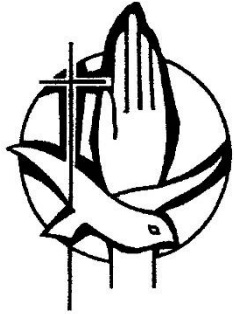


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

*“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.”*



# Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion & Labor Day Weekend

**September 4, 2022**

*For those who are hearing challenged, Zion has digital listening devices for your use during worship. Please ask an usher or council member for one and they will show you how to use it.*

## Prelude – Bell

*Hospitality and hosting are major themes throughout the summer lectionary. Jesus sends his disciples out to preach the gospel, instructing them to be guests in the homes of others. What can it mean that God chooses to act in the role of guest and calls on believers to do the same?*

## Gathering

P- Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul’s request to Philemon into our prayer of the day:  
Refresh my heart in Christ.

**C- You have searched me out and known me.** Psalm 139:1

P- Strengthen by the company and forgiveness of Christ in Holy Communion and recalling God’s grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to “choose life”—to choose life in God as our own.

**C- You have searched me out and known me.** Psalm 139:1

**Gathering Hymn – Will You Come and Follow Me** ELW 798

## Confession & Forgiveness

*As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as pastor begins.*

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

**C- Amen**

P- Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- God of mercy and forgiveness,

**C- we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen**

P- Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven + and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God’s abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C- Amen**

## Children’s Time

## Readings

### Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Lector– *Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.*

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 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. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing 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, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, 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. Here ends this reading.

## Psalm 1 - The Two Ways

*Read responsively.*

Happy are those  
**who do not follow the advice of the wicked,**  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
**or sit in the seat of scoffers;**  
but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
**and on his law they meditate day and night.**  
They are like trees  
**planted by streams of water,**  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
**and their leaves do not wither.**  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,  
**but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
**nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**  
for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
**but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## Philemon 1-21

Lector – *While Paul was in prison, he was aided by Onesimus, a man who had run away from Philemon, a slave owner and Christian friend of Paul. Paul told Onesimus to return to Philemon and encouraged Philemon to receive Onesimus back as a Christian brother.*

## Salutation

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

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Philemon's Love and Faith

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

## Paul's Plea for Onesimus

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, 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. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, 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, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. Here ends this reading.

### **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Direct us, O Lord God,

**C- 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**

### **Gospel – Luke 14:25-33**

P- Jesus speaks frankly about the cost of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, “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. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 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? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ 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? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.” The Gospel of the Lord.

**C- Praise to you, O Lord! *Please be seated.***

**Message –**

**Offering Hymn – Lift High the Cross** ELW 660

### **Offering Prayer**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- Gracious God,

**C- in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ. Amen**

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church** – *When the pastor says, “Lord in your mercy”  
please respond with “hear our prayer!”*

## **Words of Institution - Song of Consecration**

*Please join in singing the final verse in bold print.*

The night of his betrayal, our Lord took bread.  
He broke it as he blest it, and then he said,  
“My body broken for you...is what this means;  
remember now my children what you have seen!”

And then he took the chalice and raised it high,  
“My blood is given for you, a full supply...  
a covenant, a promise...a cleansing stream;  
remember now my children what you have seen!”

**We share this food together, remem’bring Christ:  
we share a common treasure and know the price;  
we share it without measure...a gift of love;  
we share our life forever, with God above!**

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## **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.**

**Invitation to Communion**

P- Christ invites you to this table.

Come taste and see..

**Communion Hymn – What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine ELW 774**

**Distribution of Holy Communion**

*We will be doing communion at the rail for those able to come forward to partake. Please follow the usher's directions and maintain social distancing. A team will bring communion to those unable to come forward. For those who prefer the individual communion package, we have it available in the entryways.*

**Prayer after Holy Communion**

P- God of the abundant table,  
**C- you have refreshed our hearts in this meal  
with bread for the journey.  
Give us your grace on the road  
that we may serve our neighbors with joy;  
for the sake of Jesus' name. Amen**

**Announcements in the Life of Our Church**

**Blessing & Dismissal**

P- God who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the Holy Trinity, + one God, guide you always in faith, hope,  
and love.

**C\_Amen.**

P- Go in peace. With Christ beside you.

**C- Thanks be to God! ZION...a place to belong, a place to believe, a  
place to become!**

**Sending Hymn – Be Thou My Vision ELW 793**

**Pastor Jer's phone number – 402-404-0494**

**Britan's number – 308-730-0599**

Pastor..... Rev. Jerry

Gilbreath

Organist..... Alnora Daubendiek

Acolytes..... Cale Behrens, Bella

Buhr

Reader..... Sandy Meints

**Vital Statistics**

107 4289.85

**This Week**

Worship 9 am

## **NEXT Sunday**

Worship 9 am

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship! Warm Welcome to all our visitors. We would love to have you visit again! We ask that you please sign a visitor card located in the pews and bring the information section of the card to the information center desk, located in the unity room. We are so glad you are here!

**HANDICAP PARKING** - We encourage you to reserve parking between the parsonage and the north doors for those joining us with mobility difficulties. Thank you! ~ The Church Council

## **Zion's Phone Directory Update!**

*To be honest, whenever we print a new, updated phone directory it is already obsolete due to missed changes of address, cell phone numbers, disconnected landlines, and additions to family. Please contact Karen Gilbreath at 402-661-9362 by call or text, with those changes that keep Zion's Phone Directory current and fresh. Thank you!*

**The Current Elevator Balance due is approximately \$9,000.**

**We will start having greeters on Sunday Mornings again! Greeters will begin on Rally Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Praise Team** is excited to regroup and begin leading worship music this fall! We will begin practice Sunday morning September 11th @ 8:45 am in the choir loft. Anyone that would like to share your talent of singing with the group or join our musicians, we would love to have you!

**Mark your Calendars!** The WELCA General Meeting will be held Wednesday, September 14th at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Election of officers will be held and refreshments will be served. All women are invited!

**LWR Blanket Assembly:** The blankets made for Lutheran World Relief go all over the world, including Ukraine. No sewing ability or experience is necessary. If you use a stick pin and tie knots you can help make a blanket and enjoy a day, or part of a day of fellowship. We will meet in the Parish Hall basement on September 12, 13, 19 & 20 from 9 to 3. Come for a few hours or the day (bring a lunch). You can also volunteer to make a top or tie a blanket outside of these days. You can also arrange a group to assemble blanket(s) at another time. If you have questions please contact Karen Gilbreath (402) 661-9362 or Denise Schlake-Ideus at (402) 806-2236.

**Zion's Phone service has been cancelled. To contact the Church you can contact Pastor Jerry @ 402-404-0494 or Britan Meints @ 308-730-0599**

**Spend an Evening Tying LWR Blankets:** On Wednesday, September 21st 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall, spend an evening in fellowship with others while tying LWR blankets. No sewing experience needed. We will just be tying knots with heavy crochet thread in blankets that have already been sewn together. Contact Karen or Denise if you have questions.

**LWR SCHOOL KIT UPDATE:** Our goals have been met for items needed. We will assemble on Rally Sunday after service. THANK YOU to all who contributed to this mission project and for Mert Rademacher for acquiring the Thrivent Grant to support it.

**Movie Night at Fuller Park** Zion's Movie Ministry is looking forward to an evening in the park! Come join us Sunday September 25 @ 7:30

**The quartet will practice at 6:30 on Monday the 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please Join us for fellowship after church in the fellowship room!**

**This Week at Fuller Park:  
6pm Freeman Softball JV only**

**NO MENS CHOIR THIS WEEK**

### **Helping out Next Sunday**

**Acolytes: Max Behrens, Henry Garton**

**Reader: Jenny Busboom**

**Greeters: Paul & Jenny Busboom**

**September Table Troop:** Linda Ideus, Les Rademacher, Mert Rademacher, Don Schuster, John Gronewold, Robert Ideus, Paul and Shellie Remmers

**September Altar Guild:** Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, Karen Gilbreath, Annette Wiese

### **SHUT INS**

**Gold Crest** –Mildred Meints, Marie Schoen

**Homestead House** – Thees Busboom, Elsie Zimmerman

**Whispering Winds Cottage** – LaVern Parde

**Our Homes Assisted Living** – Randy Oltman