

Zion Lutheran Church  
700 North Second Avenue  
Stratford, WI 54484  
Phone: 715-687-4110  
Fax: 715-687-3541  
Email: secretary@zionlc.co

We're on the Web  
[www.zionlc.com](http://www.zionlc.com)

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Stratford, WI  
Permit No. 6

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Zion's Good News

JULY  
AUGUST

2010

## Ready to explore the galaxy? Join us for Galactic Blast: A Cosmic Adventure Praising God! VBS!

**Where:** Zion Lutheran Church

**When:** July 26-29 2008

**Time:** 5:30-8:15 p.m. (Supper at 5:30, with VBS starting at 6:15)

**Why:** To have fun learning about how Jesus is greater than our world.

**Who:** All children ages 3 years thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade

\*\*Others who want to help as Leaders, Helpers, Cooks, and Men to help with stepping stones.

Registration forms for attending and volunteering to help are in the narthex or you may go online to register or volunteer.

Go to: [zionlc.com](http://zionlc.com), click on Galactic Blast and follow the instructions for registering. Forms are also available by the Welcome Center at church.

A donation board is located in the narthex. Donations from the congregation are the key for a successful week. Please consider selecting an item or two. Thank you for making VBS successful.

## See You at Galactic Blast!



## Summertime Fun

In July I'll be taking some vacation time. In fact, as you read this, I will be at Luther Seminary for some classes. I'm looking forward to a Sabbath rest this July. Most of my time will be spent with family and friends. Two family reunions will highlight the time, and that's got me thinking.

What are the common bonds we share as descendents of family? I know I have a lot of my dad's characteristics, and I sometimes wish I had more of my mom's. Looking back at pictures of all those men and women who have gone before me, leaving me the treasured memories of their lives, I wonder who I am most like.

We all come with our own story of life to these family reunions and yet we are all connected by joy and celebration, sorrows, trials, and the bond of history. We reconnect and affirm our connections. We also welcome new members, infants, or small children who were not with us the last time. In them we see those who will carry on the family ancestry.

Each Sunday as we gather for worship, we celebrate another reunion; the reunion of all God's children. We come together connected by celebrations of joy, sorrows, trials, and the bonds of our history together. We, too, remember the saints who have gone on before us on whose shoulders we stand. We also lift up infants and children reminding ourselves that they will carry on the faith.

Joyce Rupp wrote a song about reunions that is appropriate for both families and the church. I'd like to share it with you here:

Now we gather at this reunion  
Let us remember how we are one.  
We have been given the people around us,  
Let us give thanks, then, for this great gift.

Soon we will share in the food at this table  
Soon we'll be telling stories of old.  
As we remember all that's been given  
We can be thankful for all these gifts.

Enjoy your summer, your reunions, and your worship! Thanks be to God.

Pastor Sue

Fellow Members of Zion:

Now that we are into the summer season, church finances usually take a hit. I am writing to thank you for your continued support of Zion Lutheran Church and our mission of spreading the word of Jesus Christ. Our checkbook balance is "comfortable" for this time of year and for that I thank each of you. Please keep up the good work and let's keep our checkbook in the black all year.

As far as our mission is concerned, having one of our own continuing her trek through the seminary process has to be near the top of our mission list. Currently, Karen Polege is interning in a parish in Northwestern Minnesota. She will complete her internship around August of this year and then she will have another year of seminary before being ordained, which will happen here at Zion, very exciting. But before then, we have to fulfill a promise that we made to her. Very soon we need to make another \$5000 payment to Luther Seminary for Karen. Please prayerfully consider helping the Seminarian Support Fund reach that goal by writing Seminarian Support or Karen Polege on the Other line of your giving envelopes. We are in need of approximately \$2500 yet to make this payment. Whatever you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

In closing I want to thank all of you for your continued, prayerful giving to this church. That means a lot during these trying economic times. Once again, THANK YOU, and please help us keep our promise of financial support for Karen.

Blaine Aschenbrenner  
Zion Lutheran Church President

## Haiti

My time spent at Zion Lutheran Church was very special for me because of the warm welcome that I received and also because of my family's connection to Zion and your church family. Thank you for making me feel so welcome, and thank you for your financial support in my goal to make a difference in the lives of the children of Haiti! Please keep the people of Haiti and the recovery efforts of this country in your prayers. I also hope that you will pray for me, my husband (Patrick), and all of the leaders who are making decisions related to S.O.A.M. Orphanage and the children living there. Please ask God to guide us, to give us wisdom, and to help us be obedient to His plans. May God also continue to bless Pastor Sue and all of you at Zion.

Thank you again. Julie Blackaller, S.O.A.M. Ministry—Haiti

### Attention Zion Members

Please take a moment when you receive your newsletter to look over the schedule for the month. If you know that you will be unable to serve as scheduled, please contact me as soon as possible so that I may find an alternate server to take your place.

Summer is here and that means vacations and weekends away. So that you will not be scheduled during your time away, please let us know when you will be gone. You can e-mail me at hutherbk@yahoo.com or call 687-4267. I appreciate your patience and understanding. If you have any questions or comments regarding the scheduling, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Brenda Huther

### Fire Prevention for Zion

Everyone should be aware that the Fire Doors in the Gathering Area cannot be blocked with chairs or tables. After using this area, please position chairs AWAY from the overhead doors. Thank you!

### Library News

The following books have been added to the Church Library **Story of Queen Esther**, by Jenny Koralek. Call Number +/Ko. A colorful, easy to understand, retelling of the Old Testament story of Queen Esther for children.

**Gospel of Grace**, by Mark Wickstrom. Call number 234/wi. Using the building of a house as a metaphor, the author presents the process we use to decide how to use a particular Biblical text. Is it a timeless truth, cultural norm or personal opinion?

**Moral Dilemmas**, by J. Philip Wogaman. Call number 170/Wo. A framework for making decisions that affect ourselves, the people we care about, and society, including a discussion of the difficult ethical issues facing our society at the present time.

### Contribution Statements

Contribution Statements for January through June have been run and are available in the narthex. Please pick yours up next time you come to church. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

### Baptisms

On Sunday, June 6th, Tristan David Kline, son of Will and Allison Kline, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Tristan's baptismal sponsors are Matthew Kline and Lois Custer. Tristan was born February 15, 2010.

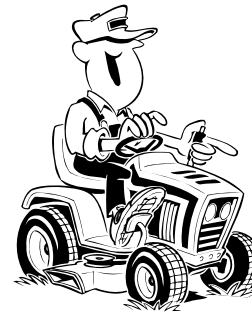
On Sunday, June 20th, Kenneth Arnold Newman, son of Kenneth and Karen Newman, received the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Ken's sponsor is his fiancé, Denise McHugh.

May God bless Tristan and Ken and their families.

**one LORD,**  
**one Faith,**  
**one Baptism...**  
EPHESIANS 4:5

### Lawn Mowing Expenses

The mowing is a budgeted expense and paid from our "Current Expenses" fund. The lawn mowing includes both cemeteries and the church lawn. If you would like to make a special gift to defray the cost of mowing, you may do so by including it in your "Current Expense" giving or by designating on your giving envelope as "Lawn Mowing." Thank you.



### Thanks

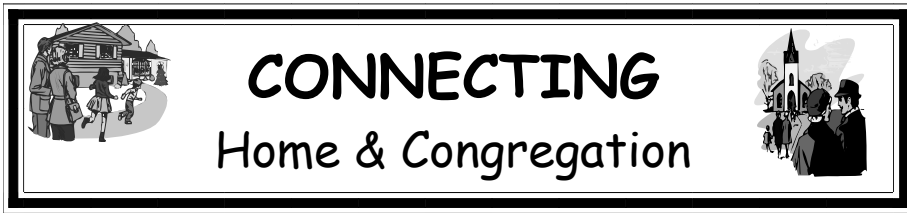
May I extend my heartfelt thanks to all people involved in making the Hwy 97N Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery Memorial area a reality for outdoor memorials. Special thanks to Zion Cemetery Committee, the Church Council, all who donated in any way and Pastor Sue Eidahl in bringing this together.

Thanks to Brandon Foley for his planning, drawings, and work done in making this area available by his project for the Boy Scouts in earning his Eagle Scout Badge and Honor.

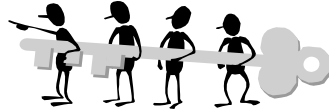
Thanks to the leaders of the Boy Scouts for encouraging special projects which involves and enrich the lives of our young citizens.

I feel honored in the closure that I have felt since placing the memorial bench in memory of my son Gary, a former young member of Zion's congregation.

Blessings to all.  
Marge Habeck



## With The 4 Keys



### Family Service

Model Christian behavior when you play or attend sporting events.

### Rituals & Traditions

Take a family walk. Enjoy the outdoors. Discuss the wonders of God's creation.

### Family Devotions

Do a family alphabet of praise. Each day use a different letter of the alphabet and give thanks for things that begin with that letter.

### Caring Conversation

Discuss ways of going "green" in your home and neighborhood.

## Building Update

Payment Date	Start Balance	Payment Amt	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
3-1-10	\$711,724.24	\$6,285.19	\$3,344.13	\$ 2,941.06	\$708,783.18
4-1-10	\$708,783.18	\$6,285.19	\$3,687.13	\$ 2,598.06	\$706,185.12
4-29-10	\$706,185.12			\$ 6,000.00	\$700,185.12
5-1-10	\$700,185.12	\$6,285.19	\$3,555.11	\$ 2,730.08	\$697,455.04
6-1-10	\$697,455.04	\$6,285.19	\$3,627.10	\$ 2,658.09	\$694,796.95
7-1-10	\$694,796.95	\$6,285.19	\$3,497.78	\$2,787.41	\$692,009.54

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 93,959.42
Total of extra principal payments	<u>\$177,500.00</u>
Amount of principal paid 6/1/07 - 7-11-10	\$271,459.42
MIF Checking acct balance as of 7-11-10	\$ 16,983.06

A check for \$2,132.48 was sent to the Northwest Synod on 7-12 for our 5% building fund tithe to help our sister congregation in Mpenda build a church and parsonage.

## Council Minutes

Zion Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, June 21, 2010. President Blaine Aschenbrenner called the meeting to order. Keri Manecke led devotions. Leadership Training was on Church Health: 10 Traits of Vital Ministry.

During the meeting the council:

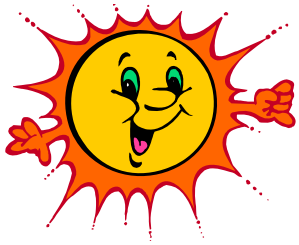
- Secretary Report M/S/C
- Treasurer Report M/S/C
- Thank you's from Janice Lee for gift card; Diane Kaufman for Malawi Companions. Thank you's to Jim Carpenter for sound system and media center; Dennis Schmidt for camera.
- Seminary money needed through donations or fund raisers
- Begin charging a Wedding Coordinator fee for weddings
- Habitat for Humanity being built on Saturdays in July, August, and September for those interested
- YMCA will continue after school care
- Julie Blackaller here on 6/27/10
- Newsletter deadline on July 8<sup>th</sup> for July and August – going out July 15<sup>th</sup>
- No Council meeting in July
- Next meeting will be held August 16, 2010

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Keri Manecke, Secretary

### BENEVOLENCE

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual (6-19-10)</u>	<u>Percent</u>
LSS	\$1,800.00	\$1,701.48	94.53%
Missionary	\$3,500.00	\$2,956.00	84.46%
Crossways	\$1,900.00	\$1,742.00	87.10%
World Hunger	\$4,000.00	\$3,333.90	83.35%
Mission Partners	\$ 750.00	<b>\$ 869.10</b>	<b>108.64%</b>



## Summer Fun

The “Summer Fun” ministry is here. “Summer Fun” is split into two week periods each month. Dates for “Summer Fun” are as follows: July 13 and 20; August 10 and 17. Hours for “Summer Fun” are 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year our “Summer Fun” time is at Klemme Reserve rather than the church. We have some great outside activities planned. We will also have snack and craft time. Each afternoon will begin with a time of sharing and learning about God’s wonderful creation.

Registration forms are now on-line. Go to [zionlc.com](http://zionlc.com) under ministries, then children, and click onto the Summer Fun registration. Registration forms are also available at the church office and by the Welcome Center.

Everyone in the congregation and community is welcomed and encouraged to come to have some fun and fellowship. All ages are welcomed. We encourage congregation members to bring friends. We are looking forward to another exciting, fun time.

## School Kits

Again this year Zion is going to collect school kits. One of the Confirmation Electives is to put these kits together. So when you are shopping for those school supplies, which will be around the corner, please pick up a few items for the school kits. Please place items in a box in the narthex by October 3rd. Items needed are:

- Notebooks of wide or college ruled paper 8x10 totaling 150-200 sheets (if using 70 sheet notebooks, please include 3) NO Loose-leaf paper
- One blunt scissor
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- 6 new, unsharpened #2 pencils
- One eraser 2 1/2” long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- Construction paper

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

We are again approaching the time when Thrivent Financial will be asking members again to choose where their dollars should go. Below is the announcement received from Thrivent Choice Dollars:

“Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Approximately 30% of members will be eligible for Choice Dollars. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide, including your local Lutheran congregation.

Choice Dollars will launch this summer. Eligible benefit members will receive a letter with details on how to participate in Choice Dollars.”

The Choice Dollar Program replaces the “Care in Congregation” Program (Matching Funds) of past years. Designating your dollars to Zion Lutheran will be the only way Zion can receive these dollars. Potential designated Choice Dollar amounts can range from \$25 to \$500 for eligible benefit members. Your letters for the “Choice Dollar” Program should be appearing in your mailboxes the end of July or beginning of August.

We are tentatively planning a “Thrivent Social Hour” after worship on August 22, 2010. A Thrivent representative will be here to explain in more detailed the “Thrivent Choice” Program and how to make sure your dollars go to Zion Lutheran Church. More information regarding the “Social” will be sent to all Thrivent members at Zion the first part of August. Nonmembers are also welcome to attend this social. This social will also be a time of fellowship and learning for all.

## Picture Directory

Please note the insert in the newsletter about Zion’s Picture Directory coming this fall. Pictures will be taken September 28, 29, 30, October 1 from 2:30 to 9:00 p.m. and October 2nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Start up to sign up is August 8th. You may go on line at [www.zionlc.com](http://www.zionlc.com) to sign up or come to church and sign up in the Gathering area on Sunday mornings or call Wendy Spaeth after 6 p.m. at 687-4590. Each family will receive a Complimentary 8x10 portrait and a directory for participating. No setting fees required and you can view your portraits right away. You MAY order more pictures if you so desire, but it is not necessary. Please sign up and be a part of our church directory.

## **Zion's Meditation Garden is Blooming!**

If you haven't visited the Meditation Garden recently, stop by after church or come by during the week and see what is blooming. Have a seat on one of our benches and give your mind over to God speaking to you thru the peace and serenity of this garden. Here is a quiz to help you become more familiar with our garden:

1. What recent event happened in our garden?
2. How many new visitors were seen?
3. What new feeder is in place for another new visitor?
4. What bush was blooming with HUGE white flowers?
5. What the are names of the flowers blooming along the edge of the walk way?
6. Who donated the Fountain?
7. Is there a plant in there that wants to be remembered?
8. Can you name all the plants with girl's names?

As always, please stay on the path as you walk thru the Garden and come back again and again!

## **Fair Trade**

Stop by the Fair Trade Booth as you leave church and try a bag of our Hazelnut Crème or Hazelnut Crème Decaf. This coffee makes luscious brownies to have with that scoop of ice cream during this warm weather. As always, thank you for supporting this ministry!

## **Hazelnut Coffee Brownies**

- 3/4 cup Equal Exchange Organic Baking Cocoa
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup strong Equal Exchange Hazelnut Crème Coffee (boiling)
- 2/3 cup butter (melted / divided)
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/3 cup flour
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/4 tsp salt

3/4 cup hazelnuts (toasted and chopped; optional)  
Combine cocoa and baking soda in a medium bowl. Add coffee and half of the melted butter and stir until mixture thickens. Add sugar, remaining melted butter, and eggs. Stir until smooth. Add flour, vanilla, salt. Blend completely. Stir in nuts. Pour into greased 9"x13" baking pan. Bake in preheated oven at 350 for 35-40 minutes.

## **Job Description for Cemetery Committee Chairperson**

1. Assist funeral directors by making out cemetery lots for funeral and also tombstone sales company.
2. Assist grave digger by marking graves sites, including in the winter time making sure the road or driveway is open and there is a path to the grave site, also a path is open to dirt pile for the extra dirt. Also, mark for headstones for tombstone sales.
3. Complete grave and burial site forms for military personnel, when Marathon County Veterans requests. (They send you form, it is simple to fill out).
4. Fill in grave sites when holes appear, and give a visual inspection of both cemeteries once a week, and check for broken trees and flowers blown around after wind and rain storms.
5. (Optional) Remove all old flowers and wreaths after November 1st to April 1st. Some people put flowers out after burials, so be careful not to take off new flowers.
6. Call a meeting of team members before Memorial Day to check on needs of cemetery and property and clean up. Put in boundary stakes in fall.
7. Keep maps up to date and make sales of burial sites and record in books. Notify church secretary to put on computer record.
8. (Optional) Mow around the outside of fence on Hwy 153 cemetery to keep down weeds and ditch between Central Wisconsin Coop and Cemetery.

If interested in being the Cemetery Chairperson, please contact the church office or Pastor Sue.

## **Malawi Team**

Our Sister Congregation in Mpenda, Malawi continues to grow. It has about 1000 communicants and 600 children. Zion is looking for a team of people willing to keep our relationship with Mpenda active. Mostly this will mean letters and e-mails, but the possibility of traveling with Diane Kauffman to Malawi is also a possibility. If you'd like to be a part of this team, please call Pastor Sue or the church office.



### Godstock (Launch) 2010

The Northwest and East Central Synods of Wisconsin, have joined together to host, "I Wanna Rock," this year's Senior High Youth Gathering, **November 12-14, 2010**, at the Plaza Hotel in Wausau. All youth in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 are eligible to attend this gathering.

So plan now to attend this fantastic weekend that will include worship, learning, and service projects. Keynote speaker, Jay Gamelin, music by Jacob's Road. Program, lodging, t-shirt, and Saturday evening meal are included in the registration. Registration materials will be available in July. As soon as we get the material, we will be sending it out to all Zion high school students.

Marissa Miller is currently on the LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) Board. The LYO Board plans this event. If you have questions, you may want to talk to her.

### Middle School Youth Gathering

This gathering is usually the latter part of April each year. It is for all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. The date and place has not yet been finalized. Watch the newsletter for more information in the months ahead.

\*\*\*\*\*

Both of these events are a time for spiritual growth and enrichment. They are a time to make new friends and have fun. The speakers are uplifting and the bands are awesome. Youth who have attended these events in the past always want to go back again.



### 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

July 18-22, 2012

New Orleans, Louisiana

Eligible: All Zion Youth who have completed 7th, 8th, 9th, or 10th grade or students graduating from High School in: 2012, 2013, 2014, or 2015. Youth, start thinking about whether or not you want to attend the Gathering.

The National ELCA Youth Gathering is going back to New Orleans in 2012! Why go back? Because New Orleans has more to teach us about fresh starts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Orleans has more to teach us about generosity and about how to be good neighbors. New Orleans has more to teach us about the house that God is building. For more information go to [www.elca.org/gathering](http://www.elca.org/gathering).

Here is a picture of those who went to New Orleans in 2009. Ask them about the experience.



Cole, Kamelle & Carmen VanDerLeest  
Allison & Dan Wieland  
Natasha Lindquist



### Brat and Hamburger Fry At Cenex Station July 23, 2010



Our first fundraiser for the New Orleans Youth Gathering trip will be held July 23, 2010. Support our youth by having lunch with us that day.

Help will be needed the day of the Brat Fry. Parents and youth, if you get a phone call from Cari, please say yes to help out for a few hours that day.

### **Blood Pressure Screening**

At the Stratford Community Hall 9:30—11:00 a.m.  
2nd Wednesday of the month

### **Blood Pressure Check and Glucose Testing**

Fourth Tuesday of each month, from 1:30-3:30  
at the Stratford Library by a nurse.  
The blood test requires a 2 hour fast. Free of charge.  
Call for information

### **Steak Feed**

The Stratford VFW will have its monthly steak feed  
on the first Tuesday of each month.

### **Community Outreach Meal**

St. John's Lutheran Church, Spencer, will serve a free meal on the 4th  
Tuesday of each month, from 5:00—6:30 p.m.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Marshfield Area Habitat for Humanity will begin its 16th project this  
summer. Groundbreaking for the 2010 Habitat home will be held at  
6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 21st, at 1210 E 4th St., Marshfield. The  
ceremony will introduce this year's Habitat partner family, Marie Lynk  
and her two children. A brief worship service, "Breaking New  
Ground," will be held. The public is invited.

Volunteers are needed. Please call John Nystrom 387-4900 or e-mail  
[jnystrom@mfldymca.org](mailto:jnystrom@mfldymca.org). We also will be doing a women's build on  
Saturday, August 21, please contact Diane Wolf by email at  
[dewolf@mstc.edu](mailto:dewolf@mstc.edu) or by phone at 384-4506.

### **Evening in the Park**

Klemme Park, Stratford

Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

July 21: "Crosswinds" Gospel Music of the 50's and 60's

July 28: Sacred Steel—Emmanuel Lutheran Church

August 4: Paul "Bucky" Drexler and the K.C.'s

August 11: The Athens Community Band

All events and refreshments sponsored by the Stratford Area Historical  
Society. The Stratford museum will be open each Wednesday evening.

### **YOUR CHURCH STAFF**

Church Office Hours:  
Monday—Friday  
7:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Blaine Aschenbrenner  
V. Pres.: Kathy Busche  
Secretary: Keri Manecke  
Treasurer: Rod Huther  
Evangelism: Pat Emon  
Parish Ed: Wendy Spaeth  
Property: Joel Jurgensen  
Stewardship: Ellen Leick  
Worship: Denise Marg  
Youth: Patti Kuyoth

### PASTOR: Sue Eidahl

Home Phone: 687-4381

E-mail: [eides@zionlc.com](mailto:eides@zionlc.com)

Parish Associate: Janice Lee

E-mail: [janicelee@zionlc.com](mailto:janicelee@zionlc.com)

Secretary: Wendy Drexler

E-mail: [wendy@zionlc.com](mailto:wendy@zionlc.com)

Ministry Coordinator: Cari Frueh

E-mail: [cari.frueh@hotmail.com](mailto:cari.frueh@hotmail.com)

### CHURCH OFFICE:

715-687-4110

FAX: 715-687-3541

WEB SITE: [www.zionlc.com](http://www.zionlc.com)

### **SUMMER WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY AT 9:00 a.m.**

### **INDEX**

Page

- 1 Vacation Bible School
  - 2 Pastor Sue's Letter
  - 3 Council President Letter
  - 3 Haiti
  - 4 Library News
  - 5 Pastoral Acts
  - 5 Lawn Mowing
  - 5 Thank you letter
  - 6 Connecting Home & Cong
  - 6 Building Update
  - 7 Council Minutes
  - 8 Summer Fun
  - 8 School Kits
  - 9 Thrivent Choice Dollars
  - 9 Church Picture Directory
  - 10 Meditation Garden
  - 10 Fair Trade
  - 11 Cemetery Chairperson
  - 11 Malawi
  - 12-13 Youth Pages
  - 14 Community Events
- Inside Pull Out
- Calendar / Serving Schedule
  - Picture Directory Information

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The 21st of each month.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE**

Thursdays by 9:00 a.m.

### **WEEKLY E-MAIL**

Goes out early Monday morning.  
email [wendy@zionlc.com](mailto:wendy@zionlc.com) to get it

**Please keep the office updated:**

- Address & email changes
- Births, Deaths, Hospitalizations
- Phone / Cell changes