

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.”



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

RALLY DAY

September 8, 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

“God’s Work, Our Hands, Every day!”

is a way for us to be the church together. On this day we bear witness to the love and concern God’s people have for one another.

Our congregations do this work every day—loving their neighbors and improving their communities. These acts of service allow us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions:

All of life in Jesus Christ—every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life—flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

Gathering

P- James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than a poor one.

C- God, we pray open our hands in love.

P- Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman in today's gospel.

C- God, we pray open our hands in love.

P- Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children?

C- God, we pray open our hands in love.

P- Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him surprise by her reply?

C- God, we pray open our hands in love.

P- Either way, the story tells that God shows no partiality.

C- God, we pray open our hands in love.

P- Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

C- God, we pray open our hands in love.

Gathering Hymn – This Little Light of Mine ELW 677

1 This little light of mine,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
this little light of mine,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go,
I'm goina'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me,
I'm goin'a let it shine;
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

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 the 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.

Special Music: Kids of the Kingdom & Amigos

Children's Time: Faithful Acts

**Bible presentation – Second Grade Sunday School receive
their Bibles**

Aiden Schlake

Beau Gronewold

Beckett Bayless

Carson Behrends

Chesleigh Ideus

Connor Jensen

Everett Meints

Hudson Schlake

Lincoln Eickhoff

Logan Hippen

Madison Detert

Shane Parde

Readings

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Lector – *These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.*

All the host of heaven shall rot away,
and the skies roll up like a scroll.

All their host shall wither
like a leaf withering on a vine,
or fruit withering on a fig tree.

When my sword has drunk its fill in the heavens,
lo, it will descend upon Edom,
upon the people I have doomed to judgement.

The LORD has a sword; it is sated with blood,
it is gorged with fat,
with the blood of lambs and goats,
with the fat of the kidneys of rams.

For the LORD has a sacrifice in Bozrah,
a great slaughter in the land of Edom.

Wild oxen shall fall with them,
and young steers with the mighty bulls.

Their land shall be soaked with blood,
and their soil made rich with fat. Here ends this reading.

Psalm 146, Praise for God's Help - *Read responsively.*

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

James 2:1-17

Lector – Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please", while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there", or, "Sit at my feet", have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. Here ends this reading.

Prayer of the Day

As you are able, please stand.

P- Gracious God,

C- throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, amen.

Gospel – Mark 7:24-37

P- In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha", that

is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Message – Calling Out Jesus

Offering Hymn – Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

Refrain:

Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. **[Refrain]**

2 In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. **[Refrain]**

3 Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. **[Refrain]**

4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. **[Refrain]**

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**

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 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 – Jesus Loves Me! ELW 595

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain:

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. **[Refrain]**

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. **[Refrain]**

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

jkgil1979@yahoo.com

Karen's number – 402-661-9362

Email -jpszionlutheran@yahoo.com

Helping out Today

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath

Organist.....Shirley Gronewold

Acolytes.....Karlee Riha

Millie Garton

Lector.....Marcia Busboom

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

Greeters.....John & Marcia Busboom

Mark & Christy Buhr

Coffee Fellowship by.....Hospitality Committee

Breakfast Club.....Rhonda Dorn

Vital Statistics for Last Sunday

Sunday Service 123 Giving \$ 2520.00

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF ZION

Today

8:45 Sunday School

9 am BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom & Amigos/Second grade receive their Bibles/Fellowship by Hospitality/Assemble school kits

Monday

9 am – 3 pm Blanket sewing LWR

7 pm Men's Choir

Tuesday

9 am blanket sewing

Wednesday

6 pm Confirmation

7 pm WELCA General Meeting

Thursday

4:30 pm Freeman Triangular – Fillmore Central & Wilber-Clatonia

Next Sunday

8:45 Sunday School

9 am **NO** BKF Club/Adult SS

10 am Worship/Communion

Helping out Next Sunday

Pastor.....Jerry Gilbreath
Organist.....Alnora Daubendiek
Acolytes.....Colt Rinne
Pastor Jer
Lector.....Dorothy Trauernicht
Special Music.....
Greeters.....Dorothy Trauernicht
Gary & Annette Wiese
Breakfast Club.....No Breakfast Club

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.

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Donny & Elnora Lenners in honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary. Blessings on your anniversary!

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

Today - 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 Today! – God’s Work Our Hands we will be assembling the school kits after worship please plan to stay and help. Many hands make light work! **The Second graders will receive their Bibles today.**

HELP WANTED TODAY!!! – EVERYONE WELCOME!

Today! 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!

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.**

SAVE THE DATES: October 26 & 27th

Final 150th Anniversary celebration

SATURDAY- Oct 26th starts at 9:30 featuring a program by Sue McLain “150 Years of Fashion”. In addition, we will have items displayed from Zion’s history. A light lunch will be served so we are asking those planning to attend to sign up on a clipboard located at the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall.

The program by Sue is funded by Humanities Nebraska. Contact Denise Schlake Ideus (402) 806-2236 if you have fashion items for display.



SUNDAY -Oct 27th features Pastor Casey Lieneman assisting in the worship with a soup luncheon to follow the service.

SILENT AUCTION for 150th ANNIVERSARY begins today and ends October 20th.

Thanks to all contributing. All proceeds go to the anniversary fund for future projects connected to the Heritage Room in the German School House. Check it out if you haven't already!

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



Copies of the Expression are on the Welcome Center

Fall Bible Study begins the evening of Tuesday October 15th.

Blessed are the CHOSEN – Season 2

The Chosen -Season 2 Bible Study beginning Oct 14th at 6:30 pm. ALL are welcome! Each person will purchase the study book on their own. If interested contact Stephanie Wallman (402) 673-4035 or Connie Thornburg (402) 673-3605.

Thank you to the Kids of the Kingdom and the Amigos today for their special music!

Thank you to Dorothy Trauernicht for the visit and the delicious meal you dropped off this past week and to Denise Schlake Ideus for the beautiful flowers. Pastor Jer and Karen

Thank you was received from St Monica's in Lincoln

On behalf of St Monica's, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous contribution to our organization. Your support means so much to us and has a significant impact on our mission of empowering women to achieve life changing recovery through proven treatment and critical support services.

C. Leigh Hallbusch
Director of Development

Thank you to the Grace Circle, Joy Circle and all the Volunteers that served coffee fellowship this summer. It is always so nice to have great fellowship following worship.

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