

The mission of Zion Lutheran is to better know and show Christ's love.

2026 October/November Messenger

SMORGASBORD & COUNTRY STORE

Takeout Meals Only

Drive thru style

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Serving 11:00am - 2:00pm or until food is gone.

\$15.00/10 items

Pork Sausage, Sauerkraut, 1/4 Chicken, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, German Potato Salad, Squash, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, & Pie

COUNTRY STORE OPENS at 10:00am



2026 Oct.-Nov. Messenger

Senior Pastor: Rev. Andrew Menz 989-513-0197 andewmenz@gmail.com

Associate Pastor: Rev. Seth Hemme 989-600-5343 pastorhemme@yahoo.com

Interim Principal: Mrs. Cassie Foco principal@zionauburn.com

1557 W. Seidlers Rd. Auburn. MI 48611 989-662-4264 website: zionauburn.com

Life in the World and the Church

What did you do this summer? Hopefully you had a chance to spend time with family and friends. Maybe you went out of town to discover a new place, or you went back to a familiar place that you enjoy visiting. The summer is a great opportunity to see the world and see God's beautiful creation.

I went on two different trips connected to Zion. I went to Mackinac Island with some of the high school youth from Zion. We went with about 1,000 other youth and adult leaders from Lutheran Churches in Michigan. It was great to spend time worshipping, praying, working, and relaxing with other Christians. We heard presentations about living as God's people in this modern world. We were encouraged to walk with Jesus and shine as lights in word and action to others around us.



I also went to Phoenix as the pastoral delegate for our Circuit of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Each Circuit, a group of 7-10 or so congregations, sends a lay delegate and a pastoral delegate. There were around 940 voting delegates (plus a few hundred advisory non-voting delegates and other representatives from various organizations) who elected officers, voted on resolutions, heard presentations, sang and prayed together, and enjoyed each other's company for 6 days. It was a blessing to see the Church working, worshipping, and serving together. I also saw the beauty of God's creation in the dry Arizona summer.

These two trips reminded me that God's people are connected to each other through Jesus Christ. Christians worship, work, pray, serve, and spend time together. Whether we are on an island in Northern Michigan or sitting in a convention hall surrounded by the desert, God is at work in the world, in His Church, and our life. We have so much in common with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We confess Jesus as the Savior from sin and death. We confess that God has made the world and everything in it and still cares for it. We are blessed to be a part of the God's Church and God's family. May God continue to bless and strengthen you as you live as His children in the world and the Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Hemme

Greetings from the Principal

We are well into our school year already and it has been a wonderful start. We are bursting with new and returning students throughout our school, with 20 enrolled in preschool and 101 enrolled in K-8th grades. It is such a blessing to have a full building of students and staff who know and show God's love each and every day here at Zion.

Chapel Offerings: Our first quarter chapel offerings are going to Compassion International to support our new sponsored child, Luan, in Ecuador. Compassion International shares the hope of the gospel in word and action, releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. They care for vulnerable children – mind, body and soul –with programs delivered through local churches in their communities.

Apple Pie Week: Apple pie preparation is already underway! Apple pie workdays are October 7-10 and are such a fun time to connect with other Zion community members. We hope to see you there too! We've made over 3000 pies the last few years – I wonder if we will break the record this year?!

Harvest Party: T.E.A.M. is planning our annual Harvest Celebration which will be held on Friday, October 30th. This is a half day of school that will include a special chapel service, Trunk or Treat, cider making, and many more fun activities. Parents are welcome to join us for the day if they are able! More information to come.

October and November will bring lots of work and lots of fun for our students and staff. We will have our first round of parent-teacher conferences in mid-November, and before we know it, we will be practicing for our Christmas programs! In the business, we try to keep our minds focused on what matters, to stay **Rooted in Christ**.

Our children's choirs will be singing in church on Sunday, October 4th, and Sunday, November 15th. We hope to see you there when we make a joyful noise!

Many Autumn blessings to you,
Cassie Foco, Interim Principal



Please join us **Friday, November 6th** for a **Veteran's Day Celebration**

We're changing things up a little this year for our **Veterans Day Celebration!**

Please mark your calendars for **Friday, November 6th, from 9:30–11:00AM** as we come together to honor and celebrate the veterans in our Zion family and community.

We have some exciting changes planned for this year's program, so **stay tuned for more information coming soon!** We can't wait to share what we have planned!

Please join us in the school cafeteria for a big brunch and light entertainment as we celebrate the **Reformation on Sunday, October 25th** immediately following the worship service. Bring the whole family! Everything will be provided for this occasion thanks to a Thrivent Action Grant and the Fellowship Team. Come and enjoy some fellowship and food!



Greeting from Preschool

We have a full class of 20 students this year! We enjoyed Preschool Parent Participation on the first day of school. Parents were welcomed to attend school with their preschooler on the first day. They learned our daily routine, expectations, and enjoyed a doughnut and a caffeinated beverage while sharing the joy of preschool! We had a wonderful morning meeting all of our new families!

Preschool is excited to be singing with the Cherub Choir (K-2) this year. Our students are fantastic performers.

After Care has been a big hit! We've been supporting our after-school kids by giving them time to complete homework, reading time, recess, and a snack time each afternoon. This program has been well received by parents, especially those participating in Zion sports.

As always, thank you for the support of these two fantastic programs!

In His Service,
Lacie Steelmon
Preschool Director

LWML

LWML Mid-Michigan ZONE will have their next rally on Oct. 17th at Prince of Peace in Clare. Watch the Sunday bulletins for more forthcoming details.

October is still a Mite collection month for LWML. You can contribute by filling a Mite Box. Please take one from the narthex next to the wooden Mite box, fill it, and then return it. Thank you for supporting this mission.



All Saints' Day will be celebrated **November 1st**. It is a day to remember and thank God for those who lived lives of faith in God and who rest in the Lord. As a part of our worship on October 31st and November 1st we will be having a remembrance of the faithful departed which includes reading the names of those who have died since the last All Saints' Day. Those who died as members of Zion during the past year will automatically be included. If you would like us to also remember a loved one who was not a Zion member but died in the

Christian faith during the last year (**Nov. 1, 2025 - Oct. 31, 2026**), please contact the church contact the church office by phone or email, or write the name and the person's relationship to you and give the name to a Pastor. All such requests need to be **in by Oct. 27th**.



Grave Blanket Greens: If anyone has any plans to remove any spruce or cedar trees, the grave blanket committee can use the boughs. However, they cannot be cut until the 3rd week of October, so they are fresh for making grave blankets. Please contact Diana Hebel at 989-280-3185.

Grave Blankets will be for sale **starting November 1st through December 6th**. Prices are \$30 for small; \$50 for medium; and \$75 for large (available only upon request). We accept cash or check. If check, please make payment to: Zion Lutheran Church, Auburn. In the memo, please note "Santa Store". We sell from our home at 2255 9 Mile Road, Kawkawlin, MI. If interested in helping create grave blankets or if you have any questions overall, please contact Diana Hebel at 989-280-3185.



This year's **Santa Store** will be held on **Monday, December 14th**, from **8:00AM until noon**. We know that this is a very busy time of the year but hopefully you can come spend the morning with some very excited shoppers. We are always looking for people to help the students shop, check out, and have their Christmas presents wrapped for the special people in their lives.

We are also looking for donations to help the Santa Store be successful. Besides your typical crafts and Christmas supplies we are also looking for Christmas bags, Crayola brand crayons (new and used), bins with lids, Christmas and religious stickers as well as general stickers. We are also always looking for items for men's gifts.

Thank you to all those who have been so generous with their donations and giving of their time. Besides helping our school children shop for Christmas gifts, you make it possible for the Santa Store (and Grave Blanket Sale) to provide grants for many worthy causes at our church and school.

College Address & Campus Connect

Are you away at college? We would like to keep in touch with you by sending "The Messenger" and/or a nice note either by regular mail or email. Please call the church office and provide us with your college mailing address or check that we have your email address.



Are you attending a college in Michigan? Help us connect you to an LCMS Campus ministry. A network of campus ministries and local congregations from the Michigan, English, and North Wisconsin Districts are ready to support college students this fall. Campus Ministry provides a nurturing environment where students can thrive and find belonging within a faith community during their time at school. Join us in creating meaningful connections and fostering spiritual growth among the next generation of leaders. All we need from you is to make the introduction!

Visit: <https://michigandistrict.org/campusconnect/> to fill out the Campus Connect form. OR to see a list of active campus ministries in Michigan visit: <https://michigandistrict.org/ministries/specialized-ministries/campus-ministry/>

HOPE

IT'S IN OUR BLOOD

Zion Lutheran Church & School Community Blood Drive

WHEN & WHERE

Wed, November 4
2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Gymnasium
1557 Seidlers Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611



Promotion: All blood donors will receive a vintage Nirvana t-shirt as a heartfelt thank you for your donation

Use code:
NIRVANA SHIRT in appointment notes



Schedule your appointment
Appointments preferred. Walk-ins welcome!

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Blood Center of Michigan

2027 Commitment to the Lord

We will have commitment weekend on **October 17th and 18th**. Please prayerfully consider how you will give to the Lord in 2027 through Zion Lutheran Church.

“Give . . . according to the blessing of the Lord . . .” Deuteronomy 16:17

YOUR COPY—Please save as a reminder of your commitment.

Experience the joy that comes from giving, serving, and growing in the Lord!

To help me grow in faith and in the joy of serving.

- ☐ I commit to daily Bible reading and to participate in Bible studies.
 - ☐ I commit to stewarding my God-given time, talents, and resources in service to others.
 - ☐ I commit to giving proportionately of my income to God through my church. I will give ____%.
-

CHURCH COPY—Please Bring to Zion on October 17th and 18th.

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OCTOBER 2026

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH/SCHOOL

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25 9:00 AM Worship w/communion 10:15 AM Reformation Brunch	26 6:30 PM Elders meeting	27	28 9:00 AM Ladies Bible Study & Quilting	29	30 End of 1st Quarter Half Day of School	31 5:30 PM Worship w/communion																																																																																				

NOVEMBER 2026

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