

# Zion News

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September, 2024



[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*

It came up suddenly, as it always does. Each year I wonder if the transition won't be gradual, an alteration by degrees that I might not even notice until it's done. But it never quite works that way. One night, it's a warm summer evening; the next, you can feel the unmistakable edge of autumn in the air. There's a crispness, a bite, that wasn't there yesterday. And just like that, you can just feel it in your bones that Fall is on its way.

September is a month of new beginnings. For most, it is a time of great excitement ahead. Of new challenges and opportunities. Of stepping out into the world, for some, for the very first time without being under their parents' roof, whether that is to live on their own and work or to head off to college and dorm room life. Of returning to some semblance of normalcy that comes from routines. September is also a time of reunions and fresh starts, as we gather here at Zion, refreshed from our summer wanderings and travels, to worship, learn, and grow.

A great opportunity to fully live into that will be on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> as we participate along with countless ELCA congregations around the country in the annual "God's Word, Our Hands Sunday." After a shortened worship service together that morning, we will head off to work on those projects which are of interest to us.

For those interested in working outside, we will be cleaning up our section of Jefferson Road – garbage bags and gloves will be provided by PennDOT for your work – just wear your grubby clothes to worship. For those interested in baking for local firefighters in honor of the remembrance of September 11<sup>th</sup> that week, we will do that down in the Parish Hall kitchen. For those interested in making cards for those at the Penn Hills Senior Center, we will have that option available in the Gerhard Lounge. It will be a busy, service-filled morning followed by sandwiches and goodies to fill our bellies after our hard work!

As our children, youth, and grandchildren board the bus back to school, walk, (or perhaps drive themselves!) so the faith formation time at Zion begins again. Sunday School and Confirmation kick off with our Rally Sunday on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School will gather in their normal classroom and Confirmation will gather in the Christian Education office.

Adult Education will kick off on Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom. This Fall we will be using the recently released curriculum by LAMPa entitled, "Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire."

The month of September is filled with lots of returning – kids returning to school, parents and families returning to a more normal routine, educational programs and other activities returning here at church. And as fulfilling as all of those things are, giving to each of us a sense of duty and purpose, we also know that they can and do zap us of energy and fill us with stress and sometimes frustration.

So, despite how busy your Fall may be looking already, "Return to the Lord." Return to the source of abundant life and healing. Of peace and mercy and grace. Return and be satisfied. Restored and reconciled. Restored and reconciled with who bore your sins and the sins of the whole world and in his resurrection, opened to us the way of eternal life.

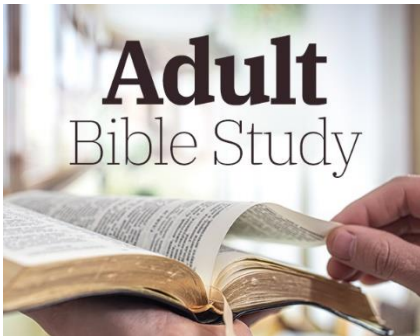
Return to the Lord...and live life as you were made to live it, namely a creature of God who loves and adores you with every fiber of his being, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Peace,  
Pastor Martha



**Rally Day Kickoff – Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>** – It's that time of the year again! Our Sunday School, confirmation, and adults learning programs will be kicking off starting the week of September 15<sup>th</sup>. Sunday School and Confirmation will continue to meet after worship on Sundays starting on September 15. If you need to have your child or grandchild enrolled in learning, please see Janet Mauro (Sunday School) or Deb Rall (confirmation).

We will have a small breakfast for the Sunday School students in the Parish Hall on Rally Day, September 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Adult Bible Study:** Adult Bible Study will start on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. in person in the Gerhard Lounge and over Zoom!



Thank you to all who helped to prepare for and serve at the Food Pantry last month! We ended up serving over 100 household clients through drive-through and it was thanks to all of your efforts setting up, serving, and cleaning up that it all happened!

Our next pantry meets on **Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** and if you are able to help with set-up on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm in the Community Room or during the pantry on the 14<sup>th</sup> 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!



**Food Pantry Needs:** We are in need of soap and shampoo. Thank you for any help you can give!

You can drop it off in the bin underneath the coat rack in the hallway.



**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 8, 2024:** We will be bringing back "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday here at Zion this year. This is a service-oriented day throughout all of the ELCA.

After a short worship service, we will be cleaning up our section of Jefferson Road, baking cookies for the Penn #7 Volunteer Fire Station, card making for all ages, and an "Offering of Letters" session with Linda Neumann advocating for the funding of Regenerative Agriculture practices that result in providing chemical free food for our families. Letters will be sent to our own PA Senator John Fetterman who is instrumental in overseeing the Organic section of the Farm Bill. We will then partake in sandwiches and goodies after we wrap up!



### **Zion Outdoor Directional Signage Project is Complete!**

The new outdoor signage has been installed around the grounds of Zion. Feel free to take a walk (or a drive) around the building to see all of the doors labeled and given a number. Special thanks to Reid Wolfe as well as members of Property Committee, Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force and council for all of their hard work on this very important project at Zion!



**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.



**Come Join the Choir!:** Choir rehearsals will resume Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the chapel. Come learn, pray, and sing together with us. All skill and experience levels are welcome, and we're flexible about rehearsals. It's a great time and a wonderful way to get involved in the musical life of our congregation. See Andrew or email him at [andrew@zionpennhills.org](mailto:andrew@zionpennhills.org) with any questions!



**Reconciling in Christ Journey:** After receiving a recommendation by the Accessibility and Inclusion Task Force, the Zion Executive Committee and Council approved a motion for Zion to embark on the journey towards becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. The next step is the need for a working group to be formed to embark on this work over the course of the next year (with frequency of meetings to be determined by members of that working group). If you are interested in serving on this working group, please see a member of council to submit your name. If you would like to learn more about the RIC program, you can visit: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>

**Graham Standish August Update:** The working group met with Graham on Wednesday August 7<sup>th</sup>. The group met in the sanctuary for their time together and talked aloud the overall experience of Zion worshippers on a given Sunday morning (from pulling into the parking lot to entrance to pre-worship to worship to post-worship, etc). The group will next meet on Wednesday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Please continue to keep the members of this working group in your prayers: Andrew Sabol, Tom Felmley, Reid Wolfe, Kathy Gaberson, Sue Clydesdale, Alex Fitzroy, and Pastor. If you have questions or wonderings about this group or what is discussed, please reach out to a member to learn more – folks are more than willing to chat!



#### Zion Book Club

Zion Book Club continues to meet approximately 10 years after its inception, reading and discussing a wide range of books. This year's selections include:

September 16: "The Wind Knows My Name" by Isabel Allende

October 21: "All the Lonely People" by Mike Gayle

November 18: "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride

December 16: Book selection potluck

We meet the third Monday of the month at 1 PM. The remainder of the year we have a hybrid meeting via Zoom or in-person in the Gerhard Lounge. We invite you to join us, either on a regular or occasional basis. If you, and maybe even a friend, are interested, please speak with Rhonda Pope.



**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 will celebrate birthdays on the following Sundays:

Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>  
Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

We will resume Hospitality Hour on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

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



### **OREMUS**

#### **Rehab Facility:**

Evelyn Lamm (Concordia, Monroeville, Room 110)

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

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

#### **Prayers Requested for:** Donna Federoff, Rachel Dolney, Paul

Gaberson, John Carter, Jenny Fabrizi, Sandra Short, Marion Ertel, Richard Sabol (father of Andrew Sabol), Mary Jane Anthony, Patricia Lamorte (wife of Tony), Josh Cummings (nephew of Tony Lamorte), Patti Wunderley (sister of Linda Neumann), Paula Tecak (friend of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), John Hayes (friend of Tom & Annette Felmley), Blanca (friend of the Felmley family), Gary Bunch (husband of Cheryl Bunch), Wayne Stumpf, Pari Bailey (friend of Pastor Martha), Mike Walsh (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Mary Rex (friend of Kathy Gaberson), Katie Ritenour (cousin of Debbie Marks), Sandy Hutchins (friend of Diane Santoriello), Darnell Pope (brother of Sandra Short), Ron Jeroski (friend of Charlotte Murray), Steve Bell (brother of Rhonda Pope), Chris Vuocolo (nephew of Mary Lou D'Ambrosio), Beth Rall, Sarah, Tom & Carolyn Schuler, Marsha Balaban, Betsy Heston, Marylene Gingras-Roi (friends of Barbara Stolp), Lynn Santoriello (sister-in-law of Diane Santoriello), Denise Capobianco (friend of Sandra Short), Patrick Taylor, Bonnie Hanssen (mother-in-law of Pastor Martha), and for the family and friends of Marge Lamorte (mother of Tony Lamorte).

## HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY



## Anniversaries and Birthdays

3	Robert Dugan	15	Aaron Williams
4	Caryn Price	17	Carl Ansell
6	Kathleen Gaberson	18	Mollie Thompson
8	Pastor Bill Hauser	18	Alexis Rall
8	Debbie Rall	19	Carey Short
9	Kenzie Williams	20	Carol Daw
11	Tristan Albrecht	23	Charlotte Murray
14	Rachel Dolney	27	Robert Bartley
15	Amelia Dolney	28	Miriam Williams
		29	Janet Mauro

### Anniversaries

9/8/2018	Miriam & *Joshua Williams
9/13/1980	Carl & Diana Ansell
9/14/1985	Lori & *Kevin Smith
9/14/1991	Tracy & *Bob Shimko
9/26/1970	Barry & Charlotte Fraser

### CREATION CARE CORNER LIVING SOIL

Creation is designed to heal itself! **God is the Great Designer!** If Carbon Dioxide levels in the atmosphere are elevating Global Warming, nature has a simple yet **profound solution to cool our planet; plant more plants!!**

**Through the WONDEROUS mechanism of PHOTOSYNTHESIS, atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed** and an additional benefit, life-giving oxygen, is then released!! **Every tree, every plant has a cellulose structure composed of carbon derived from atmospheric carbon dioxide, as is every molecule of glucose sugar** that first feeds the plant and then eventually feeds the animals and us!

More importantly, plants provide an even greater benefit; plants sequester carbon dioxide! **The plant you see above ground has seventy-five percent more carbon actually stored underneath it in the soil.** Why store carbon dioxide gas in tanks underneath the ground (manmade solution) when by planting plants we can beautify and cool the earth, increase the oxygen we breath, and simultaneously store much more carbon right IN THE SOIL.

But here is the catch! **Plants can only grow in LIVING SOIL..meaning soil that is filled with microorganisms and fungi rhizomes!** Current research shows that plant root hairs and fungi rhizomes actually provide an amazing pathway for carbon to be stored in the soil and for nutrients in the soil such as nitrogen and phosphorus to be returned to the plant!! On the contrary, the application of man-made chemicals to the soil such as fertilizers and herbicides(Glyphosate) actually kill these living underground systems and pathways that make it possible to have “living soil”. The traditional use of soil tilling and man-made chemicals ultimately result in dead soil...ie dust! **Regenerative Farming practices on the other hand use cover crops and/or the grazing of animals on a plot of land to create a living soil** that sustain the living underground communication pathways!

**If 40% of the soil on earth is devoid of plants and decertified due to human activities** such as clear cutting forests or letting farmland lie barren, let’s use REGENERATE AGRICULTURE practices to produce “living” soil that makes life-giving plants, especially trees, possible.

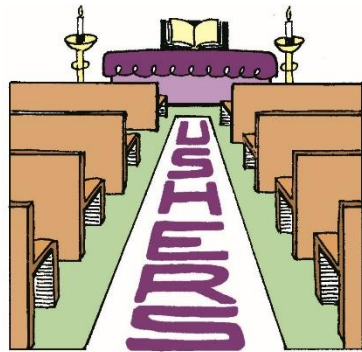
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Each year our species generates 35 billion tons of carbon dioxide due to the burning of fossil fuels from transportation and manufacturing. According to the Rodell Institute, converting all our farmland into Regenerative Agriculture practices would result in the drawdown of ALL human yearly carbon dioxide emissions to Net Zero! So let's "return to our roots" and advocate for the power of Creation through Regenerative Agriculture practices!



**BREAD SCHEDULE:**

- September 1:** Lori Smith
- September 8:** Sallie Lazar
- September 15:** Jeannette Christensen
- September 22:** Chrissa Clark
- September 29:** Pat Hauser



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<b>USHER SCHEDULE</b>		
September 1	Marc Schuler	Joe Balaban
September 8	Mark Mauro	Janet Mauro
September 15	Mike Patchen	
September 22	Tony Lamorte	Marc Schuler
September 29	Mike Patchen	Joe Balaban
<b>Please encourage the kids to assist:</b>		
Ask their parents if their kids want to hand out Bulletins or assist with the Offering.		



## WHO'S WHO OF ZION LEADERSHIP

### Church Council 2024-2025:

Pastor Martha McCreight (President)  
Brenda Wolfe (Vice President)  
(Music & Worship Liaison)  
Diane Santoriello (Secretary)  
Mike Patchen (Treasurer)  
Sue Clydesdale (Financial Secretary)  
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)  
Tom Felmley (Communications Chair)  
Joe Balaban (Parish Life & Facilities Liaison)  
Marc Schuler (Property Chair)  
Mark Mauro (Budget & Finance Chair)  
(Food Pantry Liaison)  
Jeannette Christensen (Health Ministry Liaison)  
Pat Pope  
Kathy Gaberson

### Budget and Finance Committee

Mark Mauro (Chair)  
Sue Clydesdale  
Charlotte Murray  
Mike Patchen  
Pat Pope  
Debbie Rall  
Gail Snyder  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Christian Education Committee:

Deb Rall (Liaison)  
Janet Mauro (Chair)  
Christ Dippold  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Health Ministry:

Rhonda Pope  
Jeannette Christensen (Liaison)  
Rachel Dolney  
Sandra Short  
Shirley McClure  
Laura Patchen  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)  
Sue Baumann  
Kara Albrecht

### Property Committee:

Marc Schuler (Chair)  
Ray Rall  
Tom Felmley  
Pat Pope  
Curt Baumann  
Reid Wolfe  
Tony Lamorte

### Music and Worship Committee:

Andrew Sabol (Chair)  
Pastor Martha (Liaison)  
Brenda Wolfe (Liaison)  
Gail Snyder  
Cindy Pierce  
Pat Hauser

### Parish Life:

Tammy Belohlavek  
Joe Balaban (Liaison and Co-chair)  
Charlotte Murray (Co-chair)  
Rachel Dolney  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Stewardship:

Pastor Martha (Chair)  
Debbie Rall (Stewardship Secretary)  
Jeannette Christensen  
Charlotte Murray  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)

### Mutual Ministry Committee:

Brenda Wolfe (Council VP)  
Pastor Martha  
Mark Mauro  
Gail Snyder  
Cindy Pierce

### Mission Endowment:

Pastor Martha (Chair)  
Brenda Wolfe (ex-officio)  
Mike Patchen (Treasurer)  
Linda Neumann  
Mark Mauro