

The Zion Herald

August 2024



*With Christ at the center of all that we do,
we share our God given gifts, love one another,
and gather as a community of faith.*

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Pastor's Letter

Zion Family,

A couple weeks ago, I heard a lecture sponsored by the Seminary Ridge Museum by Allen C. Guelzo, a former Gettysburg College faculty member in American History and New York Times bestselling author. His book, ***Gettysburg: The Last Invasion***, won several national book awards.

I'm now reading his most recent book titled, ***Voices From Gettysburg: Letters, Papers and Memoirs from the Greatest Battle of the Civil War***. It examines some of the voices from the Civil War's most significant battle that aren't commonly heard when thinking about the battle and seeks to answer some common questions about the battle from these unheard witnesses. Was Robert E. Lee responsible for the defeat of the Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg? Should General Meade and the Union army have followed Lee's retreat and brought the war to an end along the banks of the Potomac? These questions and more have been debated since July 1863.

As I've read some of the testimonies in the book, especially those from actual participants in the battle, I've been surprised by the awareness of soldiers from both sides of the conflict that this battle was of incredible significance

. And, because of that, their participation was personally significant.

Cathy and I have been befriended by new neighbors across the street. Trying to figure out the garbage collection schedule, we asked them about the recycling process in Adams County. They told us that recycling is collected every other week. Our new friend John added that folks get impatient and throw out their recycling with the trash. He commented, "I don't know why people don't recycle. It's not hard to wait a week." It was a reminder that even something as simple as recycling your cans, bottles and cardboard is a personal commitment.

In his book, Guelzo recalls that the average age of the typical combatant at Gettysburg was between 24-25, but that there were soldiers under the age of 16 who fought and died in Gettysburg. He expresses surprise

that individuals that young had such great awareness that they were participating in a life changing event while that fought at Gettysburg. Had things turned out differently, we might well be living in a divided land, even today. The "American Experiment" could have ended at Gettysburg. Instead, in the "fire, blood and smoke" of that great battle the Union and the United States prevailed.

Our decisions, for good or bad, have a way of spinning away from us, becoming bigger and bigger as they gain traction elsewhere. And, it takes a personal commitment to make a change for the better, to promote good over evil, to speak up on behalf of another, to be part of the moral arc of the universe, to speak on behalf of a gracious and loving God.

Blessings!

Pastor Geib



August

10 – Kelli Witmer

11 – Michael Bensinger Jr.

14 – Mary Lou Fletcher-Powell

15 – Wende Nagy

17 – Marlene Zuch

22 – Terri Moore

22 – Kaitlyn Witmer

27 – Lauralee Baker

28 – Joan Segesser

30 – Dave Rosser

31 – Curtis Heller

31 – Lance Spickler

Congregation News

Outdoor Worship – Sunday, July 28th

We will have worship in the picnic pavilion, so dress casual, sit in your lawn chair or at a picnic table and enjoy worshipping outside. After worship, we'll have a social time with fresh fruit & cookies. Plan on staying to enjoy a snack & time of fellowship!

Miniature golfing – Sunday evening, August 11

Let's see who the best miniature golfer in the group is! Join us for a fun evening of mini golf at Boulder's in Mountville, on Sunday, August 11 at 6 PM. The cost to golf is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors 65 or older, and \$9 for kids 12 and under. If we have 12 or more people, the group rate is \$8.50 per person. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board beside the mailboxes. Please sign up if you plan on attending. Don't forget that Scoop's Ice Cream & Grille is next door. You can get a meal before golf and ice cream afterwards!

Seeds of Wisdom Lunches

We will be going to the Jigger Shop, 202 Gettysburg Ave., in Mt. Gretna, for our next Seeds of Wisdom Lunch. We'll meet at the restaurant at 12:00 (note: they open at noon) and enjoy lunch & probably some dessert! After lunch, Pastor Geib will lead a short hike for those who are interested to one of his favorite outdoor sites as a child...Dinosaur Rock. It is an easy flat walk, no more than a total of .5 miles. The rock formations look like dinosaurs and make for great climbing if you still have ankles, knees, hips and an adventurous spirit! If you are interested in joining us, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board beside the mailboxes by Sunday, August 18th, so that we can let them know how many to expect. As always, everyone is welcome to join us, and if you would like to attend, but need a ride, we can arrange it.



Looking ahead, we plan on going to the Park City Diner on September 17th, and Rivertowne Restaurant & Bar (Wrightsville) on October 15th.

2025 Election of New Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop

In 2025, the Lower Susquehanna Synod will elect a new bishop and will require a three-day synod assembly. If you'd like to learn more about

the process, you are invited to attend a Listening Session sponsored by the synod. The session closest to us will be held on Sunday, August 18 at 2 PM at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church outside of Lancaster. All are welcome!

Shared Worship & Picnic – Sunday, August 25th

Zion will host a joint worship service with Concordia, Mountville, and St. James, Columbia. The service will be held at Zion's pavilion starting at 10:15 AM, and will be followed by a picnic at 11:30. Zion will provide hamburgers, turkey burgers, hot dogs, and water. Attendees are asked to bring a covered dish. We plan on playing BINGO, and we ask that everyone please bring a prize or 2 (wrapped or unwrapped). There will be corn hole to play, and guessing games, also. If you would like to provide a guessing game (guess the weight, or number of items, etc.) we would appreciate it. You may also want to bring a lawn chair for your comfort and to provide extra seating. We hope you can join us for this special day with our neighbors and friends!

Adult Bible Study Resumes – Sunday, September 8th

After our summer exodus, Adult Bible Study on the book of Genesis will resume on Sunday, September 8 at 9 AM. Participants can jump in and out of the group as needed, so please consider attending!

Zion's Annual Church Picnic - Sunday, September 15th

The delicious picnic food, games, and social time can't be beat! Our annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th. Following our worship service, we'll gather under our pavilion for a delicious picnic meal featuring grilled chicken and hot dogs and all the yummy side dishes and



desserts. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board beside the mailboxes listing all the foods we would like to compliment our meal. If you are planning on attending, and will bring a dish to share, please sign the sheet. We plan on playing BINGO, so we ask that you bring a prize or 2 for the prize table. There will be guessing games to test your skill (or luck), and anyone who would like to contribute a game (guess the weight or number of items, etc.) it would be appreciated. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun day of good food & fellowship!

Prime Time Dessert Request – First Tuesday of every month

If you are a dessert maker your culinary contribution would surely be appreciated. Please contact Janice Wise here at church on Sundays or call her at 717-951-3114 if you plan to bring a dessert or have any questions. Thank you for considering this every now and then. This is not a request that would tie you to every month.

Connections – For all ages in the fellowship hall.

Over the summer we will pause having Connections Sundays. Instead, we will have outdoor worship in the Pavilion on the 4th Sundays in June, July, and August.

Special Offering Envelopes in July and August

Prime Time – Prime Time is a Zion Outreach Ministry for adult members of the church and community. Prime Time is usually held on the first Tuesday of each month beginning with a meal served at noon. Following the meal, Bingo is played using prizes that attendees provide. Funds received in this envelope help with meal cost. This is a fun time and a good opportunity to meet and spend time with members of our community. An envelope was included on July 21.

World Hunger – World Hunger is an Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) program that provides support for world-wide hunger. An envelope was included on July 28.

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief – Lutheran Disaster Relief is an Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) program that provides support at time of a disaster in the United States and Internationally. An envelope is included on August 4.

Power Packs – Donegal Power Packs has different programs to provide meal ingredients to families enrolled in the free lunch program and request to participate in the Power Packs Program. During the school year on Fridays participants can pick up a bag containing a recipe and needed ingredients to prepare a meal over the weekend. During the summer food is distributed in a similar way. Food is also distributed during the year when children have an extended number of non-school days due to holidays. An envelope is included on August 25.

Tools 4 School will be held on Saturday, August 10

Do you like to see smiles of joy and appreciation?

If so, we need your help with this project!

Last year 150+ students received a backpack and school supplies (pocket folders, tablets, pens, pencils, rulers, scissors, markers, erasers, etc.). Each child also received a \$10 Target gift card with the suggestion that it be used for socks or underwear.

Set up - Friday, August 9, 6:00-7:00 PM

Distribution - Saturday, August 10, 9-11 AM



Please consider helping with this very rewarding project for Friday set-up and distribution on Saturday.

Contact Suzette if you have questions or would like to volunteer.
(suzetteemccarty@comcast.net or 717-538-1252)

An envelope was included in your envelope pack on June 2.

Contributions received are used to purchase supplies for Tools 4 School.

Communion Assistant Schedule

- Sunday, August 4th – Mariann Reider
- Sunday, August 11th – Derek McCarty
- Sunday, August 18th – Gail Houck
- Sunday, August 25th – Suzette McCarty

Check out Our Website! – www.zionmarietta.org

- Read the Pastor's Blog and check upcoming events
- There is a link to our YouTube Channel on our website where you can watch live and previously recorded services.
- Weekly bulletins, newsletters, and calendars are also available to download!



Tuesday, August 6th
Mobile Library 11:30 AM
Luncheon at 12:00 PM
Bingo at 1:00 PM



There are several prayer shawls and prayer squares on the stand in the narthex. You are welcome to share them with friends or family as you wish.

Bazaar Crafting

Our next bazaar crafting session will be on Saturday, August 17th at 1:00 PM. Please join us for some creative fun as we work on projects for our annual bazaar. We continue to collect the following supplies: corks, buttons, glass yogurt containers, greeting cards with pretty pictures on them, arrangement containers, glue, paint, or anything else you think we might need. Donations can be dropped off in the box in the cloak room and are greatly appreciated!

Thank You for volunteering and donating food!

A big thank you to Marlene Zuch, Mariann Reider and Mary Ann Eshleman who braved the heat and helped at the Food Bank on July 10. Zion's next turn to serve will be on October 9, hopefully in nicer weather.

Donations of soups, apple sauce, canned fruit, toilet paper and paper towels are needed. Please place donations in the baskets in the coat room.

The Food Bank is open every Wednesday from 2:00-4:00 pm
If you have any questions about the Food Bank, please contact Gail Houck. 717-684-3616 houckgail@msn.com



2024 Congregation Council Members

Mary Ann Eshleman (2022-2024)

Tara McCarty (2022-2024)

Mary Eppley (2022-2024)

Jason Spickler (2023-2025)

Jim Zuch (2023-2025)

Gail Houck (2024-2026)

Linda Paris (2024-2026)

Council Meeting – August 15th at 6:30 PM

Do you have a Thrivent Product?

(Life Insurance or Investments)

One of the benefits of having a Thrivent Product is the having access to receiving \$250 for each of 2 different Community Impact projects.

The process is to identify a project and then to apply to Thrivent for the funds for the projects.

For information about the Community Impact Program, possible projects and how it works, see Suzette McCarty, 717-538-1252.

LIVING LUTHERAN UPDATE

The Living Lutheran is no longer be available in printed form. It will continue existing by way of an online platform at LivingLutheran.org. Take a moment or two to check out *The Living Lutheran* online to learn more about the different stories and ministries continuing across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/>

Lutheran World Relief Annual Ingathering Appeal

This year Zion will be collect supplies and assemble Personal Care Kits.

During June, July, August and September we will collect items that are needed for the Personal Care Kits. The list is below and must be followed. Please note the size of the towels and that they are not to be plush towels. Towels purchased at Dollar Stores will be a good weight.

During Connections on September 22 at 9:00 AM, kits will be assembled and packed for shipping. Our collections will be taken to a collection point in our conference and then taken to New Windsor, Maryland for shipping to wherever they are needed in the world, as they are needed.

In addition to the items needed for the kits we are asked to help with funding for shipping costs. Lutheran World Relief's approximate cost to handle and ship one Personal Care Kit overseas is \$1.50. Special envelopes will be provided or you may mark an envelope LWR.

Personal Care Kit items

1 lightweight cotton or cotton blend bath-size towel
(20"x40" to 27"x52")

2 or 3 bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand,
in original wrapping. NO mini or hotel size bars

1 adult-size toothbrush in the original packaging*

1 sturdy comb. There are many different types of hair texture,
so no picks or fine-toothed combs; remove packaging

1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

*toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual tooth
brush in a business size envelope. NO plastic bags or wrap.

Tooth paste is not included in the Personal Care Kits.

Only items listed are to be included – no additional items!

All items must be new.

A wash basket will be placed in the narthex for the collection of
Personal Care Kit items.

Whatever We Touch, We Leave fingerprints

by Paola Carreno

As we touch other's lives, we leave our identity. Life is better when you are happy, but life is at its best when others are happy because of you. Be faithful in touching other's hearts, and be an inspiration.

Nothing is more important and worth practicing than being a channel of God's blessing. Nothing in nature lives for itself. Rivers do not drink their own water. Trees do not eat their own fruits. The sun does not shine for itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves.

Jesus did not sacrifice for himself. Living for others is a rule of nature. We were all born to help each other. No matter how difficult the situation you find yourself in, you still do good to others.

A Different Economy

from Plough, by Simon Oliver

Despite how pervasive markets have become, the relationships and social units that we most value and prioritize, particularly friendships and the family, do not primarily involve the market, money, or contracts. They are expressed through a different economy, a gift economy. A friendship, for example, is a relationship based on sharing life and the gifts of time and attention.

The family is a web of relationships established on gift exchange. A father does not charge his children for reading to them or cooking their dinner, for both are gifts. A wife does not charge her husband for caring for him when ill, for care is a gift. Indeed, we talk of “*caregivers*.” When children are taught to thank those who protect and provide for them, their thankfulness is an acknowledgement that what they have received is the gift of loving care; their gratitude is a return gift.

Life is not a matter of trade, possession, or right, but of gift.

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