



THE SOUNDS OF ZION

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Mini Camp at LCLC

Worship at Zion
Sundays, 9 am & 5 pm
Children's Church during
9 am service.
Fellowship Hour
Faith Formation Hour

From The Pastor's Desk

Beloved in Christ,

When was the last time you knew someone truly heard and understood what you were trying to say?

That kind of authentic listening can feel like a wonderful gift when we receive it.

It can bring healing and hope into conversations that might typically be ruled by fear and anger.

Think about it. When was the last time you listened and honestly tried to understand someone that holds beliefs and opinions you deeply disagreed with? To put it another way... I wonder when have you gotten into a conversation with someone that you know you disagree with, not to argue or try to change their mind, but to really listen and try to understand what they believed and how they felt...?

This past year I have been learning from a political mediation organization called Resetting the Table. I have learned about how to be a better listener, especially in conversations where I completely disagree with the other person's religious beliefs or political ideals. It has been a blessing to me, and this fall, I would like to share what I have learned through a series of classes designed to help us become better listeners. I am hoping you will join me, so we are better prepared to do our part to repair the division in our world today.

Peace,
Pastor Roger

To serve God's world with love as we follow the forgiving & inclusive teachings of Jesus Christ.

LCLC Senior High Week



#theLifeofZion
@
LCLC



Growing in God's radical love.
Experiencing the "Wild Wonders" of our faith!



Classic Youth Camp

It was another amazing summer of camp at LCLC!

All of us campers, staff, counselors, and faculty want to say THANK YOU for all the prayers and financial support that make camp possible.

Some Pictures from LCLC 2025



Confirmation Camp

Mini Camp



THE SOUNDS OF ZION

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 7

God loves and blesses each one of us, and calls us to bless others. On September 7th we will join with other Lutherans around the country for an intentional day of service, called "God's Work. Our Hands."

This year, Zion's day of service will again be part of our Rally Day/Back to School celebration. During the Faith Formation hour, after morning worship, we will invite people to make cards for our shut-ins and college students. The goal is to have a year's worth of cards (with envelopes) to send to those on our lists. You can help us prepare by bringing in birthday, holiday, and thinking-of-you cards and placing them in the basket on the shelf outside the A/V room.

If you'd rather do something outside, we also will organize folks to take a walk around the neighborhood and clean up from the parade and bike path. If you are interested, please meet us by the greeters table at 10:30. Watch the announcements for more GWOH's events through the program year. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please contact Rachel at family.sosebee@gmail.com.

"I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

FAITH FORMATION IN ACTION...

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Pastor Roger's Weekly Bible Study

Come explore the scriptures and stories that shape our faith. The Bible is the one true source of our knowledge of God's will. As Lutherans we hold that wrestling with and deeply understanding God's Word is vital to our spiritual well-being and life as Christian disciples.

Every Monday at 10am (Classes Resume Sept. 8th!)

Sunday Morning Adult Study



Learning to Live Wisely "Proverbs"

No matter where one might be on their faith journey, all are welcome to hear and discuss Proverbs "for learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight".

Please join us on Sunday mornings in Room 3.



Zion's Coffee House Ministry engages the deeper and challenging topics of religion, faith, and life.

Held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm.

Meetings resume September 17.

CONFIRMATION CORNER

SAVE THE DATE:
Confirmation Sunday, November 9!

Congratulations 2025 Confirmands

Sky, Roger, Addy, Tyler,
Carson, Toni and Marygrace!

There are only a few weeks remaining to highlight your favorite verse or write an encouraging word for one or more of our Fall Confirmands.



The Bibles are located on the table in the gathering area.

"Son"Shine Ringers

Our junior bell choir, the "Son"shine Ringers, will return this fall to continue to learn to ring to God's glory. This choir meets Tuesday afternoons, and is open to **children in grades 1 - 12.**

Would your family members be interested?

Contact Brenda at brendal@zionclarencecenter.com





Zion Youth Calendar September

- 9/2 Burrito Project**
Arrive at Zion at 4:30, help make burritos. Around 6:30 travel downtown to hand them out. All are welcome!
- 9/5 Youth Night: Bowling**
- 9/7 Back to School Brisket Fundraiser**
- 9/7 God's Work Our Hands**
Join Zion's morning Worship where our theme of God's Work Our Hands will be displayed!
- 9/7 Rally Day-Sunday School Begins**
- 9/14 Confirmation Class Begins**
- 9/14 Seneca Street Mission**
- 9/19 Faith Family Night: Mini Golf**
- 9/26-27 Lutheran Youth Overnight TBD**

Zion Youth Calendar October

- 10/5 Youth Sunday: Youth-led AM Worship**
- 10/7 Youth Group Meeting**
- 10/10-10/11 Confirmation Retreat @ LCLC**
- 10/12-13 LY: 4th-8th grade Fall Retreat @ LCLC**
- 10/12 Seneca Street Mission**
- 10/17 Faith Family Night: Bowling**

Zion Youth Calendar November

- 11/4 Burrito Project**
Arrive at Zion at 4:30, help make burritos. Around 6:30 travel downtown to hand them out. All are welcome!
- 11/7 Faith Family Night/ Confirmation: Temple Visit**
Arrive at Zion for dinner, then attending service at Shir Shalom, conversation to follow.
- 11/9 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**
- 11/9 Seneca Street Mission**
Do you need to fulfill community service hours? Sign up to join your Zion church family in serving at the
- 11/16 Zion Chili Cook Off & Bills Watchparty**
Join your Zion church family for our Annual Zion Chili Cook Off and Bills Watch Party
- 11/23 Confirmation Bake Sale for St. Luke's**
Remember to bring a little cash to buy yummy baked goods. Every year the money raised is used to buy children's toys that are then distributed by the St. Luke's Mission of Mercy.

- 11/29 Indoor Rock Climbing**
Wear athletic clothes and bring a water bottle, we're going rock climbing at Niagara Climbing Center! All participants must sign a waiver at niagaraclimbingcenter.com.
- 11/30 Deliver Toys to St. Luke's & Lunch**
After the service, youth will deliver the toys purchased with bake sale funds raised and enjoy a lunch together.



Lasting memories were made at the last Zion Family 3-day retreat In March 2025

SAVE THE DATE!

Zion Family Retreat at LCLC:

March 27-29, 2026



Zion at LCLC

4th-8th Grade Fall Retreat:
October 10-12, 2025

SAVE THE DATES:
Senior High Winter Retreat:
January 2-4, 2026

Zion Family Retreat at LCLC:
March 27-29, 2026

Come & see what LCLC is all about!

Registration and info at:

www.lclcenter.org



Friday Faith Family & Fun Nights!

Beginning in September, we will host a monthly faith, family fun night complete with a meal and activities to strengthen both body and soul.

Join us

Friday, September 19

Friday, October 17

Friday, November 7

5:30-8:00 pm

If you would like to share your culinary gifts by providing the meal for the evening, contact the church office for more information. The costs of food/supplies is covered by the church.

Getting Involved and caring for the needs of our community is easy!

COMMUNITY of GOOD NEIGHBORS FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry has moved but the need continues. New Location: 335 Richmond Ave., Buffalo, 14222. Coordinator: Pastor Kwame Pitts

Primary Needs:

Canned: Beans, Fruits, Meats, Soups & Vegetables
Cereal, Dried Beans, Pasta, Rice, Peanut Butter,
Jelly, Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti Sauce.

Other nonperishable items accepted and *please check expiration dates*. Place items in wooden bins in main entryway.

Questions - Contact: Sue Jarrett or Brenda Tapia

THANK YOU for your GENEROSITY to this MINISTRY!

Burrito Project

Zion takes our turn the first Tuesdays of September and November preparing and serving burritos to hungry people in downtown Buffalo. Sign-up in the Gathering Area. Tues., 5-8 pm.

SENECA STREET MISSION

Every Second Sunday at 1:30, Zion meets at the Seneca Street Methodist Mission Church to "Share God's Love and Serve the Community" by preparing and serving a hot meal to people in the Seneca Babcock neighborhood. Typically we are finished by 4:30pm. We need 7-8 adults to help prepare and serve the food, but kids are welcome to serve with their families to set the tables, make beverages, check for expiration dates and organize the food pantry and much more.

This is a wonderful family experience and very rewarding as the people we serve are very grateful.

Teens can use this time as community service hours. "It felt good to do a good deed".

Zion's Eucharistic Ministry

Are you, or someone you know, hospitalized, home-bound or otherwise unable to be physically present during worship to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion? If so, Zion has a team of people trained to be sent from the Lord's Table to provide communion. Just contact Zion Office for assistance or if you are interested in learning more about Eucharistic Ministry and how to serve.

MEN's BREAKFAST

Zion guys of ALL ages, young and not so young and anywhere in between, are invited to join your brothers at the Zion Men's Breakfast starting September 7th and every first Saturday of the month through next June.

We meet at 8 AM for Food, Fellowship and Faith Formation. Discussion topics thoughtfully picked by Pastor Roger who also leads our conversations.

Long-timers, please bring a friend!

**Never been to the Breakfast?
You'll be warmly welcomed!**

Children's Church Teachers-Leaders Needed

Are you looking for a way to share your love of God and also connect with children? Please consider volunteering to lead a 20 minute session of Children's Church during Sunday worship. ****Materials & lessons provided, but feel free to explore your own ideas too!**

Sign up in the Gathering Area, or see LeAnn for more details.

Monthly Fellowship Opportunities



Our women's discussion group led by April Folckemer meets the second Wed. of the month in the Grove Coffee House

at 6:30pm. All women and their friends are welcome to share in a potluck dinner, devotions, and fellowship.

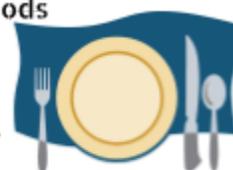
Fall Dates: **September 10, October 8, November 12.**

www.ZionClarenceCenter.com

Zion's Hospitality Team

Volunteers are needed to serve as kitchen helpers at various events throughout the year. There is no commitment to serve at every event!

Donations of food and baked goods are needed for funerals and receptions during the year. When an event is planned, you will receive a text or email. Sign up in the Gathering Area.



Zion's After School Program



Hard to imagine we are moving into our 4th year, but we are highly anticipating the arrival of several new families and the return of others who have been with us before.

Our impact in the community continues to grow as we provide care for over 40 children and meet a vital need for their families.

If you would like to get involved, here are some opportunities:

- extra set of hands, eyes and ears during homework and snack time.
- enthusiastic storybook reader any day of the week.
- share a special talent, hobby or interest you would like to impart onto these young bright minds.

Please consider donating a healthy snack option after a long day of school, a tasty treat would go a long way to ensure they get off to a good start.

Please contact Elaine Baker if you would like more information regarding the Afterschool Program.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL



Council Updates

Thank you to all of the members who were present at our congregational meeting in June. If you were unable to attend, here are the highlights:

- a balanced budget was presented by Mary Kelley and unanimously approved by the members in attendance.
- staffing change noted as Elaine is transitioning her position from Faith Formation to the Afterschool Program.
- Rachel was recognized for the successful completion of her Deacon internship.

Any questions or concerns about the operations of our congregation can be directed towards any of the council members:

2025 Church Council Members

- President** – Scott Williams
- Vice President** – Anneke Ieda
- Secretary** – Karen Brandau
- Treasurer** – Mary Kelley

- Jan Vesper-Diver
- Terry Elberson
- Jen Kennedy
- John Kinney
- Paul Parisi
- Pam Pizarro
- Camille Wilkinson

Meet Our NEW,
Children's Ministry
Coordinator
LeAnn Grimm



Favorite Bible Verses

Proverbs 16:9

"The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps."

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

I've always been called to help others and give back to the community any way I can.

"Bloom where you're planted"

My family includes my husband, Mark and two daughters Emily (10) and Charlotte (8).

My time at Zion: our family moved to Western NY from DC in January 2024 and our family is planning to relocate to Pretoria, South Africa January of 2026. While our time here has been short, I've been able to get involved with many things and find great friendships.

I look forward to getting to know you more!



CHARACTER CAMP

REGISTER HERE

ZionClarenceCenter.com
716-741-2656
AM Session 9-12
PM Session 12:30-3:30

Weekly Themes Daily Sessions

July & August

Ages 5-11

Zion's Summer Camp 2025: A Success!

Build it Up Summer Camp brought nearly 30 children through our doors to learn and experience life applications through programming and lessons all focused on good qualities in a person's character. Each Friday in the 7 weeks of camp, highlighted an outreach activity based on the weekly theme. The children created bookmarks for the Clarence Library, made dog treats for the local shelter, visited the Clarence Fire Hall (see photo below) and donated stuffed toys so that our first responders had something to bring children in need of some comfort. They weeded the garden beds around the church, picked up trash along the bike path. They even prepared a snack for our friends in the Summit Program. It was a busy and productive summer that will be the first of many to come.

Thank you to all who donated supplies!



September 2

4:30 pm Burrito Project at Zion

September 5

6:30 pm Youth Night: Bowling

September 6

8 am Men's Breakfast

September 7

9 am Worship/God's Work Our Hands

10 am Back to School Brisket Fundraiser

10:30 am Rally Day

5 pm Worship

September 8

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

September 10

6:30 pm WOW (Women's Ministry)

September 14

9 am Worship

1:30 pm Seneca Street Mission

5 pm Worship/Confirmation

September 15

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

6:30 pm Zion Council Meeting

September 17

7 pm Coffee House Ministry

September 19

6 pm Faith Family Fun Night

September 21

9 am Worship/

10:30 am Fall Discipleship Class #1

5 pm Worship

September 22

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

September 26-27

Lutheran Youth: Overnight TBD

September 28

9 am Worship

5 pm Worship/Confirmation

September 29

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

October 4

8 am Men's Breakfast

October 5

9 am Worship Youth Sunday

10:30 am Fall Discipleship Class #2

5 pm Worship

October 6

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

October 7

6:30 pm Youth Group Meeting

October 8

6:30 pm WOW (Women's Ministry)

October 10-11

Confirmation Retreat (LCLC)

October 10-12

Lutheran Youth: 4-8th Grade

Fall Retreat (LCLC)

October 12

9 am Worship

1:30 pm Seneca Street Mission

5 pm Worship

October 13

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

October 15

7 pm Coffee House Ministry

October 17

6 pm Faith Family Fun Night

October 19

9 am Worship

10:30 am Fall Discipleship Class #3

5 pm Worship

October 20

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

October 26

9 am Worship/Welcoming New Disciples

5 pm Worship/Confirmation

October 27

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

6 pm Confirmation/Council

6:30 pm Council Meeting

November 1

8 am Men's Breakfast

November 2

9 am Worship

5 pm Worship

November 3

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

November 4

4:30 pm Burrito Project at Zion

6 am Bells of Zion Election Day Bake Sale

November 7

5 pm Confirmation Field Trip

6 pm Faith Family Fun Night

November 9

9 am Worship/Confirmation Sunday

1:30 pm Seneca Street Mission

5 pm Worship

November 10

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

November 12

6:30 pm WOW (Women's Ministry)

November 16

9 am Worship

11:30 am Zion Chili Cook-Off/ Bills

Watch party

5 pm Worship

November 17

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

6:30 pm Zion Council Meeting

November 19

7 pm Coffee House Ministry

November 23

9 am Worship/Confirmation Bake Sale

5 pm Worship/Confirmation

November 24

10 am Adult Bible Study

11 am Pastor Office Hours

November 29

1 pm Youth Indoor Rock Climbing

November 30

9 am Worship

5 pm Worship



Join us for the Annual Faith Formation Kick-Off Celebration
September 7
Worship at 9
Faith Formation Hour
10:30-11:30
Child Registration and Sign-up for Volunteers

SAVE THE DATE

Children's Christmas Pageant:

12/21

Rehearsals: 11/30, 12/7, 12/14





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Get in touch with us!

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*"To serve God's world with love
as we follow the forgiving and inclusive
teachings of Jesus Christ."*