
Monthly Newsletter

ZIONS CHURCH

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August 2026

A Message from the Pastor

Zion's Church family,

As we move into August, I'm excited about what the Lord is opening before us as a church. Over these past months, we've been talking about seeking Jesus, surrendering more fully to Him, and living as Everyday Missionaries in the places where God has already placed us. Now, one of the next important steps is helping more people find a place to grow in faith, prayer, Scripture, relationship, and obedience.

That's why I'm especially grateful that this fall we'll be launching a new season of discipleship groups. These groups are more than another church activity. They are spaces where people can open the Word together, pray together, encourage one another, ask honest questions, grow in spiritual maturity, and take real steps toward the heart of Jesus. We weren't meant to follow Christ alone. We need worship, we need the Word, and we also need people who will walk with us, strengthen us, challenge us, and help us keep saying yes to Jesus.

Beginning this month, you'll have the opportunity to sign up for a number of different groups. Current offerings include The Three Finds; Fire on Broadway; Going Deeper in Sunday's Sermon; Christian Beliefs; A Life of Prayer; Angels, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare; Miracles and Healing; and Learning the Voice of the Lord. Each group will have its own focus, but the heart behind all of them is the same: we want to become a church that is growing deeper in Jesus and living more faithfully in the mission He has given us.

And if you look at the list and don't immediately see a group that fits your time, schedule, season of life, or situation, please don't assume there isn't a place for you. Sign up anyway and let us know what you're looking for. We want to help people find a group. We know schedules are full, family situations are different, and not every option will work for every person. Our desire is to help as many people as possible take a meaningful step into discipleship and community.

This move is so important because discipleship and mission belong together. As we grow in Christ, we become more aware of the people around us. We remember that all of us are Everyday Missionaries. Every home, workplace, neighborhood, school, restaurant, ball field, and everyday conversation can become a place where the love of Jesus is made visible. The Lord has placed people in our lives to bless, pray for, listen to, serve, invite, and love with the heart of Christ.

A Message from the Pastor (continued...)

So my encouragement this month is that each of us will prayerfully consider where God may be inviting us to grow. Maybe this is the season to join a group for the first time. Maybe it's the season to return to a rhythm of Bible study and prayer with other believers. Maybe it's the season to make room in your schedule for deeper relationships. Maybe it's the season to ask the Holy Spirit to help you become more attentive to the people He has placed around you.

Church, I believe the Holy Spirit is forming something important among us. He is calling us deeper in Christ, closer to one another, and outward in love. Let's respond with open hearts. Let's make room to grow. Let's keep becoming a people who belong to Jesus and become more like Him for the sake of the world around us.

I'm grateful to walk with you in this season.

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Roy

Baby Bottles

Thanks to all who filled Baby Bottles to support LC Medical!
They can be returned on Sunday, August 2nd.
The "Oops... I forgot!" date is August 9th.

Men's Ministry

- Tuesday Nights
 - 6:30 pm
 - Fellowship Hall
- Sunday Mornings
 - 9:40 am
 - Room 108

Consistory Corner

The rubber roof project was completed last month. Due to the unforeseen damage, the final cost was \$40,044.98.
Thanks to Jeff James for overseeing this project.



Farmland Available

The church-owned farmland and pasture lease will expire at the end of this year. The Business Team will be accepting sealed bids for the lease of this property for the upcoming term. Additional details regarding the bidding process, lease terms, and submission requirements can be obtained by contacting the church office or by picking up a copy at the back of the church. At that time, only members of the congregation who are interested in submitting a bid may contact the church office or anyone on the Business Team. Thank you for your interest and support.
-Zion's Business Team



Ice Cream Social & Secret Sister Kickoff

What better way to kick-off a Secret Sister event than with an Ice Cream Social?!!
We're putting together this evening to meet new ladies from both Zions Church and The Journey Church with ice cream and socializing. Then we'll offer a chance for anyone interested to participate in a Secret Sister program, a ministry program designed to encourage spiritual connection and support among women in a church or organization. Participants fill out a profile and are randomly matched with another woman. Each of the assigned "sisters" agree to pray for each other and send random anonymous notes of encouragement, small gifts and/or cards over the next six months. The program aims to build a community and support our church ladies. At the end of the six months, we'll organize another event that will include the Secret Sister 'reveals'.
We hope you'll consider joining us for the ice cream and participate and be a Secret Sister!

A Message from Our Youth Minister

IMPACT '26 YOUTH MISSION WEEK SUCCESS!

Our summer mission project, Impact '26, which occurred from June 21 to June 26, was a great success. All praise to God for a truly outstanding week and for all that He accomplished among us during Impact! This year's Impact was our nineteenth year of doing our own home-made youth retreat/mission week. A total of 61 people were involved in Impact '26, including 29 youths and 32 adult leaders/helpers. This represents a 30 percent increase in overall participation over last year's mission week. Our theme for Impact '26 was "Beautiful Life" and it was about living out the beautiful life in Jesus Christ that God sets before us. Our week's devotional study was inspired by the Pat Barrett song "Beautiful Life".

As usual for Impact, we stayed at the Blue Mountain Olivet Camp (BMOC) in Hamburg. We received a huge blessing this year from the Olivet organization, who gave us a free stay for all the work that we've done at the camp over the years.

Our work at Impact '26 included:

- painting/landscaping/home repairing at the homes of three senior citizens
- repairing a porch, building a handicap ramp, painting porches & stairwells, rebuilding archery targets, etc. at BMOC
- construction of a vinyl privacy fence, painting, cleaning, etc. at LC Medical & Support Services in Kutztown
- weeding and mulching at the Hamburg Community Garden
- painting and landscaping at the First UCC's mission houses in Hamburg
- clean-up of the chicken shed and 4-bay-garage, and organization of items in the bell-ringer room at Zion's Church

We also conducted several outreaches "random acts of kindness" during Impact '26. These included:

- giving free sno-cones to dozens of children from Reading who attended the day-camp programs at BMOC
- cleaning up trash in the Borough of Hamburg
- making & delivering blessing bags for our church's shut-ins/seniors (about 20 people received these personal gifts)
- a free carwash at the Journey Café during which we washed about 30 cars & also distributed free sno-cones
- blessing random people at Knoebel's Grove in various ways during our fun-day excursion

Another major highlight at Impact '26 was the baptism of four students at the pool at BMOC on Wednesday evening. They included Al Diegel, Emily Novotnak, Marisal Henninger and Autumn Maurer. These young people are all attendees of Rock Us. It was truly a blessing to see these young people make a public declaration of their faith in Jesus at Impact with all the other youths and many family members in attendance.

Everyone at Impact '26 did a great job and they all really showed what a "Beautiful Life" in Christ looks like in action. I'm very proud of them all and thankful for them for helping to make this an excellent mission week! And most of all, we thank God for such a great week of service, fun, fellowship and growth in Christ.

***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Next year, Impact '27 is scheduled for June 20 to 25.

OTHER YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

In just a few weeks, the Journey Café After-School Program (CASP) will start its twenty-first school year! This program has been a fun, positive and safe haven for thousands of kids over the years during the vulnerable hours after school. The CASP's eternal significance is that it has served as an entry point to faith in Jesus Christ for many over these years as well. But for the last few years, we've been running on a very small crew of adult volunteers. We absolutely need more help for our after-school program. Besides getting the normal youth-worker clearances, all that's required to help at the CASP is the ability to hang out with teens, a desire to help them come closer to Jesus, and a minimal commitment of two hours one day a week during the school year. We are very flexible with our adult volunteers' schedules too. If you have some time to spare from 2:30-4:30pm during a weekday, please consider helping at this impactful & rewarding ministry.

A Message from Our Youth Minister (continued...)

JOURNEY NEWS

I'm glad to announce that the Celebrate Recovery (CR) ministry will be starting up their weekly program in mid-August at the Journey. Started in 1991, this internationally-renown recovery ministry exists to help people find freedom and healing from their hurts, hang-ups and habits through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Staffed by caring adults who've overcome various addictions through the love and power of Jesus Christ, CR is a safe place to find freedom in Christ and a supportive community that is walking together toward healing and wholeness. Whether you're new to recovery or seeking ongoing support, Celebrate Recovery is now going to be available at the Journey to help you or a loved-one that you know that needs help. CR is slated to begin August 13 and run every Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. If you have any questions about the CR program, please contact me or the church secretary.

God bless you! Dan Bailey, youth minister

Safety Team: ERT Safety Tips

Extreme Heat & Sun Exposure

- **Hydrate Constantly:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Avoid sugary drinks and alcohol, which can accelerate dehydration.
- **Sun Protection:** Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before heading out and reapply every two hours. The sun is strongest between 10 AM and 4 PM, so seek shade whenever possible.
- **No Closed Cars:** Never leave kids or pets in a locked, parked car—even if the windows are cracked or it's "just for a minute."

Back-to-School & Traffic

- **Watch for Walkers:** August marks the start of the school year. Be highly alert for children crossing streets and always obey school zone speed limits.
- **Bus Awareness:** Never pass a school bus when it is loading or unloading children. Stand at least 10 feet away from the bus while waiting at the curb.

Do You Have an Announcement?

If your ministry needs an announcement to be made, please email the details to info@zionschurch.org. Our team can make up a pre-service slide for you, add it to the website, promote it on social media, and add it to the Sunday morning video announcements. We will promote it via these different avenues as appropriate for that specific request. You do not need to make a slide yourself. In fact, our team would prefer to do it for you to make sure the fonts, colors, and content are readable on the screen in the sanctuary. We also need specific sizes that are different for TV display versus web/social media.

Deadlines are as follows to give our team enough time to process all the requests and prepare the associated media accordingly:

- **Video announcements:** This list is finalized on Fridays, 9 days prior to the video being shown. Your request needs to be received by Wednesday, 11 days before you want it shown.
 - **Slides/social/web:** These requests need to be received by Tuesday, 5 days prior to when it is to be shown. Slides generally run for two weeks and are then taken down, but there are some exceptions. This gives a better chance for everyone to see it, even those who may have missed a week, while limiting how many slides are active at one time.
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CHILDREN & FAMILIES



AUGUST 2026

B.L.A.S.T. KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Being Light and Salt Together

Sundays at 9:40 am

**Promotion Sundae
August 23rd**

Celebrate the start of the new school year and kids moving to their new classes with ice cream sundaes following the Sunday school hour. A sweet way to honor your child's transition and meet their new teacher.

FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

**October 3rd
4:00–7:00 pm**

Pumpkin decorating, games, hayrides, campfires, & more

Watch for more details coming soon



MOMS OF THE VINE

Moms and kids growing in Christ together

Meaningful fellowship for moms and activities and playtime for kids

Meeting times vary

Facebook: MomsOfTheVine



PLANET SHAKERS

Where K–5th graders learn to shake up the world for Jesus

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

September 9th

Family meal at 5:45

Alpine slide rides at 6:30

Celebrate our first night of the school year with food, games, friends, and learning



MORE INFO

jennifer.scott@zionschurch.org

610–562–2300, option 6

www.zionschurch.org