



**Sunday, September 13, 2026**  
*Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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## HOLY COMMUNION

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

### GATHERING

*Prelude:*

#### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.  
**Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,  
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.**

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love  
to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through + Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**GATHERING HYMN**      “Jesus Loves Me”      **ELW 595**

#### 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

God, of debts forgiven, you call to account our hunger for power; you disturb hierarchies which crush the weak: break the vicious cycles of revenge and domination that we might look to him whose mercy never ends, Jesus Christ our redeemer. **Amen.**

## WORD

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING

#### Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup> Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup> 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup> So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 103:8-13

<sup>8</sup> **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**  
<sup>9</sup> you will not al- | ways accuse us,  
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.  
<sup>10</sup> **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**  
<sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.  
<sup>12</sup> **As far as the east is | from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**  
<sup>13</sup> As a father has compassion | for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

**GOSPEL READING                      Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup> When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, <sup>25</sup> and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup> So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’

<sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup> But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup> Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup> But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup> Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup> Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

<sup>34</sup> And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup> So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**STORY**                      “Desmond and the Very Mean Word”

*by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams*

*Told by Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*

*One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.*

*Please stand*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “Goodness Is Stronger than Evil” (2 times)  
**ELW 721**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Reminded of God’s gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

*A brief silence.*

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders (like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today) to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need (especially). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember (name/s, and) all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

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## **MEAL**

*Please be seated*

### **OFFERING**

*Please Stand*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of creation,  
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.  
All blessings are from you;  
make us generous with what we have.  
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts  
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,  
today and always. **Amen.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*Please kneel or sit*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

"I Come with Joy"

**ELW 482**

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

**ELW 359**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup,  
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.  
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.  
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,  
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of grace  
+ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** "This Little Light of Mine" **ELW 677**

**DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude:*

**SERVING TODAY**

Howard Swanson - Lector  
Michelle Schneider - Worship Assistant  
Donna Berndtson - Ushers/Greeters  
Donna Marlow - Altar Guild  
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



**Today!**

**Rally Day** this year is **Today, September 13th**,  
The first Sunday School classes start next  
week later on September 20th.

## Prayer List

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



The **Word in Season Daily Devotions for October, November and December** are available in the Narthex and the Grey Box outside.



Thank you to Donna Marlow for organizing and hosting coffee hour today.



Please attend the Zion Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church Potluck Location Lunch!!  
It will be held at  
**ZLC on Saturday**  
**October 3rd from noon to 3pm.**

There will be activities for the kids and adults.  
Please bring a dish to share. Snacks, main dish, side dish, or dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex.  
Looking forward to seeing you!!

Life Line Screening will be at Zion on Sept 29th.

Special screening package for  
\$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!  
**800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



**RaiseRight**

#### RaiseRight Gift Cards

Place your order today to get RaiseRight (formerly Scrip) cards! You pay face value for the cards, but Zion receives a percentage of the amount of the card. It's a win-win! See Rick Borg for details.



#### Please Recycle Ink and Toner Cartridges Here.

There is a container to leave your used ink and toner cartridges for us to recycle.



Make sure to use a **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Card** whenever you donate to Goodwill. See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

Council Members: President - Kathy Richards, Vice President - Paula Brown, Secretary - Barbara Helming, Financial Secretary - Rick Borg, Other Members - Beth Keser, Bob Redman, Peter Willse, Christine Kelsey, Kate Schneider

**Today: September 13, 2026**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**Rally Day**

**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:**



**September 20, 2026**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:00 a.m.** Worship/Communion

**10:15 a.m.** Sunday School

**11:30 a.m.** True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: Jonah 3:10—4:11; Psalm 145:1-8;  
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Attendance: Last week - 53; Last year - 46

**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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