements to the flooring in the ZLS bathroom and in front of the kitchen area are needed. An industrial coating that will not chip, peel, is salt resistant, antibacterial, easy to clean with no maintenance required, has been proposed for a cost of \$8,760, plus an additional \$3,315 for removal of the current flooring, new stalls and one new toilet for the boy's restroom for a total of \$12,075. The Parent Teacher League (PTL) has raised approximately \$4,000. A goal of \$8,000 was needed to see this project to completion.

**Great News-**Donations have been received for a total of **\$11,276.00** toward the goal of **\$8,000**. With the additional funds, the handicap ramp heading out to the playground also received the new flooring, trim and caulk will be installed, plus repairs to the walls will be done.

**Thank you for your donations and prayers to provide a safe and clean environment at Zion.**

Extra copies of the 2024 Summer Newsletter and Appeal Letter are in the Narthex of the church and on the Zion Alumni & Friends Facebook page.

**Be sure and check out the Zion Alumni and Friends Facebook page and hit "Like" to get any updates.** If you would like to come to an Alumni & Friends meeting, please contact the church office, Janet Crouch or Deanna Taylor for information.

**May you and your family have a Blessed Thanksgiving!**

# REFORMATION HYMN SING

Come celebrate the Reformation with Circuit 1 as we sing together as the Body of Christ, rejoicing in the work He has done in the past and continues to do!

Reformation Hymn Sing will be held at:  
Zion Lutheran Church  
311 South Elm; Staunton, IL 62088  
Rev. Chris Prumm to preach

Nov. 1 at 7:00 with dessert social to follow

SOLA FIDE · SOLA GRATIA · SOLA SCRIPTURA



The Zion Better Together Service is November 10, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

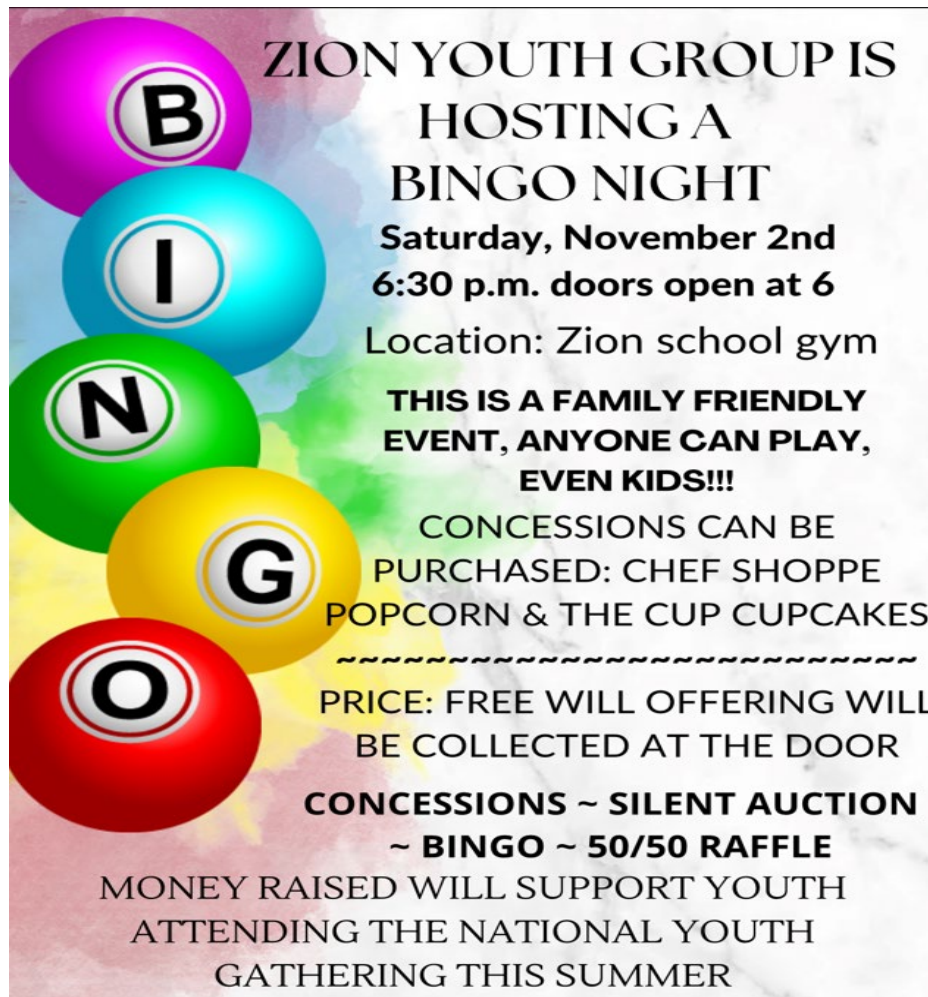
A catered dinner will follow the service, in the Zion School gym. This special event will be held at Zion Staunton. There will be only one worship service that weekend, followed by the Better Together Dinner and Program in the Zion School gym. The focus this year will be on the many gifts of music we enjoy at Zion.

See you there! 😊

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**Staunton Helping Hands Food Pantry:** Our town's food pantry needs our ongoing help in collecting Breakfast items for distribution. Please bring instant oatmeal packets, boxes of cereal, pancake mix and syrup, other shelf stable items. Place them in the wooden cart in the narthex of the church and they will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you for your generosity in this area. It is much appreciated. –Sue Miller, Zion LWML

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**ZION YOUTH GROUP IS HOSTING A BINGO NIGHT**  
**Saturday, November 2nd**  
**6:30 p.m. doors open at 6**  
Location: Zion school gym

**THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT, ANYONE CAN PLAY, EVEN KIDS!!!**

CONCESSIONS CAN BE PURCHASED: CHEF SHOPPE  
POPCORN & THE CUP CUPCAKES

PRICE: FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE DOOR

**CONCESSIONS ~ SILENT AUCTION**  
**~ BINGO ~ 50/50 RAFFLE**

MONEY RAISED WILL SUPPORT YOUTH ATTENDING THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING THIS SUMMER

## Welcome to Zion Lutheran School

Where we:

*Endure* with strength and faith, trusting in God's guidance through every challenge.

*Persevere* with determination, even when things get tough.

Show *Respect* to ourselves, others, and God, honoring His creation.

Live *Thankfully*, appreciating the blessings we receive each day.

*Give* freely of our time and talents, following Christ's example of generosity.

Offer *Comfort* to those in need, sharing God's love and peace.

Practice *Kindness* in all we do, reflecting God's grace in our actions.

Be *Helpful* to one another, serving as Christ served.

Remain *Trustworthy*, always acting with integrity and honesty.

Cherish *Friendship*, knowing that we are connected by God's love.

We are excited to introduce our new "Welcome to Zion" sign, now displayed in the foyer of our school. This beautiful sign serves as a daily reminder of the values we hold dear at Zion Lutheran School. Each word and phrase on the sign reflects character traits that we strive to live by, such as perseverance, respect, and kindness.

These values are not only present in our classrooms and hallways but also guide the lessons and prayers I share with our students each morning. Through my daily announcements, I connect the character traits displayed on our sign to biblical teachings and practical applications, helping our students internalize what it means to live as children of God.

Each day, I open announcements with a different bible verse. For example, on Tuesday, October 15th, we reflected on Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding." Then, I will explain to our students what the verse means while connecting it to the "word" of the day/month. For example, This verse reminded us of the importance of perseverance—trusting God even in challenging times. This message helps us to focus on trusting that God will help us face each challenge that comes our way. Then at the end of announcements, we prayed for strength and for the ability to show respect and kindness to one another.

The "Welcome to Zion" sign is more than just words on a wall; it is a living reminder of our mission and the way we choose to live each day. I encourage you, as members of our congregation and Zion Family, to notice this sign whenever you are at the school. Reflect on the words, share them with your children, and embrace the values that make Zion such a special place to learn, grow, and serve together.

Thank you for your support as we continue to nurture these traits within our students, helping them grow academically, spiritually, and as leaders in their faith!

In Christ,

Jamie Crouch



**Zion Board of Parish Education is looking for volunteers for our Live Nativity on Sunday December 1, 2024.** We need volunteers for the 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. shift and the 6:30-7:30 shift. Questions? Contact Susan Fletcher, or Rachel Mosser.

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# November 2024

Zion Lutheran Church

*Come, ye thankful people, come; Raise the song of harvest home.  
 All be safely gathered in Ere the winter storms begin;  
 God, our maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied.  
 Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest home. LSB 892*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					7:00 Hymn Sing/ Dessert Social Afterwards	3pm PubScho ConfirmationClass 5pm Worship/Comm 6:30 FamBINGONight
8 worship 9:30 SS 10:30 Worship/Comm PraiseHimChoirSings	12-2 Pr.Phil@ H.S.S.  D.Q.Night FR		8:30 Chapel 9:00am LydiaCirc 10:30Glenwood/Pr.Phil 6:00p*Alternate*Worship	8:30a Adult Bible Study 10-12 Pr.Phil@ H.S.S. 6:30 Trustees 7:30p Men'sClu		3pm PubScho ConfirmationClass No Worship Service Today b/c it's Better Together weekend!
Better Together Sunday! 10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00 Special Service/Comm/ JoyfulNoiseChoirSings Dinner follows in gym	12-2 H.S.S.  6:30 School Board	9:15-1:15Mid-State Circuit 1 Conf. Meet @Zion 6:30 Elders	8:30 Chapel 9:00am LydiaCirc 10:30Glenwood/Pr.MarkG. 6:00p Bible Study  El Indio Fund Raiser	8:30a Adult Bible Study 10-12 H.S.S.		3pm PubScho ConfirmationClass 5pm Worship/Comm
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SS	12-2 H.S.S.	Picture Retake Day 10a Alumni & Friends 4:30 Stewardship	8:30 Chapel 9:00am LydiaCirc 10:30Glenwood/Pr.Phil 2:30StaurtonHealth&Rehab  Little Italy's F.R.	8:30a Adult Bible Study 10-12 H.S.S 6:00p ParishEd		3pm PubScho ConfirmationClass 5pm Worship/Comm
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8 & 10:30 Worship/Comm 9:30 SS	12-2 H.S.S.	6:30 p Council Meeting	10:30Glenwood/Pr.Kraemer 3:30p Afternoon Thanksgiving Worship 7:00p Evening Thanksgiving Worship	Thanksgiving Day! ☺	Office is Closed Today	3pm PubScho ConfirmationClass 5pm Worship/Comm



## *Staunton Seasonal Spectacular*

Merry Christmas and Happy Ho Ho Holidays! The Staunton Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to this year's "Holidays in Staunton" with events starting on Friday, December 6, and lasting until Sunday, December 8.

The annual Holiday Walk will run from 4 to 8 p.m. on December 6 in Downtown Staunton and will feature local businesses and vendors lining main street; food trucks, restaurants and local bars will be hosting special deals. The annual lighting of Duda Park, as well as a live nativity within Duda park; the inaugural lighting of the new Staunton Christmas Tree and the presentation of Staunton's Citizen of the Year award will take place in the evening. Musical entertainment for the event will be provided by the Whiskey River Band.

On December 7 be sure to take part in the Holiday Hustle 5k at 9 a.m. sponsored by the Staunton High School Post Prom followed by Snack With Santa from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa himself will be making an appearance at the Oltmann Center along with the Grinch and many of your favorite characters appearing around downtown Staunton. Come visit and enjoy Christmas cookies with jolly St. Nick! Face painting will be available as well as the chance to partake in a ride in a real horse-drawn carriage. The Library will be hosting Story Time once an hour on the hour. Local businesses and vendors will be offering free items and sales! Register for prizes through our "Passports." Giant inflatables will be fun for the kids. All free of charge.

Rounding out the weekend on December 8, St. Paul United Church of Christ will be hosting a Community Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. featuring acts from: The Community Christmas Choir, St. Paul UCC Handbell Choir, Staunton High School Acapella Choir, harpist Aimee Showers-Linn along with several other guest instrumentalists. And if you're in the mood for an encore be sure to stop by the Staunton High School Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. that evening.

Come and experience this small town holiday tradition for yourself! Admission is free and all ages are welcome!

For more information please contact Dave Cisler, 618-781-1745 or Carrie Borgini, 618-635-3050