



12th Sunday After Pentecost, August 31, 2025
10 a.m. *Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church*

Welcome Friends and Guests: Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism, we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Jo Moss & Carol Hanson
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Becky McNeil
Ushers: Mary McKenna & Cherie Holder
Communion: John & Lisa Rygiel

Worship: In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to learn more about us. *Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.*

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of communion tray) are available.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Other Information: Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall adjoining the sanctuary; our ushers can direct you. For pastoral care, call Pastor Lisa at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com. Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

~Gathering~

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship

Children of God, when we witness the needs of strangers and listen to the struggles of our friends, remember: **Let mutual love continue.**

When we hear the struggles of those in prison and recognize the suffering of people near and far, remember: **Let mutual love continue.**

When temptations to hoard more money, more power, and more influence surround us on every side, remember: **Let mutual love continue.**

As we gather for worship, remember: God is here among us, surrounding us with love and forming us to live in love everywhere we go.

We choose to cooperate with God's love today and every day so that mutual love will continue wherever we go and whatever we do. Amen.

Greeting

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

And also, with you.

Gathering Hymn: #532 Gather Us In

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie



2 That we may live out your im - passionate re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Prayer of the Day

O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7a

⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a}for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 112

¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in God's commandments!

²**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

³Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.

⁴**Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of
compassion.**

⁵It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶**For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting
remembrance.**

⁷They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

⁸**Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

⁹They have given freely to the poor, and their
righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰**The wicked will see it and be angry; they will
gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

⁶ So we can say with confidence,
"The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke chapter 14. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor; he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #638 Blessed Assurance

The New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

Prayers of the People

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Bible study teachers, and worship leaders with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace.

God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance.

God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Be with those who travel that they safely reach their destinations.

God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable and sanctuary communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving, healing presence we especially pray for...

God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us especially our Angels in Aprons and 5-Loaves ministries, as well as those who provide food for our fellowship time.
God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever.
God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them, through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

Peace

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And, also with you.**

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

An offering is gathered for missions of the church. You can give using check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1334741

Offertory: #692 We Are an Offering

Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Creator God be with you. **And also, with you.**

Prepare your hearts. **We prepare our hearts for God's bounty.**

Let us give thanks to the God of chosen family. **For this community, we give thanks.**

Holy One we give you thanks joyfully for the many ways you have blessed us.

For the blessing of intersectionality, for blessings of belonging, for blessings of renewed and new names, for blessings of embodiment, for blessing of movement, for blessings of stillness, for blessings of love, for blessings of joy, we give you thanks and praise for the unexpected ways you arrive to each of us. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available.

God comes to us in worship and song. God also comes to us in silence and stillness.

Please use the time before and after you commune for silent contemplation, openness to God's word, and to listen for the voice of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Communion Hymn: #482 I Come With Joy

Song of Thanksgiving



☒ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Communion Prayer

May we who have fed at Wisdom's table take her welcome out to where tables are reserved and doors are closed. May the Spirit drive us to break our bread on the altar of the world. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

Children of God, go from this place in the blessing of the Triune God, our Helper and our Friend, offering your sacrifice of praise and sharing what you have as you spread the love of God in mutuality and care to the ends of the earth and back again.

And may the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #969 Welcome Table

Dismissal

Go in peace and hope, knowing you are not alone. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

- **Fellowship:** Join us after worship for coffee and conversation.
- **God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) Service Project:** Zion's Lutheran's GWOH service projects include building a wheelchair ramp for a local family. If you can help with this project, let John Rygiel know. We also are grateful to everyone who, last Sunday, helped create period packs for unhoused women. The packs are being distributed through The Way ministry. Special thanks to Becky McNeil for coordinating this project. Additional thanks to T.M. Garner for coordinating the work to help Richard Stewart move.
- **God's Work Our Hands Worship:** We will have our traditional outdoors GWOH worship at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 7, at Round Up Park (near the fairgrounds). A GWOH potluck picnic will immediately follow worship, so bring your favorite picnic food, wear your GWOH yellow shirt (if you need one, let Julie Wersal know), join the fellowship, and learn about ways that you can support the work of Zion's through its many ministries. To help with this event, please check the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.
- **5-Loaves Thanks:** We are grateful to everyone who helped with 5-Loaves deliveries on Saturday. Because of those efforts, we provided 240 meals to 110 individuals and families.
- **Flower Chart:** There are several Sundays remaining in 2025 for flower sponsors. Take a look at the flower chart and consider signing up for special dates, a gift of \$35 is suggested for flower donations. The sign-up chart and donation envelopes are in the back of the sanctuary. Donations can be placed in the offering plate or given online using the Tithe-ly app (follow the link on Zion's homepage at ZionLuth.org to give online.)
- **Save the Date:** Our annual Blessing of the Animals will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, in the fenced lawn adjacent to the Fellowship Hall.

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Call to Worship & Benediction: *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, March 2024/March 2025* and published at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/dear-children-of-god-dear-beloved-children/twelfth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/twelfth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-c-liturgical-resources>. Used with permission.

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Eucharist Prayer: From the *Reconciling in Christ Sunday 2018: Dreams & Visions of the Church Re-Imagined* Service, originally written by Steven Shakespeare, *Prayers for an Inclusive Church*.