Annual Report 2025

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Zion is a church on a mission to proclaim Christ through word and deed!

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Zion Leadership

Congregation Council

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Joe Darnell, Vice President	joe.darnell@gmail.com
Liz Prystas, Secretary	eprystas@gmail.com
Denny Gross, Treasurer	dennisg144@gmail.com
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Steve Newton	steve.newton@me.com
Cynthia Rowatt	rowattc@gmail.com
Gavin Tonkyro	gavintonkyro@gmail.com

Zion Staff Members

The Rev. Anthony Auer, Bridge Pastor	prt@zelc.org
David Chamberlin, Organist	david@chamberlinmusic.com
Dave Zabriskie, Chancel Choir Director	davecomposer@gmail.com
Susan Swidnicki, Children's Choir Director	sljswidnicki@gmail.com
Tracy Hackworth, Parish Administrator	office@zelc.org
Chelene Fortier, Communications Specialist	chelene.fortier@gmail.com
AnnMarie Mogren, Financial Secretary	finsecy@gmail.com
John & Ashley Mack, Caretakers	jmack5517@gmail.com
Sabrina Bell, Sunday School Superintendent	sabrinambell05@gmail.com
Sabrina Bell, Director, Let Me Shine	director@letmeshine.org
Holly Graham, Asst Director, Let Me Shine	holly@letmeshine.org

Pastor's Report

As we enter 2026, I am pleased to share this annual report of our 2025 ministries with the congregation. The council expects to keep the tradition of providing this report, well into the future.

During Pr. Michael's tenure at Zion, in conjunction with the church council, these are the **Value Statements** that were developed:

- We are a welcoming church that shares a generous spirit of hospitality with all.
- We value our position as the first Lutheran congregation in Utah.
- We put relationships ahead of institution.
- We are lighthearted and have fun together while striving for excellence and not perfection
- Loving one another and serving our neighbor is not either/or, we do both with passion.
- We treat others with the same grace we have received in Christ.
- "Come as you are" is not just a dress code; God loves you as you are, and so will we.

Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a beacon of God's grace and love, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community where all are welcomed, affirmed, and empowered to live out their faith boldly. Through meaningful worship, nurturing relationships, and compassionate service, we aspire to transform lives and communities, sharing the good news of God's love and grace to the world.

Our Mission Statement

Zion is a church on a mission to proclaim Christ through word and deed!

You'll hear me and your future permanent pastor repeat Zion's mission statement every Sunday in our worship announcements. How we fulfill that mission is outlined in our values and vision statements. This is who we are as the people of God at Zion and this is what we do.

The Rev Tony Auer prt@zelc.org

President's Report

It has truly been an honor to have served a second year as your Congregation Council President in 2025. Reviewing the following reports, you'll see so much was accomplished this year. We again met at the Episcopal Retreat and Conference Center and strengthened our bonds of fellowship and as the leadership team. This year we enhanced our Dinner Church, Stephen Ministry, Streaming Sunday Worship, Fellowship events, etc. Our church organ and piano projects were set in motion through congregational support. In August we learned of Pastor Michael's departure and began the process of transition to find a new Pastor. We hired Pr. Dominic Palacios as a transition consultant and have begun our Listening Circle meetings. We are very blessed to keep everything moving forward with Pastor Tony Auer serving as our Bridge Pastor. We are truly a marvelous congregation with a remarkable story to tell. Faithfully yours!

Ross Anthony rss_anthony@yahoo.com

Outreach Ministries:

Stream Team

Greetings from the balcony! The Stream is in charge of the on-line broadcast of our worship services. We have settled into a solid routine for worship and have been told our productions are quite enjoyable. In our weekly live audience, we have several former members and family of members who live in other cities. We also have regular viewers from the congregation who can't be here in person. Earlier this year, Pr. Tony built a desk in the balcony for us, made largely of repurposed lumber harvested from unused pews. Most Sundays, Susan Auer and I are your production team with support from Emma, Haddie & Rosie Benseler and Sara Drews operating the system. Michael Drews continues to serve as tech guru and sound guy. We would love to have others join us. It's pretty simple, forces you to pay attention in worship and is pretty satisfying when the broadcast is complete and done well. Stop by some Sunday (up in the balcony) to see how this all works but with caution, you might get hooked and become a 'Streamer.'

Bob Hackworth rrhackworth@aol.com

Marketing & Communications Specialist

I have been fortunate to witness significant growth in Zion's social media channels (Facebook and Instagram), which has led to real-world interest in Zion. The most popular posts engage all community members and showcase Zion's welcoming and progressive personality. I am working to continue this growth while also pursuing these 2026 goals:

- Revive the **Community Speaker Series**. This outreach effort is a meaningful growth opportunity for Zion: It opens the door to timely and important conversations, lets people from all walks of life find common ground, encourages important dialogue, and introduces Zion and Lutheran teachings to those who might be seeking.

- Increase and improve Zion's **imagery**. This means that when you come to the website, you will see video gifs of what it means to be a part of Zion. I hope to do this by contracting with a professional photographer to capture both important details and everyday moments.
- Lastly, I promised **swag** last year, which got put on hold because Pastor Michael left. It was a blessing in disguise, as it allowed me to find even more products that could work than I had originally envisioned. Keep an eye tuned to the Friday newsletter for upcoming details. Chelene Fortier chelene.fortier@gmail.com

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

Since 2013, Zion has been a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.
Our RIC statement reads: We are committed to being a loving and welcoming community of faith in Jesus Christ. As a community of God, we welcome all. We celebrate the manner in which diversity enriches, nurtures, and challenges the life and ministry we share in Christ. Our Table is open, and we invite all to full participation in the life of our church regardless of race, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, socio-economic and marital statuses, physical or mental capacities, age, or social position. We commit to the work of anti-racism and all forms of structural, systemic, institutional, and personal bias.
In 2025, Zion contributed $750 to ReconcilingWorks, the organization that sponsors the RIC initiative and advocates for the acceptance, full participation, and liberation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church.
Liz Prystas and Margaret McCollum

Local Donations Support

Zion supports the Crossroads Urban Center via donations of food, small household items and clothing. Anyone can bring such items to church and place them in a blue bin, located under the stairway that leads to the balcony and is right next to the Preschool office. These are delivered to Crossroads year-round, by volunteers, where they are distributed to persons in need. If you'd like to help with deliveries or in any other way, please contact the church office. office@zelc.org 801-582-2321. Peter Staks staks@comcast.net

The Compassionate Friends

I am a facilitator of The Compassionate Friends, a very important outreach service that has been meeting at Zion since 2009. The Compassionate Friends offers friendship and understanding to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who have suffered the death of a child. We've learned that pain can best be understood more by another, who has experienced a similar loss.
We espouse no specific religious ideology, and we do not have professional counseling. We do recognize there is more than one way to grieve.

The Compassionate Friends meet in the gathering area at 7:00 PM, the second Tuesday of every month, except in December, when we meet on the second Sunday. That night we have a candle lighting service (electric candles). People light candles at 7:00, in their time zone, to join hearts around

the world. One can learn more about TCF through their website, emails, and word of mouth.
www.compassionatefriends.org
Alyce Gross adgross1@msn.com

Illini 4000 Bicycle Group

For two nights in mid-July, Zion graciously hosted 15 members of the Illini 4000, a group of student bicyclists from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Each summer, the group rides over 4,000 miles cross-country, raising funds for cancer research and support services. Thank you to the many Zion members, several of whom are University of Illinois alumni, who provided food, fellowship, and SLC tourist recommendations to the group! We look forward to hosting a new crop of riders in 2026.
Liz Prystas eprystas@gmail.com

Bi-Monthly Missions

Every two months, Zion encourages the congregation to contribute to a unique charitable organization. In 2025, our bimonthly missions were selected in concert with relevant local, national, and global events. Thank you to all who contributed this year to: Lutheran Family Services (immigration support); Lutheran Education Association (teacher training); Encircle Utah (LGBQT+ youth/family resource center); Shriners Children's (children's orthopedic hospital); Utah Neighborhood Connection (afterschool program); Utah Food Bank. In 2025 (to date), Zion has contributed; more than $5400 to these and other ELCA-affiliated charities. Thank you to all who enhance our offering time on the final Sunday of each month, as we collect loose change in the form of Noisy Offerings!

Let Me Shine Christian Playschool and Preschool

Let Me Shine is on a mission to share God's love with His children and to provide a welcoming Christian environment where children can grow spiritually, socially, and intellectually. Let Me Shine is a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church. As such, Zion members receive priority enrollment and a 10% discount on tuition prices.

We are a morning preschool; our hours are from 9-12 pm. We are also a state licensed facility. We employee 15 staff members plus Holly Graham (assistant director) and Sabrina Bell (Director). We have 122 spots available. We accept children that are 18 months of age to Pre-K (4&5). The class options range from 2 to 5 days a week.

We follow a religious curriculum which consists of simple Bible stories that are taught throughout the week and followed up by chapel once a week. Children hear the Bible story in the classroom and at chapel. We place special emphasis on the Christmas and Easter stories and assure them they are loved

by God. We have an amazing music teacher who comes in each week to teach music to each class for 30 minutes a day. Our school is a well-run machine at this point, as we are in the middle of our 24th year here at Zion. Sabrina Bell director@letmeshine.org

Fellowship Ministries:

Greater Zion Day

On Sunday, July 20, 2025 our congregation celebrated "Greater Zion Day," held annually since 1937 on the Sunday closest to our founding date of July 18,1882. The anniversary date is called "Greater" Zion Day, because in Zion's history, each year the Zion congregation joined with its branches in Bingham, Eureka, Park City, and Sandy to celebrate its founding. The congregation is now 123 years old. This year a festive crowd of about 55 people continued this annual celebration with a potluck held in the Terrace Room, that's downstairs in the church building.
Paul Mogren paulamogren@yahoo.com

Coffee Hour

When the Sunday service is over, be sure to stop by the Atrium (fellowship space by the east entrance of the church) for a chance to chat with others over simple finger foods, coffee, and juice. Grab and go or linger around a table and partake in this informal Christian fellowship. Each Sunday, there's an opportunity for one or two families to provide the snacks; other supplies are provided. Sign-up schedules are on the table in the narthex. There are always others around to help with the logistics and coffee making. For questions or your interest in serving this ministry, please contact me. Chet Johnson chetj.slc@gmail.com

Wine & Cheese Gathering

On July 12, Steve and Marie Newton hosted a Summer Wine and Cheese party. This was the first time that a Wine and Cheese party was held in the Summer. The Newtons would like to continue this new social event in 2026 as well. On December 6, 2025, David and Cynthia Rowatt hosted Zion's traditional Wine & Cheese party. Annually, this tradition is welcomed by many long-time and new members of Zion. Everyone brings something to share which is usually a delectable selection of appetizers and desserts. Wine and conversation flowed, and the atmosphere was warm and cheery. A special feature of the event was live music provided by "Jem Duo," consisting of the talented guitarists Emily Hackworth & Jason Dreher. This is a great opportunity to make new friends. Cynthia Rowatt rowattc@gmail.com

Salmon Run

The annual Salmon Run fellowship event was held on September 6, 2025. In keeping with established tradition, four salmon preparations were grilled to perfection by Zion's grill masters. They were only surpassed by the exquisitely prepared chicken. Eighty-plus members and friends enjoyed abundant sides, salads, and desserts, including homemade ice cream. The weather was perfect. This year's event was held in Zion's Terrace Room, also known as the basement, where seating and grilling are easily

accommodated. Keep an eye out for this annual Fall gathering. Denny Gross
dennisg144@gmail.com

Oktoberfest

Thank you to all the dedicated helpers who have made the annual Oktoberfest the success it was, and has been for years and years. Oktoberfest has a special place in our hearts as the first Zion social event the Halls attended. At their first event, they met several families who have become lifelong friends! In 2025 the event was held on Oct 4, again in the church Terrace Room. The warm fall day was perfect for grilling brats and drinking beer. Attendees brought copious varieties of potato salads and other specialties. Approximately 60 people attended, and 20 helped with setup, decorating, cooking, grilling and cleanup. We (and the yeast) look forward to hosting again in 2026, and sincerely hope everyone can make it. Don't forget: Kinder willkommen und Lederhosen optional! To volunteer, please contact Jon Hall at the email address below.
Jon Hall jhjh87@gmail.com

Family Fun Activities

Family Fun Activities have a long history at Zion that began as a vision of a council member who wanted her children to see the church as more than a formal place to worship and attend church. She wanted her children to experience the friendship, comradery, and family fellowship that our church had to offer. Thus, Friday Fun Nights began in the late 1990s. These activities would happen once a month and would continue until 2012. Then the format switched from Friday night to a Sunday after church format with only the two most popular activities being planned - Pumpkin Carving & Gingerbread House Decorating. This new format allowed these activities to be more inclusive of the whole church family.

- Unfortunately, the Pumpkin Carving was not held in 2025 but will return in 2026.
- Gingerbread & Sugar Cookie & Sugar Cone Christmas Tree decorating Activity was held on Sunday, December 7th. It was organized by Leska Haskell.

I would like to encourage people to try to organize a family fun activity. Please reach out to me with your event. Angie Reuschel aclmom86@msn.com

Worship and Music Ministries:

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a small but dedicated group of people who do the important task of setting up and taking down the altar paraments and the communion ware each Sunday. We added two new members in 2025, Becky McIntyre and Cynthia Rowatt. Thank you Becky and Cynthia! Thank you to Ann Marie Mogren, Linda Hoge, and Jane Erdahl who bake the crisp unleavened communion bread. We are always looking for more people who enjoy behind the scenes prep work! We would love to have you join us! Set up is usually on a Saturday for about an hour, and take down is Sunday after

church. If this is a ministry you would like to know more about, please speak with Holly Graham (801) 755-1724. holly@letmeshine.org

Lenten Soup Suppers

In 2025, Zion once again held Soup Suppers each Wednesday during Lent. For six weeks, we enjoyed homemade soups and breads in the Terrace Room downstairs for about 45 minutes before we went into the Sanctuary for Lenten Worship. We had a lot of different people sign up to bring soup and bread each week -it's great to see many different families involved! It is a wonderful time of fellowship while we share a simple meal together. Soup Supper attendance ranged from 20-40 people with all ages represented. We will continue this tradition in 2026!
Holly Graham holly@letmeshine.org

Dinner Church

One of Zion's new stewardship initiatives for 2025, Dinner Church was launched in January and has met monthly since then. Dinner Church offers a less formal way to worship together, as we enjoy a simple meal, fellowship, Scripture, prayer, music, Holy Communion, and lively discussions – all around a common table. Each of our gatherings has included a unique group of members, friends, and church-curious guests. Thank you to our Pastoral team for officiating each month, Rachel Kibler and other choir members for musical assistance, and David Buff, Teresa Gresham, and Kylie Jones-Greenwood for leading individual services during the year.
We look forward to your participation in this ministry in 2026. Please join us, and please bring a friend! Liz Prystas eprystas@gmail.com

Children's Music Ensembles

Thanks to the generous support and encouragement from the congregation, our youth music program has grown in the past year in both skill, enthusiasm and numbers of participants. Each Sunday, we have from 20-35 youth who worship and learn about the Gospel of Jesus with singing and beautiful Orff percussion instruments. Our goals are for each young member of our congregation, to be given a chance to follow the Biblical mandate to worship God musically; for our young musicians to grow in their confidence and skills; for each to enjoy authentic community and for teens and children to make meaningful contributions to Zion's worship life. We currently have our teen Orff percussion group, Joyful NOIZ, as well as two choirs, meeting weekly as part of our Sunday School program throughout the church year. We try to have at least one group perform each month during worship. We also have a Christmas Lessons and Carols program and help lead the annual Palm Sunday worship. If you have a child who may be interested in joining us, please contact me.
Susan Swidnicki sljswidnicki@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School & Music Camp

Our Vacation Bible School Music Camp was a wonderful experience in June. Our theme for the week was Fruit of the Spirit. We were blessed to have about 60 children, 8 teen junior counselors, twelve

highly skilled paid staff and countless volunteers and contributors from the Zion congregation. This year we had almost every child from Zion attend as well as children from a wide variety of other

churches and several who do not have a church home. Because of this, VBS is an important outreach ministry for our congregation. The congregation's generous support of VBS, allows us to offer tuition for the very affordable price of $25 for the week. The congregational funding also helps us to hire enough help that we can meet the needs of children with more diverse learning styles and abilities. This proves to make a much richer environment for everyone involved. Children participate in Bible study, singing, Orff percussion instruments, skits, outdoor games, African drumming and dance, visual arts, crafts, and organ show and tell. Older elementary aged kids also learn to play lap dulcimer and participate in praise band. This year our service project was making one hundred sack lunches with personal notes that we delivered to children served by The Road Home -Connie Crosby Family Resource Center.
Susan Swidnicki sljswidnicki@gmail.com

Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir has been serving Zion Lutheran Congregation for decades. I remember the first time I walked into the choir room when I became Music Director of the choir. There was this beautiful, large picture of the choir taken in the 60s that was hanging on the wall. What a wonderful tradition the choir has been over so many decades.
2025 was a year of growth for the choir. We have been blessed with five new choristers. Each Sunday we gather in the choir room at 8:45 a.m. to sing, learn music, develop friendships and rejoice in singing songs to the glory of God. The choir ranges from young to old, to beginner singers to the experienced - all coming together to make music and to sing praise.
We encourage anyone to come and participate with the choir. We make rehearsals and singing services flexible to meet your needs.
I am grateful for each member of the choir. I love seeing them each week. Choir is like a Sunday school class where learning about Jesus through music is poignant and heartfelt.
Dave Zabriskie
davecomposer@gmail.com

Ushers

With the exodus of Pr. Michael, the need for continued involvement of everyone is essential. This past year we have put out a call for ushers. Please consider joining this illustrious, yet small group of Zion servants. If you like meeting and greeting people, handing out bulletins, counting attendance, helping those in need, collecting and presenting offerings, being in control of when pews are released for communion, and can't really sing, ushering may be your thing. There is a sign-up sheet at the entrance of the sanctuary. For further information or training, you can talk with me in person or put your name on the list that currently has Erin Basta (thank you) and me on the list. Be brave and get to know more people by being an usher!
Doug Graham 40grambo@msn.com

Organ

This past July marked 38 years as Zion's organist. I started on Greater Zion Day in 1987. I'm excited to make it to 40, and hopefully 50! I feel very privileged to be part of the worship team, working with our pastor, Chancel Choir Director Dave Zabriskie, Children's Music Director Susan Swidnicki, and Parish Administrator Tracy Hackworth.

In July, Zion's council agreed to engage ML Bigelow & Company to complete an upgrade with a cost of $68,000. About $56,000 was already committed by members, so council elected to spend the additional $12,000 from savings. I can't wait until the upgrades are complete so that I can demonstrate how the upgrades improved the organ performance.

David Chamberlin david@chamberlinmusic.com

Faith Formation Ministries:

Children's Sunday School

Zion's Sunday School classes registered 31 students in 2025 – 2026. In 2023-2024 we registered 35 children. In 2023-2024 we registered 42 kids in 2024-2025 school year.

The teachers had a meeting in August to review policies and procedures and plan for the year. All teachers are following guidelines and teaching the same topic as Worship every week.

Below are a few highlights:

- We presented Bibles to four 2nd graders in May
- Three 9th graders were confirmed in May
- All Hands Sundays during the Sunday school hour bring all the children and teachers together.
- High School group did a Sunday hike together and are inviting each other to activities (football games and theater productions)
- Confirmation and High school youth group will meet together in November to play games and December to do a service activity.
- Music continues to be an important part of Sunday School Hour.

Laurie Darnell ltomingo@yahoo.com

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Study

John 8:31-32: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." The Bible holds God's treasure for us, and it must be opened and shared, so that is what we do on Sundays at 9:00 in the lounge. Our focus is on the Bible lessons of the day as we open-mindedly ask questions and share knowledge and opinions. All are welcome, especially those who are new to the Bible. We have had this tradition for about 30 years, and it never gets stale, because the Bible is rich with meaning and relevance. It truly is the living word.

Alyce Gross adgross1@msn.com

Women's Bible Study with Prayer and Fellowship

I've learned that when I pray for someone, I grow in love and concern for them. We sometimes meet in member's homes, but often meet on Zoom. The time is 7:00 PM on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month. We meet when we have at least 4 women available. Erin Basta sends a reminder email several days before the meeting, asking who is able to attend. If you are interested in joining, send an email to Erin at: erin_basta@msn.com. We love welcoming new women!

Alyce Gross adgross1@msn.com

Men's Small Group

The Men's Small Group is a group of about 7 or 8 guys in their senior years that get together twice monthly in the evening from 6:30pm until 8:00pm at church.

Over the years we've read and reviewed lots of books, watched Ted Talks, reviewed magazine articles, and similar activities. While this may sound like a lot of study, frankly, a lot of our time is spent catching up with happenings at church and engaging in manly banter. If this sounds interesting, come visit at a meeting or two.

If you think another group of compatible folks (singles, young couples, families, or any other cohort group) might wish to start a small group, we would be happy to mentor a new group into start-up.

Peter Staks peter@wardleycompanies.com

Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study

We've been an active small group for over 30 years, originally centered on breakfast and meeting early at church to accommodate working members. Among other Bible studies over the past year, we've begun a verse-by-verse study of the Old Testament starting from Genesis 1:1, consistently uncovering new insights and new questions. Sessions often include videos from The Bible Project for historical context and a broader perspective. The meetings typically start with 20–30 minutes of "social interaction" followed by prayer. Please contact me for more information.

Chet Johnson chetj.slc@gmail.com

Confirmation/Faith Formation

Zion continues to shepherd a vibrant group of 6-8th graders through a series of lessons and discussions focused on Scripture, Lutheran history, and "Lutheran Living." During each class session, Liz Prystas, Peter Staks, and Fred Strohacker help the youth discover God's promises to them in all that they read and hear.

To remind the students that everyone's journey of faith is unique, each of the classes during the spring of 2025 included 1-2 adult members of the congregation sharing their own faith stories. Thank you to the 20+ members (and both pastors) who contributed to this project! On May 18, 2025, Grant Hersey, Micah Klemz, Jonas Lohr, and Anika Scullion celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism in a ceremony held before the congregation, family members, and friends.

Liz Prystas (eprystas@gmail.com)

Caring Ministries:

Stephen Ministry

As one of its 2024 Stewardship Initiatives, Zion started the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry is a worldwide organization that has been helping people since the 1970's. It was founded by Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist. He realized that there was a great need for lay members to share the love of Christ with people going through a crisis or life difficulty. The care

provided is entirely confidential. Stephen Ministers carry out Christ's commandment to "love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12), in a powerful and practical way. Care receivers who are hurting, have a caring Christian caregiver to provide emotional and spiritual support.
Zion currently has 4 trained Stephen Ministers: Susan Auer, Sabrina Bell, Holly Graham, and Jorgen Hollnagel. They are using their skills and Christ-centered care to minister to care receivers in need. Holly Graham is currently enrolled in Stephen Leader training and will join Kathy Foulks and Liz Prystas in a leadership role. A new group of Stephen Ministers will be trained starting in January of 2026. Our Stephen Ministers are the hands and feet of Christ as they provide care and help to carry out the mission of Zion to nurture relationships and provide compassionate service.
Kathy Foulks kmaloha@hotmail.com Liz Prystas eprystas@gmail.com

Lay Eucharistic Visitors:

The Lay Eucharistic Visitation program began in March of 2024, when two volunteers – Kathy Foulks and I – offered to regularly share the consecrated elements of holy communion with members who are homebound or otherwise unable to attend church in person. It's a commitment to meet with the person in their home, not on a rigid schedule but monthly or thereabouts. I personally feel blessed by participating and look forward to meeting with my people. This ministry is absolutely open to others who might be interested!
Susan Auer susan0929@gmai.com

Property Ministries:

Property Management 2025 (this is a long list of property improvements)
Let Me Shine Preschool paid for the installation of a new dishwasher in the kitchen.
Contractor dug up the south walkway into the building to replace faulty drain pipe;
--installed an exterior sump pump outside the children's choir room to direct rain water
--and snow melt away from the building; new curbing/concrete on southeast corner of
--building to help direct rain water and snow melt away from the stairwell.
Installed touch-less hand soap and paper towel dispensers in bathrooms.
Removed trees along property line in north and south parking lots.
Moved unused pews from the balcony to the east side chancel in the sanctuary;
--cleaned and secured remaining pews in the balcony.

East side entry way wood framing stained.
Roto Rooter all class room sink drains.
Repaired and maintained boiler system issues.
Obtained bids to replace 2 aging hot water tanks.
Obtained a bid to repair broken conduit carrying electricity to the street sign.
Children's choir room painted and purchased rolling storage racks to keep all
--instruments organized and off the floor.
Replaced many broken sprinkler heads during the spring/summer/fall watering seasons
Doug Graham dhbrgraham@gmail.com Tracy Hackworth office@zelc.org

Landscape Ministry Team:

Landscaping Improvement Project Status Report: Nov 15, 2025
Your church council and Pr. Michael wanted to initiate a landscaping plan.
Jo Grahn, Janel Trapp, Peter Staks and Linda and Fred Strohacker volunteered to work on this project.
We met with four landscaping contractors, keeping in mind the six goals below:

1. Reduce water usage while improving curb appeal
2. Minimize the impact to VBS and LMS usage of lawn
3. Update sprinkler system
4. Replace park-strip grass on Foothill Drive with xeriscape
5. Replace grass from South and East sides of building with xeriscape
6. Widen the sidewalk up to the south door, and add a railing to reduce falling hazards

We talked to 3 companies that were interested in doing a design and provide the drawings for us to use in completing the installation phase. Current Status: We have completed the competition on the design phase, having received two compliant proposals. After discussion with council, we have selected a designer, and we will be talking with them soon to get the design process started. The design drawings will cost approximately $1,800. We have one rough estimate of $80,000 for the installation, but first we need to complete the final design to get a better estimate. Since we will own the design drawings, we could reduce cost doing parts of the installation ourselves.
Fred Strohacker fstrohacker@gmail.com

Caretakers:
John and Ashley Mack moved into the caretaker apartment (north end of the building, under the classrooms) earlier this year and now perform the services needed to our facility throughout the week. Keeping the outside of the building swept and the grass mowed are part of our duties. In the winter, we also perform snow removal duties. Part of our duties include filling requests for setting up tables and chairs for planned events in the multiple meeting areas. We meet with Tracy Hackworth weekly to see what may need to be done that is not an on-going part of our duties. Zion has been very welcoming and we were pleased that the opportunity to live in your facility became available. Thank you! John and Ashley Mack Jmack5517@gmail.com

Administrative Ministries:

Counters:

For 2025, Zion had 13 faithful members serving to count the weekly offerings. Counters usually count and record the offerings right after the Sunday service, or after any special services, enter the offerings into the Servant Keeper software (which serves as the basis for on-demand contribution statements for members). Money and checks are taken directly to the bank for deposit. Zion has many general and specific accounts to help us keep track of donations, as we always want to be sure we are adhering to donors' wishes or special requests. Our dedicated and careful counters make sure all this is recorded accurately. You are welcome to join this 'behind-the-scenes' important ministry. Please contact me if you are thinking about helping.
Ann Marie Mogren ambreznay@gmail.com

Congregation Statistics:

Baptized Members (active and inactive): 410 Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or, having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith. Zion Evangelical Lutheran.

Confirmed Members: 216 Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith

Voting Members: 209 Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.

Baptisms: 5 Deaths: 5 Confirmation: 4
Weekly worship in-person average attendance: 108
Streaming views: 5229 (including over 500 on Christmas Eve)
Weekly Sunday school average attendance: 26 children; 11 adults
Average Lenten Wednesday evening Soup Supper: 26; Worship: 31
Tracy Hackworth office@zelc.org

Financial Report:

Treasurer's Report:

Here is a summary of ZELC's financial condition through 12-31-2025:

Assets		**Liabilities**	
Zions bank	$59,100	Credit cards	$2,299
Fidelity savings	$233,394	Accounts payable	$52
Total liquid assets	$273,000	Total current debt	$2,351
Fixed assets		Long term debt	
Building	$1,108,856	Mortgage	$153,793
Total assets:	$1,401,359	Total Liabilities	$156,144

Revenues:	$496,978
Total expenses:	$504,279
Net loss:	($7,301) deficit

The 2 largest expense categories are staff compensation at $267,412 and building and maintenance at $64,220.

Many thanks to you for all of your generous donations.