

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Kyle Karsten

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported and joined us for our Annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast! What an amazing event in our community. We were honored to welcome Michael Scherer as our guest speaker, who shared an inspiring message about faith, perseverance, and how God shows up in amazing ways through life's challenges. His faith and words were a meaningful reminder of what a life grounded in faith truly looks like during life's ups and downs.

Our gratitude also extends to HSHS St. Mary's Hospital for being our Gold Sponsor. Their generosity makes this event possible. Thank you also to all of our local pastors, additional sponsors, and volunteers who also made this event possible. It was a wonderful morning of connection, reflection, and prayer — a true celebration of the spirit that unites Mt. Zion. I also want to extend a special thank you to the committee of Board Members that planned the event. You all did a great job!!

continued on [page 5](#)

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS IS SUPPORTING DREAMS



SHOP LOCAL TODAY...TURN DREAMS INTO REALITY

UPCOMING

NOVEMBER 12

Luncheon

12:00-1:00

Location

Mt. Zion Fletcher Park
Recreation Center

Speaker

Jarek Shafer, City of Decatur
Housing Rehabilitation
Specialist

Program

Housing Rehabilitation
Program
Member cost \$15
RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 11th

NOVEMBER 3

Chamber on the Rocks

4:30-6:30 p.m.

El Corral Mexican Restaurant

NOVEMBER 11

Veterans Day Breakfast

Antioch Christian Church
7-8 a.m.

DECEMBER 8

Last Day of Shop Local Contest

DECEMBER 10

Christmas Luncheon

Mt. Zion Convention Center
12-1 p.m.



2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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November 2025 Luncheon

The November 12, 2025, luncheon will be at the Mt. Zion Fletcher Park Recreation Center. The cost is \$15. Registration is from 11:30 - 12 noon. The luncheon buffet opens at 11:45. The luncheon starts at 12 noon.

Jarek Shafer is the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist with the City of Decatur. He will talk about the Housing Rehabilitation Program. Jarek helps coordinate and implement housing rehabilitation efforts, focusing on improving the quality, safety, and longevity of residential properties—especially for low-to-moderate income homeowners. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the City of Decatur, the Decatur Housing Authority, and federal partners like HUD.

Enjoy our speaker and the delicious food prepared by El Corral Mexican Restaurant. Bring your business cards and network. If you have any information flyers you want to put on the luncheon tables before the luncheon begins, please do so and be sure to pick up any remaining flyers at the end of the luncheon.

Please send your RSVP to mtzionchamber@gmail.com by Tuesday, November 11th or submit your reservation on our website at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/meetings>. Be sure to send me your RSVP information with all the names of those attending from your business or organization so they can be included on the Attendee List. You can pay in advance at [Event Registration - Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce \(chamberorganizer.com\)](#); or optionally, you can still be invoiced or pay at the door.



Mon., Nov. 3, 2025, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Chamber on the Rocks
El Corral Mexican Restaurant

Join us for Margarita Monday for our Chamber on the Rocks on Mon., November 3, 2025, at El Corral Mexican Restaurant, 3655 East State Route 36, Decatur, IL 62521 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Chamber on the Rocks is the perfect way to unwind and connect. It's more than just a networking event; it's where conversations spark opportunities, and every clink of a glass celebrates the spirit of our local businesses. Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of connections, conversations, and cocktails!



Member
Spotlight



The Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce loves its member businesses and wants you to learn more about them by bringing you this month's Member Spotlight – Las Margaritas in Mt. Zion. Craving authentic Mexican flavor? Head to Las Margaritas in Mt. Zion! Enjoy sizzling fajitas, mouthwatering burritos, and the best margaritas in town—all served fast and fresh. Dine in, carry out, or book your next party in our private room. Experience friendly service and a vibrant atmosphere at Las Margaritas, 1475 East Village Parkway. Call 217-864-1562. Las Margaritas—where every meal is a fiesta.



President's Message continued from page 1:

As November continues, we look forward to honoring our Veterans. Be sure to read more about the Mt. Zion Chamber Veteran's Day Breakfast, as we come together once again to celebrate those who have bravely served our country. Our Veteran's Day Breakfast is on November 11.

This month also kicks off the holiday shopping season, a vital time for our local businesses. Remember to support them during Small Business Saturday and throughout the holidays. Every purchase made close to home keeps Mt. Zion and other area businesses strong and thriving. So when you head out for gifts or a meal, think local — shop, dine, and celebrate right here in the Mt. Zion and Decatur area.

Let's continue to keep the Mt. Zion and surrounding area growing, connected, and full of pride this holiday season.

Kyle Karsten, President
Mt. Zion Chamber

MZCC \$300 Shop Local Contest!

Enter for a chance to win a \$300 gift card from a local business.



This holiday Shop Local and Gift Local from any of our member businesses from November 3, 2025 - December 8, 2025. Visit <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/MZCCevents>.

Sponsors



MT. ZION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
<https://www.mtzionchamber.org>

1400 Village Parkway, Mt. Zion, IL 62549
(217)864-2526

Thank You Sponsors & Volunteers!

13th Annual Mt. Zion Community Prayer Breakfast October 15, 2025



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsors

Churches of Mt. Zion

Antioch Christian Church | First Baptist Church of Mt. Zion | Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church | Passion Community Church

CENTRAL ILLINOIS
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Bronze Sponsors

Clean Cut Painting & Handyman | Decatur Dental Care
MCK CPAs & Advisors | Refreshment Services Pepsi



PRESENTS:



VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST



Honoring All Who Served



TUESDAY

NOV 11, 2025

07:00 AM

DOORS OPEN AT 06:45 AM

**ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
5409 E. US ROUTE 36
DECATUR, IL 62521**

Program:

Macon County Honor Guard
Mt. Zion High School Acapella Ensemble
Speaker: Jimmy Rade
Roll Call of Armed Services



RSVPs Appreciated by Nov. 7th

**WWW.MTZIONCHAMBER.ORG/EVENTS
OR CALL 217.864.2526**



COMPLIMENTARY COFFEE, WATER, BAKED
GOODS, BACON, AND EGGS
FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM



Sponsor & Participate in the 2025 Business Decorating Contest

Our Second Annual Mt. Zion Chamber Business Christmas Decoration Contest is starting this Friday, November 7, 2025. If you would like to be a \$100 sponsor, I will put your logo on all promotional communications and posts for the contest. We are offering a \$100 prize for each award category. Any business or organization in Mt. Zion or Decatur can compete.

If you want to enter the contest as well, I have attached a PDF fillable Entry Form; the entry form is available to download off our website. The contest information is attached and on our website at <https://www.mtzionchamber.org/MZCCEvents>. Entries are due by Friday, December 5, 2025.



**CHRISTMAS
DECORATING
CONTEST**

**Mt. Zion and Decatur Businesses
Enter by December 5, 2025**

Decorate your space in the most
creative and festive way possible
to show us your festive spirit!

Contest details and application form:
www.mtzionchamber.org/MZCCEvents

2026 Mt. Zion Chamber Sponsorships at a Glance

	Event & Date	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor
A	Non-Profit Appreciation January 27, 2026	\$500 Receive recognition at the event, in/on program, newsletter, Facebook page, our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership	\$250 Receive recognition at the event, in the program and newsletter, on website	\$100 Receive recognition at the event and in newsletter
B	Expo & Taste March 21, 2026	\$650 Two 8 x 8 booths electricity included Designated Gold Sponsor sat event, logo in/on: flyer, newspaper ads, MZCC newsletter, emails and social media messages, and your ad eblasted to membership and on Facebook page	\$400 One 8 x 8 booth electricity \$25 extra Designated Silver Sponsor sat event, logo in: flyer, and your ad eblasted to membership	Booth for \$250 to members
C	Awards Banquet April 23, 2026	\$1,000 One table for eight with table sign, logo on ticket, program, emails, newsletter, website, & social media, post your ad on our Facebook page & eblast ad, large logo at event	\$500 Four tickets, logo in program, emails, newsletter, website, social media, logo at event, post your ad on our Facebook page	\$250 Company name in program, logo in program, emails, newsletter, website, social media, logo at event, company name recognized at event
D	Golf Outing* August 24, 2026	\$1,000 One team of 4 golfers, large signage, co. flyer or promo item allowed in cart, 1st five get naming sponsorship for proximities	\$400 Name on signage, email & social media mentions, promo item allowed in cart, co. table/tent allowed w/mini game/drink hole	\$250 Name on signage, email & social media mentions, promo item allowed in cart
E	Mt. Zion Teacher & Staff Appreciation September 9, 2026	\$500 Receive recognition on gift bags, in newsletter, and on Facebook page	\$250 Receive recognition in newsletter and on Facebook page	\$100 Receive recognition in newsletter
F	Prayer Breakfast October 21, 2026	\$2,000* Two tables of 6 Sponsor name announced at event, program greeting, receive recognition at the event, in radio ad, logo in the program, in newsletter, on Facebook page, on our website, and your ad eblasted to the membership and on Facebook	\$1,000 One table of 6 Sponsor name announced at event, on flyers, and in the program, and your ad eblasted to the membership	\$500 4 tickets Sponsor name announced at event, in newsletter and program, and free ad in newsletter
G	Veterans Day Breakfast November 11, 2026 \$200 Breakfast Sponsor \$50 Table Sponsor			
H	Shop Local Contest Ends December 7, 2026	\$300 Logo on promotional materials, in newsletter, and on Facebook page	\$150 Logo on promotional materials and logo in newsletter	\$100 Logo on promotional materials
I	Christmas Decoration Contest** Ends December 7, 2026 \$100 Sponsor			

*More sponsorships available.

**Logo on all promos.

Updated: 11/02/2025



2026 Mt. Zion Chamber Sponsorships at a Glance Order Form

Sponsorship Packages (choose one):

- ☐ **Gold Sponsorship Package (A-E)**
- Price: \$3,650
 - Discount: -\$200
 - Total Package Cost: \$3,450
 - Note: Prayer Breakfast not included.
- ☐ **Silver Sponsorship Package (A-F)**
- Price: \$2,800
 - Discount: -\$150
 - Total Package Cost: \$2,650
- ☐ **Bronze Sponsorship Package (A-F)**
- Price: \$1,450
 - Discount: -\$100
 - Total Package Cost: \$1,350
 - Note: Includes an Expo booth.

Additional Options

- ☐ **Expo Booth \$250**
- ☐ **Christmas Decoration \$100**
- ☐ **Veterans Day Breakfast:**
- ☐ \$200 Veterans Day Breakfast Sponsor
 - ☐ Table Sponsor: \$50/table. Quantity: _____
- ☐ **Shop Local Contest:**
- ☐ \$300
 - ☐ \$150
 - ☐ \$100

TOTAL: _____

Business or Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Due by 02/27/2026 to mtzionilchamber@gmail.com or Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 84, Mt. Zion, IL 62549

Updated: 11/02/2025

Price went down \$300 per person. Call 217.864.4666 for price by November 27, 2025.

Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce presents...

Spotlight on New York City

June 4 – 8, 2026



HIGHLIGHTS... Greenwich Village, Wall Street, Two Broadway Shows, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 9/11 Memorial, 9/11 Museum



For more information contact

Linda Roberts

Best Trips Ever

(217) 864-4666

lindarobertsbest@comcast.net





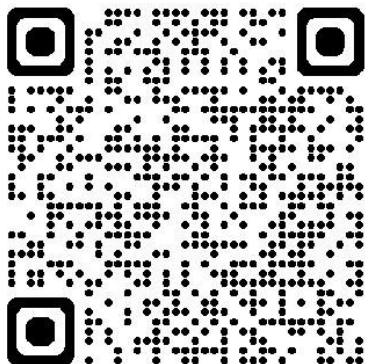
5 Days • 5 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Greenwich Village, Wall Street, Two Broadway Shows, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 9/11 Memorial, 9/11 Museum

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Days 1 – 4 Sheraton New York Times Square, New York, New York

On some dates alternate hotels may be used.



Day 1: Thursday, June 4, 2026 New York City, New York “Start spreading the news,” because today you arrive in America’s most exciting metropolis for a getaway filled with shopping, sightseeing and endless entertainment. Relax as you enjoy a single-hotel stay in the heart of the city. There are no included activities today.

Day 2: Friday, June 5, 2026 New York City An exciting day begins with breakfast at a local eatery, before embracing the city’s energy on a locally guided tour of the “Big Apple.” Find yourself in Central Park, on Fifth Avenue, in Greenwich Village and Chinatown. See St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Rockefeller Center and many other time-honored landmarks. Take advantage of some free time this afternoon to discover the city at your own pace. Your Tour Manager has countless suggestions on how to spend your time. Maybe you are up for a shopping spree at some of the world’s most legendary department stores, including Macy’s, Bloomingdale’s and Saks Fifth Avenue. Later, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Then, take your seat at a Broadway show! (B, D)

Day 3: Saturday, June 6, 2026 New York City Enjoy breakfast at a local diner, then, board a ferry for a cruise of New York Harbor. Take in the incredible views of the towering Statue of Liberty. Dock and get up-close to “Lady Liberty.” She has welcomed immigrants and visitors to New York Harbor since 1886. Created as a token of friendship between the U.S. and France, the Statue of Liberty has become a global symbol of freedom. Then it’s on to Ellis Island. Step back in time on a self-guided tour of the museum. Come to know the personal stories of the immigration boom of 1892-1924 when 12 million people passed through this station on their journey to America. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore “the city that never sleeps.” Tonight, choose to join an optional walking tour of Greenwich Village including dinner. (B)

Day 4: Sunday, June 7, 2026 New York City This morning, drive through the Wall Street district on your way downtown, reflect at the 9/11 Memorial and take a self-guided tour at the 9/11 Museum - two poignant tributes to the lives lost. This afternoon, the curtains rise for your second Broadway show. You’ll choose from a selection of Broadway’s biggest hits.* Say farewell to this extraordinary city tonight as we gather for your final taste of New York with dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 5: Monday, June 8, 2026 New York City - Tour Ends Your tour comes to a close with many pleasant memories of your exciting tour of fabulous “New York, New York.”



www.MCKCPA.com

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**THE CONTEMPORARY AMERICA HISTORY SENIOR CLASS
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**



VETERANS DAY

A S S E M B L Y

MONDAY NOVEMBER 10TH, 2025



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**MOUNT ZION HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
9:00 AM**

305 S. Henderson Street Mt. Zion IL 62549

**PLEASE RSVP WITH THE HIGH SCHOOL OFFICE AT 217-864-2363 OR EMAIL
HANSNR@MTZSCHOOLS.ORG**



**PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE SCHOOL
PLEASE ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 8:45 AM**

