

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan
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HOLY COMMUNION
Setting Two

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

GATHERING

Prelude:

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (vs. 1-2)
ELW 504

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.

BAPTISM **pg. 227-231**

BAPTISMAL HYMN "Children of the Heavenly Father" (vs. 1-4)
ELW 781

PRAYER OF THE DAY
O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING **Jeremiah 31:31-34**
31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32 It will not
be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took
them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant
that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this
is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those
days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it
on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know
the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the
greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember
their sin no more.

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

PSALM 46

[1] God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
[2] **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,**
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;
[3] though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.
[4] **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,**
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
[5] God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.
[6] **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.
[7] The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
[8] **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;
[9] behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.
[10] **"Be still, then, and know that | I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth."
[11] The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING Romans 3:19-28

[19] Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

[21] But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; [26] it was to demonstrate at the present time his own

righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.
27 Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. 28 For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **pg. 124**

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 22:34-46**
The holy gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert in the law, asked
him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in the
law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your
God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your
mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second
is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two
commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them
this question: 42 "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is
he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "How
is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
44 'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" '?
45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one
was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to
ask him any more questions.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON *Pastor Sara Stall-Ryan*
One Minute of Silence is kept for reflection.

Please stand

HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"
ELW 517

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

As we celebrate Reformation Sunday, we remember the witness of Martin Luther and the reformers of the church in every generation. Empower us to continue the work of reform and renewal in our own day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of natural places despoiled by pollution and human greed (local places may be named). Give all living creatures access to safe land, water, and air. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for our criminal justice systems and all those whose lives are affected by them. Give wisdom and discernment to police, probation officers, judges, and attorneys; give courage and peace to prisoners and the formerly incarcerated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing upon all people who have been harmed by the church and its leaders, that the truth may make them free. We pray for the relief of all those who are sick or suffering (especially). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those exploring or returning to a life of faith. Encourage and guide them, that they may find their hope in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude, we remember those disciples who paved the way for us and all of our beloved dead. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE **pg. 128**

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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING **pg. 129**
It is indeed right…

SANCTUS **pg. 130**

Please kneel or sit

EUCHARISTIC 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

"Break Now the Bread of Life" **ELW 515**
"O Word of God Incarnate" **ELW 514**

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 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (vs. 3&4)
ELW 504

DISMISSAL

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

Postlude:

Prayer List

For Health:
Joyce G
Cathy L
Marion B
Lily V
Holly N
Lisa A
Dylan G
Aiden J
Helen A
Matthew A
Bud J
Jessica A
Charlotte D
Jonathan A
Curt R
Joan A
Dick C
Karen R
Pat J
Alexis R
Malynda A
Annamaria T
Lee T
Michael G
Barbara S
Don R
Fred B
Bill B
Roselies K
Alexis S
Justin Z
Tom Z
Marjorie T
Patricia W
Sandra C
Bill B
St. Mark Lutheran Church Norwich

For Safety:
Andrew C
Todd S
Michael C
Tyler G
Erik B
Justin Earl B
Evan G
David P



We Welcome t the Congregation
Zion's Newest Member
Baptized October 25, 2026

Juliette Marie Jarzabek

Parents:
James and Erica Jarzabek

Sponsors:
Thomas Stoto and Marcy Jarzabek

SERVING TODAY

Chris Darby - Lector
Deb Gustafson - Worship Assistant
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg - Ushers/Greeters
Carol Jozus - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist



Daylight saving time ends November 1.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back Nov. 1st

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday, **November 8th** a special worship service will be held. Our historic refurbished bell and complementary tower built to last for many years to come will be dedicated. Following the service the bell committee will be hosting a **special coffee hour.** Hope you will be able to join us for this momentous occasion.
In Christ,
The Bell Committee

Notice:
The Bell Committee is putting together a picture presentation for the Bell Dedication. If anyone has pictures that they would like to share, please send them to the church's email:
zion.lutheran@snet.net



The All Saints Day service this year is November 1st. If you would like a (non-member) loved one, who has passed away during the last year, to be remembered during the All Saints Day service, please add their name to the list. A book is available in the Narthex, through October 25th if you would like to add a name.



Zion Lutheran Church will be holding a **Coat Drive** again this year to support Amazing Grace in Middletown. Amazing Grace services 8 surrounding towns, including Portland. The drive will be held on **Saturday November 7th from 11:00AM to 1:00PM.** Prior to this time, coats may be dropped off in the designated box when you enter the building or by contacting Valerie in the church office at 860-342-2860. You may also contact Kathy Richards at 860-982-7624. We will be collecting coats of all sizes, heavy sweaters and vests. Thank you for your support.

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 used 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.

See Donna Berndtson for the donation cards and details.



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 Berndtson, Brenda Bell and Erica Jarzabek for organizing and hosting coffee hour today.

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: October 25, 2026
Reformation Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
Baptism - Jarzabek
10:30 a.m. The Chosen
11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

This Week:

Monday:	**6:00 p.m.** N/A
Wednesday:	**5:30 p.m.** Cub Scouts Den meeting
Friday:	**7:00 p.m.** N/A

Next Sunday:



November 1, 2026
All Saints Day



9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Adult Education
11:30 a.m. True Vine Church

Next weeks readings: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

Attendance: Last week - 45; Last year - 55

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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