



Sunday, September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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HOLY COMMUNION

Setting Two

*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.

GATHERING HYMN “Open Now the Gates of Beauty”

ELW 533

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.

KYRIE

pg. 120

GLORY TO GOD

pg. 121

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why

will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.
² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**
⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all | the day long.
⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**
⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake
of your good- | ness, O LORD.
⁸ **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
⁹ You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

pg. 124

GOSPEL READING Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²³ When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’” ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of

the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan

One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY “O God, My Faithful God” **ELW 806**

APOSTLES’ CREED

pg. 127

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need (especially). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. 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

pg. 128

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

pg. 129

It is indeed right...

SANCTUS

pg. 130

Please kneel or sit

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

pg. 134

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

DISTRIBUTION

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 135

COMMUNION HYMNS

"We Are Called"

ELW 720

"We Walk By Faith"

ELW 635

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING

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 “Sent Forth By God's Blessing” **ELW 547**

DISMISSAL

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

Postlude:

SERVING TODAY

Sylvia LeShane - Lector
Kathy Richards - Worship Assistant
Donna Berndtson - Ushers/Greeters
Donna Marlow - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

Prayer List

For Health:	Jonathan A	Bill B	For Safety:
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.



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

If someone you meet today needs clothing, and that someone has no money, where will you send them?

Good question. When ten people are asked, five say they don't know, another five think that maybe one church or another has a clothing closet. In our community there needs to be an answer to that question that serves the interests of the whole community and **that EVERYONE knows about.**

This is why the **Goodwill Good Neighbor Donation Cards** are so important.

It's very simple - you fill out the card with your name and date and give it to the Goodwill employee along with your donations of **textiles, shoes and clothing** (these are the only items credit is given for). Goodwill and St. Vincent De Paul does the rest.

Each month Goodwill supplies vouchers to St. Vincent De Paul based on the weight of donated clothing. The vouchers are given to people in need who can use them at Goodwill to purchase (free) clothing. Persons/families needing clothing will be treated to a dignified retail shopping experience in which they make their own selections.

Community clothing closets will no longer have to maintain staff for guest hours, receiving, sorting, cleaning and storage of clothing.

NO CASH CHANGES HANDS. Clothing is managed by a successful and professional non-profit organization (Goodwill). Vouchers can be used to purchase clothing or small household items.

FOR THIS PROGRAM TO WORK, agencies, members of the faith community, individuals and businesses must actively promote the donation of clothing, shoes and textiles to Goodwill **USING A SPECIFIC DONATION CARD** which identifies SVDM as the beneficiary agency of record (cards now available!).

See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.

Today: September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

10:30 a.m. The Chosen

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

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

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

Saturday: **Noon - 3:00 p.m.** Potluck

Next Sunday:



October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion

Baptism - Mullen

10:15 a.m. Sunday School

11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

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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