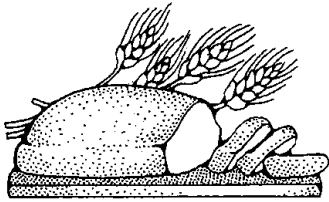


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

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



**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 25, 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-** In today’s gospel many people take offense at Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus’ disciples peel off. We pray that we may bold ambassadors of the gospel.

**C-** **Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

P- This is the backdrop of Peter's words, "to whom shall we go?" And the great response of faithful confession, "You have the words of eternal life." We pray that we may bold ambassadors of the gospel.

**C- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**

### **Gathering Hymn – Blessed Assurance ELW 638**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

#### **Refrain:**

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **[Refrain]**

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **[Refrain]**

## **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,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy.

**C- Amen**

P- Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,  
let us confess our sin.

***Silence is kept for reflection.***

P- God, our provider,

**C- help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways  
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding  
rather than in trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life  
and feed us for life in this world.**

P- Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, + the bread of life,  
you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**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: Dodging the Arrows**

Those fiery arrows might sound scary but remember God has given each one of us a shield of faith.

## **Readings**

### **Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

Lector – *In the Near East, **covenant** means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship, Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.”

“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve,

whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.” Here ends this reading.

Psalm 34:15-22, Praise for Deliverance from Trouble

*Read responsively.*

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
**and his ears are open to their cry.**

The face of the LORD is against evildoers,  
**to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,  
**and rescues them from all their troubles.**

The LORD is near to the broken-hearted,  
**and saves the crushed in spirit.**

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
**but the LORD rescues them from them all.**

He keeps all their bones;  
**not one of them will be broken.**

Evil brings death to the wicked,  
**and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.**

The LORD redeems the life of his servants;  
**none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

## **Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Lector – Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit. Paul writes to the church in Ephesus.*

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. Here ends this reading.

## **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Holy God,

**your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.**

### **Gospel – John 6:56-69**

P- The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to the old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?” To the people and his disciples, Jesus said:

“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So, Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’” The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Special Music – Les Lieneman**

**Message – Playing Dodgeball** - Playing dodgeball against the enemies of flesh and blood is like dodging fiery arrows, some of the best dodgeball quotes come from the movie **Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story** and here are two from the Irish American dodgeball legend Patches O’Houlihan:

***“If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball.”***

***“Remember the 5D’s of dodgeball:  
Dodge, duck, dip, dive and dodge.”***



## Offering Hymn – All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! ELW 634

1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem  
and crown him Lord of all.

2 O seed of Israel's chosen race  
now ransomed from the fall,  
hail him who saves you by his grace  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace  
and crown him Lord of all.

3 Hail him, you heirs of David's line,  
whom David Lord did call --  
the God incarnate, man divine --  
and crown him Lord of all.  
The God incarnate, man divine --  
and crown him Lord of all.

4 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
the wormwood and the gall,  
go spread your trophies at his feet  
and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your trophies at his feet  
and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe  
on this terrestrial ball  
to him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe  
and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.

### **Offering Prayer**

*As you are able, please stand.*

**P-** Blessed are you, Holy One,

**C-** for all good things come from you.

**In the bread and cup you open heaven to us.**

**Meet us at this table,**

**that we receive what we seek,**

**and follow your Son, Jesus,**

**in whose name we pray. Amen**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,**

suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

### **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.**

## **Announcements in the Life of Our Church**

### **Blessing & Dismissal**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- God who names,  
Christ who claims you,  
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,  
+ bless you and remain with you always.

**C-Amen.**

P- Go in peace. You are God's beloved!

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

### **Sending Hymn – O God of Love, O King of Peace ELW 749**

1 O God of love, O King of peace,  
make wars throughout the world to cease;  
our greed and sinful wrath restrain.  
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

2 Remember, Lord, your works of old,  
the wonders that our elders told;  
remember not our sins' deep stain.  
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord?  
Where rest but on your faithful word?  
None ever called on you in vain.  
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

4 Where saints and angels dwell above  
all hearts are knit in holy love;  
oh, bind us in that heav'nly chain.  
Give peace, O God, give peace again.

**Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494**

**[jkgil1979@yahoo.com](mailto:jkgil1979@yahoo.com)**

**Karen's number – 402-661-9362**

**Email [-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com](mailto:-jpzionlutheran@yahoo.com)**

### **Helping out Today**

**Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath**  
**Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek**  
**Acolytes.....McCoy Peters**  
**Brogan Ideus**  
**Lector.....Mary Lenners**  
**Special Music.....Les Lieneman**  
**Greeters.....Stan & Mary Lenners**  
**Eddie & Lynette Dorn**  
**Coffee Fellowship by.....Joy Circle & Volunteers**

**Vital Statistics for Last Sunday**

**Sunday Service 105      Giving \$ 2,302.00**

**THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION**

**Today**

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

**Wednesday**

6 pm Confirmation orientation for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders and parents

**Thursday**

Ladies Aid

**Next Sunday**

9 am Worship/Communion/Fellowship by Joy Circle & Volunteers

**Helping out Next Sunday- 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**

**August Altar Guild:** Marcella Rademacher, Susan Newman, Carol Young, Sandy Meints

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

**August Table Troop:** Duane Zulauf, Stan & Mary Lenner, Al Wiese, Doug Parde, Jeff Busboom, Steve Gronewold, Mark Buhr, Alex Buhr.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> Rally Day** offering will be designated for the Zion Endowment. **Bach to the 10 am Worship Service**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> Mission Sunday** will be designated for Camp Carol Joy Holling.

**Rally Day September 8<sup>th</sup> – 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.

**Update on school kits!** Just in need of notebooks! All other supplies we have met our goal! Any questions please contact Connie Thornburg.





## **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.

## **Wednesday August 28th– 6-7 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Student & Parent Confirmation Orientation meeting followed by acolyte training.**

This is a time when we discuss the year ahead of us. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes and parents/guardians will meet at the fellowship hall from 6 to 7 pm. For the 8<sup>th</sup> grade families, we look at the year ahead and plan for Confirmation Sunday, April 27, 2025.

## **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 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> for the next celebration.**

**Saturday features** a program by Sue McLain “150 years of Fashion”

**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 Connie Thornburg for bringing flowers from Denise Ideus garden along with cheese cakes from sister Carol Keller, Mary & Stan for lunch and moving our recliner for us, Mert for peaches and grilled hamburgers, Janet Harms for tomatoes and cucumbers, Diane Oltman for her meatballs and American Lutheran Shake & Bake Church Chicks for a meal. And all you others that have checked in by text message or calls.

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