

Sunday, November 8, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Please stand

GATHERING HYMN "Built on a Rock" (vs. 1-3) **ELW 652**

LITANY: from Psalm 150
P: Hallelujah! Praise God in this holy house of worship. Praise him under the open skies.
C: Praise him for his acts of power. Praise him for his magnificent greatness.
P: Praise with a blast onn the trumpet. Praise by strumming soft strings.
C: Praise him with castanets and dance. Praise him with banjo and flute.
P: Praise him with cymbals and a big bass drum, praise him with fiddles and mandolin.
C: Let every living thing praise God! Hallelujah!

PRAYER *Howard Swanson*

GREETINGS FROM BISHOP NATHAN PIPHO
read by Bruce Gustafson

BLESSING
P: Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we set apart this bell and tower to the glory of God.

PRAYER *Donna Berndtson*
Almighty and ever living God

Today we praise you, for this restored and re-hung church Bell, a sacred instrument, now ready to ring out your glory, calling us to worship, comforting us in times of sorrow, and rejoicing with us in celebration. As its voice echoes once again across our community, we

bring before you, our deepest gratitude to all who have played a part in the story of this historic Bell making this day possible.

For the original manufacturers; we give thanks for the foundry workers and artisans of generations past who first conceived this Bell, melted the metal, cast it's form and poured their technical mastery into it's creation, creating a beautiful instrument designed to stand the test of time.

For the restorers and craftsman; we praise you for the restoration experts, engineers, electricians, and modern craftsman who lent their time, skills, precision, and patient labor as they cleaned, repaired, secured its framework and raised this sacred Bell back into its rightful place.

For our faithful and devoted members, we praise you for the generations of believers who cherish this Bell and your dedication to this house of worship, ensuring that the voice of Zion continues to ring out for years to come. We also want to thank you for all the prayers, love and financial support which helped to make this project come to fruition.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN "Built on a Rock" (vs. 4-5) **ELW 652**

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
O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

Please be seated

FIRST READING Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light,
19 as if someone fled from a lion
and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall
and was bitten by a snake.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them,
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
24 But let justice roll down like water
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16 For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **pg. 124**

GOSPEL READING **Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: [1] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be
like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the
bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] When
the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise
took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed,
all of them became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a
shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then
all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish
said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.' [9] But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and
for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.'
[10] And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those
who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the
door was shut. [11] Later the other young women came also, saying,
'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not
know you.' [13] Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day
nor the hour."

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 "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
(See below)

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict (relief ministries or organizations may be named). Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. (We pray especially for . . .) God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
Amen.

PEACE **pg. 128**

MEAL

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER
Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until hungry no more, all the world is fed,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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
In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

DISTRIBUTION

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD **pg. 135**

COMMUNION HYMNS
"When Peace like a River" **ELW 785**
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds" **ELW 656**

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Holy God,
we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal.
You continuously seek the lost,
bind the injured,
and feed your people abundantly.
Now send us out,
awake to your presence,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Please stand

BLESSING
The holy Trinity,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness" **ELW 733**

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Encourage one another. . **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

SERVING TODAY

Sylvia LeShane - Lector
Geri Ristow - Worship Assistant
Donna Berndtson, Rick Borg - Ushers/Greeters
Pauline Neumann - Altar Guild
Sarah Dzialo - Organist

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

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

GM CHORALE 50 YEARS

2026 - 2027 SEASON

SONGS BY RICHARD WINSLOW
Featuring Alchemy Vocal Chamber Ensemble
Sunday September 27, 2026 ~ 4:00 pm
Crowell Concert Hall, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

BENJAMIN BRITTEN - SAINT NICOLAS, OP 42
THOMAS BRAND - SING ON! **PREMIERE**
Sunday November 15, 2026 ~ 4:00 pm
Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center, Middletown, CT

COLONIAL CONCERT WITH ORCHESTRA NEW ENGLAND
Featuring Alchemy Vocal Chamber Ensemble
Saturday November 28, 2026 ~ 8:00 pm
United Church on the Green, New Haven, CT

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS
Saturday December 19, 2026 ~ 5:00 pm
First Congregational Church, Cheshire, CT

GIUSEPPE VERDI - REQUIEM
Sunday April 25, 2027 ~ 4:00 pm
Santo Fragilio Performing Arts Center, Middletown, CT



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



Thank you to The Bell Committee 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: November 8, 2026
Twenty-fourth 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
Tuesdays:	**9:00 a.m.** Preschool Coffee and Commiseration
Wednesday:	**Veteran's Day—No School, Office Closed**
Friday:	**9:00 a.m.** Preschool Coffee and Commiseration
	7:00 p.m. N/A

Next Sunday:



November 8, 2026
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Next weeks readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Attendance: Last week - 60; Last year - 76

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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