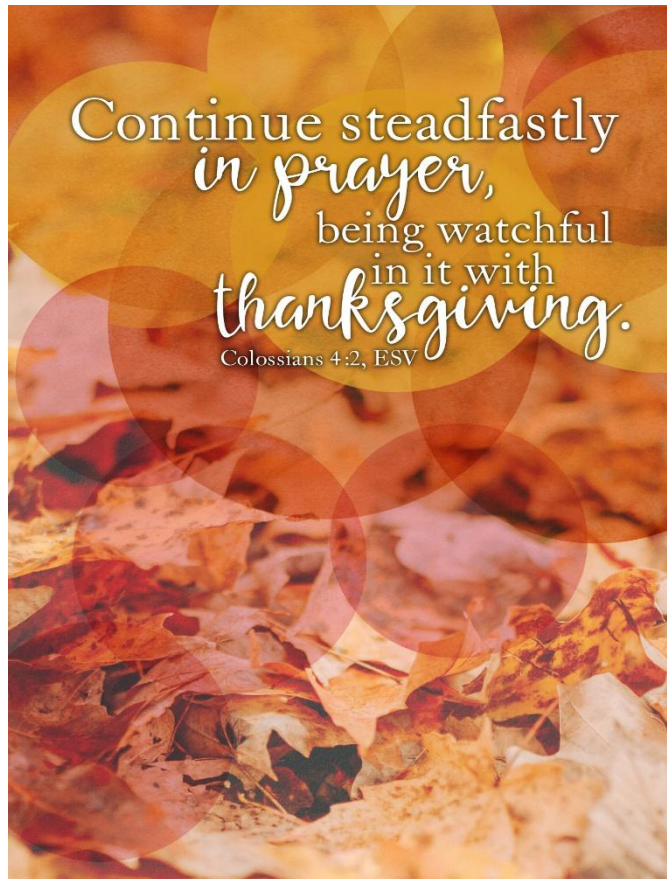


ZioNews



October, 2025

Zionews
October, 2025 Issue

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
35 W. Potomac Street, Williamsport, MD 21795
Church Office: 301-223-7260 Fax: 301-223-7261
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Pastor Kimberly Nunberg-Wadel
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Dorothy Walker, Church Secretary
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Church Office Hours
9 am – 2 pm, Monday - Friday

A Note from Pastor Kim

Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you!

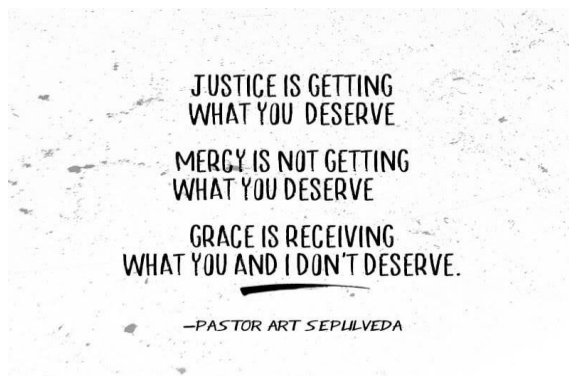
This month we will be kicking off our Stewardship theme entitled "Because of God's Great Mercy". Mercy is one of those biblical terms that seem to roll off of our tongue easily, but do we really know what it means to receive God's Mercy?

The definition of Mercy is *the compassionate treatment of those in need*, especially when it's within one's power to punish or harm them. We know that throughout scripture our God is a powerful God. We are sinful beings that deserve God's punishment every day for the choices we make. However, God is not a punishing God but is a merciful God. And God's Mercy is poured out on us every day.

How do we say thank you for that mercy? First, we are called to be merciful to others. There are those in our lives that do not deserve our mercy. We want to hate, disown, or perhaps walk away from them; however, we are called to show mercy just as God has been merciful. Second, we are to thank our God. Thank God that God's mercy is there for you!

Our stewardship campaign this year allows us to say Thank you to God for his steadfast mercy upon us. How will you say, "Thank You"?

Blessings, Pastor Kimberly Nunberg-Wadel





October 1	Paul Clopper Kathy Miller Emily Taylor Robert Young
October 2	Amanda Gower
October 5	Lydia Shawley
October 6	Brian Starr
October 11	Debbie Grossnickle
October 12	Ginger Young
October 16	Jamie Grossnickle
October 17	Sharon Digges
October 18	Christopher Kiley
October 19	Jenny Parker
October 20	George Kreps
October 21	David Knode
October 26	Sandy Merrell Marilyn Wilson
October 27	Leo Sprankle
October 28	Chris Baran
October 31	Bob Budnicki Shirley Thomas



Please keep in prayer: Patti Allen, Christine Anderson, Loretta Bassler, Patsy Boward, Bob Bowers, Nell Britner, Rocky Burger, Sarah Crawford, Cindy Dawson, Cindy Dean, Margie Dilworth, Terry and Ellie Doub, Frank Downey, Ryan Downey, Sally Drury, Jack Fazenbaker, Cheryl Grove, Kay and Mary Guessford, Mary Henderson, Amanda Himes, Bill Keller, Samantha Kerrs, Sarah Kiley, Kathleen Knode, Tom Knode, Rachel Knox, Teresa Koons, Sandra and Frank Largent, Hailey and Andy Manuel, Lilly Merrell, Connie Michael, Sue Moser, Pat Myers, Penny and Danielle Nigh, Rev. Thomas and Linda Perry, Gina Raidt, Mackenzie Raidt, Betty Snook, Rhoda Souders, Driver Spade, Kaiden St. Peter, Brian Thomas, Ray Thomas, Dolly Trumpower, Dave Vaughn, Leonard Vaughn, David Warner, John Warden, Mary Whetzel, Marlin Witfield.

Homebound & Shut Ins – Barbara & Jim Burger, Jean Brechbill, Terry Conrad, Bob Gordon, Dorothea Heavner, Kathleen Knode, Demeta Matlack, Roger Nicodemus, Tom and Linda Perry, Marilyn Schoenian, Ien & Heng Ya Srun, Kitty Smalts, Bonnie Thomas, James Thomas & Melvin Wigfield.

Circle of Prayer

October 5	Rev. & Mrs. Thomas (Linda) Perry Patricia Plotner
October 12	John & Judy Raidt Mark & Kim Raidt
October 19	Sharon Raun Pandela Reed
October 26	Lana Reed Rev. Allen & Judy Reed



Congratulations to Kaiden and Jayden St. Peter on the birth of their daughter, Millie Juniper. Millie was born September 11, 2025, at 5:43 am. She weighed 5 lbs. 6 oz and was 19 inches long. The proud great grandparents are Donna Allen and Jack Fazenbaker. Millie and Kaiden are doing fine.

Congratulations to James and Betsy Sears on the birth of their son, Grayson Steven Sears. He was born on September 19, 2025. He weighed 8 lbs, 10 oz. The proud grandparents are Ed and Susie Shaw. Betsy and Grayson are doing well.

Thank You

The family of Ruth Conway wishes to thank each and everyone of you for your kindness and caring during our loss of our beloved Mom.

We all appreciate you taking care of the food for our gathering and preparing the delicious desserts. The ladies were a true blessing in our time of grief.

Gratefully,

The Children of Ruth L. Conway

Hi Dorothy.

I've enclosed a donation from the Shane Family for Zion's Adult Choir as a gesture of thanks for the beautiful music that they provided at Dad's (Alan Shane's) memorial service. Their willingness to share their beautiful voices helped make the service so special. Dad would have loved it!!! Please pass along our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to them.

With gratitude,

Laura Shane for the Shane Family

Dear People of Zion,

Thank you for your most recent gift to the DE-MD Synod. Because of your faithful partnership, Jesus' unconditional love is touching lives every day and together we are

living out God's call to love and serve our neighbors. We are so grateful for your partnership.

In gratitude,

Emma Wagner



The irises are doing very well at Zion. They need to be thinned out. If you would like to dig some up, please come and take as many as you want - just don't leave big gaps in the plantings. Along the stone wall is where they are thickest. If you have any questions, please see Lois Dreisbach.

BECAUSE OF GOD'S GREAT MERCY

a stewardship program for our congregation



"Because of God's Great Mercy" is the title of our stewardship emphasis this year. The scriptural basis of this focus on our stewardship of all that God has entrusted into our care is I Peter 2:9, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvelous light."

We begin by proclaiming all that God has done for us, hence the title "Because of God's Great Mercy." God has made us God's own people. We will also consider how generous giving is an important part of every Christian's life, and how our combined generosity can make even greater things possible through our congregation.

Beginning on Sunday, October 19, 2025 and running through November 9, 2025, we will think together about how our giving to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church is an important part of our Christian faith, and how Zion uses our offerings to do God's work within the congregation's walls, in our community, and around the world.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will ask you to do two things. You will be asked to increase your giving to Zion by at least ½ of 1% of your household income. This small increase from each of our members will make a large difference in our budgeted giving for the year.

"Because of God's Great Mercy" will use mail, Constant Contact, and time in worship to share information with you. Please make a special effort to watch for material during this important time in our congregation's life.



On October 24, 2025, from 7 – 8 pm, Zion will be hosting a trunk or treat for our Kinder Haven Families as well as the community.

You can help in 2 ways: First, donations of individually wrapped "treats" (candy, chips, pretzels or dried fruits like raisins) or small toys (pencils, stickers, glow sticks, rubber duckies, etc.) are needed. These can be dropped off at the office by October 21.

Second – and the most fun – bring your car to Zion and decorate your open trunk to hand out the treats. You would need to be in the parking lot by 6:00 pm. And you can dress up too.

Please see Pastor Kim for more information.



The Williamsport Food Bank has the following needs for the month of October: chicken and dumplings, beef stew, baked beans, cereal, applesauce, canned peaches, canned pears, packets of instant mashed potatoes, cup of soups, tuna and spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce. Donations can be dropped off at the church in the bin by the Fellowship Hall or taken to the Food Bank.



School is starting. That means that Micah's Backpack is back. Last year we served over 30 students in the Williamsport School District. We are now stocking our shelves. The following items are needed: Microwavable macaroni and cheese cups, ramen noodles (chicken or beef flavored) and Pop-Tarts. Donations can be dropped off at the church in the bin by the Fellowship Hall. Or, if you prefer, you can make a donation to the church, marked for Micah's Backpack and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you for your generosity.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Work has begun on the much needed repairs for our HVAC and roof. As of September 22, 2025, the Capital Campaign has raised \$9,660 of the needed \$15,000 for HVAC, roof and boiler repairs. There is a matching grant to help cover the \$45,000 cost. If you have questions, please see John Doub or Joe Moser.



On October 18, 2025, Zion will host a Spaghetti Dinner. The menu will include spaghetti, salad and desserts. Please see Darlene Teach for more information and to sign up to help.

On November 1, 2025, Joe Moser will cook his famous pork and sauerkraut dinner.

Proceeds from of both of these dinners will help cover our current expense budget.

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS:

October 5:

8:15 am: Ray Thomas
10:45 am:: Vaughn Miller

October 12:

8:15 am: Chris Baran
10:45 am: Randy Miles

October 19:

8:15 am: Dave Knode
10:45 am: Marvin Gower

October 26: (One Service)

9:30 am: John Doub and Vaughn Miller

GREETERS:

October 5:

8:15 am: Bob and Jen BudnickiRay Thomas
10:45 am:: The Snook Family

October 12:

8:15 am: Terry & Debbie Grossnickle
10:45 am: Lesa & Joey Mason

October 19:

8:15 am: Dave & Shirley Knode
10:45 am: Marjorie Dilworth

October 26: (One Service)

9:30 am: Darlene Teach

LAY READERS:

October 5:

8:15 am: Bob Budnicki
10:45 am:: Charles Crown

October 12:

8:15 am: Ray Thomas
10:45 am: Joy Neikirk

October 19:
8:15 am: Sherri Taylor
10:45 am: Barb Hovermale

October 26: (One Service)
9:30 am: Margie Wolverton

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

September 7:
October 5:
8:15 am: Lois Dreisbach and Darlene Teach
10:45 am:: Lesa Mason and Charles Crown

October 12:
8:15 am: Sali Recchia and Ray Thomas
10:45 am: Lesa Mason

October 19:
8:15 am: Dave Knode
10:45 am: Charles Crown and Nicole Banzhoff

October 26: (One Service)
9:30 am: Charles Crown and Margie Wolverton

Acolyte & Crucifer Schedule

October 5:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Ian Baran Crucifer: Loren Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Andrew Snook Crucifer: Leah Snook

October 12:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:
10:45 am: Acolyte: Jordyn Miles Crucifer: Brandon Stiles

October 19:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Loren Baran Crucifer: Ian Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Sloane Dzbynski Crucifer: Eidann Banzhoff

October 26: (One Service)
9:30 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:

Alter Care

October 5:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am:: Dawn Stiles

October 12:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am: Jamie & Joy Neikirk

October 19:

8:15 am: Matt & Gina Baker

10:45 am: Ed & Susie Shaw

October 26: (One Service)

9:30 am: Chris Baran

Film Schedule

October 5:

10:45 am:: Brandon Stiles

October 12:

8:15 am: The Baran Family

October 19:

10:45 am: Brandon Stiles

October 26: (One Service)

9:30 am: Bob Budnicki

Average Monthly Attendance And Giving

September, 2025:

Average Monthly Attendance

90 people per Sunday

Monthly Giving and Expenses (September, 2025)

Income \$18,058

Expenses \$18,335

Net Income (\$277)

A Note from Jamie.

Income has been steady over the first 8 months of 2025. The Finance committee is grateful for everyone who has been faithfully giving each week. However, our expenses have been increasing, as we have had unforeseen repairs and costs just keep going up.

As the Finance Committee meets in coming weeks to craft the 2026 budget, Zion will need to look at bringing expenses down, as well as find ways to increase our income.



Family Movie Nights are a big hit here at Zion. On October 26, 2025 at 7:00 pm, there will be family movie night in the Fellowship Hall. The movie is Hocus Pocus. Bring a chair or pillows and enjoy fellowship time with your family. Light refreshments will be provided.



Our annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on November 16, 2024, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall between services. At that time, the budget for the next year will be presented. We will also be electing members to Council and to the Kinder Haven Board of Directors. If you have questions regarding the budget, please see Jamie Neikirk, Church Treasurer. If you have any questions regarding the elections, please see Dawn Stiles, Council President or Pastor Kim.

Reformation Sunday

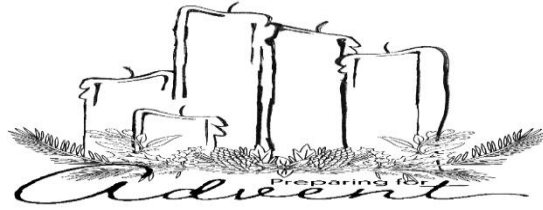
Reformation Sunday is October 26. We will have one service at 9:30 that day. Please plan to attend and see folks you don't always get to see and worship with. Bring someone with you and introduce them to Zion. Wear red this Sunday to celebrate.

Also, we will accept Confirmands into membership at Zion during this service. Our Confirmands are Sloane Dzbynski and Eideann Banzhoff. Please welcome them into full fellowship with us at Zion.

Finally, we will celebrate David Loy's 15 years of faithful service on October 26, 2025, with a lunch and festivities in the Fellowship Hall. If you wish to honor David at this time, any cards or gifts are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Shunitski.



Choir Rehearsals have started back. If you would like to join, come check out a rehearsal. Rehearsals are on Thursday from 7 – 8:30 pm. You don't need to read music. Just bring a willingness to try. For more information, please see David Loy.



While fall is just beginning, it is time to start thinking about Advent and Christmas.

Angel Tree

As you know, we give help to several families each year, so they have a nice Christmas. Last year, we served 12 families with gifts and food boxes. We also assembled and supported other families with food boxes. Here are the dates to put on your calendar:

November 12, 2025 – Families with Needs due to the office
December 17, 2025 – Wrapped gifts due back to the church
December 22, 2025 – Gift and Food Box Assembly
December 23, 2025 – Angel Tree Delivery and Pick up

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Services will be December 25, 2025, at 7 pm and 10 pm, with the musical prelude beginning at 9:30.

Our Lessons and Carols service will be held on December 28, 2025, at 9:30 am. There will be one service this Sunday, which will be followed by a potluck in the Fellowship Hall.



Ladies – Mark you calendars!!!
On November 15, 2025 there will be a free virtual event with Kelly Minter at Benevola United Methodist Church in Boonsboro. This event will be from 1 – 3 pm. Please see Jackie Taylor for more information.

The Women's Fellowship group is regrouping. The Women's Fellowship will meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month, at 9:30 am, between services. The Women's Fellowship is responsible for many of the wonderful events enjoyed by all at Zion, as well as serving meals following many of our events. Please see Sue Moser or Kathy Himes for more information.



The Men's Fellowship will meet on October 8, 2025, at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet on October 22, 2025, at 8 am at Hub City Diner. All men are encouraged to come and enjoy some fellowship and time in prayer and The Word.

OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

Scripture for today: Romans 21:14-21

Focus verse: ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

Doctor Dolittle, the fictional doctor who converses with animals, has delighted fans through books, movies, and plays. However, few people know that author Hugh Lofting first wrote the Dolittle tales to his children from the ghastly trenches of World War I. He later said that the war was too awful to recount in his letters—so he wrote and illustrated stories instead. These whimsical, joy-filled tales were Lofting's way of pushing back against the war's horror.

It's inspiring to see a person moving against the menacing, degrading forces that seem too powerful to thwart. We admire this resilient courage because we fear that injustice, violence, and greed will triumph. Sometimes we fear that the whole world will be "overcome by evil" (Romans 12:21). And these fears are well-founded if we're left to ourselves. However, God has not left us to ourselves. He fills us with His divine strength, places us in the action, and calls us to "overcome evil with good" (v. 21).

We each overcome evil with good in whatever ways God has put into our hearts. Some of us write beautiful stories. Some of us care for the poor. Some of us make our homes places of welcome. Some of us share God's story through melody, poetry, or conversation. In a myriad of ways, we carry His goodness and peace into the world (v. 18), overcoming evil as we go.

Reflect & Pray

Where do you see evil lurking? How can you be part of overcoming evil with good?

Dear God, please help me be part of overcoming evil with good.

From: Our Daily Bread. September 16, 2025. www.odbm.org