

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**15th Sunday After Pentecost**  
**September 1, 2024 9:00 AM**





## Pre-service Music

### ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

**GATHERING SONG**                    **“For the Beauty of the Earth”**                    **#879**

### 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.

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE SONG

**“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”**                    **ELW #510 v1&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: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with

which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 15**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup>tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup>holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup>what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup>from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup>to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup>on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who <sup>1</sup>fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take <sup>1</sup>back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup>overthrown.

### **SECOND READING: James 1:17-27**

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Word of God, Come Down on Earth ELW #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: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

**SERMON** Pastor Mark Helgeland

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "Oh That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" #772

**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.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.** (*Jude 20*)

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (*Jude 21*)

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

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

(*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

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. (*2 Corinthians 13:11*)

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**

Merciful God, *Response:* **receive our prayer.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

### **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** (*Romans 15*)

**SENDING SONG** “Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” #534

### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **Post-service Music**

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## Announcements - September 1, 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: Cookie Overbye, Cammy Joppru      Communion assist: Vivian Kuntson, Patty Schob  
Ushers: Joppru Family      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](http://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 September is Dick & Jan Haugen in memory of Loved Ones.

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

**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 18-25:\$3,286.      Aug 1-25: \$20,437.      YTD: \$201,771.      Weekly Goal: \$6,523.

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

**Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup>** 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.*

Dan Bartsch has had a difficult journey this summer to recover from illness and return to TRF. If you would like to participate in a "card shower" and send him a card to encourage and cheer him up, that would be AWE-SOME!! It's also his birthday September 1st. Address labels are available on the narthex table. **THANK YOU!**

**Soul Shop<sup>™</sup> 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.

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**Scan to Give**



*Thank you for your generosity!*

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## PARISH NURSE NOTES —

Our Soul Shop Workshops on Suicide Awareness are coming up and one of the stories that is discussed in the workshop for leaders was recently on the King James Bible app so it seems appropriate to share it.

"All people thirst to know the Lord, not just fellow Christians. They can appear in the highest and lowest of places." Acts 16:27-34

This part is written by David Jacobs who is one of the writers for the app.

I used to tutor at a prison in my home city, teaching inmates general education courses, math, history, English, and computers. Contrary to what I thought, most of the inmates were very pleasant, but they had obviously made a mistake at some point in their lives. Some inmates however, were less pleasant, placing the harsh realities of prison life in view. I was shocked at how thirsty the inmates in the program were for education. They became even more interested and yearned for more lessons when they found out I was a theology student. God's word will not be denied. It will find its way everywhere.

Paul and Silas were no strangers to prison, unfortunately for them. They had been preaching about the life of Jesus when they met a soothsayer, possessed by a spirit but very profitable for her masters. Paul summoned the spirit out of her, costing her masters money, so they went to the magistrates asking Paul and Silas to be jailed.

Now in jail after receiving many lashings, Paul and Silas pray in their cells. There was a great earthquake, opening up the jail cells. When the guard sees the open cells, he takes his sword to commit suicide. Luckily for him, Paul stops him, assuring him that the prisoners are still in their cells. His act of kindness and overall demeanor must have made an impact on the jail guard, for he lets go and asks Paul and Silas how to be saved. Soon after, he is baptized and they celebrate the life of Christ, rejoicing in his name.

Prayer... There are no walls, bars, or mountains that can stop the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!  
AMEN

The information shared at these workshops is so important to hear.  
Please come if you are able to. You may make a difference in someone's life and SAVE IT!  
—Blessings and Peace to you Always...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](mailto:debi.retzlaff@lssmn.org) for more information. Thursdays, 2:00 to 4:30 PM in the Lounge.

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Pastor Kristin Ostercamp, [pastorkristin@mncable.net](mailto:pastorkristin@mncable.net)

Office Phone: 681-3296 Fax: 681-3048

Linda Hamrick, Office Manager [ziontrf@mncable.net](mailto:ziontrf@mncable.net)

Darlene Wiseth, Faith Community Nurse [zionph@mncable.net](mailto:zionph@mncable.net)

David Lee / Tiffany Sterry, Custodial

**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

**Today: Sunday, Sept. 1:**

9:00 Zion HC worship/Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF  
10 Coffee Fellowship  
No Silver Creek Worship  
12 GV broadcast ch. 37

**Monday, Sept. 2:**

Labor Day—Offices Closed

**Tuesday, Sept. 3:**

No Faith Community Nurse today  
5:30 Public Relations Meeting  
6:30 Parish Fellowship Meeting

**Thursday, Sept. 5:**

9 SAIL exercise  
1 Quilting  
2:30 LSS Respite Care

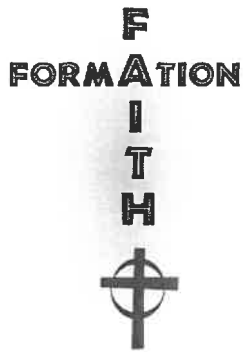
**Friday, Sept. 6**

8 Men's Breakfast

**Next Sunday, Sept. 8: Rally Sunday**

9:00 Zion HC worship/Little Lambs/ Baptism  
Broadcast ch. 3; KTRF  
10 Sunday School/Cornerstone Event in Fellowship Hall  
10 Coffee Fellowship  
11 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** 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. Grade 11 prep/serve  
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.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**September 1, 2024**

**LECTIONARY 22**

**What Would Jesus Do?**

At the outset, rules seem simple. They divide the world into good and bad and help us restore a measure of order to a chaotic world. Unfortunately, the same rules that we use to bring order out of chaos are often insufficient to deal with the complexity of our lives, which is one of the reasons there truly is an exception to every rule. This is also the reason we appoint judges: to interpret the law when it fails to adequately address the circumstance to which it is applied.

In Jesus' day the Pharisees and scribes were known for their strict observance of the law. So when they notice the disciples of Jesus eating with defiled hands, the Pharisees and scribes bring this perceived breach of the law to Jesus' attention. The law itself, which requires that people wash their hands before eating, originated from ancient purity laws. Jesus understands this and simultaneously upholds and reframes the law by drawing his listeners' attention away from the washing of hands to what truly defiles. In doing so, Jesus acts as a judge and offers an interpretation of the law that both upholds its original intent of purity and absolves the disciples of wrongdoing. At the same time, he exposes the prioritization of human precepts over God's command and reminds us of God's sovereignty and compassion.

Rules are simple, but our world is not. Through the incarnation, the Word made flesh, God meets us at the intersection of law and life. In Jesus, God the judge enters our world in a new way and interprets the law. And through Jesus, we come to understand God's will in a messy world. Therefore, if we as Christians truly want to live out the will of God, we do well to start with that old and simple question "What would Jesus do?"

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