



Creation in Christ Sunday – September 6, 2026 10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in a parallel with the feast of Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil & Jody Alford

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Mark Nelson

Ushers – Jody Alford & Lorna Hassard

Communion – John & Lisa Rygiel



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 for our First Sunday Potluck. 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

In the east and west, the north and south

God creates beauty and life.

From all corners of the globe

God calls us to love and to live and to follow.

In our homes and our hearts, in this church and in the world

We sing and serve, we hope and we pray.

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our hope, our heart, our home. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, **we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves. We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.**

All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you: God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of + Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure. Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: #879 (cranberry hymnal) For the Beauty of the Earth

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.**

Litany of Praise for Creation

Glory to you, O God:
you speak a word of power,
and so you create the world.

We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

For the Spirit hovering to bring forth life,
for the earth ordered from chaos,
and for light and dark,
we bless you, O God: **We bless you, O God.**

For the cosmos beyond our earth,
for the sky above our heads,
and for the cycle of evening and morning,
we exalt you, O God: **We exalt you, O God.**

For the seas, the lakes, and the rivers,
for the land with its mountains and plains,
and for the trees, the plants, and their fruits,
we magnify you, O God: **We magnify you, O God.**

For the sun to rule the day,
for the moon to brighten the night,
and for the shining stars,
we extol you, O God: **We extol you, O God.**

For the fish in the sea,
for the birds of the air,
and for the monsters in the deep,
we glorify you, O God: **We glorify you, O God.**

For wild animals and creatures of all kinds,
for cattle and all livestock,
and for everything that creeps on the earth,
we adore you, O God: **We adore you, O God.**

For humankind made in your image,
for setting us on your good earth,
and for providing us food to eat,
we worship you, O God: **We worship you, O God.**

Bless us, your creatures.
Accept our praise,
and make us worthy of your marvelous creation.
We praise you, O God: **We praise you, O God.**

Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might be to you, our God, forever and ever. Amen. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O Blessed Trinity, we worship you, the Source and Savior and Strength of all the worlds.
We laud you for your wondrous creation. Breathe your blessing on us and on all that you
have made and form us by your wisdom to be caregivers of your gift of this good earth.
Glory to you, Creator God, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and unto ages of ages. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 148

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,
‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

Word of God, word of 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: John 1:1-5

The holy gospel according to John chapter one. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #556 (cranberry hymnal) Morning Has Broken

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

O God of mystery, mercy, and might, for the church we pray: that churches around the globe collaborate in care for the earth, and that all the baptized nurture a zeal for the wellbeing of creation. Hear us, O God, source of life and ground of our being: **Your mercy is great.**

For the earth we pray: that this bounteous creation receives continued divine blessing, that the air be wholesome, that the waters be plenteous and clean, that the land be treasured, and that animals be protected. Grant that what on earth has been despoiled will be healed. Hear us, O God, our creator and fruitful garden: **Your mercy is great.**

For the nations we pray: that farmers and ranchers, herders, foragers, fishers, and grocers provide the food humans need, that legislators strive in all things for the common good, and that science and technology lead us toward more responsible ways to live. Hear us, O God, our stronghold and sun of justice: **Your mercy is great.**

For our country we pray: that national and state parks, forests, and wildlife refuges be safeguarded, that all natural resources benefit the whole population, and that our children learn respect for nature. Hear us, O God, our guardian and rainbow of promise: **Your mercy is great.**

For those in need we pray: that humankind be sheltered from pandemic and from extreme weather, and that all who are sick or suffering receive medical attention and communal support. Give heed to those whose names we call out to you especially...Hear us, O God, our healer and heart of the universe: **Your mercy is great.**

For those who have cared for your creation before us we pray: we praise you for Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, and for all believers who have lived and died in communion with the earth. Grant that in your good time we join with all your creatures in your presence forever. Hear us, O God, the beginning and the end: **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~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: #679 (cranberry hymnal) For the Fruit of All Creation

Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth...We ask this in Jesus' name. **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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:

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...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.

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

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

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: #973 (purple hymnal) The Word Who Sang the Light into Creation
(please use the purple hymnal for this song).

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

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~Sending~

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

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

Creator God bless you and keep you.

Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy.

Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace. ✠ **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #824 (cranberry hymnal) This is My Father's World

Dismissal

Go in peace. Flourish with creation. **Thanks be to God.**

~Announcements~

Flowers: Flowers for worship are in celebration of T.M. Garner's Birthday.

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship on Sunday for our First Sunday Potluck. Come and enjoy food and fellowship, all are welcome.
- + **Summer Supper Gatherings:** Our final summer supper is at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9. We look forward to seeing you there.
- + **Zion's Book Club:** Our Adult Study opportunity resumes at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15 in the Fellowship Hall with "What if Jesus was Serious about Prayer".
- + **Proverbs Study:** First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Raton/Trinidad has invited Zion's to participate in September's study of the Book of Proverbs (see the September newsletter for details). The study begins at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at FUMC in Raton and at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, at FUMC on Broom Street in Trinidad.
- + **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. Please review the lists below for items needed. For more information, talk to Pr. Lisa.
 - Basic Hygiene Kits include toothbrush & toothpaste, shampoo, body soap, razors (men and women), combs, mini deodorant, alcohol-free hand sanitizer, band aids, cleansing towelettes, and ChapStick.
 - Feminine Kits include those items as well as tampons, mini and full-size pads, and feminine wipes.
 - One-Gallon plastic zip bags.
- + **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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Thanksgiving at the Table: Adapted from Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and All Creation Sings (Augsburg Fortress, 2020): Thanksgiving at the Font, Form B (p. 59); Thanksgiving at the Table, Form C (p. 37)

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table (Gail Ramshaw, Augsburg Fortress, "Litany of Praise for Creation," p. 12)

Sundays and Seasons (Augsburg Fortress): Confession and Forgiveness, Seasonal Worship Texts for November 2027. Offering Prayer, Prayer after Communion, Seasonal Worship Texts for Lent 2026.