



September 2022 Newsletter

All the news that's fit to print from A to Zion

Zion Lutheran Church

226 Corley Mill Road
Lexington, SC 29072
Phone: (803) 356-2297
Fax: (803) 951-0287
ZionLexsc.com

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00am-2:00pm

Staff

Nathan Gragg
Pastor
Nathan@zionlexsc.com

Walt Hampton
Director of Youth,
Education, and
Communications
Walt@zionlexsc.com

Julie Branham,
Director of Music
Julie@zionlexsc.com

Julie Branham,
Financial Administrator
Fin_Admin@zionlexsc.com

Mark Stoneberg
Facilities Manager
Mark@zionlexsc.com



**GROW &
RENEW**
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Happening this Month at Zion

Sunday, September 11

Recognition of Pastor Nathan's 20th Ordination Anniversary

Having served as a pastor for 20 years, we wish to congratulate Pastor Nathan and thank him for his continued service to the church. Worship will include a special recognition.

Sunday, September 18

Youth Mission Trip Sunday

This summer youth and adults from Zion participated in a mission trip to Tennessee through Appalachia Service Project. In worship on this Sunday they will share stories about their experience and how God was at work through them.

Sunday, September 25

Commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Sanctuary

In 1922, Zion Lutheran Church relocated to our current site and built the original sanctuary building. In worship we will give thanks for the sanctuary that has been a place of blessing for 100 years.

Our Sunday Schedule this Month

9:00am Sunday School

various locations + see schedule on page 2

10:00am Worship for All

Sanctuary + traditional and engaging

10:00am Online Worship

Facebook Live + worship wherever you are

11:00am Fellowship Time

Narthex + enjoy cookies and fellowship with friends



Wednesday Night Live Kickoff

Picnic on the Back Lawn

Wednesday, September 7th at 5:45pm

Join us September 7th for a picnic behind the Family Life Center (in gym if raining). It will be a great night reconnecting for all ages.

See additional Wednesday Night Live details on page 2.

Wednesday Night Live this Fall

Wednesday Night Live is an important fellowship and learning time for our congregation. The evening includes a Fellowship Meal from 5:45-6:30pm then grow as disciples of Jesus with Faith Formation opportunities from 6:30-7:30pm.

Opportunities for Faith formation

Children – Children’s activities will be available in gym during and after the meal or to take home. Contact: Jamie Hampton JHampton229@gmail.com

Youth – Youth Group will meet in the Youth Room from 6:30-7:30pm for games and Bible study. Contact: Walt Hampton Walt@zionlexsc.com

Adults – Minor Prophets, Major Problems. This adult class will meet in the Cathedral Room (FLC upstairs) from 6:30-7:30pm to look at some of the Old Testament’s minor prophets and their message for today. Leader: Pastor Nathan

Special All Ages Wednesday Night Live Happenings

Wednesday, October 19

Wednesday Night Live Fall Game Night –
All ages will gather in the gym for a meal and then a game night.

Wednesday, November 27

Thanksgiving Eve Meal, Worship, and Thanksgiving Meal prep

Sunday School at Zion + Sunday mornings at 9:00am

Children’s Sunday School, Education Building during Worship (after Children’s Message)

All children (K-5th) are invited to gather together for Bible story, crafts, and fun!

Youth Group, Family Life Center Youth Room

Youth (6th-12th) are invited for a time of fellowship and fun.

Nomads Adult class, Family Life Center Cathedral Room

All adults are welcome for in-depth Bible conversation and fellowship.

Zoom option available. Email ZionChurch@zionlexsc.com for the link.

Grateful Hearts Adult Class, Family Life Center Sunshine Room

All adults are welcome to come for Bible study and fellowship.

CSI Adult Class, Education Building first floor classroom

A bunch of Christians Seeking Instruction. All adults are welcome.





LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fun & Fellowship

Hilltoppers Fall Update

Hilltoppers monthly luncheons will resume September 14th at 11:30am. Retirees, newly retired, work-from home, on a school break or anyone who enjoys fellowship, food and fun is encouraged to join us for our “always delicious” potluck meals. Our October 12th luncheon will be a picnic at Gibson Pond Park. We had a wonderful time there in May and missed many of you. Gibson Pond with October’s fall setting will be an exciting outing. Note your calendars and plan to join us.



Youth Group Notes and Needs



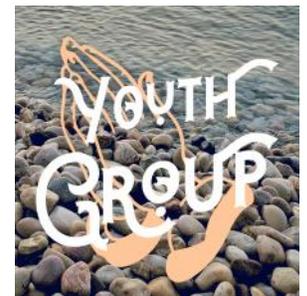
⇒ **Serving in worship** - I am so proud of our Youth serving in worship the last year. We have youth serving as readers, singers, worship assistants, crucifers, and ushers. We need help filling in some schedules though. If your youth can help reach out to Walt@Zionlexsc.com or [click here to signup now](#).

⇒ **Mission Trip story telling 9/18** – Our congregation keeps asking for more stories about our trip to Tennessee. On Sunday September 18th we will share some stories in worship about what we did and where we saw God in the experience. If you were on the trip mark your calendars now to join us in worship the 18th. If you feel called to share a story please Walt know.



⇒ **High School Bible Study** - Every Friday a group of Zion’s High School Youth and leaders meet for a time of devotions and prayer. All High Schoolers are invited to join us! We gather in the Lowes Foods Coffee shop at 7:30am and depart early enough to make it to school in time. Rides to River Bluff will be available, please let me know if you need a ride so I can make sure we have enough seats.

⇒ **Wednesday Night Youth Group** - Wednesday Night Live is back Starting September 7th. The first week will be a family picnic. Join us behind the family life center for Hamburgers, Hotdogs, and a lot of fun! Week 2, September 14th, Youth Group will be back and continue weekly until Thanksgiving. All youth grades 6-12 are invited to join us for games and bible study each week in the Family Life Center. Meal 5:45pm, Youth Group 6:30-7:30pm.





LUTHERAN CHURCH

Staff Updates



Music Notes

The Choir has not met during the summer. I was planning to resume rehearsals in September, but with my cast, that's a bit difficult. We will resume rehearsals the 1st Sunday in October at 9am in the choir room. (This is prior to 10:00 worship each week.) Please consider joining us in preparing anthems each week!

Handbells: *If you've been in handbells, haven't played in awhile or even if you've never played bells before, please consider joining us when we resume in the fall. It's impossible for this group to happen without volunteers like you!*

If you have any questions, or if you'd like to share your musical talents in some way, please contact Julie at julie@zionlexsc.com.

A Little Hymn History: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

In 1844 a young Irishman, Joseph Scriven, had completed his college education and returned home to marry his sweetheart. As he was traveling to meet her on the day before the planned wedding, he came upon a horrible scene—his beautiful fiancée tragically lying under the water in a creek bed after falling off her horse.

Later, Scriven moved to Canada and eventually fell in love again, only to experience devastation once more when she became ill and died just weeks before their marriage. For the second time, this humble Christian felt the loss of the woman he loved.

The following year, he wrote a poem to his mother in Ireland that described the deep friendship with Jesus he had cultivated in prayer through the hardships of his life. The poem was published anonymously at first under the title, "Pray Without Ceasing." Ten years later, he finally acknowledged this well-loved text had been written by him and his friend, Jesus. In 1868, attorney Charles Converse set the text to a tune and renamed it "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Ken Osbeck tells the story in his book *101 Hymn Stories*.

Instead of thinking God was punishing him, Scriven cherished God's friendship through all of this hardship—a friendship he discovered in prayer.



News from the Gator-Man.

The beginning of August had me in Chicago for my daughter's wedding. What a great celebration it turned out to be. For those I haven't spoken to, the Chicago Tribune Newspaper ran a story on the dress my daughter wore for her big day. If you google 8 Brides you can read up on the story. We never expected the story to go any farther then the readers of Chicago, but it spread like a tidal wave across the country and even made it on GMA, People Magazine and all access Hollywood TV show.

August like July was very warm and wet. The grass grew like weeds, and some of you might have noticed that some plants have grown out of control. Sad to say my knee surgery has me not being able to climb ladders for some time to come. So I have spoken to a few members of the property board and we are going to work on cutting plants that are too big for an area and some over growth. This will take place over the fall and into the winter of 2023 weather permitting. My goal is to have plants reshaped into a more manageable height. That means I can keep it from getting out of control. I'm also going to have limbs of trees down the hill trimmed back, so I can cut the grass all the way up to the start of the woods. - Mark

Ways you can SERVE

We need your help to make Worship happen at Zion. We are looking to fill in a few serving roles this month. See below and let the office know if you can help!

ZionChurch@zionlexsc.com

	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
10:00 am – In Sanctuary				
Ushers	Steve and Russell Wingard			
Assisting Minister	Janice Sult	Craig Balch	Mary Nell Panyard	Denise Caulder
Reader	Daniel Kinard	Eileen Leaphart	Sue Anderson	Craig Balch
Crucifer	OPEN	David Gragg	OPEN	OPEN
Song Leader	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Sound Tech	Todd Elrod	Todd Elrod	Roscoe Nesmith	Carla Fallaw
Livestream Director	Walt Hampton	Walt Hampton	Walt Hampton	Walt Hampton
Chancel and Sacraments	James & Iris Harman			
Altar Flowers	James & Iris Harman	Eileen & Ron Leaphart	OPEN	OPEN
Cookies & Fellowship Host	OPEN	Mutual Ministry	Dale & Donna	OPEN
Offering Counters	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN

What does that server do?

Ushers: Be here 20 minutes before worship to greet worshippers and assist as needed.

Assisting Minister & Reader: Assists the pastor in leading worship. Anyone can do!

Crucifer: Carries cross in procession and assists as needed. All ages can serve!

Song Leader: Helps lead congregation and at home worshippers in song.

Sound Tech: Be here by 9:40am to run sound board. Now training. Try something new!

Livestream Director: Be here by 9:30am to setup & run online livestream.

Chancel and Sacraments: Assists in setting up worship supplies and changing paraments.

Cookies & Fellowship Host: Supplies refreshments for after worship, signup in Narthex!



In Our Prayers

Current Needs

Jerald Drafts
Barry Granda
Isaac Hampton (Surgery 9/6)
Melba Ivey
Guy Kimball
Becky Saville

Homebound

Betty Baker (Carolina Gardens)
Les Caton (Brookdale Harbison)
Gene Hendrix (Westminster)
Thomas Kleckley (Oakleaf)
Wyman Kleckley
Jane Langston (Oakleaf)
Warren Peebles (Lex Extended)
John Shotts
Margaret Sox
Darlene Weight (Tennessee)

Military

Brett Creasman (Army)
Matt Mayer (Air Force)
Chris Rauch (Army)
Tristin Secoy (Marine Corps)

Friends of the Congregation

Felicia Ajibade (health, friend of the Branham Family)
Lynn Balch (health, wife of Craig Balch)
Paul Bessinger (health, Al & Carla Fallaw)
Joan Black (hospice, grandma of Lauren Creasman)
Ron Byrd (friend of Al & Carla Fallaw)
Pastor Derald Edwards (cancer)
Greg Hash (cancer treatment, cousin of Janice Sult)
Esther Hempel (health, mother of Carol Hunter)
Genia Henwood (health, friend of the congregation)
Pam Holladay (health, mother of Bonnie Phillips)
Colin Hungerpiller (health, friend of Stefanie Wingard)
CJ Keathley (health, brother of Denise Caulder)
Shelly Koenig (cancer, daughter in law of Mary Nell Panyard)
Jack Landers (health, friend of the Caulders)
Sarah May (health, aunt of Mary Hampton)
Donna Oneal (health, cousin of Marsha and Charlie O'Neal)
Donna Riggins (cancer, sister in law of Rachael Rhoden)
Bud Roberts (brain bleed, friend of the Caulders)
Sylvia Ruff (cancer, aunt of Julie Branham)
Greg Sommer (health, friend of the congregation)
Edith Wessinger (health, sister in law of Ethel Riley)
Ron White (prostate cancer, friend of the Caulders)
Sarah White (cancer, friend of the Hendrix family)
Deborah Whitlow (cancer, mother of Emily Whitlow)

*To ensure we have accurate information on our prayer list please let us know as prayer requests change.
To make updates or additions to the prayer list, contact the church office at 356-2297.*



**GROW &
RENEW**
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

GROW & RENEW CAMPAIGN

**We celebrate the gifts and commitments received
from members and friends of Zion for our
Grow & Renew Campaign.**

Number of households completing an Intent Card: 79
Total committed to the Grow & Renew Campaign: \$857,725
Total received so far from these commitments: \$377,890

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE Congregation Council Meeting Highlights



Zion's Congregation Council met on Monday, August 8th via Zoom. Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- + Heard reports from officers and Ministry Team liaisons
- + Reviewed renovation contract and funding process and updated current timeline
- + Approved continuing current Sunday morning schedule through September/beginning of renovation
- + Shared stories and successes about Connections, Generations, and Celebrations from the past month
- + Shared Joys and Concerns and prayed together

2022 Congregation Council members are: Lee Caulder (chair), DeAnna Granda (vice chair), Kimberly Rauch (secretary), Janice Sult (treasurer), Sue Anderson, Kathryn Barton, Ernest Beck, Betsy Burn, Rebekah Cromer, Ross Hunter, Suzette Porth, Bridget Ridgell, and Pastor Nathan Gragg.



An Update about Giving and Generosity

Giving Info as of August 31, 2022

Offering **anticipated** year to date: \$239,589

Offering **received** year to date: \$279,521

Gifts to Zion and Partner Feeding Ministries this Year

Mission Lexington: **132 pounds of food**

Snack Packs Ministry: **\$880**

Matthew 25 Lunch Ministry: **\$920**

Recent Memorials Given

To the General Fund

In memory of Janet Boltjes *by Jo & Charlie Mayer*

To the Grow & Renew Campaign

In honor of Denise Caulder *by Michael & Jane Kohn*



Communications

Birthdays in September

2nd Suzette Porth
Randy McCoy
Liam Flashnick
3rd Katie McKinley
Matt Mayer
6th Jeff Beck
8th Anna Reeside
12th Charles O'Neal
13th Karen Drafts
14th Dawn Keene
15th Jeanne West
16th Wyman Keisler
Betty Shaw
17th Bonnie Phillips
Charles Dickson
19th Tallie Rauch
20th Chris Rauch
25th Jamie Hunt

26th Laura McCombs
27th Jantzen Beck
28th Warren Keisler
29th Madison Claire Rauch
30th Kiley Cohoon

Anniversaries in September

5th James & Iris Harman
9th Todd & Jennifer Elrod
17th Bob & Dawn Keene

COMMUNICATION AT ZION

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS are included in the bulletin announcement page each week. Information should be submitted by **10 am on Wednesdays** to be included.

NEWSLETTER is published monthly, e-mailed to those with e-mail addresses on file with the church office, and mailed to those who've requested it. Information for the Monthly Newsletter is due in the church office by **the 25th of each month**.

SCREENS IN THE NARTHEX on Sunday morning also contain important announcements and information. This information is due by **2 pm on Wednesday**.

Technology and Scheduling requests at Zion

Please call/email the office as soon as you know you need to reserve facility space. When you reserve space, please request any technology you need, setup time needed if any, and accurate dates and times. When leaving a space after use, please make sure it is clean and returned to the way it was beforehand. This includes any supplies, tables/chairs, technology equipment, etc. Thank you for your consideration and your ministry here at Zion!