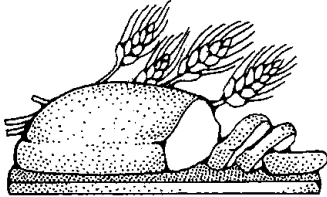


Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.”



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion

September 1, 2024

For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.

Prelude – Bell

The Season after Pentecost, also called Ordinary Time, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. It may include twenty–three to twenty–eight Sundays, depending on the date of Easter, but the first Sunday is always Trinity Sunday, and the last Sunday is always the Sunday of the Reign of Christ or Christ the King. The season also includes All Saints and Thanksgiving.

Gathering

P- Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True human uncleanness comes not from external things but from intentions of the human heart.

C- Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

P- Last week Jesus told us, “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born at the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

C- Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Gathering Hymn – Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee ELW 836

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Confession and Forgiveness

As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.

P- Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C- Amen

P- Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Gracious God,

C- have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

In our desire to be first

we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and their suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,

**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen**

P- God promised to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

C- Amen

P- The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C- And also with you!

P- Please share the peace of the Lord safely with each other.
Please be seated.

Children's Time: Washing the heart

Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Lector – The Israelites believed the law was the divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's.

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and

discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!' For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 15 - *Read responsively.*

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,

and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue,

and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised,

but who honor those who fear the LORD;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest,

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

James 1:17-27

Lector – *The Letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- O God of strength,

C- without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.

Gospel – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

P- Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words and deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." The Gospel of the Lord.

C- Praise to you, O Lord! *Please be seated.*

Message – Washing the heart

Offering Hymn – Come Let Us Eat ELW 491

1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.

2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

3 In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.

4 Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

P- Blessed are you, O God,

C- source of ever gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

help us serve one another and all in need,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy” please respond with “**hear our prayer!**”*

Words of Institution - Song of Consecration

Please join in singing the final verse in bold print.

The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.
He broke it as he blest it, and then he said,
“My body broken for you...is what this means;
remember now my children what you have seen!”

And then he took the chalice and raised it high,
“My blood is given for you, a full supply...
a covenant, a promise...a cleansing stream;
remember now my children what you have seen!”

**We share this food together, remem’bring Christ:
we share a common treasure and know the price;
we share it without measure...a gift of love;
we share our life forever, with God above!**

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John Ylvisaker c/o Fern M. Krueger, P.O. Box 321, Waverly, Iowa 50677

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P- Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

The ELCA and Zion Lutheran Church practices open communion. If you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are welcome to come forward and partake in the bread and wine of communion. Please fill out a communion card in the pew rack. Please hand your communion card to the usher when you come forward.

Communion Hymn – Around You, O Lord Jesus ELW 468

1 Around you, O Lord Jesus,
your own you gather still
to share the feast you give
us with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
“Take, eat! This is my body!
Take, drink! This is my blood!”

2 We hear your invitation,
and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation
is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing,
which never will depart.

3 We are your own forever;
until our final breath
we will be true and never
in joy, in grief, in death
depart from you,
for you are still among your people
dwelling, as you have said you will.

Post Communion Prayer

P- Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table,
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,

through Christ our Lord.

C- Amen.

Announcements in the Life of Our Church

Blessing & Dismissal

As you are able, please stand.

P- God all mighty,
God most merciful,
+ bless you and keep,
and give you peace.

C-Amen.

P- Go in peace. Follow Jesus!

C- Thanks be to God! ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become!

Sending Hymn – Blest Be the Tie That Binds ELW 656

1 Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.

2 Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

3 We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

4 From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494
jkgil1979@yahoo.com
Karen's number – 402-661-9362
Email -jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out Today - the last 9 am Service

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes.....Colt Rinne
Alexis Folkerts
Lector.....Mickey Larkins
Greeters.....The Council
Coffee Fellowship by.....Joy Circle & Volunteers

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Service 87 Giving \$ 6866.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

9:00 Worship/Communion/Fellowship by the Joy Circle & Volunteers

Monday

Labor Day

Wednesday

6 pm Confirmation

7 pm Committee meetings

7:30 pm Council meeting

Next Sunday – RALLY DAY – 10 am worship – offering goes to the Endowment Fund

8:45 Sunday School

9 am BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom & Amigos/Fellowship by Hospitality

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes.....Karlee Riha

Millie Garton

Lector.....Carrie Reed

Special Music.....Kids of the Kingdom & Amigos

Greeters.....Paul & Jenny Busboom

Mark & Christy Buhr

Coffee Fellowship by.....Hospitality Committee

Breakfast Club.....Rhonda Dorn

September Altar Guild: Kelly Lenners, Christy Buhr, Karla Holland, Rhonda Dorn, Lynette Dorn, Doreen Busboom

September Table Troop: John Gronewold (leader), Paul & Shellie Remmers, Les & Mert Rademacher, Robert & Linda Ideus, Don Schuster

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! A Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the unity room or place it in the offering plate. We are so glad you are here!

HANDICAP PARKING - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

IF INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A WEEKLY BULLETIN you may do so by contacting the Church secretary and making a check out to Zion Church for \$75.00.

Lost & Found

There are 2 jackets hanging on the coat rack in the Fellowship Hall. Please check them out to see if one of them is yours! There is a black leather one and a child's sweatshirt from VBS.

Special offerings in September

September 8th Rally Day offering will be designated for the Zion Endowment Fund. Back to the 10 am Worship Service

September 29th Mission Sunday will be designated for Camp Carol Joy Holling.

Rally Day September 8th – God's Work Our Hands we will be assembling the school kits after worship. Second graders will receive their Bibles. All of the Sunday School will sing for worships special music.

HELP WANTED – EVERYONE WELCOME!

Next Sunday, Rally Sunday LWR SCHOOL KITS will be assembled immediately AFTER the worship service. Guides will assist you on the assembly line. Our goal is 150 kits to celebrate our 150th anniversary! Thanks to all who donated. Special thanks to Linda Blackwell for writing a \$250 Thrivent grant to support this project!



Attention Breakfast Club sign up!

There will be a sign-up clip board on the Welcome Center for the Breakfast Club – help feed our hungry high school students on Sunday Mornings.

Good Neighbor & New Member Recognition Sunday, October 6, 2024.

We invite our church family to INVITE their neighbors & friends to worship that day. INVITE & BRING these special people with you! We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion and remember that as a church of the ELCA, we practice OPEN communion. OPEN communion comes with the invitation that all who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior as WELCOME to partake in the bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will also be recognizing Zion's past year's new members this Sunday so come and make your presence felt!

If you are interested in joining Zion, please let Pastor Jer or the Church office know.

LWR BLANKET SEWING DAYS! Starting up again in September!

LWR Blanket Assembly: The blankets made for Lutheran World Relief go all over the world and some stay locally (CASA, Table Grace & people in need). No sewing ability or experience is necessary. If you can use a stick pin, tie knots, iron, make coffee - you can help, or just come for fellowship. We will meet in the Parish Hall basement - 9 am to 3 pm (bring a lunch). You can also volunteer to make a top or tie a blanket outside of these days. **If you have questions, please contact Denise Schlake-Ideus at (402) 806-2236 or Karen Gilbreath (402) 661-9362.**



The days for September will be September 9th & 10th and 23rd & 24th.

We replaced the front double doors of the schoolhouse with a single, large door. If anyone is interested, please feel free to take them. They are along the south side of the schoolhouse.

We would like to thank Alan Folkerts for removing and installing the doors. **If they are still there on Sept. 1st, we will dispose of them.** Thanks, Property Committee.

Save the dates - October 26th & 27th for the next celebration.

Saturday features a program by Sue McLain “150 years of Fashion”. The program by Sue is funded by – Humanities Nebraska.



Sunday features Pastor Casey Lieneman assisting in the worship service with a lunch to follow

Ways for you to help ...

- Offer to share vintage clothing for display for our Saturday event
- Contribute to our third Silent Auction occurring Sept 8- Oct 20th with proceeds going to the anniversary fund. More details to come. Contact anyone on the anniversary committee if interested.

Thank you to Elnora Lenners, Mary Lenners and Connie Thornburg for the delicious food dropped off this week, Denise Schlake-Ideus for flowers, garden veggies & desserts and all the people checking in on the both of us. Pastor Jer and Karen

Gold Crest - Mildred Meints, Janice Jurgens, Doreen Wallman

Homestead House - Evelyn Meints, Anora Schoen

Our Homes Assisted Living – Randy Oltman

Good Samaritan – Arnold Buhr

Wilbur Care Center – Ernie Jurgens