



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings October 2025

Inside this Issue

Pastor's Message

October Birthdays

Zion & Community Articles

Council Minutes

Calendar

Worship Servers



Watch worship services live
on Sundays at 9:30 A.M. by visiting:

www.zionferguson.com

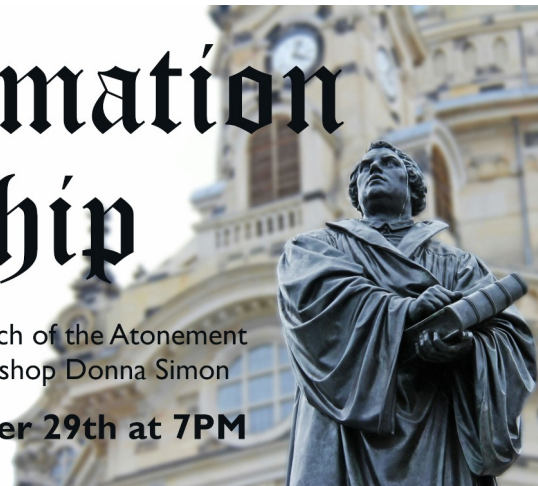
and clicking

LIVE STREAM

Reformation Worship

Hosted by Lutheran Church of the Atonement
Special Guest Preacher: Bishop Donna Simon

Wednesday, October 29th at 7PM



*"The Lord of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob
is our Stronghold!" Psalm 46:12*

The Great Rivers Collaborative warmly invites you to join in remembering and celebrating God's Church Always Being Re-formed! Come hear the Gospel proclaimed by Bishop Donna Simon. Join in singing beloved Reformation hymns, and gather in fellowship with members from across GRC congregations.

Remember to wear red to celebrate the fire of the Spirit that continues to reform and renew the Church. Stay after for refreshments and connection. Let us remember, rejoice, and re-form—together in Christ!

“For the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.”
Romans 8:2

Reforming Spirit — Liberate Us!

As a choir “geek,” I can’t count the number of times I’ve auditioned with the words of *America*. “Sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.” From time to time in church, we hear about God’s “liberating” love through the death and resurrection of Jesus. And this month, as we gather to commemorate Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, we will encounter the “freedom of a Christian.”

Liberty, Freedom, Liberation. It’s awfully hard not to see these words and think of the grand American experiment of which we are a part. Liberty evokes bells and the cries of the founding mothers and fathers; Freedom connects with the First Amendment and has served as the impetus for so much of our military history; it’s almost as if these words jump off the page with red, white, and blue stars and fireworks.

Yet even more, these words—Liberty, Freedom, Liberation—have a deeper history in the life of Christ-followers throughout the millennia of the Church. Long before any Bills of Rights, the apostle Paul spoke of the Holy Spirit—setting humans free from captivity to sin, death, and the law. Nearly 250 years before the American Revolution against England, Martin Luther wrote on Christian “Liberty,” whereby we are perfectly free—subject to no one, and simultaneously wholly bound—connected to the needs and care of our neighbor. Freed to be of loving service to another. As it says in Galatians: “For freedom, Christ has set us free!”

And the freedom we have in Christ is not just personal, but is a collective liberty and liberation we share! This month, we will begin a series of conversations about Zion’s future. It is my hope that a spirit of liberty, freedom, and liberation from God through Christ will surround us as we look ahead to what might be most faithful for our congregation’s next steps.

There is a bold, reformation-based truth I want us all to hear as we begin these conversations. We are doing hard work in having honest and truthful conversations about our congregation’s future. We will trust the Spirit of God is leading us and surrounding us in the places where these conversations are hard and painful. But most of all, **NONE OF OUR SALVATION IS AT STAKE by engaging in this faith-full work. We are truly freed and liberated—a congregation with the freedom to imagine boldly, freedom to make mistakes, freedom to disagree, and the freedom of Christians—to look to the needs of our neighbors as we begin to decide what our congregation’s future will be.** The Spirit of life is among you. The Spirit of God’s liberty is the freedom of which our hymns sing: Freedom isn’t just coming, it’s already ours through Christ Jesus. Amen.

God’s peace,
Pastor Matt



October Birthdays

11 th	Jayce Tucker Norma Wolz
14 th	Linn Moore
19 th	Cindy Vogelsang
23 rd	Bayheir Hicks
24 th	Gail Voss Janet Schaper
25 th	Kristina Oswald



Things to Know About October

- **10/5:** First Congregational Conversation in the Upper Room following worship
- **10/23:** Pokeno at 11:30 AM
- **10/25:** Trunk or Treat in Zion's parking lot
- **10/26:** Fellowship: bring a dish to share
- **10/29:** GRC Reformation worship at Atonement at 7 PM. Bishop Donna Simon will preach; refreshments will be available after
- Our new collection goal for the Food Pantry is cans of soup

A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

As we mentioned last month, we will begin having congregational conversations about where we are as a congregation and what future opportunities may be ahead for us. **I hope you will join us for our first conversation after worship on Sunday, October 5th.** We will have a Zoom link available for those who would like to join the conversation but cannot be at the meeting.

We will be publishing a financial sustainability report similar to the ones we produced for 2020 and 2021 so everyone has a recent picture of our financial resources along with a view of our financial history.

The next congregational conversation meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 9th after worship.

Please come and help discern where the Holy Spirit is leading Zion, knowing that we have the gift of God's grace every day.

Blessings,
Pam



Trunk or Treat



Zion and Living Christ will host a Trunk-or-Treat event in Zion's upper parking lot on October 25th from 3 PM to 5 PM. Volunteers are needed to provide decorated trunks or tables, donate candy, set-up/clean-up, and assist with traffic flow. Please see a CIU team member for more details.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Lutheran Church of the Atonement will be hosting a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wednesday, November 26th at 7 PM. There will be a pie social following and all are welcome to join.

Bible Study Opportunity

Shepherd of the Hills and Unity would like to invite members of the GRC to a new Bible study opportunity taking place at Shepherd of the Hills (SOTH) [12120 Bridgeton Square Drive, 63044]. The class will dwell in the stories of Matthew's Gospel over 8 sessions, using a new Bible study published by Augsburg Fortress. Participant guides will be provided. The sessions meet every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 AM beginning September 30th and continuing through November 18th.

Organ Concert

Holy Cross Lutheran [13014 Olive Blvd.] is hosting a concert put on by John J. Hamill on Sunday, October 19th at 2:30 PM. Enjoy the music of Bach, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and others. This is a free concert, but donations to support the music ministry at Holy Cross are greatly appreciated.

St. Stephen's

Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated cans of pork and beans to the food pantry at St. Stephen's during the months of August and September. We collected around 50 cans! Our new goal for the month of October is cans of soup.

Blessing Box

St. Stephen's also has a Blessing Box available in their parking lot [33 N Clay Ave.]. This is a drop box for small, non perishable items such as granola bars, pop lid tuna, cocktail sausages, and similar.

Rummage Sale

St. Stephen's will host a rummage sale on October 3rd from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM and October 4th from 9 AM to 1 PM. Stop on by and support a good cause!

Community Meals

St. Stephen's also wants to invite everyone to a community dinner on October 19th from 4 PM to 6 PM and a brunch on October 21st from 10 AM to noon.

Free Flu Shots

The Christian Hospital Foundation is offering free flu shots at two locations in North St. Louis County. We encourage everyone, especially high-risk individuals, to take advantage of this important opportunity.

Due to a limited supply appointments are required. To schedule your flu shot by phone, please call 314-747-9355.

Thur, Oct 2
2 PM – 6 PM

Northwest
HealthCare

1225 Graham Rd.
Florissant, MO
63031

Sat, Oct 4
9 AM – 2 PM

Christian Hospital
Detrick Building

11133 Dunn Rd.
St. Louis, MO
63136

Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 – 6:30PM (Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Kinney, Pam Statler, Richard Schademann, Jan Roevekamp, Pr. Matt Schlake-Kruse, Stacey Miller, Wanda Devenport, Ron Devenport, Erma Miller, Johnnie Tucker

OPENING QUESTION AND PRAYER

- If Zion were to wake up tomorrow and there was a miracle that made your fears/concerns/thoughts about Zion's future vanish into thin air, what would the miracle be? Why? - People and money are not a concern
 - If we had money, there are various things we could do with that, and people would feel more secure
 - We would be doing a lot of the things we are doing now, but you wouldn't be asking the same people to do those things and would be able to enhance what we are doing
 - Energizing and no possibility of burn out and could be open to do something entirely new - could do something with the building we have or think about joining with other congregations to open a community building - a hub
 - Will have explored all the ways that other churches in our position have done to move forward

PASTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

- Pastor Matt will be using vacation time September 10-13 and October 30 through November 2nd
- Will be attending the Fall Theological Conference in Kansas City on October 15-16
- Quarterly process for sharing Schnucks's gift cards has gone well
- Bishop Donna Simon will be installed in Overland Park, KS on September 28th
- Narcan box that was approved in August is on the way - want to do a joint blessing with the Bridge North County Church
- Jason Martin is willing to do weekly music through the end of the calendar year. What should we do going forward?
 - Look into people we have used in the past to help
 - Look into having someone to play the organ and someone to play the piano who are a little more self sufficient
- Justin Kinney has stepped down as Treasurer effective immediately - Who and what does the role of treasurer look like? How do we steward our leaders already doing work?
 - Treasurer signs the checks with one other person, reviews what has been entered, and at the end of the month, does a bank rec to make sure everything has been entered correctly, and creates the monthly financial reports using PowerChurch.
 - Are there people in the congregation that could take the position? Will consider further.
- Steve and Christine Walters are unable to teach the "teen" class this fall - Jayda and Charlie will join in the discussion with the adults after service on Sundays.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

- Presented the Council with additional reports to give more detailed information
- Shared and reviewed the monthly financial report, monthly income statement, balance sheet, and check register report.

UPDATES:

Mission Support

- Spoke to Doris McCall about the amount designated to go the Contact Resource Center in Beirut Lebanon. The ELCA no longer sends designated funds to them. Doris requested we direct those designated funds to the ELCA Disaster Response Fund for the third and fourth quarters of 2025 (\$425 in total).
- Motion made to give funds designated to go to the Contact Resource Center of Lebanon to the ELCA Disaster Response Fund instead. Motion seconded and passed.

Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC)

- Reformation (Oct. 29th) and Thanksgiving Eve (Nov. 26th) services will be held at Atonement at 7PM.
- Next meeting of the GRC is on September 14, 2025, at Shepherd of the Hills.

Member Care Team

- No major changes regarding members
- Trying to find ways to connect with people who don't get connected with as often

Community in Unity

- God's Work Our Hands was successful
- Meeting 9/11 to discuss next events - October Trunk or Treat event possible

Space Sharing

- Crossroads Counseling Open House on September 17, 2025
- 4th anniversary party for the Bridge was on September 7th.

Property concerns

- No major updates

CONFIRM APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2025 MEETING





- Motion made to confirm August meeting minutes and seconded. Motion made.

CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNED: 8:10PM

NEXT MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 14TH

Zion Lutheran Church

October Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sep 28 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 10:45am-Fellowship  J Martin	29	30	Oct 1	2 2:00pm-Flu Shots @ Northwest	3 5:30pm-Rummage Sale @ St. Stephen's	4 9:00am-Rummage Sale @ St. Stephen's 9:00am-Flu Shots @ Christian Hosp.
5 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-First Congregational Conversation	6 1:00pm-Worship Team 6:30pm-Member Care	7 9:30am-Matthew Bible Study @ SOTH	8	9 6:30pm-CIU	10	11  J Tucker  N Wolz
12 9:30am-Worship	13	14 9:30am-Matthew Bible Study @ SOTH 6:30pm-Council  L Moore	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am-Worship 2:30pm-Organ Concert @ Holy Cross 4:00pm-Community Dinner @ St. Stephen's  C Vogelsang	20	21 9:30am-Matthew Bible Study @ SOTH 10:00am-Community Brunch @ St. Stephen's	22	23 11:30am-Pokeno  B Hicks	24  G Voss  J Schaper	25 3:00pm-Trunk or Treat @ Zion  K Oswald
26 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 10:45am-Fellowship	27 Tidings Deadline 6pm-Laundry Love	28 9:30am-Matthew Bible Study @ SOTH	29 7:00pm-Reformation Worship @ Atonement 8:00pm-Fellowship	30	31	Nov 1

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in October

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2
Presiding	M Schlake-Kruse	R Schademann	P Schaefer	M Schlake-Kruse	T Reyes
Music Accompanist	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin
Assisting Minister	J Roevekamp	N Wolz	R Schademann	P Statler	J Roevekamp
Lector	K Malin	S Miller	D Balestier	L Moore	K Kinney
Children's Message	M Schlake-Kruse	K Kinney	N Wolz	M Schlake-Kruse	K Kinney
Ushers	K Malin	J Roevekamp	P Statler	S Dunham	K Malin
Altar Guild	J Kinney K Kinney	J Kinney K Kinney	J Kinney K Kinney	J Kinney K Kinney	K Malin
Video Streaming	B Budenholzer	P Statler	K Kinney	B Budenholzer	P Statler

* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.
 If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

Zion Lutheran Church
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Ferguson, MO 63135
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office@zionferguson.com
www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating
God's Grace**

October 2025

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor: Matt Schlake-Kruse
PMA: Richard Schademann
President: Pam Statler
Vice President: Stacey Miller
Secretary: Kristen Kinney
Treasurer: Justin Kinney
Member At-Large: Erma Miller
Member At-Large: Jan Roevekamp
Member At-Large: Rich Schademann
Member At-Large: Johnnie Tucker

Member Care Ministry

Ron Devenport
Wanda Devenport
Sue Dunham
Linn Moore
Richard Schademann*

Committee Chairs

Finance: Pam Statler
Property: Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship: Pam Statler

Organizations

Hospitality: Annis Tucker
Norma Wolz
Altar Guild: Deb Balestier

Team Leaders

Worship: Norma Wolz
Community in Unity: Stacey Miller
Education: Richard Schademann
Financial Sustainability: Pam Statler
Alt. Worship: Deb Murrish

Team Members:

Worship Team

Norma Wolz*
Kristina Oswald
Bill Budenholzer

Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller*
Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Linn Moore
Deb Murrish
Kristen Kinney
Justin Kinney
Richard Schademann

Education Team

Norma Wolz
Richard Schademann

Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler
Justin Kinney
Jan Roevekamp

Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish*
Kristen Kinney
Christine Walters
Bill Budenholzer
Pam Statler