

ZION TIDINGS

September 2026



"Serving Christ through Serving Others"

What is a "Synod"?

On September 13, Bishop Suzanne Darcy Dillahunty of the Southern Ohio Synod will be joining us for our 200th Anniversary Worship Celebration and community meal following worship. It is normal for the synod to celebrate such milestones with congregations but I think many of you might be curious as to what a synod is or does.

Synods have served as the principal organizational method throughout Lutheran history, especially in North America. "Synod" comes from the Greek *synodos* which, literally translated, means "coming together" or "walking together down the same path." Lutherans have historically practiced a polity of confessional congregationalism (polity refers to how a church organizes itself in the temporal realm). For Lutherans, "going it alone" has never been an option. Instead, congregations seek to work together due to our shared commitment to the Gospel and the Lutheran Confessions. This collaboration takes place regionally in the synod.

There are 65 synods in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas. This means the synod supports congregations and pastors in their local ministries and collects resources to be used for regional missions. For example, synods often take the lead when it comes to planting and supporting new congregations. In 2024, when a devastating tornado hit Indian Lake, the synod worked with a local congregation to provide material support to the community that had been gathered by congregations in Southern Ohio. Synods also support and lead candidates for ministry, supporting and nurturing future leaders as they enter seminary and beyond. The bishop and their staff also support congregations in crisis, guide congregations through the calling of a new pastor, and possess the authority to discipline pastors for acting or speaking in a way unbecoming of the office. There are many other things they do, but at its most basic level, the synod is where local congregations have regional impact by walking together.

This is a bottom-up process. Congregations give some authority and resources to the synod so that the synod can support regional mission. Congregations are always the focal point of ministry in Lutheranism. They are the *ecclesia locales* (the place where the church is made manifest in daily life). Structurally, the synod is led by a bishop and Synod Council consisting of believers elected from local congregations. Assistants to the Bishop work with the bishop to run various aspects of regional ministry and support local congregations for specific needs. Every year or so we gather for a synod convention, where representatives from every congregation come together to make decisions pertaining to regional mission and ministry. We can see the synod as a partner in ministry, helping us make an even greater impact by working together with other congregations. Your voice matters, the synod is here to support you and the whole community, which is why I hope you will join me in warmly welcoming Bishop Dillahunty on September 13 as we celebrate God's faithfulness over these past 200 years and look ahead for God's continued presence in the many years to come.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jaren Summers



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Zion office - office@ziontippcity.org **Prayer requests** - prayers@ziontippcity.org or office@ziontippcity.org

Jessica Dorn, Christian Education director - christianed@ziontippcity.org

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE October "TIDINGS" is Friday, September 18, 2026

September Birthdays

		16	Ann Williams	26	Bryce Clum Laura Tangren
2	Jeff Mitchell	18	Linda Short		
3	Jessica Schlater	19	Kathy Groth	30	Jim Oaks
4	Lil Nichols	20	Charlotte Dorn Tim Cartwright		
7	Tim Garvic				
11	Chuck Swanson	22	Jane Athey		
15	Debbie Turner Mark Helke	23	Delilah Scott Brad Wick		



Mission of the Month *TMCS Weekend Backpacks*

This program, organized by Tipp Monroe Community Services, provides a supply of nutritious food for children on the weekends and extended breaks from school.



Our collected items go to TMCS. A representative from the schools picks up the bags and makes sure each child in the program receives one before leaving school on Fridays. Bags are discretely placed in the child's school locker. Each bag contains enough food for two breakfasts, lunches, snacks, and dinners. All food is non-perishable.

NEEDED DONATIONS

All food must be single serving size and individually wrapped

Easy Mac
Beefaroni
Ravioli
Peanut butter (16 oz.)
Grape jelly (squeeze type)
Jell-O cups
Pudding cups
Fruit cups (peaches, pineapple, pears or applesauce)
Cheez-It snacks
Pringles
Pretzels
Cheetos
Cookies

Brownies
Teddy Grahams
Cereal Boxes – single serve any brand
Oatmeal packets
Capri Sun
Chicken noodle soup
Nutrigrain bars
PopTarts
Ramen Noodles

Any other individually packaged fruits, vegetables, meals etc. will be accepted. No potato chips – they don't travel well.

**Money donations are also welcome and
Women of Zion will match those donations up to \$300**

Questions: see **Carla Frame**

Upcoming Events

September 13th

Celebration Service 10:00 at Zion

Dinner 12:00 at Tipp Center

855 N. 3rd Street



Parking is in the rear

Bible and Brew

Tuesday, September 15th
5:30 – 6:30

Chaffee's Brewhouse
15 E. Second Street, Tipp



Everyone is welcome to join in on these interesting and thought-provoking gatherings. The monthly topics are diverse and relevant.

Chaffee's offers a selection of craft beers, coffees, and a variety of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

New Member Welcome

September 19th & 20th
During services

See Pastor Summers if you wish to become a member.



Sunday School Reboot

Sunday, September 20th

Sunday school for adults, youth and kids begins again at **9:00 a.m.**
Everyone is welcome!



ADULTS

Pastor Summers will begin a 7-part series, "By Heart", Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism. There are seven chapters: The Story of the Small Catechism, The Ten Commandments, The Apostles' Creed, The Lord's Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Confession, The Sacrament of the Altar, and Daily Prayer and the Household Chart. Attendees will have the option to purchase the book. A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Donations welcome but not mandatory.



Garage Sale Thursday & Friday, September 24 & 25



We will begin setting up the sale on **Sunday, Sept. 20** and will be working on it that entire week. You may bring in your garage sale treasures beginning on Saturday, September 19, after worship, Sunday, September 20 after worship until 4:00 pm and Monday and Tuesday mornings, Sept. 21 & 22.

We do NOT accept clothing, bed pillows, large exercise equipment, TVs and car seats. **We do not have room to store any donations at Zion until September 19**, so please hang on to your items until then.

Garage Sale Hours: Thursday 9-5 and Friday 9 – 8

***We need plenty of helpers to set-up, clerk and clean up!
Please sign up in the fellowship hallway.***

“How Can We Pray for You” Returns

We have a great opportunity coming up for us to meet our neighbors in the community. From **September 21-23**, Zion will be hosting How Can We Pray for You? on our front lawn off of Main Street. From 9am-noon, volunteers will be sitting under a canopy and offering prayer to folks walking by. We're not selling anything. We're not forcing anything. We are simply offering prayer for our neighbors. We would love to have you join us!

Please sign up for shifts in the fellowship hallway and if you have any questions feel free to reach out to Dale Schaeffer.



Women's Daytime Fellowship September 30th, 10:00 a.m.

All women are invited.

The topic will be Deborah in the book of Judges.

Our purpose is to form friendships, support for each other, and to grow in our Christianity.
We meet for an hour.



Women of Zion

August 9, 2026



- The August Mission of the Month is LWR School Kits and LWR Health Kits. Donations are being collected now.
- WoZ will provide beverages for the church picnic on Sunday, August 16.
- The September Mission of the Month will be donating to the Tipp Monroe Community Services Weekend Backpack program.
- Operation Christmas Child will be the October Mission of the Month.
- Child Care Choices Quarter Auction will be held at Zion on November 5th. WoZ will provide food for sale.
- The WoZ Christmas Gathering will be December 3rd.
- Prayer Shawl Update: 7 women's, 7 men's and 6 baby blankets are currently available. There will be a meeting on August 15 at 10:00 for all interested in knitting or crocheting shawls, and those currently making shawls.
- There was discussion regarding this year's Garage Sale, which will be held on September 24 & 25.

Next meeting will be **September 13th at 7:00 pm**

All women are encouraged to attend.

Property Committee

August 3, 2026

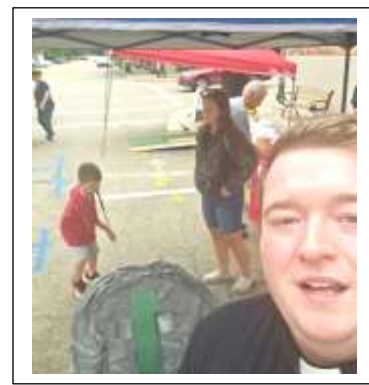


- Discussion was held on the Main St. rose window restoration, wiring under the altar floor, replacing bookshelves in the conference room, shelves for the sacristy storage room, and ideas for replacing the cardboard Zion mailboxes.
- Thanks to James Sebastian for installing a rod for fabric in the quilters' room.
- The monthly work list was completed.

The next meeting will be **Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Putterpalooza - A Fun Outreach

On Friday August 7, Pastor Jaren and a number of volunteers attended Tipp City's Downtown Putterpalooza from 5-8pm. We welcomed the community to play a round of putt putt with us while handing out bags of popcorns with our information attached. In total there were about 500 folks in attendance. It was a great way to be present in the community and everyone had good fun. A special thanks goes to Andrew Weprin for building our putt putt course, Kendra Summers for decorating it with an empty tomb, the many volunteers who bagged popcorn and ensured the evening went smoothly, and Cinemark Theater in Huber Heights for donating the popcorn (it was delicious!)



Children & Youth

Sunday School will start back up **September 20th**.

This year we will be having 3 Sunday School Classes split up by grades. We will have a Preschool-kindergarten class, a 1st-5th grade class, and a 6th-12th grade class.

Date	Sunday	Lesson Title	Focus Text
9/20	Rally Day	Getting to know you	1 Thessalonians 5:11
9/27	Lectionary 26	Two Sons in the Vineyard	Matthew 21:23-32
10/4	Lectionary 27	Rejection in the Vineyard	Matthew 21:33-46

If you are interested in teaching or helping in Sunday school for the 2026/2027 school year please reach out to Jessica Dorn.

Blessing of the Backpacks & Back to School Bash

During worship on August 22 & 23, ten backpacks were blessed.

Afterward, 50 hotdogs, chips, and drinks were served to those who wanted to share in fellowship.



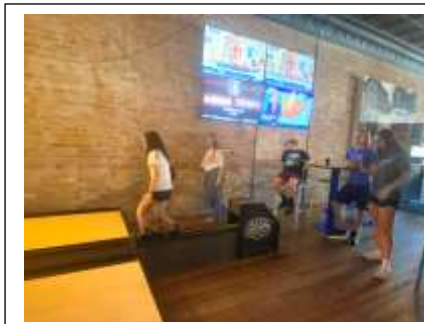
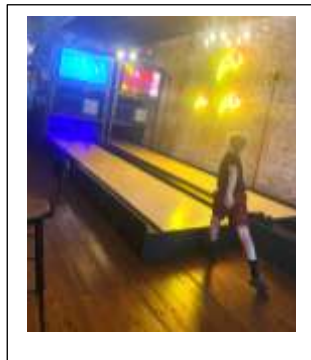
Messy Games

On August 16, three youth and two adults traveled to Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dayton to participate with seven other churches in Pray, Fun, and Fellowship during Messy Games! Please check our Facebook page for more pictures and fun!



Tipp City Pizza and Duck Pin Bowling

The youth have been speaking out about getting together more, so we delivered! The youth fund received a large donation which allowed us to hold this event for the youth. On August 3rd, eight youth and two adults met at church, where we discussed what it means to be a Christian leader. After, we walked over to Tipp City Pizza to eat Pizza and bowl! It was great to see the fellowship and smiles.



The Mailboxes Have Moved

The mailboxes have been moved to the hallway leading to the Sanctuary. They are along the wall between the AED and the elevator.

This provides easier access and because you will see them on your way in and out of church, this location will help everyone remember to check their mailboxes.





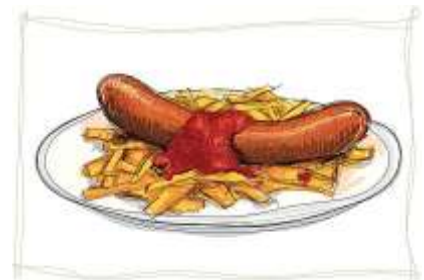
How Can I Get Involved?

We are so happy to welcome new people to our congregation. We've been asked about ways to plug in to activities. To provide information about the multitude of opportunities, this an ongoing section in Tidings, which describes a specific ministry area and ways to become involved. This month we are highlighting the **ANNUAL BRAT DINNER IN OCTOBER**.

This year the Brat/Kraut Dinner will be on **Saturday, October 17 from 4-7pm**. It's a fun evening of community outreach and fellowship and many hands are needed to help it run smoothly.

Here are ways that you can help:

- Distribute flyers to places in Tipp: Senior Center, Community Services and Library
- Sell tickets after church service on Saturday and Sunday the two weekends prior to the dinner
- Set up the fellowship hall on Friday, October 16th
- Provide pies for dessert
- Assist with the food prep the morning of the dinner
- Many helping hands are needed during the dinner (1 hour shifts)
 - Ticket collection at the door
 - Cut pies and maintain the pie table
 - Plate the brat, kraut & green beans from steam table
 - Refresh the tables when diners leave
 - Maintain the drinks
 - Assist diners with food trays if needed
 - Hand wash dishes or load the dishwasher
 - Assemble the "to go" orders
 - Clean up the fellowship hall after dinner



A sign-up sheet will be in the fellowship hallway later. Questions: contact Donna Slyman.

Thank You

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

Needy Basket acknowledges your donation of \$101 on July 2, 2026 to support our efforts to assist the needy families of southern Miami County. Your donation is very much appreciated. Thank you.

In 2025, Needy Basket volunteers helped 1,170 families with requests for food assistance under our emergency food program. In addition, we continued our support for the "Lunch on Us" program that provides lunches to children of low-income families during the summer when they are out of school. We also provided 215 families with a Christmas meal, toys for children ten years old and younger and a VISA gift card for those who are eleven to fifteen years old, through our annual Holiday Program.

We welcome your continued support to help us provide aid to families of southern Miami County needing assistance.

Gratefully,

Thomas Enders, Treasurer





Lift Your Voice – Choir Season Begins!

A fresh choir season is upon us, and the excitement is building! As we turn the page from summer to fall, our choir prepares to gather once again — ready to fill the sanctuary with harmony, hope, and heartfelt praise.

Rehearsals begin **Monday, September 9 at 7 PM**, and we're eager to dive into new music, new energy, and new opportunities to serve through song. Each rehearsal is more than notes and rhythms — it's a time of fellowship, laughter, and shared purpose as we prepare to lead worship and lift spirits through music.

If you've been thinking about joining, this is your moment. No audition, no pressure — just a welcoming group of singers who love making music together. Whether you sing every Sunday or haven't sung in years, there's a place for you here.

Our choir is a ministry of presence — voices blending in praise, hearts united in service. Together, we celebrate the beauty of community and the joy of offering our gifts to God. Interested in learning more? Speak with **Lori Sebastian or Susie Gray**. Come be part of something meaningful this fall — where every voice matters and every song becomes a prayer.



Council Candidate Slate Update for the Annual Meeting

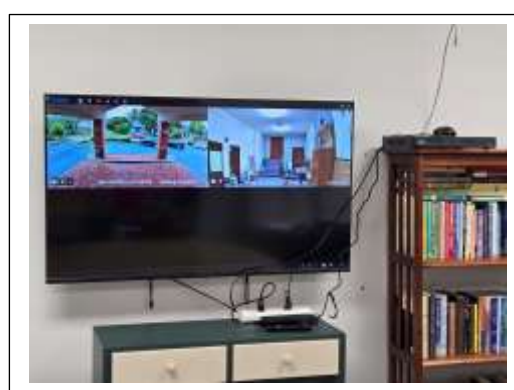
As we prepare for our Annual Meeting this fall, Council leadership has shared an important update. One of our current Council Members will be relocating, which means we will now be electing three candidates instead of two.

We invite members of the congregation to prayerfully consider serving. Council plays a vital role in guiding our ministries, supporting our committees, and helping shape the mission of Zion Lutheran Church.

If you feel called to serve — or would like to nominate someone — please reach out to the Nominating Committee or the church office.

What's New

We have new security cameras at the Walnut St. entrance and the Tech Room. A monitor showing footage from both is in the Conference Room. Having these will reduce our insurance rates.



Annual Picnic

On August 16th, our annual service and picnic was held in the fellowship hall. It was great to be inside where it was cool and dry! Delicious chicken from Mel-o-Dee and a lot of wonderful sides and dessert were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Lori Sebastian for ordering and picking up the chicken and to the Women of Zion for providing beverages.



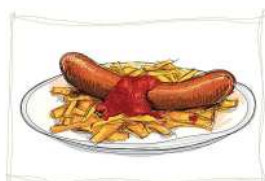


Save the Dates

October will be a busy month so mark your calendars for these upcoming events.



**Blessing of the Pets &
Root Beer Social
October 2nd**



**Brat Supper
October 17th**



**October
7th**



October 24th



Thy Holy Wings

The September Hymn of the Month is Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) #613 *Thy Holy Wings*. The text of this hymn is written by Caroline Sandell Berg, better known as Lina Sandell. She was considered the “Fanny Crosby of Sweden”, having written over 600 hymn texts. Besides *Thy Holy Wings*, Sandell also wrote texts of familiar hymns ELW # 781 *Children of the Heavenly Father* and ELW #790 *Day By Day*. Perhaps one reason Sandell’s texts survived is many of her texts were set to music (guitar) by Oscar Ahnfelt. Ahnfelt’s music was funded by a famous soloist - the Swedish Nightingale Jenny Lind. Lina was a frail child and close to her father, who was a Lutheran Pastor. Tragically, at the age of 26, she and her father were travelling by boat across Lake Vattern, and he unexpectedly fell overboard and drowned. Much of her subsequent poetry helped her process her grief through her faith journey.

The hymn was translated from Swedish into English by Gracia Grindal. Grindal is American, spending much of her life in the Midwest. Grindal was born in Iowa. She was educated in Minnesota (both Minneapolis and St. Paul). She was a professor of English / poet in residence at Luther College in Iowa from 1968-1984, and following that, has served since 1984 as a professor of pastoral theology and communications at Luther-Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The text of this hymn references several psalms. Psalm 91:1-4 perhaps best reflects the hymn text: {¹Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. ²I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” ³Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. ⁴He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.} Although the hymns are striking in their musical differences, one will notice that *A Mighty Fortress* references this psalm as well.

The tune BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR is a Swedish folk tune.

Verse 1: Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,
and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.
Oh be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,
and let my ev’ry moment be lived within thy grace.

Verse 2: Oh let me nestle near thee within thy downy breast,
where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.

Verse 3: Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah’s cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take me to thy keeping thy children great and small,
and while we sweetly slumber enfold as one and all.



No Calendars This Year

Due to not enough interest last year, we will not be ordering the God's Creation calendars for 2027. If you want to personally order a copy, see Jessica Dorn.



By the Numbers

These numbers are for four Saturdays and Sundays in August.

Average Attendance – Saturday: 41 Sunday: 84

Total Giving: \$10,069.50

Prayer Requests

Dear Heavenly Father, put your hand of protection this school year on all the children, teachers, staff, administrators, aides, bus drivers, and all who have contact and dealings with our children. Watch over them, protect them, love them. We thank you, God, for your everlasting care and love. Amen.

Prayer requests: Keep in prayer **Sue Rambeau** who had knee replacement surgery. Keep **Chalmer and Judy Mader** in prayer. **Chalmer** is home and has good and bad days. Keep **Amy Byrd** in your prayers along with her parents **Jack and Sharon**. **Ruth White** is home. She appreciates cards - 76 Sunflower Place, Tipp City, OH 45371. Pray for **Sue VonAschen** who has sight problems. **Emily Clenney (daughter of Bill and Kim Jones)** will have an ablation on her kidney tumor in September. Prayers are requested for **Richard Leflar**. Keep in your prayers the **Williams Family**.

Continue to pray for: Kristen Zimmann, Betty Jackson, Debbie Turner, Greg Watkins, Peggy McCoy, Christine Copeland, James Oaks, Brian Watkins, Fred Staie, the Weprin family, Cindy Moore, and Carol Phillips.

Zion's Prayer Chain is sent out weekly through email. It lists prayers needed for those in our community and world. If you have signed up to receive the prayer chain and have not received it recently, please let the office or Linda Holt know. If you have never been a part of the prayer chain and would like to receive it, let us know.

To request prayers, or take an individual off the prayer chain, email them to prayers@ziontippcity.org. You can also access this through Zion's website www.ziontippcity.org or call the church office at (937) 667-3110.



Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 Welcome 5p AA 8-9 pm	2	3	4	5 Communion Saturday
6	7 HAPPY LABOR DAY Office Closed	8 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 Council 7p AA 8-9 pm	9 Blood Drive Choir Rehearse 7	10	11	12
13 200 Anniversary Service & Dinner @ Tipp Center WoZ 7:00	14 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property 6	15 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Bible & Brew 5:30 -Chafee's	16 Worship & Music Mtg. 6 Choir Rehearse 7	17	18	19 Communion Saturday
20	21	22	23	24 Garage Sale 9-5	25 Garage Sale 9-8 Compassion. Friends 7:00	26
		How Can We Pray for You? 9-12				
		Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5	Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	Choir Rehearse 7		
27 Storypoint Outreach	28	29 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	30 10 Women's Fellowship Choir Rehearse 7			