

THE SOUNDS OF ZION

716-741-2656

ZIONCLARENCECENTER.COM

CLARENCE CENTER, NY

From the Pastor's Desk

What's Inside

- #LifeOfZion
- Faith Formation in Action
- Zion Youth & Family
- Zion's Ministries
- Council News

Summer with Zion



6/19 - Congregation Meeting
& Breakfast

6/21 - Father's Day
Pancake Breakfast

7/6 - 8/21 Zion's Summer
Day Camp

7/26 - Summer Picnic
Graduation Celebration
Worship at 10:30 am

8/31-9/4 Vacation Bible
School

"Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are ruined, but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved." Matthew 9:17

Sometimes, improv troupes will get warmed up for a show with a game called: "Yes! And..."

The game has one basic premise. Players take turns telling a story or having a conversation and, when it is their turn, must accept the story or idea from the previous player (as hilarious or absurd as it might be) by saying "Yes! And..." thus continuing the conversation (and the hilarity or absurdity) before handing the story off to the the next player. The game goes on until laughter makes continuing impossible or someone negates what came before them.

I was recently reminded of how important it is that we encourage and celebrate new ideas in the church.

We all realize intellectually that the church of the future won't be exactly like the church of the past. Some traditions, rites, and rituals are more enduring, but after enough time EVERYTHING changes.

To offer a brief preview of my annual report... Zion is in a beautiful season of adapting to the world around us, serving those in need, building up community, and offering affirmation and a message of hope in our increasingly divided world, even as we hold true to the faith, hope, and especially the love of the Gospel. I see this through Zion's generous support of the food pantry, our work with the Clarence Central Schools in our After School Ministry, the work of helping healing our community through the Speaking Across Conflict workshops we have hosted, and creating a worship that is both inviting, welcoming, and inclusive.

As we dream, pray, plan, and prepare for a 2026-2027 program year, what thoughts and ideas do you have about how we can be church together and share the Good News of Christ and Christ's Love with our community and the wider world?

Please let a member of council or myself know what "new wine" you have been fermenting and waiting for an opportunity to share! Do not be afraid! In this season change in the church there are no wrong ideas as we dream about how we will be the church of the future.

In Christ,
Pastor Roger

Worship at Zion 9am & 5pm Sundays

Holy Week Preparations



Shining a Light on First Communion

Our First Communion class baking the bread used for their First Communion.



Our kind volunteers cutting flowers for our Easter Cross and creating the base.



Thank you to our Easter Breakfast Volunteers!



Holy Week Begins with Palm Sunday

We start Palm Sunday, outside, with a Call to Worship, Blessing the Palms, and Procession.

Holy Week at Zion



Good Friday Service



Easter Sunday Celebration



Maundy Thursday Service



◆ Shining Light on First Communion ◆

Congratulations to Zion's First Communion Class of 2026:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Harper Adimey | Louie Anderson |
| Levi Daunce | Walter Dexheimer |
| Carter Fecher | Levi Goehle |
| Ethan Hohl | William Hohl |
| Nikola Horst | Juliet Kneeland |
| Grayson Pretorius | |



Zion Youth Summer Calendar

JUNE

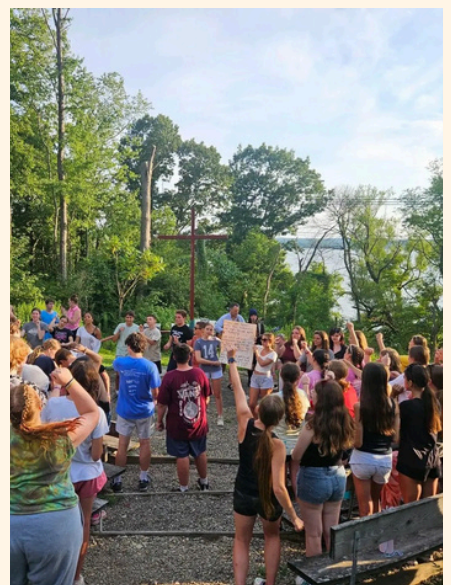
- 6/6-6/7 Organic Youth: Overnight at Central Rock Gym
- 6/19 Family Night: Campfire, Bike Ride, & Ice Cream
- 6/21 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast & Basket Raffle
- 6/26 Youth Night: Welcome to Summer Bonfire
- 6/28-7/3 LCLC: Family Camp & Alumni

JULY

- 7/5-7/10 LCLC: Classic Youth & Mini Camp
- 7/7 Burrito Project
- 7/21 Shakespeare's *Fools and Foes* at Clarence Town Park
- 7/25 Family Day: Darien Lake
- 7/26 Summer Picnic & Graduation Celebration
- 7/26-7/31 LCLC: Senior High Week

AUGUST

- 8/2 Youth Group/Confirmation: Food Pantry Project
- 8/28-8/29 Youth Overnight: End of Summer Celebration
- 8/31-9/4 Zion Vacation Bible School



LCLC



Join your Zion friends and family at LCLC this Summer!

Family Camp & Alumni: June 28-July 3
 Classic Youth & Mini Camp: July 5-July 10
 Senior High Week: July 26-July 31

Register Today: www.lclcenter.com/summer-camp



SPRING SPOTLIGHT

#TheLifeofZion

2026 Zion Confirmation Students



Faith Family Fun Nights! Get Air, Rock Climbing, and Rochester's Strong Museum

Fellowship and service work at Zion! Dinner church, God's Work. Our Hands. and the Lenten Collection.



Zion Youth Group takes on the Chiavetta's Fundraiser, high school musicals, Lasertron Lock-In, and monthly youth nights!





◆ God's Work. Our Hands. ◆

Coming in June, we will offer our "Clothesline for Family Promise," collecting home essentials to help Family Promise families set up housekeeping.



Zion's Ministries... Your Generosity at Work

School Supplies

We are collecting school supplies for Highgate Elementary- Buffalo School #80 for the new school year. Pick up a list by the bins!

Due: August 23

Clarence Food Pantry

Let's stock the shelves of the Clarence Community Pantry for the families in our community and all those served by this ministry.

NEW!

The Pantry will now be accepting garden produce at the Clarence Presbyterian Church on Main Street, Sundays after church and Mondays 8a-3p.

Greeting Cards

We are collecting generic greeting cards for our card ministry: *Thinking of You, Have a Nice Day, or simply blank greeting cards...*

Look for the collection box near the AV room.

Report From Zion's Church Council

If you have not yet seen, we have presented an update to our constitution to align with current ELCA model language. This is the second update since our 1993 adoption of the ELCA constitution. This update, and other updates around our financial controls, job description clarifications, and separation of duties provide a strong governance structure in which we can have confidence. If grants/loans are needed for Parish Hall bathroom renovations and classroom additions, these updates help as outside organizations review our governance. As we approach our budget preparation season, we are very thankful for the donors who helped replenish our Zion Improvement Repair Fund (ZIRF). Unexpected repairs can crop up anytime but one upcoming repair need is the parking lot asphalt followed by sealing and restriping. We kept miscellaneous repairs/improvements to a minimum this year to offset the outsized spend for snow removal with our notable snowfall this year. As always, reach out to any Council member with questions or suggestions.

Congregation Meeting & Breakfast: June 14

We will vote on our new Constitution and approve our budget for the 2026-2027 program year.

Sign-up sheets for the Congregation Breakfast can be found at Zion.

Thank you!



Your 2026 Church Council Members

President - Scott Williams

Vice President - Will Baron

Secretary - Karen Brandau

Treasurer - Mary Kelley

Sky Barto

Sterling Calvin

Terry Elberson

Martin Ieda

Jen Kennedy

John Kinney

Paul Parisi

Pam Pizarro

Coming Soon...

**FATHER'S DAY
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
& BASKET RAFFLE**



**SUNDAY, JUNE 21ST
8AM-12PM**

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 9535 CLARENCE CENTER RD.

Mark your calendars for the 2026 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast & Basket Raffle Fundraiser!

Enjoy a pancake breakfast before or after morning worship and consider participating in our basket raffle! This participation and any free-will donations help support Zion Youth attending LCLC camp this summer.

Breakfast includes homemade pancakes, sausage, bacon, and your choice of sweet and fruity toppings.

Raffle Basket Donation: If you are interested in donating a raffle basket to the Father's Day Basket Raffle, or have any questions regarding this fundraiser, please contact Halley, halley@zionclarencenter.com

SAVE THE DATE: 2026 ZION VBS
August 31 - September 4, 5:00-8:00pm

Get ready for a week of fun and faith with your Zion friends! We are so excited to bring VBS back to Zion this summer to build community and grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Each evening will begin with a shared dinner brought to us by a different VBS family! Followed by games, songs, crafts, snacks, and learning about our faith together. Open to all youth in grades K-5th.

We are searching for our 2026 VBS teachers and shepherds (adults and youth in grades 6-12th). **Scan the QR Code to let us know you are interested in participating or volunteering for VBS this Summer!**

Questions? Contact halley@zionclarencenter.com.







Scan the QR Code for our **Registration Information Form** and we'll send everything you need!




SUMMER CAMP AT ZION

Give your child a summer that builds more than memories... At Build It Up Summer Camp, kids grow in confidence, friendship, and character—all in a safe and caring environment at Zion. From creative projects to teamwork and leadership activities, each day is packed with opportunities to learn, laugh, and connect.

- ✓ Ages 5-11
- ✓ Flexible scheduling options
- ✓ Weekly themes

Running July 6th - August 21st

After School Ministry

We have had an incredible year together building friendships and community. Nearly 60 children from Clarence Center Elementary participated in Zion's program this year. Each afternoon was full of play, learning, and building Zion's connections with our neighbors. We are deeply grateful to our wonderful staff and volunteers, the parents who have entrusted us with their children, the children who bring joy and wonder, and to God, who continues to bless this ministry.

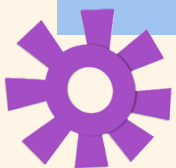


From our parents...

"For the first time my child has close friends and is having a first sleepover! We so appreciate all the nurturing and navigating that it takes working with kids as we really see our kids growing in character and friendship.

Thank you!"

"We have a safe amazing environment for our children to go and be cared for! We love everything about this program and recommend it to everyone we know if they are looking for something for their children as well! Our kids get so excited to come and can't wait till the next time they are able to come back! We just love it here!"



Our Sanctuary is 25 Years Old!



June 10th marks the anniversary of the dedication of our new sanctuary.

The original sanctuary was at the bottom of a theater-style seating area. Notice the altar and stained glass windows, which we were able to preserve and re-use.



The bell choir had to place their tables over the top of the communion rails in order to ring during worship. We rehearsed in the fellowship hall and had to move bells, tables, pads, music books and risers for each performance.



Notice the organ! It faced three rows of choir seating. The organist (Karl Hartwig) had to use a mirror or turn to see what the pastor was doing in each part of the service.



The rear of our current narthex was actually the rear of the original sanctuary. Notice the “crying room” and loft above in the left photo. To enter the sanctuary, you walked up stairs to a landing, which was beneath the stained glass window in our current chapel area, then proceeded down a ramp-like aisle toward the altar.



Construction involved pushing out the southern end of our sanctuary (where the stained glass window was located). Crews then dropped the existing floor. We preserved the stained glass windows from the sides of the church and the large window in the front. We moved and refurbished the organ and preserved the altar. Carpenters from our congregation rebuilt the communion rail. We also had new pews crafted in the same style as the older pews.

Construction took place in the years 2000-2001. We did encounter some unforeseen difficulties with our new arches--they did not fit as expected and had to be remade. During this time, all worship was held in the Fellowship Hall.

What makes a church is its people--but what a blessing our new sanctuary is to all of us!



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