

# Zion News

Pittsburgh, PA 15235

412-242-2626

September, 2025

[www.zionpennhills.org](http://www.zionpennhills.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/zionpennhills>

*The church in the heart of Penn Hills that is the heart of Penn Hills*



Thoughts from the Transitional Interim Pastor

## MOVING MINISTRY FORWARD

The Zion Long Range Planning Task Force presented suggestions to the congregation at a special meeting held on Sunday, July 20th following worship. Now it is time for small group discussions with questions and suggestions on the five specific areas of the proposal, examining where Zion does well and places where we can improve. Beginning Sunday, September 14, 2025 and for five Sundays, you are invited to join the process as we meet in the Gerhard Lounge to review these ideas in detail. The first topic for discussion will be **OUTREACH** that will be led by Alex Fitzroy on September 14th. Brenda Wolfe will follow on September 21st to focus on **WELCOMING**. The group discussion on **WORSHIP AND MUSIC** will be led by Andrew Sabol on a Sunday to be determined soon. On October 12th, Tom Felmley will discuss how we utilize our facilities and Kathy Gaberson will conclude with the topic of **SPIRITUAL GROWTH** on October 26th. Please bring along your copy of the booklet "The Future of Zion Lutheran Church" that was handed out on July 20th if you have one or additional copies will be available in the Gerhard Lounge.

As Zion begins the call process for a new pastor, this proposal will be a very important document for candidates to review and consider in the interview with the call committee. Pastors will be interested in the direction and level of commitment that Zion will be taking in ministry. Keep in mind that while the call committee is interviewing a candidate, the pastor is also interviewing the congregation to see if they would be a good fit for each other. While the new pastor will come with ideas and suggestions of their own, this will give them important insight into Zion's vision for present and future ministry.

So spend some valuable time on these Sundays to share your thoughts, additional ideas and concerns as we move forward together in ministry to devotedly answer our call in Christ, as we **EXPERIENCE GOD, GROW IN FAITH, AND SERVE OTHERS**.

In Christ,

Pastor Neumann





**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:** Come prepared to worship and work **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** as we use our hands and hearts in service. After a shorter worship service, we will embark on numerous projects from cleaning up our section of highway on Jefferson Road to various activities around Zion. If you have ideas for this day of service, please give your suggestions to Pastor Neumann or a member of Church Council. Feel free to wear your working clothes to Church.



**Rally Day Kickoff – Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>** – It's that time of the year again! Our Sunday School, confirmation, and adults learning programs will be kicking off starting September 14<sup>th</sup> with a Welcome Breakfast! Sunday School and Confirmation will meet after worship on Sundays starting September 21<sup>st</sup>. We are introducing a brand new curriculum.

**All are Welcome!**

#### A NOTE OF



Thank you to everyone who helped to make our Outdoor Worship and Picnic on August 17<sup>th</sup> as One with Emmanuel Lutheran in Eastmont; Trinity Lutheran in Verona; Good Shepherd Lutheran in Monroeville and Zion such a delightful experience. It was a wonderful celebration of our oneness in Christ with our East Hills Lutheran Church neighbors.



**Zion Mission Trip Fund:** It is time for our annual recognition and support of mission trips taken by our members. Annette and Tom Felmley have set an example for mission work and their enthusiasm has spread to other members. A special envelope is with your September offering envelopes to contribute to this fund during September, but you can give any time to this fund using a pew envelope clearly marked for this purpose. Any checks should be made out to Zion Lutheran Church with "Zion Mission Trip Fund" on the memo line.



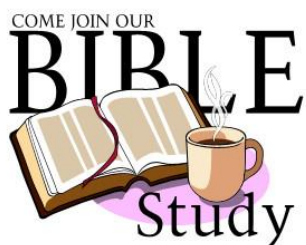
Thank you to all who helped to prepare for and serve at the Food Pantry in August! We ended up serving over 106 households!

Our next pantry meets on **Saturday, September 13th**. Therefore, and if you are able to help, with set-up on Friday, September 12th from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 13th from 8:30am-12:00pm, that would be most appreciated!

Thank you again for all of your time, efforts, prayers and support towards making a difference in our local community and beyond!



**Bishop Stoller Installation Service:** If you have not yet signed up to attend the Installation Service for Bishop Stoller at Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church on **Saturday, October 18 at 1:00:PM, please let the Church office know ASAP.** We need to submit a firm count to the Synod office of how many people will be coming from Zion. We also will be arranging a carpool from Zion. More details to follow later in September. Thank you!



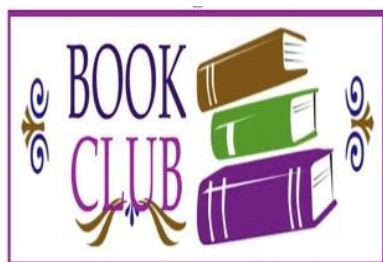
Our Wednesday Bible Study will be starting back up in the fall beginning **Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge. Leading the discussions will be Diane Santoriello. Several options are being considered. Stay tuned. Everyone welcome!



**Health Ministry Vision and Planning Meeting, Saturday, September 27 at 9 a.m. in the Pastor's Office.** All those interested in a meaningful ministry of healing and wellness for the parish and the community are encouraged to attend. Pat Serafini, Health Ministry Committee Chair. [serafinip@yahoo.com](mailto:serafinip@yahoo.com)



**Property Work Day:** Zion members and friends, we are having another work day here at Zion on **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 12 Noon.** There is still plenty to do inside and outside. Refreshments will be provided. Please join us!



**Zion Book Club selections for 2025:**

|         |                             |                  |          |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Sep. 15 | <i>Thursday Murder Club</i> | Richard Osman    | Samara D |
| Oct. 20 | <i>The Ride of Her Life</i> | Elizabeth Letts  | Laura P  |
| Nov. 17 | <i>The First Ladies</i>     | Marie Benedict & | Kathy K  |
| Dec. 15 | Book selection potluck      |                  |          |

We meet at 1:00pm in the Gerhard Lounge. Everyone is welcome!

# Flea Market!

**Flea Market at Zion:** We are planning to have another flea market here at Zion on **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. The times will be from 9:00am-1:00pm. Spaces are free.

If you would like to rent a table, they are \$5.00 each. We will take a free-will offering to offset costs, and Zion members will be encouraged to tithe if they sell at the flea market. Please call the Church office if you would like to reserve a space – 412-242-2626. Please note, this is not a fundraiser, but an outreach event. We are looking for volunteers to assist. We need a few to help get the word out and several the day of the event. Yes, you can sell and help the same day. See or email Tom Felmley: [felmley@gmail.com](mailto:felmley@gmail.com)

## The Blessing of the Pets



Join us for our annual Blessing of the Pets on **Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm** in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. We will gather out on the back lawn for a short blessing and time of treats and playing as we meet the furry members of our Zion family.

## BUDGET



dreamstime.com

### Zion Lutheran Church Budgeted Finances as of July 31<sup>st</sup>:

Offering Income: \$122,132.52  
Other Income:\* \$ 42,069.88  
Total Income: \$164,202.40  
Total Expense: \$151,154.90  
Net: \$ 13,047.50

\*Thomas Child Care and Learning Center, Apartment, and other groups who use our facilities



## Fellowship

We will celebrate monthly birthdays on the following Sundays:

Sunday, September 7

Sunday, October 5

Sunday, November 2

Sunday, December 7

As always, we're grateful for those who participate by bringing both sweet & savory goodies to share. If you would like to bring something, simply just add your name to the calendar in the Gathering Space. Any and all snacks & treats are welcome, and it helps the Parish Life folks know what we need from one week to the next! Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Respectfully – Parish Life Committee





## USHERS' SCHEDULE

**WE NEED MORE USHERS!** If you are interested in helping to collect and present the offering, doing a head count for record keeping, dismiss rows for communion, please let Tony Lamorte know at: [lamortet@verizon.net](mailto:lamortet@verizon.net). Thank you!

Sunday, September 7  
 Sunday, September 14  
 Sunday, September 21  
 Sunday, September 28

Ray Rall, Rachel Dolney  
 Mike Patchen  
 Barry Fraser  
 Curt Bauman, Sue Bauman



|      |                    |      |                  |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 9/3  | Robert Dugan       | 9/18 | Mollie Thompson  |
| 9/4  | Caryn Price        | 9/19 | Carey Short      |
| 9/6  | Kathleen Gaberson  | 9/20 | Carol Daw        |
| 9/8  | Pastor Bill Hauser | 9/23 | Charlotte Murray |
| 9/8  | Debbie Rall        | 9/27 | Robert Bartley   |
| 9/11 | Tristan Albrecht   | 9/28 | Miriam Williams  |
| 9/14 | Rachel Dolney      | 9/29 | Janet Mauro      |
| 9/18 | Alexis Rall        |      |                  |



|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 9/14/85 | Lori & Kevin Smith       |
| 9/14/91 | Tracy & Bob Shimko       |
| 9/26/70 | Charlotte & Barry Fraser |



**Newsletter Deadline:** Do you have an idea for an article, update on a project, or a photo from a Zion event or a shout-out or thank you? We would love to have it! All articles are due by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send them via e-mail to: [julie@zionpennhills.org](mailto:julie@zionpennhills.org).



## WE PRAY FOR...

*We are concerned with maintaining a current Prayer List. If you see a name on this list that can be taken off or wish to add a name, please contact Julie in the church office. If you or someone you know (who is not on the prayer list) is in need of a pastoral visit, please call the church office and let them know. Thank you.*

### **Rehab Facility:**

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 117)

Nancy Fabel (Rosebrook Living Facility, Sarver, PA, Room 116)

Mary Lou Feathers (Presbyterian Homes, Oakmont, Room 204)

### **Memory Care Facility:**

Don Cook (Redstone Highlands in Murrysville, Terrace Room 0046 in Hospice Care)

### **Prayers Requested For:**

Sandra Short

Ken Wagner

Marion Ertel

Wayne Stumpf

Elaina Yoon (daughter-in-love of Kathy Gaberson)

Rick Kline (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Nancy Miller (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Barb Kelly (cousin of Bob Page)

Sue Z. (friend of Annette Felmley)

Greg Felmley (brother of Tom)

John Mainarich (son-in-law of Pat Pope)

Audri Erfort (cousin of M.L D'Ambrosio)

Maggie Watson (daughter of Kathy Kraf)

Bill Lubay (friend of Audri Erfort)

Michael Gerlich (friend of Rhonda Pope)

Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte)

Courtney & Daniel Orsen

Justin Beilstein (nephew of Tony Lamorte)

David Uptagraffe (friend of Audri Erfort)

John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette)

Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol)

Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch)

Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson)

Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks)

Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello)

Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short)

Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope)

Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio)

Beth Rall

Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short)



