

ZioNews



October 2026

Zionews
October, 2026 Issue

*The Newsletter this month is dedicated to the
Glory of God and In Loving memory of our parents, Ross & Esther Grossnickle and Orville and
Dollie Trumpower. Given by
Terry & Debbie Grossnickle.*

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Church Office Hours
9 am – 2 pm, Monday - Friday

A Message from Pastor Kim

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and Peace to you!

As the leaves turn amber and the autumn air crisp, we find ourselves surrounded by the beautiful rhythms of harvest time. In our gardens and fields, the fruits of months of hidden growth are finally gathered in. Harvest season is a powerful, tangible reminder of God's steadfast provision. It is a time when we look at the abundance around us and ask a foundational question of faith: *How do we respond to the One who fills our cups to overflowing?*

This month, as we enter our fall season one thing that the church focuses on is Stewardship. The fall of 2026 we will not running a traditional stewardship campaign. Instead, I invite you to reflect deeply on a foundational spiritual practice that is often misunderstood: **the tithe**.

In many traditions, tithing—giving the first ten percent of our income back to God's work—is framed as a strict rule, a legalistic obligation, or even a transaction to secure divine blessing. But through the lens of our **ELCA Lutheran theology**, we understand it in a radically different way. We are saved by grace alone, through faith (*sola gratia*). We cannot buy God's favor, nor do our financial gifts earn us a higher standing in the kingdom.

Instead, we view tithing as a **joyful response to grace**. In the Old Testament, the harvest and the tithe were inextricably linked. Deuteronomy 26:1-2 commands, *"When you have entered the land the Lord your God is giving you... take some of the firstfruits of all that you produce from the soil... and put them in a basket."* Later, the prophet Malachi offers a famous invitation to spiritual trust:

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." —**Malachi 3:10**. For the ancient Israelites, bringing the firstfruits—the very first and finest portion of the harvest—into the storehouse was an act of profound trust. It meant giving to God *before* they knew if the rest of the crop would sustain them through the winter. It was a declaration that their security lay in God, not in the size of their barns.

As Lutheran Christians, the spiritual practice of tithing is a physical manifestation of our baptismal identity. It is a spiritual discipline that frees us from the grip of scarcity thinking. When we practice giving our firstfruits, we actively combat the cultural narrative that we never have "enough." We train our hearts to trust that God's grace is sufficient. We give not *to* get, but because we have *already received* everything in Christ.

This autumn, our church's ministries—our youth programs, the Williamsport food bank, Micah's Backpack, our Hearts and Hand's quilters, our worship life, and our global missions—rely on the harvest of our collective generosity. Your stewardship ensures that our storehouse remains full, allowing us to pour out Christ's love and grace into a world that is deeply hungry for it.

As you look upon the beauty of this October harvest, I challenge you to take a prayerful step in your financial discipleship. If you do not yet tithe, consider taking a step toward it this fall by

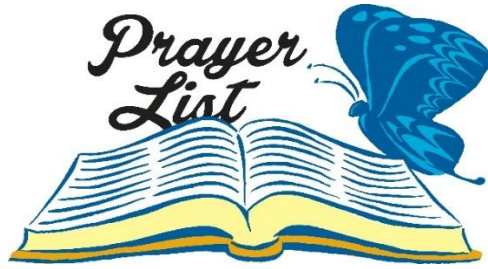
increasing your giving by a percentage. If you already tithe, reflect on the joy that giving brings to your spiritual journey.

Let us gather our firstfruits together, trusting that the One who provides the seed will surely bring forth a rich harvest of faith, hope, and love in our community.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Kim



October 1	Paul Clopper Kathy Miller Emily Taylor Wendy Wise 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 Lindsay Grossnickle
October 17	Sharon Digges
October 18	Christopher Kiley
October 19	Jenny Parker William Unger
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: Patty Allen, Randy Anderson, Loretta Bassler, Cindy Dean, Sally Drury, Kristine Griffith, Kay and Mary Guessford, AJ Haque, Greg Harp, Roger Hecker, Jim Jacobus, Robert Kerns, Sarah Kiley, Harry Knode, Rachel Knox, Saundra and Frank Largent, Charles Matlack, Liam Manuel, Julie Middlekoff, Sue Moser, Pat Myers, Carol Nedemyer, Camden Thomas Nunnally, Maria Nunnally, Linda Perry, Mackenzie Raidt, Jim Rudolph, Marilyn Schoenian, Ginny Slick, Driver Spade, Jonah Srun, John Stanton, Kim Thomas, Levi Webb, Cheryl Wilkes, Paul Wolverton, Linda Young.

Homebound & Shut Ins – Randy Anderson, Bob Bowers, Barbara Burger, Jean Brechbill, Terry Conrad, Bob Gordon, Demeta Matlack, Linda Perry, Marilyn Schoenian, Ien & Heng Ya Srun, Kitty Smalts, Bonnie Thomas, James Thomas.

Circle of Prayer

October 4, 2026:	Terry Doub Dennis Doub
October 11, 2026:	Edward & Patricia Doub John & Tracy Doub
October 18, 2026:	Karen Douglas Frank & Carolyn Downey
October 25, 2026:	Lee & Ann Marie Downey Kirk & Eileen Downey, Erin

Thank You's

To Our Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the thoughtful donations of school supplies. They were pre-packaged beautifully and well received by our students and families.
You are a blessing to our community, and we are grateful for all that you do.
With many thanks,
Lindsey Meekins, Community School Manager, Williamsport Elementary

Dear Pastor Kim,

Thank you so much for the school supply donations for WHS. These were a huge hit at our Back-to-School pop-up open houses, which were held in 2 of our core communities.

We are grateful for your church's participation at our back-to-school event on August 20 at WHS.

In Community, Kate Kramer-Jefferson

Zion Lutheran Church:

We wanted to thank you for the rose on the altar for the birth of our grandson, Aiden Matlack. And thank you Pastor Kim for visiting and bringing us the rose. Greatly appreciated.

Thanks Again. In God's Love, Charles & Demeta Matlack

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$385.00 from your Father's Day Honor Roll to Mar-Lu-Ridge. Your generosity allows Mar-Lu-Ridge to be a place of welcome growth and belonging. You are making a difference!

In Peace and gratitude, Diana Edelblute, MRL Executive Director

Dear Men's Fellowship,

Thank you for your gift of \$250.00 in memory of Alan Shane. Your generosity and stewardship allow Mar-Lu-Ridge to be a place where faith takes root, friendships grow, and campers and guests carry God's love home with them. Your contribution makes a difference!

In Peace and gratitude, Diana Edelblute, MRL Executive Director



Christian sympathy is extended to the friends of Roger Nicodemus. Roger entered into Glory on September 4, 2026.

Christian sympathy is extended to Lois Dreisbach on the passing of her brother, Gerald Taylor on September 18, 2026. Please keep Lois and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Christian sympathy is extended to Ien Srun on the passing of his wife, Heng Ya on September 26, 2026. Please keep Ien and the rest of the family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



There will be a Congregational Meeting on November 8, 2026, at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is: 1) to receive the Annual Budget; 2) to elect members of the Council; and 3) any other business that may come before the Congregation.

There are currently 3 openings on the Council. If you are interested in serving on Council, please see Council President, Michael Harp.



Our last chicken BBQ will be held on October 10, 2026, from 11 am – 2 pm or until sold out. The cost is \$12.00.

In November, Joe Moser will host Pork & Sauerkraut. It will be November 14, 2026, from 4 pm – 6 pm, eat in or carry-out. The cost will be \$15.00.

Our Youth are fundraising to support their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July 2027. They currently have chances to win a quilt and a bake sale at each of our other fundraising events. Please support our Youth as they get ready for a once in a lifetime trip.



FREE Museum of the Bible Membership for Zion Families!

We are excited to share a very generous gift with our Zion family! Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC has offered our entire congregation a FREE one-year "Light on a Hill" membership.

The membership includes general admission for two adults and all youth ages 5–17 per visit, plus guest discounts, theater savings, discounts on dining and shopping, and more.

Visit zionlutheranmd.org/motb for complete details and instructions on how to redeem your free membership. Zion members must begin at this webpage to access the correct membership link.

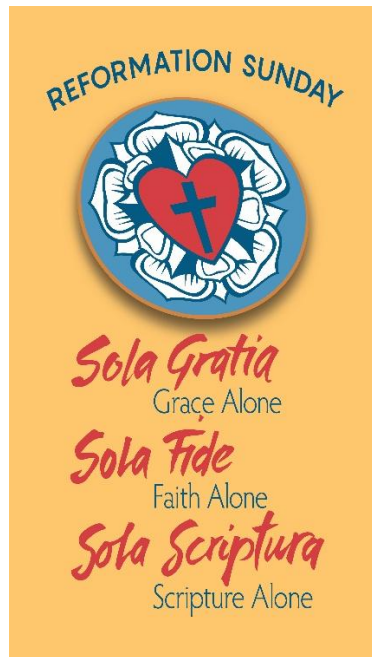
Questions? Contact Michael Harp at mharp@zionlutheranmd.org.

Thank you

Dear Zion Family.

Thank you so much for the help in getting a chair lift for my home. It will allow me to stay in my home independently for a longer period of time. I love and each and everyone of you.

Marjorie Dilworth



Reformation Sunday is October 25, 2026. We will have one service followed by a potluck lunch.

We will also be celebrating the Confirmation of Faith for three of our young people: Jonah Nunberg, Ian Baran, and Rowan Harp.

Remember to wear your Red to celebrate our Lutheran Heritage



Family Movie Night

Family Movie Night will take a break in October. We have so many other things happening in October. It will resume in November.

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

USHERS:

October 4:

8:15 am: Chris Baran

10:45 am: Steve Himes

October 11:

8:15 am: Dave Knode

10:45 am: Randy Miles

October 18:

8:15 am: John Doub

10:45 am: Joey Mason

October 25:

9:30 am Ray Thomas, Marvin Gower

GREETERS:

October 4:

8:15 am: Terry & Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am: Lesa & Joey Mason

October 11:

8:15 am: Lois Dreisbach

10:45 am: Joy and Jamie Neikirk

October 18:

8:15 am: Dave & Shirley Knode

10:45 am: Marjorie Dilworth

October 25:

9:30 am: Darlene Teach

LAY READERS:

October 4:

8:15 am Debbie Grossnickle

10:45 am: Nicole Banzhoff

October 11:

8:15 am: Ernie Stoner

10:45 am: Joy Neikirk

October 18:
8:15 am: Sherri Taylor
10:45 am: Michael Harp

October 25:
9:30 am: Ray Thomas

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 4:
8:15 am:
10:45 am:

October 11:
8:15 am:
10:45 am:

October 18:
8:15 am:
10:45 am:

October 25:
9:30 am:

Acolyte & Crucifer Schedule

October 4:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:
10:45 am: Acolyte: Sloane Dzbynski Crucifer: Eideann Banzhoff

October 11:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Ian Baran Crucifer: Loren Baran
10:45 am: Acolyte: Brandon Stiles Crucifer: Luke Stiles

October 18:
8:15 am: Acolyte: Dawson Miller Crucifer:
10:45 am: Acolyte: Rowan Harp Crucifer: Jordyn Miles

October 25:
9:30 am: Acolyte: Loren Baran Crucifer: Ian Baran

Alter Care

October 4:
8:15 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor
10:45 am: Dawn Stiles

October 11:
8:15 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor
10:45 am: Jamie & Joy Neikirk

October 18:
8:15 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor
10:45 am: Ed & Susie Shaw

October 25:
9:30 am: Brent & Jackie Taylor, Paula Wyatt

Film Schedule

October 4:
10:45 am:

October 11:
8:15 am: The Baran Family

October 18:
10:45 am

October 25:
9:30 am: Bob Budnicki

Average Monthly Attendance And Giving

September 2026:
Average Monthly Attendance 90 people per Sunday

Monthly Giving and Expenses (August 2026)

Income	\$31,625.84
Expenses	\$22,499.25
Net Income	\$9,099.89



The Men's Fellowship will meet on October 7, 2026, at 8 am in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet on October 21, 2026, at 8 am at The Williamsport Diner. All men are encouraged to come and enjoy some fellowship and time in prayer and The Word.

The next meeting for Church Women United will be November 6, 2026 at Noon. Please see Lois Dreisbach or Kathy Himes for more information.



The Williamsport Food Bank has the following needs for the month of October: peanut butter and grape jelly, baked beans, plain egg noodles, canned kidney beans, tuna fish, canned chicken, spam and jarred applesauce. Donations can be placed in the bin outside of the Fellowship Hall. If it is easier for you, you can make a monetary donation made payable to the Williamsport Food Bank. Thank you for your help and generosity.

Food Bank Needs





School is back in session and that means that Micah's Backpack has started again. Micah's Backpack is a ministry that feeds children that are food challenged when school is not in session. This may be the only food that they have over the weekend. The following donations 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.



On October 30, 2026, we will be hosting Trunk or Treat for Kinder Haven and Zion. It will be from 6 – 8 pm in the parking lot.

We would love to have you join with us by decorating your vehicle and handing out candy and/or small gifts. If you want to join, please be in the parking lot, ready to go by 5:45 pm.

We are also looking for donations of candy and small gifts such as pencils, small toys, small bubble wands, stickers, or temporary tattoos.

Please see Pastor Kim or Director Stephanie for more information or if you have questions.



Kinder Haven is looking to establish a substitute list.

If you would like to be on the approved, background checked, list of substitutes that could be called upon to cover when the permanent staff is out, please talk to Director Stephanie or Pastor Kim or call the Kinder Haven office at 301-223-9122



ANGEL TREE

Fall has just started, but it is time to start planning for Christmas.

As you know, we provide approximately 10 families with gifts and food baskets. In addition, we also provide others with food baskets during the season.

At this time, we are accepting names for those needing assistance. Please see Pastor Kim for information about getting assistance.

We need all assistance information by November 9. The tree will be set up on November 19. Wrapped gifts are due to Zion by December 20.

Please consider helping by purchasing the needed gifts or contributing to the costs of the food baskets.

Please see Pastor Kim for more information.

Accepted by God

Judges 10:17 – 11:8, 29

He was the doctor who never turned away a patient—even if some couldn't pay him and even though he himself had experienced rejection from society. In spite of Harold's outstanding record in his medical studies, no hospital in London hired him because of the color of his skin. So in 1913 he opened his own practice in his home, often treating the poor for free. Dr. Harold Moody spent his life helping those discriminated against, earning him the title "Britain's Martin Luther King."

Dr. Moody shows that our life need not be determined by the rejection of others. Scripture also shows us this truth in the story of Jephthah. Although a mighty warrior, Jephthah was rejected by his half brothers and driven away from their town. They told him, "You are not going to get any inheritance in our family ...because you are the son of another woman" (Judges 11:2). "So Jephthah fled from his brothers" and settled in another area (v. 3).

Although his family rejected him, God didn't. When an enemy made war on Israel, it was Jephthah that the people turned to for help (vv. 4-6). They said, "Be our commander, so we can fight the Ammonites" (v. 6). God used and helped Jephthah to subdue their enemy (vv. 29, 32-33) and to later lead Israel (Judges 12:7).

When we're rejected by others, let's keep trusting and obeying God. It's how He sees us and what He wants us to do that matters.

Reflect & Pray

How does rejection affect you? How does God's acceptance of you encourage you?

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