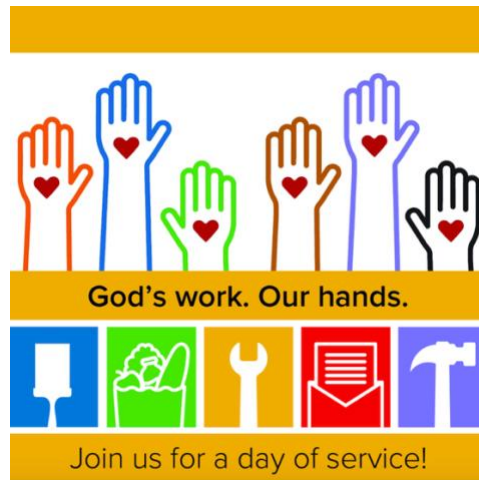




God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday – September 13, 2026 10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: Forgiveness should not be seen as a private act. The text tells us the opposite; in fact, forgiveness is communal. As we celebrate “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday this year, working together on projects as a church and a community, we must remember that when we stay connected and share in forgiveness, it can transform our life together. When we are connected to one another, we see how forgiveness sustains a community amid differences, how a family withstands challenges. We see that, when we fail to forgive as generously as God does, grace is nevertheless poured out freely.

Serving this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Steve Hanson & T.M. Garner
Musicians – Connie Pallone & Mark Nelson
Ushers – John Rygiel & Terri Watson
Communion – T.M. Garner & Julie Morris



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 as we begin our GWOH Projects for the day. 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 called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

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.

Gathering Hymn: #1000 (purple hymnal) God's Work Our Hands

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, you stretch wide your tent that all may be welcomed in, and in Jesus you stretched out your hands in expansive love for a weary and wounded world. Help us to reach out with your own wounded hands of love, that through us your life may be known in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

~Word~

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

Today's Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds.

⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also, those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

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: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 18. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Sermon: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #574 (cranberry hymnal) Here I Am Lord

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

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness, especially those whose names and needs we lift up now...Encourage all those who bear another's burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember today those who lost their lives and those whose lives were changed forever on September 11, 2001, and to all others who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen one Jesus. **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: #679 (cranberry hymnal) For the Fruit of All Creation

Offering Prayer

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

A Liturgy for Feasting with Friends

To Gather joyfully is indeed a serious affair, for feasting and all enjoyments gratefully taken are, at their heart, acts of resistance to the world's darkness.

In celebrating this feast we declare that evil and death, suffering and loss, sorrow and tears, will not have final word, but the joy of fellowship and the welcome and comfort of friends new and old, and the celebration of these blessings of the communion table are the true evidence of things eternal, and are the first fruits of that great glad joy that is to come and that will be unending.

May this our feast fall like a great hammer blow against the brittle night, shattering the gloom, reawakening our hearts, stirring our imagination, focusing our vision on the kingdom that is promised on the kingdom that is already, indeed, among us, for the resurrection of all good things has already joyfully begun.

Thanksgiving at the Table

On the night before he died...And so, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now 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

Let this feast be joined to those sure victories secured by Christ.

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All are welcome at God's table.

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 Hymn: #661 (cranberry hymnal) I Love to Tell the Story

Communion Prayer

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. Amen.

~Sending~

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

Announcements & Special Blessings

Blessing of GWOH Projects

Bless those who go out from here to prepare packets for the unhoused and those who go the Legacy to sing. Prosper the work of their hands. Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor and may those who are sent receive blessing in return. May the gifts they use, and share be signs of your love to all people. ✠ Amen.

Benediction

God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, ☩ bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: They'll Know We are Christians (We Are One in the Spirit)

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's hands at work in the world.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

Flowers: Flowers for worship are given by Mark & Jo Moss in celebration of Elizabeth Reilley's Birthday.

- + **GWOH Service & Fellowship:** Join us after worship for God's Work. Our Hands fellowship as we begin our projects for the day starting with assembly of hygiene kits. We will then head over to the Legacy for a Sunday Sing-Along.
- + **Summer Supper Gatherings:** Thank you to everyone who supported and participated in our Summer Suppers. We had a wonderful time and look forward to suggestions for similar activities in the future. If you have an idea, let Pr. Lisa or a Church Council member know.
- + **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".
- + **September Newsletter:** The September newsletter was sent via email on Sept. 2, it's also available on the Zion's website under the news tab. Paper copies are in the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who helped make this possible.
- + **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. 16, at FUMC in Raton and at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17, at FUMC on Broom Street in Trinidad.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email: zionsluth@gmail.com.