



Immediately Jesus spoke
to them and said,
"Take heart, it is I;
do not be afraid."
~ Matthew 14:27

Sunday, August 9, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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HOLY COMMUNION

Setting Four

*Regular font: Worship Leader; **Bold font: Congregation***

Prelude

WELCOME

GATHERING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

ELW 638

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of living waters you save us from the flood of violence and despair: reach out to us when faith is weak, when we are going under and make us unafraid to walk with you; through Jesus Christ, in whom we are raised. **Amen.**

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 85:8-13 (*spoken responsively*)

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD¹ God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn
their¹ hearts to you.

⁹ **Truly, your salvation is very near to¹ those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell¹ in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have¹ met together;
righteousness and peace have¹ kissed each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness shall spring up¹ from the earth,
and righteousness shall look¹ down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed¹ grant prosperity,
and our land will¹ yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go be-¹ fore the LORD
and shall prepare for¹ God a pathway.**

SECOND READING:

Romans 10:5-15

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 14:22-33

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while he dismissed the crowds.

²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY "My Life Flows On in Endless Song"

ELW 763

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the servants of your gospel in every place, that your word may be heard. Where your voice is scorned and your people persecuted, strengthen the church in its faithful witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this world you have created, that all life may flourish. Preserve biodiversity in all its variety and help ecosystems to survive the extremes of a changing climate. Move our hearts with compassion to join in this work. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For leaders of towns, states, nations, and organizations, and all who are in positions of authority, that they lead with justice and integrity. Teach us to respond with Christlike mercy to all who are afraid or in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who struggle amid the storms of life, that they find peace and hope in your loving presence. Comfort any who are lonely and grieving and all who suffer (especially). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation and its ministries, that they reflect your love and life amid a turbulent world. Guide council members, elders, and other church leaders with your still, calm voice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful who have gone before us. Guide us in our earthly journey, that we may one day join them in your eternal kingdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

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MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life.

You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and famine of death.

Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the son of your praise:

(spoken)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please kneel or sit

We ask that you Holy Spirit will fall upon us and upon these gifts that these fragile, earthly things may be to us the body and blood of our

lord and brother, Jesus Christ; who, on the night that he was betrayed, gathered with his faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. Calling them to his table, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said; 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.' In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying: 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me.' As on that night, so here and now he offers himself in touch and taste beyond all words can hold.

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in our eating and drinking we are filled with the life-giving presence of Christ; we proclaim him as creation's host, transforming poverty into plenty in the reckless generosity of love.

Inspire us with the hope that one day death and greed will be no more and people without number will come from east and west, north and south to share the kingdom meal. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom and in whom in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory be yours, Mother of blessings, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

DISTRIBUTION

Please kneel or sit

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

ELW 471

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

ELW 769

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,

may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, + one God,
bless, heal, and hold you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN “My Lord, What a Morning” **ELW 438**

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Prayer List

For Health:	Jessica A	Michael G	For Safety:
Joyce G	Charlotte D	Barbara S	Andrew C
Cathy L	Jonathan A	Don R	Todd S
Marion B	Curt R	Fred B	Michael C
Lily V	Joan A	Bill B	Tyler G
Holly N	Dick C	Roselies K	Erik B
Lisa A	Karen R	Alexis S	Justin Earl B
Dylan G	Pat J	Justin Z	Evan G
Aiden J	Alexis R	Tom Z	David P
Helen A	Malynda A	Marjorie T	
Matthew A	Annamaria T		
Bud J	Lee T		

Coffee



Thank you to Michelle and Dave
Schneider for organizing and hosting
coffee hour today.

SERVING TODAY

Donna Cote - Lector

Peter Willse - Worship Assistant

Rick Borg, Donna Berndtson - Ushers/Greeters

Marie DeGraff - Altar Guild

Stephanie Parsons - Pianist

Let Faith and Freedom Ring!

To create a tolling schedule for the bell, the Bell Committee looked to the Lutheran Guidelines. "Church Bells are used primarily to call people to worship and to announce the beginning of a service. The bells also ring out to express joy, to announce death, to invite people to pray, and to encourage the absent to join in the prayers of the church." The following customs have developed over time:

- One-half hour before and one-quarter hour before each service to call the faithful to worship
- At the hour of each service to announce the immediate beginning of worship
- On weekdays at early morning, noon, and evening to remind the community of the responsibility for daily prayer
- A tolling of the bell three times represents the Holy Trinity
- Additional guidelines are available for marriages, funerals and Easter
- A past custom at Zion for funerals was to toll the bell for each year that the person lived with us on this earth

Using the above guidelines and its discretion, the Bell Committee implemented the following regular schedule:

- Sunday: 8:45 am (seven times) and 8:59am (seven tolls, a pause, then three tolls)
- Sunday: noon, 3pm and 6pm (three tolls, a pause, then seven tolls)
- Monday - Saturday: 9am, noon, 3pm and 6pm (three tolls, a pause, then seven tolls)

**25th Anniversary of September 11th
A Community Memorial Gathering
1st Congregational Church, 554 Main St. Portland
Friday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

Join us and members of our community as we come together to honor the lives lost, remember the courage shown and pray for peace, healing and hope.

Let us stand together with music, readings, speakers, prayer and hope.



The Worship & Music Committee is collecting snack donations for the summer months (while school is out) to be donated to the Food Bank. We will be collecting **June, July and August.**

VOCAL CHORDS SEEK NEW MEMBERS

The MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL VOCAL CHORDS (MHVC), directed by Samuel Tucker and accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra, are searching for enthusiastic men and women to join our chorus. We are especially interested in expanding alto, tenor and bass sections. No auditions or prior experience are required—just a genuine passion for singing and a commitment to becoming part of the Vocal Chord family. Rehearsals start on Tuesday, August 25th, from 6:45 to 9:00 PM at St. Francis Church's Msgr. Fox Parish Hall, 10 Elm St., Middletown, CT, as we prepare for our holiday concert on Sunday, December 6th, 2:00 pm at Portland High School. New members may join until September 8th. For 36 years, this community-focused group has delighted audiences with energetic concerts featuring a wide range of musical styles. Their repertoire includes hits from past and present, along with classical and patriotic selections, all supporting our mission to relieve stress, lift spirits and heal souls with music. Our current members come from central and southern Connecticut and represent diverse backgrounds. What unites us is our shared love for singing. You do not need any affiliation with Middlesex Health to become a member. For more information: vocalchords20.org or call Diane at (860) 347-2787.

Today: August 9, 2026

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday: 6:00 p.m. N/A

Friday: 7:00 p.m. N/A

Next Sunday:



August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67;
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Attendance: Last week - 52; Last year - 32

MISSION STATEMENT

As members of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, we exist to honor and proclaim the life of Jesus Christ through our words, actions and deeds.

VISION STATEMENT

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be a prominent magnet in the community to draw people to a new life in Jesus Christ.

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