

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 am Sunday, September 7, 2025

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✙ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*

When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

Greeting And Announcements: *The Lord be with you! And also with you!*

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Entrance Hymn All Who Believe and Are Baptized (LSB 601)

1. All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal-
2. With one ac-cord, O God, we pray, Grant us Your Ho - ly
va - tion; Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They
Spir - it; Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through
are a new cre - a - tion; Through Christ's re-demp - tion
Je - sus' blood and mer - it; Grant us to grow in
they will stand A - mong the glo - rious heav'n-ly band Of
grace each day By ho - ly Bap - tism that we may E -
ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ter - nal life in - her - it.

Rite of Holy Baptism (The Lutheran Formula of 1526) Insert

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Office of
The Sacrament of Holy Baptism
The Lutheran Formula of 1526

Bishop Reid Muehl

*Son of Zachary Paul & Laikyn McCall Muehl
Born August 25, 2025*

*Reborn into Christ this Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 7, 2025*

*Sponsors: Tyler & Rachel Muehl
Zion Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana
and
Alex & Ashley Graf
St. John Lutheran Church, Fraser, Michigan*

**All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they will stand
Among the glorious, heav'nly band
Of every tribe and nation.**

Thomas Hansen Kingo

**With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

Hymn text is in the public domain.

MARTIN LUTHER'S ADMONITION TO THE BAPTISMAL PARTY AND THE CONGREGATION

"In all Christian earnestness I would ask all those who administer baptism, who hold the children, or witness it, to take this wonderful work to heart in all its seriousness. For here, in the words of these prayers, you hear how meekly and earnestly the Christian church concerns herself about the little child and how he confesses before God in plain undoubting words that he is possessed by the devil and is a child of sin and wrath, and prays very diligently for aid and grace through baptism that he becomes a child of God. Remember, therefore, that it is no joke to take sides against the devil and not only to drive him away from the little child, but to burden the child with such a mighty and lifelong enemy. Remember, too, that it is very necessary to aid the poor child with all your heart and strong faith, earnestly to intercede for him that God, in accordance with this prayer, would not only free him from the power of the devil, but also strengthen him, so that he may nobly resist the devil in life and death.

I suspect that people turn out so badly after baptism because our concern for them has been so cold and careless; we, at their baptism, interceded for them without zeal. . . . See to it, therefore, that you are present in true faith, listen to God's Word, and earnestly join in prayer. For when the pastor says, "Let us pray," he is exhorting you to unite with him in prayer. And all sponsors and the others present should repeat with him the words of his prayer in their hearts to God, . . . carrying the little child's need before God most earnestly, setting themselves against the devil with all their strength on behalf of the child, and showing that they realize this is no joke as far as the devil is concerned. For this reason it is right and proper . . . to treat the matter with seriousness and true faith, lest the holy sacrament be made a mockery for the devil and an insult to God, who through it showers us with the abundant and infinite riches of his grace. He himself calls it a new birth by which we are being freed from all the devil's tyranny, loosed from sin, death, and hell, and become children of life, heirs of all the gifts of God, God's own children, and brethren of Christ.

Ah, dear Christians, let us not value and administer this unspeakable gift so indolently and indifferently; for baptism is our only comfort and admits to every blessing of God and to the communion of all the saints. To this may God help us! Amen!"

+ THE OFFICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

[*The baptismal party gathers at the baptismal font
during the Processional Hymn*]

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit! Amen!

+ THE EXORCISM +

[The Lutheran Church retained The Exorcism from the historic baptismal rite because of the Biblical doctrine of original sin. "It is taught among us that since the fall of Adam all men who are born according to the course of nature are conceived and born in sin. That is, all men are full of evil lust and inclinations from their mothers' wombs and are unable by nature to have true fear of God and true faith in God."]

[*To the candidate*]

*Depart O unclean spirit and make room for the Holy Spirit!
Receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your mind ✠ and
upon your heart ✠ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the
crucified. Amen!*

[To the congregation]

*Let us pray: O Almighty eternal God, who according to Your righteous judgment did condemn the unbelieving world through the flood; and in your great mercy did preserve believing Noah and his family; and who did drown hardhearted Pharaoh with all his host in the Red Sea and did lead your people Israel through the same on dry ground, thereby prefiguring this bath of your baptism; and who through the baptism of Your dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has consecrated and set apart the Jordan and all water as a salutary flood and a rich and full washing away for sins: We pray through Your same boundless mercy that You will graciously behold this **Bishop Reid Muehl**, and bless him with true faith in his spirit so that by means of this saving flood all that has been born in him from Adam, and which he himself has added thereto, may be drowned in him and engulfed, and that he may be sundered from the number of the unbelieving, preserved dry and secure in the holy ark of Christendom, and serve Your name at all times fervent in spirit and joyful in hope, so that with all believers he may be made worthy to attain eternal life according to Your promise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!*

[To the candidate]

*I adjure you, O unclean spirit, by the name of the Father ✠ and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit ✠ that you come out of and depart from this servant of Jesus Christ, **Bishop Reid Muehl**. ... Amen!*

+ THE WORD OF GOD +

[God does bring blessings to those who are baptized, including infants: "It is taught among us that Baptism is necessary and that grace is offered through it. Children, too, should be baptized, for in Baptism they are committed to God and become acceptable to him."]

The Holy Gospel of St. Mark Glory be to You, O Lord!

And they were bringing children to [Jesus] that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. [Mark 10:13-16].

This is the Gospel of the Lord! Praise be to You, O Christ!

+ THE OUR FATHER and THE BLESSING +

[In Holy Baptism, God is at work. It is a Sacrament, a divine activity, through which He gives His blessing: "Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's Word."]

[We pray together for God's blessing on the candidates]

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. Amen!

[To the candidate]

The Lord preserve your going out and coming in now and forevermore. Amen!

+ THE CONFESSION OF THE FAITH +

[Baptism is based on the command and promise of Christ, who causes Baptism to bring saving grace to the candidates by the power of the Word: "It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare."]

[*To the sponsors, the parents, and the congregation*]

Because this candidate cannot answer for himself, we shall all, together with sponsors and parents, speak in testimony of the forgiveness of sin and the birth of the life of faith which God our Father bestows upon this candidate in and through Baptism:

Do you renounce the devil? I do renounce him!
and all his works? I do renounce them!
and all his ways? I do renounce them!

Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Do you desire to be a baptized and forgiven person? I do!

+ THE BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY TRINITY +

[Through Holy Baptism poor sinners are adopted into God's family in the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit: "Without God's Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the Word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit."]

Bishop Reid Muehl, I baptize you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit! Amen!

[*To the newly baptized and all the baptized here present*]

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you new birth through water and the Holy Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting! Amen!

Peace be with you! Amen!

[*The baptismal party returns to the pews*]

+ A FINAL NOTE FOR BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS +

"What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever."

[Explanatory notes contain quotations from two primary statements of what Lutherans believe, teach and, confess: The Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism.]

Kyrie



Gloria

Glo-ry be to God on high: And on earth peace, good will •toward• men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee, we

glo-ri - fy Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glo - ry

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God _ the Fa-ther Al - might - y.

O Lord, the on-ly be - got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ, O Lord God,

Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer-cy up - on _ us: Thou that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world; re - ceive our prayer Thou that sit-test at the right hand of God the

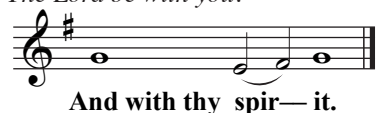
Fa - ther, have mer-cy up - on us. For Thou on - ly art ho - ly, Thou

on-ly art the Lord. Thou on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly

Ghost, art most high in the glo - ry of God _ the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation

The Lord be with you.



+ Page 3 +

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.



And with thy spir-it.



We lift _ them up un-to _ the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



It is meet _ and right so _ to do. _

Common Preface, Sanctus

It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:



Ho - ly, _ ho - ly, _ ho - ly, _



Lord God of Sab - a-oth; heav - en and _ earth are



full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless-ed is _ He that com - eth in the name _ of the



Lord! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

[Kneel] **Lord's Prayer**

[Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art in heaven; but deliver us from evil.*



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo - ry



for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



A - men

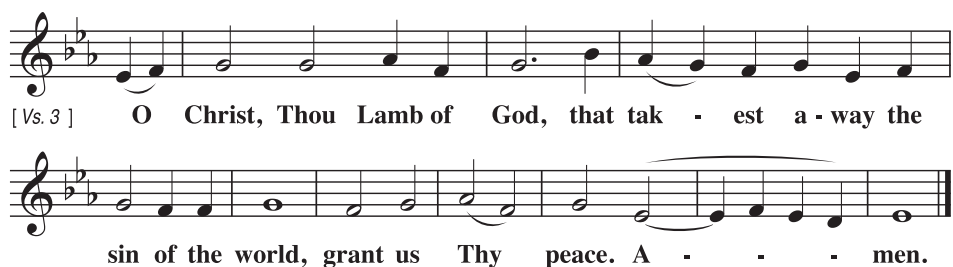
Agnus Dei



[Vs. 1 & 2] O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the



sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns Not Unto Us Burgundy Hymn 558

From God Can Nothing Burgundy Hymn 713

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Women alone sing stanzas 3 & 5; Men alone sing stanzas 4 & 6;
All sing stanza 7; Rise for stanza 7.]

Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Canticle The Nunc Dimittis



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy
servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word.

2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre- pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



3. a Light to light- en the Gen- tles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo- ple Is - - - ra- el.



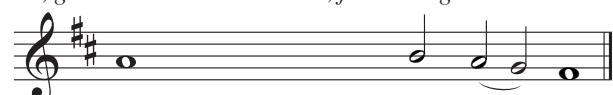
4. Glo- ry__ be to the
Father, and to__ the__ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it__ was in the
beginning, is
now, and e- ver shall be, world with- out end. A- men.

Post Communion Rite

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



And His mercy endureth for - ev — er.

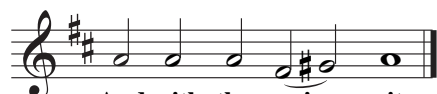
Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A — men.

The Lord be with you.

Bless we the Lord.



And with thy spir — rit.



Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

Recessional Hymn O Gracious Lord Burgundy Hymn 599

Postlude

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Readings for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Old Testament Reading is Deuteronomy 30:15-20

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

The Epistle is Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus—I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the

gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own free will. For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

The Gospel is Luke 14:25-35

Now great crowds accompanied [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

“Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Hymns for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

LSB853 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Fred Pratt Green

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1. How clear is our vocation, Lord, When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your Word And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.
2. We marvel how Your saints become In hindrances more sure;
Whose joyful virtues put to shame The casual way we wear Your name
And by our faults obscure Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
3. But if, forgetful, we should find Your yoke is hard to bear;
If worldly pressures fray the mind, And love itself cannot unwind
Its tangled skein of care: Our inward life repair.
4. In what You give us, Lord, to do, Together or alone,
In old routines or ventures new, May we not cease to look to You,
The cross You hung upon — All You endeavored done.

LSB558 Not unto Us

Georg Weissel

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1. Not unto us, not unto us be glory, Lord;
Not unto us but to Your name be praise;
Not unto us but to Your name all honor be giv'n
For matchless mercy, forgiveness, and grace.
2. Amazing grace—that chose us ere the worlds were made;
Amazing grace—that sent Your Son to save;
Amazing grace—that robed us in Your righteousness
And taught our lips to sing glory and praise.
3. O faithful love—that shepherded through faithless years;
Forgiving love—that led us to Your truth;
Unyielding love—that would not let us turn from You
But sent us forth to speak pardon and peace.
4. Not unto us but to Your name be glory, Lord,
For grace so rich, so wide, so high, so free.
Abide with us till trav'ling days are over and done,
And pilgrim feet lead us home, Lord, to You.

LSB713 From God Can Nothing Move Me

Ludwig Hembold

Text (sts. 1-2, 6) © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*; (sts. 3-5, 7) © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, Used by permission. LSBHymnLicense.net #100012381.

1. From God can nothing move me; He will not step aside
But gently will reprove me And be my constant guide.
He stretches out His hand In evening and in morning,
My life with grace adorning Wherever I may stand.
2. When those whom I regarded As trustworthy and sure
Have long from me departed, God's grace shall still endure.
He rescues me from sin And breaks the chains that bind me.
I leave death's fear behind me; His peace I have within.
- W 3. The Lord my life arranges; Who can His work destroy?
In His good time He changes All sorrows into joy.
So let me then be still My body, soul, and spirit
His tender care inherit According to His will
- M 4. Each day at His good pleasure God's gracious will is done.
He sent His greatest treasure In Jesus Christ, His Son.
He ev'ry gift imparts. The bread of earth and heaven
Are by His kindness given. Praise Him with thankful hearts!
- W 5. Praise God with acclamation And in His gifts rejoice.
Each day finds its vocation Responding to His voice.
Soon years on earth are past; But time we spend expressing
The love of God brings blessing That will forever last!
- M 6. Yet even though I suffer The world's unpleasantness,
And though the day's grow rougher And bring me great distress,
That day of bliss divine, Which knows no end or measure,
And Christ, who is my pleasure, Forever shall be mine.
- △ 7. For thus the Father willed it, Who fashioned us from clay;
And His own Son fulfilled it And brought eternal day.
The Spirit now has come, To us true faith has given;
He leads us home to heaven. O praise the Three in One!

LSB599 O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near

Stephen P. Starke

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1. O gracious Lord, with love draw near
To these, Your children gathered here;
The Spirit's gift in them renew:
The gift of faith that clings to You.
2. Sustain the work You have begun
In these united to Your Son,
For in that pure baptismal flood
They have been cleansed by Jesus' blood.
3. Deliver them from ev'ry wile,
From all that would their hearts beguile,
From worldly ways and Satan's lies,
That they may not Your Word despise.
4. Lord, keep them firm in their intent
To You, Your Word and Sacrament.
O make them bold, their faith to share
And make them strong, each cross to bear.
5. O Father, grant that by Your grace
They may Your will each day embrace;
With fruits of faith their lives now bless,
Till they at death Your name confess.
6. Then robed in white before Your throne,
Your holy saints, by You foreknown—
Predestined, called, and justified,
Shall, crowned in light, be glorified.

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Nathaniel Demlow

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; www.lsusfw.org)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th, MS ELA), Michael Cullen (7th, MS Science), Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), Abbey Kohler (4th), Rachel Wiegman (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Fink (1st), Michelle Madden (K), Natalie Reynolds (Art), Elisa Sawall (Music), Lee Buxton (PE), Cathie Wakeland (Literacy Coach), Arianna Case (LSEM), Melissa White (FWCS) & Sarah Wheaton (EACS) (Title I Tutors)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

1012PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution, including Bishop Juhana Pohjola and Dr. Päivi Räsänen
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our teachers as they start of another academic year, our fieldworker Nate Demlow, and vicars Matthew Harrison and Paul Mroczenski (Paul vicaring in Puerto Rico)
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary.
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care or nearing death, especially Chrys Caragounis
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Frank Jackson, Debra Busche, Earl Marcel Sisson, Richard Lammert, Phyllis Lattimore, Nate Demlow, Carl Albersmeyer, Connie Houser, Estella Ramirez, Bill Weinrich, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Elaine Seifert, Bob Ockree, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Marissia White, Gary Phillips, David Groth, Gary Castle, Ron Rastl, Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days, especially for pregnant mothers Jennifer Wessel and Marie Bahr
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit, especially Bishop Reid Muehl
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed, including Jill Stokes, and Betty, Eva & Bill Barto
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. The Cross Bowl is given in loving memory of Jill Stokes, and Betty, Eva, and Bill Barto by Clarence Stokes. Please complete an attendance communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

September 7, 2025 thru September 13, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study (combined today)	Bauer Hall
MON.	5:00 PM	LSA Meeting	LSUS
TUES.	9:00 AM	Weekday Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	9:30 AM	FW South Circuit	Trinity, Decatur Rd
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.	7:00 PM	Elders' Council	Conference Room
FRI.	5:30 PM	Family Game Night	Bauer Hall
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

September 14, 2025

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service (Holy Cross Day)	Church
	10:45 AM	Adult Bible Study	Bauer Hall
	10:45 AM	Alternate Adult/Teen Class	Conference Room

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: Dr. Voelz is away today. The Adult Bible Study will combine with the alternate adult/teenage class, and will meet in Bauer Hall. Dr. Voelz will be back next Sunday, and next Sunday's alternate adult/teen class will meet in the Conference Room.

MEN OF ZION Bible study will start back up this Wednesday at 9:30 AM.

CALLING ALL persons who know how to knit, sew, or crochet. For our last community project of the year, the ladies of Zion would love to give wheel chair residents at Lutheran Life Villages (LLV) 36x36 lap blankets. This length assures that it will clear the wheels and not cause a fall. If you would like to help out, please contact Melvia or DaVanna for more information or if you need supplies.

MITE BOXES are used to collect money for missions. Please pick up one from the table and return it back once it's full. All donations are turned in to the LWML society to further God's kingdom through the 31 mission grants selected by delegates at district and national conventions. There are bookmarks on the round table that shows where the money is going.

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Psalm 37:5—"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." Last week's verse was Isaiah 41:10.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE: The fall 40 Days campaign opening rally is on September 23, 2025 at 5:30 PM, opening prayer given by Pastor David Reed. Pastor Mike Bahr has coordinated our participation date, which is October 1st 8AM-8PM, and is now calling for volunteers to pray for life. Information and sign up sheets are on the round table in the Great Hall. *"I have set before you life and death ... choose life"* (Deut. 30:19).

RLNI: National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children is September 13th, 2:00-3:00pm. Join us at the Catholic Cemetery on 3500 Lake Ave in Fort Wayne for a memorial to remember the babies from Northeast Indiana who lost their lives to abortion. **Also**, please join us also at RLNI's Fall Banquet on Tuesday, October 14th at 5:30 pm at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum with **keynote speaker Kirk Cameron! Pastor Bahr has reserved a table or two for Zion. The cost is \$50 per person. If interested, see Pastor Bahr or make your check out to Zion and put RLNI in the memo line.**

BIG NEWS FROM CLHS! Groundbreaking has been set for Sept. 23rd (1 PM). The **A Bold Step** capital campaign, renovating the academic building and auditorium, has reached a major milestone with financing secured and construction on Project 1 set to begin after Labor Day. But we're not done yet: campaign fundraising continues so that Project 2, the auditorium renovation, can be included in this historic effort. In the coming weeks, Concordia will host public meetings in congregations and community venues to share how this campaign will bless generations to come, and your attendance and participation will make the difference—pray, attend, and spread the word!

CLHS: Join in the homecoming festivities on September 26th, with everyone from the Concordia Lutheran High School family! Festivities, including the Alumni Social, start at Zollner Stadium at 5:30 p.m. Then, root on the Football Cadets as they take on Bishop Luers in the homecoming game, which starts at 7 p.m. Following the homecoming game, enjoy yourselves at the Alumni After-Party at Fort Wayne Turners beginning at 8:30 p.m. Come have some food, fun and fellowship with fellow members of the Concordia Lutheran High School family!

WE CAN FACE COMPETING PRIORITIES when we think about planning our estates someday. A big decision about estate gifts centers on whether they should be given all at once or spread over time. In inheritance to family, a lump sum gift could enable a house purchase or the start of a business. It could also foster frivolous purchases. Which should you choose? The answer might be different depending on the heir and their needs. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you begin to think and pray your way through these decisions. For help, contact Mark Muehl at 260-241-4845 or mark.muehl@lfnd.org.

CONCORDIA CEMETERY is in need of grounds keepers (mowing, trimming, digging graves and assisting with burials, etc.). Call Don Remenschneider if interested: 260-438-1045.

For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

God calls His own people a "Royal Priesthood." God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** — They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** — They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** — They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

Morning Prayer

DAILY LECTIONARY

Evening Prayer

Luke 14:25-35

**The Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Philippians 1:1-20

Monday

2 Kings 5:9-27

Philippians 1:21-2:11

Tuesday

2 Kings 6:1-23

Philippians 2:12-30

Wednesday

2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29

Philippians 3:1-21

Thursday

2 Chronicles 29:1-24

Philippians 4:1-23

Friday

2 Chronicles 31:1-21

Colossians 1:1-23

Saturday

2 Chronicles 32:1-22

THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life's earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy,**hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The Holy Cross Day

Numbers 21:4-9

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 12:20-23



What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Illusion of Free Choice Regarding the Divine

The third passage [in Erasmus' *Diatribes on Free Will*] is from Moses: "I have set before your face the way of life and of death. Choose what is good," etc. [Deut. 30: 15, 19]. What, says Diatribe, could be put more plainly? God leaves man freedom to choose. I reply: What is more plain than that you are blind here? How, pray, does he leave freedom to choose? By saying, "Choose"? Do they then choose as soon as Moses says, "Choose"? Then once more the Spirit is not necessary. ...

If there is freedom of choice, why has the "probable opinion" said that free choice cannot will good? Can it choose without willing or against its will? But let us listen to your simile. It would be ridiculous, you say, to say to a man standing at a crossroad, "You see these two roads; take which you like," when only one was open to him.

This is just what I said before about the arguments of human Reason, that she thinks man is mocked by an impossible precept, whereas we say that he is warned and aroused by it to see his own impotence. Truly, therefore, we are at a crossroad, but only one way is open; or rather, no way is open, but by means of the law it is shown how impossible one of them is, namely, the way to the good, unless God gives the Spirit, and how broad and easy the other is if God allows us to take it. It would not be ridiculous, therefore, but a matter of due seriousness, to say to a man standing at a crossroad, "Take which way you like," if he was either inclined to imagine himself strong when he was weak, or was contending that neither road was closed.

The words of the law are spoken, therefore, not to affirm the power of the will, but to enlighten blind reason and make it see that its own light is no light and that the virtue of the will is no virtue.

Luther's Works, 33:126-7.



**Beginning September 7,
CHOIR REHEARSALS
RESUME ON:**

**SUNDAYS
AT 8:05 am**

**In the church balcony.
All are welcome.**

Summary of meeting of the Council of Elders, August 7, 2025
(The following summary is being provided in accordance with the congregation's bylaws, §VIII)

Attendance:

Elders present: R. Lammert (chairman), A. Litke (secretary), W. Krause, F. Jackson. J. Teasdale, K. Vlot.

Elder absent: T. Muehl.

Pastor present: Pr. Punke.

Pastor Punke led the elders in a devotion by continuing the reading of Article V of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession.

In his pastor's report, Pastor Punke reported on adult catechesis, on Bible study, on health and other issues among Zion's members, on LSUS, on CLHS, and on the Indiana District Convention.

Jim Teasdale volunteered to become chairman of the Evangelism and Assimilation of New Members Committee.

The elders reviewed Pillar 1, Goal #1: "Starting July 1, 2025, Zion will experience a 10% increase in average worship attendance by September 30, 2025." Due to Pastor Punke's vacation in the month preceding the meeting, there was no opportunity to begin preparing a list of longer-term inactive members (those who have not attended for more than four weeks). The elders will begin strategizing about contacting those members at next month's meeting.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #1: "In January of 2025, Zion will commence an annual opportunity for providing resources and training for members to gain confidence in inviting neighbors to Zion." There will again be an opportunity to participate in the *Every One His Witness* workshop in September and October. The workshop will begin on September 20, meet-

ing on Saturdays at 1:00 pm for six weeks (about one hour for each session). Pastor Punke will be the moderator for the workshop.

The elders reviewed Pillar 2, Goal #4: “The Council of Elders will work through an ad-hoc committee with the Administrative Council and Education Council to determine whether to proceed and how to proceed to respond to the results of the CADDs survey, with a report by September 30, 2025.” Frank Jackson as convener will schedule a meeting of the five participants of the ad-hoc committee.

Richard Lammert was nominated to be chairman of the Council of Elders. The members approved the election through acclamation. Art Litke was nominated to be secretary of the Council of Elders. The members approved the election through acclamation.

The elders continued reviewing and amending the congregational document *The Wedding Service at Zion*, last updated on August 8, 2015. Pastor Punke will review the section of “Arranging for the Wedding” and bring his suggestions for improving the document to the next meeting.

The meeting was closed by praying Responsive Prayer 1.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Lammert, Chairman

EVERY ONE HIS WITNESS

LUTHERAN EVANGELISM®

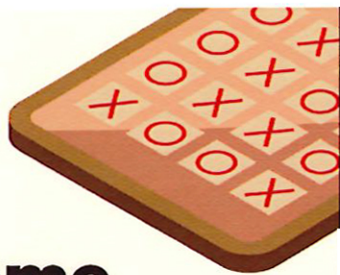


Learn how to naturally and genuinely share the Gospel with your friends and neighbors who have not heard the Good News. After this program, you will be more effective witnesses of Jesus in your everyday life!

Zion Lutheran Church

Invite you to our... family game night!

Fun • Laughter • Teamwork



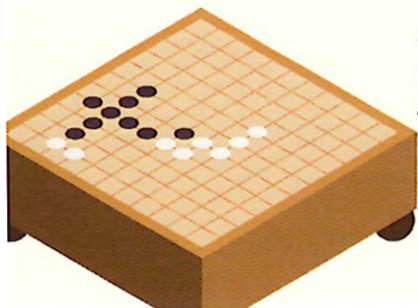
**12 September, 2025
AT 05:30 pm**

What's This All About?

- Trivia & Puzzles
- Classic Board Games
- Friendly Competitions
- Food for Everyone!

**Great for kids, teens,
parents & grandparents!**

Admission: FREE!





September Event Schedule

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE

2

SEPT 2025

🌙 PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON VANITY: A STUDY OF
THE BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES
7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

9

SEPT 2025

DEVOTION ANCHOR NIGHT: "FAILURE ISN'T FINAL"
WITH BRIAN LOESEL FOLLOWED BY CARDS & GAMES
7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

16

SEPT 2025

SAND VOLLEYBALL FREE PLAY-CASH BAR
7-9 PM EMPOWERED SPORTS CLUB
12124 LIMA RD

23

SEPT 2025

MEETUP
7 PM HOP RIVER BREWING COMPANY
1515 N HARRISON ST.

30

SEPT 2025

MEETUP: LIVE MUSIC
7 PM THE CLUB ROOM @ THE CLYDE
TODD HAROLD BAND



Join us for a Men's Retreat!

September 26-28, 2025

Join us for Lutherhaven's Men's Retreat where faith, fellowship and friendly competition meet under the theme of Iron Sharpens Iron.

Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose

Dr. Jeffrey Leininger

"...brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." Romans 12:1 (ESV)

What is God calling me to do? What is the one thing I was placed on this planet for? How can I discover it? What if I miss it? These questions plague us all, whether we're young and ambitious or retired and asking, "what's next." The truth is, however, there is not one thing that you're meant to do. We have multiple callings, and they are unfolding right now. Pastor Leininger will walk us through the theological teaching on vocation, and apply it to the issues affecting Christian men in an increasingly unchristian world.

Come for the food, fellowship, fun and faith that we share as we dive into a great Topic, Games for guys, engaging Sectionals, Free-time, a Cook Out, and time spent in God's Creation! **Other activities include:** Disc Golf, Basketball, Pickleball, Beach Volleyball, Boating, Self-Guided Hikes, A Game Room, and more.

Register & More Information at:

[LUTHERHAVEN.ORG/PROGRAMS/RETREATS/MEN/](https://lutherhaven.org/programs/retreats/men/)

