



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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August 13 & 16, 2026

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## TODAY'S FOCUS

*WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT:*

*The church is for all people.*

## WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

Zion has been serving the spiritual needs of people since 1885. We declare God's Good News of the perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of all. Our pastors and congregation are willing to serve you in any way. Please help yourself to any information found in the narthex. Visitors are invited to sign our guest register. May God bless your worship!

PEACE  
through  
Jesus  
Know it. Live it. Share it.

## COMMUNION TODAY



The Lord's Supper is described in 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 as a most precious medicine for the soul. Like all medicines, of course, it must be used at the right time, for the right purpose, by the right person, lest it do more harm than good. For this reason we ask all communicants to properly prepare themselves through self-examination. (You may use the *Personal Preparation For Holy Communion* found on page 156 of your hymnal.) Based on the Word of God in 1 Corinthians 10:17 we also practice Close Communion, that is, Holy Communion is for those who share a common confession and fellowship. Members of the WELS and ELS are welcome to join us in the Lord's Supper. We ask that all visitors wishing to commune speak with the pastor before approaching the Lord's Table.

## BEFORE WORSHIP

**Prayer:** My Lord Jesus, You have endured the foolish questions and demands of every generation. Forgive me for trying to judge You, and help me likewise to accept all people as my brothers and sisters. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Personal Prayers and Meditation**

Pages 10 & 134, *CW*

**Opening Hymn**      “In Christ There Is No East or West”      539, *CW*

**THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT**  
**Confession of Sins and Absolution**      p. 26, *CW*  
**Lord, Have Mercy**      p. 27, *CW*  
**O Lord, Our Lord**      p. 28, *CW*

**Prayer of the Day**  
Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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| <b>First Scripture Lesson</b> Isaiah 56:1,6-8<br><i>The Lord told the world that all God-fearing people would have a place in the house of his Church.</i> |
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<sup>1</sup>This is what the LORD says: “Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. <sup>6</sup>And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant — <sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” <sup>8</sup>The Sovereign LORD declares — he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

**Psalm 67**      Page 91, *CW*

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| <b>Second Scripture Lesson</b> Ephesians 2:13-22<br><i>Christ takes foreigners and strangers and builds them into a holy temple, his Church.</i> |
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<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.  
<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in

this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

**Verse of the Day:** Ephesians 2:13  
Alleluia. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Alleluia.

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| <b>Gospel Lesson</b> Matthew 15:21-28<br><i>In the face of a test from Jesus, a Canaanite woman demonstrates great faith in God’s promise for all people.</i> |
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<sup>21</sup> Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession.”

<sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

<sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

<sup>26</sup> He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to their dogs.”

<sup>27</sup> “Yes, Lord,” she said, “but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

**Hymn of the Day**      “The Church’s One Foundation”      538, *CW*

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|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sermon</b> Ephesians 2:13-22<br>NEAR AND FAR |
|-------------------------------------------------|

|                                                       |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Nicene Creed</b>                                   | p. 31, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>Our Thank Offering to Our God</b>                  |                  |
| <b>Prayer of the Church</b>                           |                  |
| <b>Lord's Prayer</b> (Traditional Version)            | p. 32, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER</b>                 |                  |
| <b>Preface</b>                                        | p. 33, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>Proper Preface for the Sundays after Pentecost</b> | p. 34, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>Holy, Holy, Holy</b> ( <i>Sanctus</i> )            | p. 34, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>Words of Institution</b>                           | p. 35, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>O Christ, Lamb of God</b> ( <i>Agnus Dei</i> )     | p. 35, <i>CW</i> |

### The Distribution

*We believe that gathering together at God's altar to receive Holy Communion is a testimony of the confession and commitment we share as members of the Lutheran Church. We ask guests who are not members of our denomination to speak with the pastor before joining us at the altar so that all may have a clear understanding of our faith and practice. Thank you.*

|                          |                                       |                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Distribution Hymn</b> | "Christ Is Our Cornerstone"           | 528, <i>CW</i>   |
| <b>Distribution Hymn</b> | "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"    | 313, <i>CW</i>   |
| <b>Thank the Lord</b>    |                                       | p. 36, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>Benediction</b>       |                                       | p. 36, <i>CW</i> |
| <b>Closing Hymn</b>      | "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" | 329, <i>CW</i>   |

### SERVING TODAY

|                               |                                                                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Pastor:</b>                | Rev. Richard Russow, C: 715-965-1782; O: 715-678-2208;<br>RussowRnK@aol.com |
| <b>Chairman:</b>              | Jeff Lange, 715-748-4815                                                    |
| <b>In the Organ Loft:</b>     | John Oliver; Dominic Bucki                                                  |
| <b>Ushers &amp; Greeters:</b> | Volunteers needed.                                                          |
| <b>Altar Care:</b>            | Esther Kraus; Jean Pitzke                                                   |

### ZION'S PARISH CALENDAR

|                 |                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday (8/13) | 7:00 P.M. Pentecost 12 Worship with Holy Communion |
| Sunday (8/16)   | 9:30 A.M. Pentecost 12 Worship with Holy Communion |

August 17 - 23 Pastor Russow on vacation.

Thursday (8/20) 7:00 P.M. Pentecost 13 Worship

Sunday (8/23) 9:30 A.M. Pentecost 13 Worship

### STEWARDSHIP RECORD



August 6 & 9, 2026

20 + 36 = 56 Attended Pentecost 11 Worship

17 Streamed view of Pentecost 11

Offerings: General Fund - \$3,240.00

Mission - \$45.00

Cemetery - \$25.00

Meditations - \$9.00

Total - \$3,319.00

### STEWARDSHIP FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES: Matthew 15:21-28



Wouldn't we be discouraged as Christians if only certain ones of us received blessings from God? While some suffered in the congregation, others would receive bountiful goodness from the Lord. Thanks be to God that this is not the case. True, there are varieties of gifts given to us by the Spirit, but the Spirit does not withhold gifts from anyone. Neither does God's grace fall only upon the deserving, but it is free to all, especially sinners. It is because of God's love for us that he gave his best gift of Christ Jesus to die for our sins. It is this outpouring of grace that we acknowledge as God's stewards when we respond in thanksgiving with our offerings of self.

### Through My Bible In 3 Years

Below is part of a 3 year Bible Reading schedule. The more we grow in God's Word, the more we will be anchored on the solid foundation of Christ crucified and arisen. The more we grow in God's Word, the more we will be prepared to give the reason for the hope that we have. (1 Peter 3:15)

|                     |                    |                     |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 8/13 Psalm 17       | 8/14 Psalm 18:1-30 | 8/15 Psalm 18:31-50 |
| 8/16 Psalm 19       | 8/17 Psalms 20, 21 | 8/18 Psalm 22:1-21  |
| 8/19 Psalm 22:22-31 | 8/20 Psalms 23, 24 | 8/21 Psalm 25       |
| 8/22 Psalm 26       | 8/23 Psalm 27      | 8/24 Psalms 28, 29  |

### Announcements

- ✠ Look around yourself today. Is there a family member who could/should be sitting next to you? Is there a friend absent from the place where he or she would usually sit? Is there a neighbor who needs God's Word? Pick up the phone, go over to their house, and invite them to worship.
- ✠ **Vacation:** Pastor Russow will be on vacation until August 23. If an emergency arises, please contact the Immanuel Office at 715-748-2921; Pastor Spaude at 715-821-3161 (cell). Pastor Russow can still be contacted by means of his cell phone, 715-965-1782.
- ✠ **Free Books:** A Zion member has made available many books from his mother's library. You are invited to browse through the books and take as many as you want. The books are located on a Fellowship Hall table.
- ✠ **Pictorial Directory:** If you missed getting your picture taken for the new directory, make-up pictures can still be taken. Please see, Jeff Lange, Pastor Russow or Lisa Gebert. August 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline.
- ✠ Zion is seeking volunteers to help reinvigorate our Sunday School. Teachers are needed. More of Zion's Sunday School age children are needed. If you have children or grandchildren of Sunday school age (ages 3 or 4, K-8) we encourage you to enroll your children in Sunday School. The Fall session begins September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Pastor Russow.
- ✠ The next issue of ***Meditations*** is available on the counter in the entryway. We ask for a donation of \$3.00 for each regular print and \$5.00 for each Large Print. Devotions begin August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✠ The August *Forward In Christ*, entitled "*A Precious Soul*," is available.
- ✠ **A Look Ahead:** Sunday, September 13, 2026 will be our *Welcome Home* event. We will have a brat/burger/hot dog cookout to kick off the Fall schedule of Confirmation Class, Sunday School and Bible Class. On that date a Special Voter's Meeting is being planned to make a final decision on installing surveillance cameras. In mid November we are planning to begin a basket raffle. More information will be forthcoming.
- ✠ **Private Communion:** If physical problems or other concerns prevent you from attending the Lord's Table, please schedule a visit with the Pastor.
- ✠ **Volunteers Needed** for the Sunday School, Altar Committee, Streaming Committee and the HymnSoft Committee. In addition, committee members are sought for the Contact and Special Events Committees. Any member of Zion is encouraged to volunteer.

- ✠ The Ladies of Zion (LOZ) thank you for your continued support of their **Kwik Trip Scrip** fund raising program. Kwik Trip gift cards in various denominations for the purchase of fuel or in store purchases. Scrip cards may be purchased from one of the Ladies of Zion.
- ✠ **Hospital:** Please notify Pastor Russow of your hospital stay. By notifying Pastor Russow, he can visit you and include you in his private prayers, and in the Prayer of the Church in worship, if you so desire.
- ✠ **Large Print** editions of the order of worship are available.