

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
----- **Bringing Hope Through Christ**
7455 Foothills Drive Farmington, NM
505-325-3420 Website: zionfarmingtonlcms.org
Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:00 AM Divine Service -10:15AM
Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf Cell phone: 605-419-7830
Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 11:30 Monday – Thursday

November 2025 Newsletter

COMING SOON!!! Voter's Meeting is on November 16. Come for the meeting & to check out the budget. Included is an “All - Church Potluck” - for fellowship.

Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day (November 27) at Zion – The dinner was a great success last year – now it's an annual event!! There are families who are not traveling or aren't expecting guests for dinner – so Zion Church family, let's get together, to enjoy Thanksgiving fellowship. Look for a sign-up sheet or contact Mary Ripley to reserve your spot, by November 24. If you're able, bring a dish to pass. If you're not able, come anyway. If you need a ride, let us know.

DID YOU KNOW?? The first Sunday of Advent is November 30th. One meaningful tradition of Advent is to have a home Advent Wreath to be lit, adding the lighting of one candle for each week in Advent. It's a beautiful time to read an Advent Devotion for that day. The circular shape of the wreath reminds us of the everlasting love of God. The four candles represent: Week 1: Hope:(purple) Week 2: Peace (purple) Week 3: Joy (pink) Week 4 Love (purple) Christmas Eve: Christ cancel (white) center of wreath. You may wish to enjoy an Advent Wreath for Advent, this year.

THANK YOU!! Truly behind the scenes are those who make our Divine Worship Service meaningful: those who prepare the altar for communion & those who operate the sound board. Many thanks to Candice Petzoldt & Lorna Wood who work Sunday after Sunday to make accompaniment available to us in our hymns. Thank you to Shirley Shelby for organizing Altar Guild & to those who work with her.

Personal Note of Thanks from Gary Hobbs - Thank you for your support during Brenda's final days and after she passed. Your prayers and how you reached out to me was a great comfort. As my family and I continue our journey, we will always remember and be comforted.

LWML at a Glimpse- LWML will have a brief meeting following the service on Sunday, November 2. On November 9, join LWML in offering thanks & praise to God for the support of missions, locally, nationally & abroad. If you have “mite-boxes” bring them with you on November 9.

POCKET PRAYERS - Cynthia Beard, Earl Rothermel, Kerry, Roy and Dale Esau, Elisha Van Duesan, David Lukow, Darren Sharp, Carol Unger, Deborah Unger, Shanda Unger, Shea and Jessica, Debra Mobley, Jack McKeever, Annette Lewis, Jason Hobbs
Contact Diane Ayers @ 505-330-4865 or ayers.diane@gmail.com to add someone to this list.
Prayer by Text: if you would like to be included on this list or if you have an immediate prayer request, text Leslie Fitz: 505-402-3688. For both lists, be sure to have permission for a name to be added. Remember, by being on the Prayer by Text List, you agree to keep those prayers confidential

PRAYER MINISTRY - the response from the Zion family of Believers & Prayer Warriors has been tremendous! We are truly a praying church!

If anyone should be interested in being assigned to teams of two to visit folks who cannot get to church, please contact Diane Ayers or Leslie Fitz. These visiting teams simply visit folks in their home, alongside Pastor. The purpose is to have conversation, pray & offer Holy Communion. It is such a beautiful experience of ministry-a tangible expression of love that brings comfort & hope. Please consider joining us in this part of the Prayer Ministry.

ZION CIRCLE BRIEFS – Our mission is to meet with fellow Christians to support & lift the congregation & the community. Food Drive begins November 2. Bring non-perishable food all during November to deliver to families. November 9 - brief Zion Circle meeting following service. Be thinking of Advent suppers (soups, salads & desserts) on December 3, 10 & 17. KrisKindle Market – Zion Circle will be sponsoring a Bake Sale Table (fundraiser). If you have a “specialty” Christmas treat you’d like to contribute, that would be wonderful! And of course, cookies are always greatly appreciated.

Council Highlights October, 2026

Attendees: R. Kynast, B. Steaves, D. Leikem, Pastor, S. Unger, D. Ripley, J. & B. Lukow, T. Neel, T. Snyder, M. Lukow, S. Lanier

Elder’s Report: Attendance at services in increasing. A motion was made & approved for Andrew Galloway become an Elder, taking the place of Matthew Kade, effective November 2. The web site will soon be live.

KrisKindle Market is December 12 (4-8 PM) & December 13 (9AM -4PM) Invite your friends & neighbors! Any questions, talk to Dale Leikam.

Finance At A Glance – September 2025

Total Operating Income.....\$20,810.32

Budgeted Operating Income.....\$13,450.00

Above Budget.....\$7,360.32

YTD

Total Operating Income.....\$124,582.19

Budgeted Operating Income.....\$121,500.00

Above Budget.....\$3,082.19

Expenses.....\$15,491.98

Budgeted Expenses.....\$11,192.33

Over Budget.....(\$4,299.65)

YTD

Expenses.....\$103,169.73

Budgeted Expenses.....\$100,755.97

Over Budget.....(\$2,413.76)

ZION 2026 BUDGET

AUG Expenses	YTD Budget	Actual Expenses thru AUG	Projected Expenses
Proposed Budget			

OPERATING EXPENSES	2025	2025	2025	2026	2026
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Admin. of Gods Business

Payroll Tax Expense	\$0	\$15	\$422	\$0	\$500
Bank Service Charges		\$0	\$0	\$5	\$0
Other Fees	\$0	\$2	\$0	\$0	\$15
Office Equipment Maintenance			Equip & Maint		
\$0	\$2,200			\$113	\$1,004
					\$1,148

Office Supplies	\$137	\$1,600	\$444	\$0	\$750
Postage	\$0	\$67	\$0	\$0	\$0
Software Expenses		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Phone & Internet		\$208	\$1,333	\$1,587	\$0
Accounting Service		\$152	\$2,100	\$1,819	\$0
Website & Domain		\$150	\$0	\$2,626	\$0
Admin. of Gods Business-Other			\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Admin. of Gods Business					\$8,360
Aiding and Enriching Worship					
Choir and Organ Supplies			\$0	\$233	\$0
Pulpit Assistance			\$0	\$800	\$600
Worship Supplies			\$0	\$867	\$81
Aiding & Enriching Other			\$685	\$0	\$995
Total Aiding and Enriching Worship				\$685	\$1,900
\$3,200					\$1,676
Total					\$0

Bringing Christ to the World

Ministry Expansion	\$0	\$333	\$0	\$0	\$500
Missions-District & Synod		\$0	\$1,333	\$2,350	\$0
Missions-Determined by Zion			\$0	\$833	\$1,000
Synod/District Convention			\$0	\$333	\$1,558
Total Bringing Christ to the World			\$0	\$2,832	\$4,908
					\$0
					\$7,000

Care of Gods House & Property

Insurance	\$562	\$4,496	\$5,058	\$0	\$7,500
Janitor Expense		\$66	\$20	\$160	\$0
Janitor Supplies		\$0	\$167	\$60	\$0

Repairs & Improvements	\$0	\$6,667	\$772	\$0	\$10,000
Security	\$0	\$83	\$545	\$0	\$1,000
Utilities	\$94	\$6,000	\$5,851	\$0	\$9,500
Total Care of God's House & Property				\$722	\$17,433
\$12,446	\$0	\$28,470			

Care of God's Servants

Pastor - Insurance & Benefits	\$1,273	\$12,000	\$8,960	\$0	
\$16,000					
Pastor - Salary	\$5,267	\$29,263	\$29,848	\$0	
\$48,283					
Pastor - Housing Allowance	\$3,173	\$16,667	\$17,980	\$0	
\$27,500					
Mileage Reimbursement	\$144	\$1,000	\$1,292	\$0	\$2,000
Professional Development	\$0	\$233	\$422	\$0	\$0
Total Pastoral Expense	\$9,857	\$59,163	\$58,502	\$0	
\$500					
Health Insurance Deductible	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350
Total Care of God's Servants				\$58,502	
\$0	\$94,633				

Debt Service

Mortgage Principal & Interest	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Congregational Care

Fellowship	\$0	\$667	\$713	\$0	\$0
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Youth Christian Endeavors	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Congregational Care	\$0	\$667	\$713	\$0	\$0
Teaching Gods Word					
Christian Education Supplies		\$229	\$867	\$1,084	\$0
Total Teaching God's Word		\$229	\$867	\$1,084	\$0
Total Operating Expenses			\$12,253	\$88,983	\$93,500
\$0	\$141,633				

Summary

AUG 2025 Operating Income		Actual Income thru AUG 2025	
2025 Projected Income	2026 Projected Weekly income	2026 Projected	
Monthly income	2026 Projected income minus expenses		
\$16,823	\$103,772	\$161,400	\$3,259 \$14,123
\$169,470			
	\$3,100	\$169,470	\$141,633
2026 Required Weekly Income	\$2725	2026 Required Monthly	
Income \$11810	Avg Weekly	Annual	\$27,834

Voter's meeting November 16th after church to review, discuss and vote upon the 2026 budget

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

The verse above and this section of 2 Corinthians is saying that to be generous, you first have to be enriched. Enriched by who? Enriched by God our Creator and provider. As God gives us everything we need for daily living and supplies us with every spiritual need also from His bounteous Word and promises, we should feel compelled to give generously back to God and in serving one another.

Earlier, Paul said, “whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” As you and I have received so much from God, we also can give so much back to Him and to one another for the building up of the Kingdom.

“God loves a cheerful giver.” Don’t give out of compulsion, but out of love and generosity - that should be natural and knowing that what we have does not belong to us. That is the root of stewardship. We are only stewards of what ultimately belongs to God, the owner of everything. It should be very easy to give of yourself as God has given you and I, certain talents and abilities to serve Him and our neighbor.

As was talked about in a sermon on the story of the ten lepers, every day is a day of thanksgiving to God. Don’t let the National Day of Thanksgiving every fourth Thursday in November be the only day you give thanks to God. We have been blessed to be created and sustained by the one true God to serve Him and others for all He does for us now and for eternity.

Gratitude seems to be lacking these days as most people act more like the rich fool from Luke 12 than the one Samaritan leper who came back to worship and thank Jesus for healing him. Trust in God for all things, not just those uppermost in your mind. You can come to Him for anything and He will listen and act in accordance with His good and perfect will. Such faith and trust overflows “in many thanksgivings to God” from whom comes “every good and perfect gift.”

Thanks be to God for He sees us and takes care of us, now and forever! “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf