

Zion Lutheran Church
Thief River Falls, MN

New Traditions Worship
Season After Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship
August 25, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING SONG "Blest Are They" # 728

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *(2 Corinthians 13:13)*

And also with you.

You are the treasured people of the LORD,
a people holy to the LORD our God.

Keep the words of the LORD in your heart; teach them to your children.
Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

(Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE SONG "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" #510 v. 1&3

**Word of God, come down on earth, living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love, one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.



¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 34:15-22

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God’s ears are open | to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” #510, v2

**Word eternal, throned on high, Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die, crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring, speak to us, your love outpouring.**

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with

him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Sermon Pastor Mark Helgeland

Hymn of the Day “Blessed Assurance” #638

RESPONSE TO THE WORD: CREED AND CONFESSION

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God has mercy on you,

Your sins are forgiven through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Be strengthened in all goodness,

and the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice.

Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. Peace be with you.

OFFERING/ OFFERTORY "Create in Me a Clean Heart" ELW #186

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

God, our Creator,

**you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we
bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your
ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

Response: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

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.**

BLESSING

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every spiritual blessing.

Amen

May the God of faithfulness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Sending Song "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #671

Dismissal

Go into the world knowing Christ and making Christ known. **Thanks be to God.**

Post-service Music

Announcements - August 25, 2024

Season after Pentecost

WELCOME! ZION'S LAY MINISTRY/EVANGELISM BOARD EXTENDS A SPECIAL WELCOME TO YOU THIS MORNING. MAY YOU BE FED SPIRITUALLY DURING THIS TIME OF WORSHIP.

OUR THANKS TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS/ASSISTANTS

Pastor: Kristin Ostercamp

Pianists: Laura Rude, Jenna Von Holtum

Organist: Marie Longo

Greeters: Gretchen Beito

Ushers: Tiffany Sterry

Reader:

OUR PRAYERS TO ALL GOD'S CHILDREN STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER.

Those under a doctor's care, those who grieve, all who are moving through a challenging season, especially Dan Bartsch, Diane Sundby, and Patty Dicken.

ZION WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE Sunday mornings you can listen to the 9:00AM service online. Go to: www.ziontrf.org. in the black banner click Listen Online, Click on the RED link to KTRF.

BROADCASTS today are sponsored by Zion memorials

WEBSITE sponsor for August is David & Karen Kirkeby in memory of Cody Lundgren.

LISTENING DEVICES & LARGE PRINT worship folders & bulletins are available from an usher.

August 27 & 28 "Clean Out" at Zion Many of Zion's storage areas, Sunday School rooms, and closets have old, unused, or inoperable items filling them. You are invited to help sort and tag for disposal on Tuesday, Aug. 27, and/or Wednesday, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sentence to Serve will come on Aug. 29 to load and take discards to Les' Sanitation.

SCHOOL KITS FOR MISSIONS Each year our Zion congregation assembles many school kits which are sent to mission sites around the world. Without these basic supplies, many children are unable to go to school. Now is a great time to purchase these basic items during "back-to-school" sales. A box is located in the narthex for donated items. They can include: 70-page wide-ruled spiral notebooks, pencils, ball point pens, crayons, ruler, pencil sharpener, lg. eraser.

TRF Food Shelf Mortgage Reduction - Zion Mission fund will match donations up to \$2000 to help reduce the mortgage at the Thief River Falls Food Shelf. Helping the Food Shelf reduce this debt will free more funds to share vital resources for those who face food insecurity. *Donations can be made payable to Zion Lutheran Church with TRF Food Shelf in the memo line.* Thank you for supporting this important community resource. **Donations currently \$1,517.**

CHOIRS - Anyone interested in joining either God's Joy Choir (K-5th) or Senior Choir, please reach out to Laura Rude at 218-684-1072. Choirs resume Wed., September 11th.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORK AND WITNESS!

Aug 12-18: \$7,271. Aug 1-18: \$16,866. YTD: \$198,220. Weekly Goal: \$6,523.

Offering plates are available on the table at the back of the church

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® Eligible Thrivent Financial members: Show your appreciation for Zion Lutheran Church by directing Choice Dollars. The individual recommendations you make through Choice Dollars can make a profound impact. *Thank you to all who have directed dollars!* **YTD: \$2,033.**

Soul Shop™ for Communities and for Leaders Workshops are planned in Thief River Falls September 18 and 19, 2024 held at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Soul Shop's mission is to equip faith communities to minister to those impacted by suicide. Soul Shop is the leading provider of faith-based suicide prevention workshops in the US.

Scan to Give



Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH NURSE NOTES —

Walking is easy and an inexpensive way to get in some exercise and many do just that but...have you ever done **prayer walking**? Prayer-walking is good for your heart and your soul! Take a stroll with your soul by praying while you walk. Your prayers may be with or without words.

Benefits of walking: Improvement of your physical and emotional health, relieves anxiety and depression, improves sleep, lowers blood pressure, strengthens bones, improves circulation, digestion, elimination, and respirations, increases feelings of well-being, relieves stress and tension, and the list can go on and on.

Prayer Focus: Can be on thanksgiving, repentance, intercession or praise. You may choose to pray for your family, friends, church, school, neighborhood, school projects, peace in the world, at home, neighborhoods, or for safety and security. It's endless what we can talk to God about!

This is another way to stay close to the Lord through our daily activities. **ENJOY YOUR STROLL!**
God's Blessing and Peace...Parish Health

THE GROCERIES TO GO & HANDYMAN PROGRAMS are available through our church. If you need this service or would like to be a volunteer for grocery delivery, call the church office at 218-681-3296 and Darlene will get back to you.

AFTERNOON OUT - LSS Group Respite is a great place to bring your loved one to enjoy playing cards, bingo and reminiscing to their favorite music. Volunteers are also needed to socialize over coffee and interactive videos during Group Respite. Please contact Debi Retzlaff at 218.593.1333 or email at debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org for more information. Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:30 PM in the Lounge.

Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, pastorkristin@mncable.net

Office Phone: 681-3296 Fax: 681-3048

Linda Hamrick, Office Manager ziontrf@mncable.net

Darlene Wiseth, Faith Community Nurse zionph@mncable.net

David Lee / Tiffany Sterry, Custodial

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today: Sunday, August 25:

9:00 Zion HC worship/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Coffee Fellowship

10:30 Silver Creek HC Worship

12 GV broadcast ch. 37

Monday, August 26:

9 SAIL exercise

Tuesday, August 27:

9-12 Faith Community Nurse hours

10 Workday

10:30 Bereavement Group

1:30 TRCC communion

2:30 Oakland Park communion

Wednesday, August 28:

10 Workday

Thursday, August 29:

9 SAIL exercise

2:30 LSS Respite Care

Next Sunday, Sept. 1:

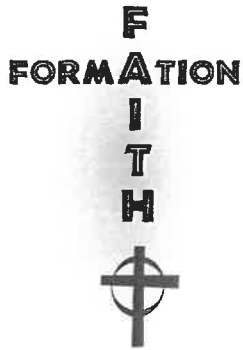
9:00 Zion HC worship/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF

10 Coffee Fellowship

No Silver Creek Worship

12 GV broadcast ch. 37

Youth Education



Rally Day is September 8th.

- Join us for Worship at 9:00 am
 - Little Lambs (3yr olds beginning Sunday School) will be presented with pins
 - Following worship there will be a special event for Sunday School students in the Fellowship Hall.
 - Sunday School Teacher Installation will be on Sept. 15th during worship.
- If you have students who have not attended Sunday School at Zion before, please call the church office to register.
- Noisy Offering Sept 8th & 22nd will go to: **Operation Christmas Child**

2nd Grade Bible Classes will happen on Sept. 22 and Sept 29 during class time. Bibles will be presented on Sept 29th during worship.

Acolyte Training for Grade 6-8 will happen on Sept. 29th at 10:45am.

September Schedule for Muffins/treats.

Please bring 2 dozen treats to the kitchen by the assigned date - Thank you!

Sept 8: Deanna Alby, Brandi Asleson, Ryan & Jamie Bakken, Colin & Maia Beger

Sept 22: Brittany Beito, Nick & Ashley Beito, Brian & Desiree Berilrud, Derek & Alissa Besserud

Sept 29: Heather Blumer, Chris & Missy Borgen, Cori Bregier, Joe & Heather Bregier

Food & Fellowship - September 15th following worship.

All are welcome! Free-will donation for the breakfast.

Confirmation Notes:

Grade 11 students & parents will have a meeting on Wed., Sept. 11th at 6pm.

Grade 10 Confirmation students & parents will meet on Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 6pm.

Grades 8 & 9 students & parents will meet on Wed., Oct. 2nd at 6 pm.