

14th Sunday After Pentecost, Sept. 14, 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 – The Rev. Dr. Becky McNeil, Mike McNeil & Jody Alford

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Sharon Sorenson

Ushers -- Cristy Street & Brittany Cook

Communion -- Steve & Carol Hanson



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. Pastor Lisa is out of town this week, for pastoral care, call or email the church at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com. Also, you may contact Church Council president Mike McNeil. Additional information about Zion's can be found on our website at: zionsluth.org.

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

~Gathering~

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

Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship

The foolish say, 'there is no God.'

**We come, trusting in Jesus, the face, the voice,
the presence of the God who loves us.**

The scoffers of our age ask, 'why do you seek after God?'

**We come, in this time, because God's grace has spilled over in our
lives.**

The hopeless around us think, 'no one cares about me.'

**We come, in this time, to this place, because Jesus has found us and
brought us home. 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: #977 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

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...in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned 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



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
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,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

⁷The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation." ¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Responsive Reading: Psalm 51:1-10

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right
in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹²I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke chapter 15. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.]
²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable:
⁴"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

Children's Message: Mary McKenna

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Becky McNeil

Hymn of the Day: #789 Savior Like a Shepherd Lead

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made and grant us wisdom and strength to act toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we lift all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain, today we especially pray for...Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, bind us as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. May this country be blessed with kindness and lawfulness in coming days. God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **your mercy is great.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **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: #583 Take My Life, That I May Be, vs. 1

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...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.

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

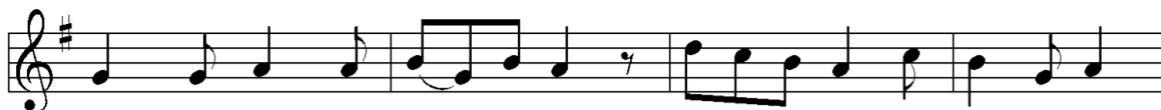
God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

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: #966 Loaves Were Broken

Communion Hymn: #967 This is Christ's Body

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

God, we gather at this table representing all people in all places in our world. We bless and pass the bread and cup as Christ passed it to his friends. Please allow these elements to remind us of the good that you have done and inspire us to do the good that Christ calls us to do. May we leave this table revived and refreshed having sipped from the cup of bold courage so that we may challenge all forms of injustice and pain. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

~Sending~

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

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

We have been found by our God, **so now we will go to search for those forgotten by the world.**

We have been welcomed by Jesus, **so now we will go to embrace the ones people look down their noses at.**

We have been gathered as a community by the Spirit, **so now we will go to be a family to the people who long to draw near to hope. Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #984 May God of Hope Go with Us

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.
- **Guest Pastor:** We are grateful to the Rev. Dr. Becky McNeil for serving as our guest pastor today, while Pr. Lisa is on vacation. For pastoral care, call or email the church at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com. You also may contact Church Council president Mike McNeil.
- **God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) 2025:** Thank you to everyone who helped with our GWOH projects as well as with last Sunday's worship in the Park.
- **Weekly Studies Resume:** Beginning at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, (and repeated at 12:30 on Saturday, Sept. 27), Pastor Lisa will lead a new Study entitled *By What Authority: Rethinking Early Christian History*. Presented in a combination video and study guide format (no books required), the sessions give participants a chance to see how the drama of the early church's formation affects our lives of faith today.
- **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: by Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies. Posted at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/> © Thom M. Shuman, used with permission.

Eucharist Prayer: by the Rev. Derek Terry, *Program Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ* at <https://openandaffirming.org/resources/worship/open-and-affirming-sunday>.