**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, WOODLAND, MI**

**Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost September 7, 2025**

**\*If you are listening in your car, please tune your radio to FM 87.7\***

(Please silence your cell phones while in the sanctuary. Thank you.)



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Gathering**

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

**Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song*“*Take My Life, That I May Be” #685**

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray together.

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**First Reading**   **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

*A reading from Deuteronomy.*

15 “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16 If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18 I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm Psalm 1**

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel **|** of the wicked,
  nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats **|** of the scornful!
 2 **Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,**
  **and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.**
 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that **|** do not wither;
  everything they **|** do shall prosper.
 4 **It is not so | with the wicked;**
  **they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.**
 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when **|** judgment comes,
  nor the sinner in the council **|** of the righteous.
 6 **For the Lord knows the way | of the righteous,**
  **but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.**

**Second Reading**  **Colossians 3:1-11**

A reading from Colossians.

1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
  To our beloved coworker Philemon, 2 to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:
  3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

  4 I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, 5 because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. 7 I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

  8 For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, 9 yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. 10 I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. 12 I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. 13 I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, 14 but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. 15 Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, 16 no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.
  17 So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. 18 If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. 19 I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. 20 Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. 21 Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel** **Luke 14:25-33**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord**

25 Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, 26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MOMENT**

**SERMON Doug MacKenzie**

**hymn of the day “*Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*” #802**

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**prayers of Intercession**

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. **We pray especially for Immanuel Lutheran in Jackson, and their pastor Rev. Kate Schroeder.** God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely.

May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING & OFFERING SONG**

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength,

The joy of the Lord is my strength.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Thanksgiving for the Word**

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things; you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.  For you Word of life, O God,

**We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts; freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.  For your Word of life, O God,

**We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness; forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.  For your Word of live, O God,

**We give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within use; renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful as your Word, O God, draw near to all who all on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending SonG “*Lift High the Cross*” #660**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**Thank you to all who served in worship today!**

**Presiders: Doug MacKenzie Musician: Cindy June**

**Acolyte: Aliyanna Morado Safety Person:**

**Elder:** **Naomi Wilson Trustee: Tom Krikke**

**Offering Counters: Diane Griffin & Carlotta Willard**

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**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

With thanks for all God’s blessings and his love for all people. Our Bishops, Craig Satterlee Elizabeth Eaton, and the congregations of the North/West Lower Michigan

Synod, and especially for **Immanuel Lutheran in Jackson, and their pastor Rev. Kate Schroeder.**

Prayers for our friends, for all who are sick or hospitalized and for all health care workers who care for them. All those members of Zion’s family traveling; all those homebound or in frail health; all those suffering with quiet, unknown needs or worries. For those who serve on our behalf: public safety, utility workers, medical personnel, military personnel. For those who might be forgotten.

**This week at Zion:**

* Men’s Coffee, 8 AM, Wednesday, September 10
* Bulletin Deadline, Wednesday, September 10
* The Disciples, Martha’s House, 2 pm Tuesday, September 9
* Women’s Coffee Fellowship, Zion, 9 am, Thursday, September 11



**ONLINE GIVING**

Zion has received a QR code to facilitate online giving. If you are interested in donating online instead of bringing your donation to church, simply scan the QR code and it will direct you to the appropriate site. The code is on our website as well.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

* Zion has received funds from Thrivent Financial to make Lutheran World Relief kits. Jerry Engle was granted $250.00 to help purchase supplies for the Baby Care Kits. The Board of Evangelism is working on that project. See their information on what you donate.

Carol Engle also applied and was approved for a grant of $250.00 for Personal Care Kits. She also received $64.00 from Thrivent's Choice Dollars program. She has purchased items needed to assemble the kits. We will have an Action Team event on Sunday, September 28th in the Fellowship Hall following worship. We will be assembling some of the personal care kits. Carol has purchased the supplies needed for this project.  Her goal is 70 kits. We do need yarn to tie the kits, so if there and any knitters that have extra yarn, that would be helpful. If you wish to donate to this project, you may donate funds for a kit, which costs about $8.00 each or help with the shipping expenses. It costs $1.50 per kit to have them shipped. You may mark your offering envelopes with the amount you wish to contribute. We will have the Baby Care and the Personal Care Kits displayed in the Sanctuary on Sunday, October 5th. They will then be packed and taken to St. Matthew's Church in Grand Rapids on October 18th.They will be taken by semi-truck to a warehouse in Maryland. We will need about 15 medium-sized cardboard boxes to ship the completed kits.

* **Thrivent Financial has donated many Live Generous T-shirts**.  They are displayed in the Fellowship Hall.  Please take all you want.  There is a variety of sizes and colors.
* **Installation Of Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas:** The Rev. Julie Schneider-Thomas will be installed a bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 4:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids (2700 Fulton Street E).
* **Are You Interested in Ordering a Lutheran Study Bible, Second Edition:**An updated and revised ELCA Study Bible has been released by Augsburg press.  This Bible features the NRSVue translation and introductions, notes, and articles written by more than seventy Lutheran pastors and teaching theologians.  It includes solid background material, unique Lutheran insights, and questions for reflection and discussion.  The *Lutheran Study Bible* contains 10-point biblical text and 7-point study notes.  The Bibles cost $32.99.  If you would like to order a copy, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.  You can pay for your Bible by adding this to your offering or giving payment to Karen or Martha.  We will also be ordering some for use at the church.  With an order of 10, there is no shipping cost.  We would like to order these in early September.
* **Announcement and Newsletter Items:** Please forward items for the bulletin announcements and the newsletter to the church email (Office@Zion.org). Please do not send items to people’s personal emails**.** Thank you.
* **Door Locking Policy:** Our door locking policy relies on having a volunteer(s) each Sunday to serve as the Safety Person of the Day. On Sundays where no one has volunteered, if someone arrives at church and is willing to be the Safety Person of the Day, we will follow the door locking policy. If no one steps forward to serve as the Safety Person of the Day, the doors will not be locked. Please consider volunteering for this important duty.