



13th Sunday After Pentecost – August 23, 2026 10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Jo Moss & Becky McNeil

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Becky McNeil

Ushers – T.M. Garner & Tracy Wahl

Communion – Mary McKenna & Jo Moss



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Worship & Music: 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 Come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. We use both the cranberry Lutheran Book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

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 tray) are available.

Other: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

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

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

We are here to follow Jesus

With halting steps

And questioning minds

With ready hands

And pierced hearts

With joy for each other

And gratitude to God.

Let us follow Jesus,

And let us worship God.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart, give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.

Gathering Hymn: #979 (purple hymnal) Making Their Way

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

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God of all creation, you reach out to call people of all nations to your kingdom. As you gather disciples from near and far, count us also among those who boldly confess your Son Jesus Christ as Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

God's Word invites us into life. **Thanks be to God!**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;**

for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading: Romans 12: 1-8

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship.

² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

God's Word invites us into life. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, chapter 16. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #597 (cranberry hymnal) *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

New Members by Faith Acclamation and Baptism

Today we welcome Crystal, Mark, Rose & Debbie to our congregation. Debbie & Rose by faith acclamation and Crystal & Mark by baptism...

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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.

Affirmation of Faith:

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God...

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members, Rose and Debbie, in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Welcome:

Let us welcome Crystal, Mark, Rose, and Debbie, our siblings in Christ to this community of faith. **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers of the People

God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, including here at Zion's, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation, protect our watersheds. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, worry, and loss, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You draw together people with differing gifts and welcome them into the household of faith, especially today we surround with prayers Rose, Debbie, Crystal, and Mark. May we show your joy by embracing our new siblings as we bear your creative and redeeming word to all the world. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 by check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

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

Offertory: #167 (cranberry hymnal) Now the Feast & Celebration v. 3

Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth...our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy, Holy, Holy



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

Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker...And so, we proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for your Holy Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom...today, tomorrow, and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Taste and see that the Lord is Good.

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.

Communion Song: Lamb of God (next page)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: #623 (cranberry hymnal) Rock of Ages

Communion Song: Thank the Lord & Sing His Praise

☐ 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

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

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

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

Beloved, God calls us to use our power wisely and in the service of those the world has disempowered. May God bless you with the courage to notice injustices in the world and the perseverance to keep showing up with God and with one another as we empower one another to set the world aright. And may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in ☩ Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #576 (cranberry hymnal) We All Are One in Mission

Dismissal

Go forth with courage, loving God and serving neighbors.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

- + **Flowers:** Flowers for worship today are presented by Terri Watson in honor of her mother's birthday.
- + **Fellowship:** Please join us after worship in the area between the Fellowship Hall and sanctuary for coffee, sandwiches, chips, cake and conversation as we celebrate our new members.
- + **Summer Supper Gatherings:** Our final summer supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9. We look forward to seeing you there.
- + **Fellowship Hall Flooring:** The flooring replacement project in the Fellowship Hall is underway. Remember that there will be some inconveniences during the flooring process, however the long-term results will be well worth the trouble. Thank you to everyone who is helping to make this possible.
- + **Worship Assistance:** We are preparing the worship assistance list (ushers, lectors, communion set up/clean up) for September and October. If you are able to help or can help only on specific Sundays, please let Pr. Lisa or Jo Moss know.
- + **Wednesday Book Club:** Book Club is on hiatus during August.
- + **Save the Date:** *God's Work Our Hands* Sunday for Zion's will be Sept. 13. The plan is for a special GWOH worship and fellowship at Zion's before a sing-along at the Legacy. We also will assemble hygiene kits for the unhoused, which will be distributed through Keep Trinidad Safe. Updates, including a list of hygiene kits items, will follow in the E-Formation and September Newsletter.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com.

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Call to Worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

Benediction: by Dr. Lisa Hancock, *Discipleship Ministries*, May 2026 at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/praise-break/week-2-eleventh-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-2-eleventh-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-praise-break-liturgical-resources>

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