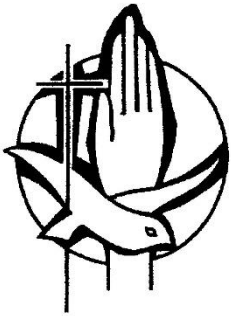


## Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

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



**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost & Rally Day  
Sunday**

**September 11, 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- The grumbling of the religious leaders in today’s gospel is actually our only hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

**C- There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke 15:10**

P- That our God seeks and saves the lost is not a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy reminds us, “The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Thanks be to God.

**C- There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Luke**

**15:10**

## Gathering Hymn – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ELW 834

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.

4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

### **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 – God's Work! Our Hands!**

After worship in the fellowship hall, as a church family, we will be assembling LWR school kits in a backpack bag and that's **God's Work! Our Hands!** These LWR school kit backpack bags will go all over the world where needed! For your participation in assembling LWR school kits in a backpack bag, we have special backpack red tags or "Walking with Jesus" clips for your backpack or lunchbox or what ever you carry your valuables in!

**Children's Church** – *Children's Church is for children between the ages of 2 and 6. They will be supervised in the basement by great guides. They will do crafts, maybe a video, and a Bible lesson. They will return to us during the offering.*

## **Readings**

### **Exodus 32:7-14**

Lector– *While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people from restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

The LORD said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ' The LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.'

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I

have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.' ” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people. Here ends this reading.

## **Psalm 51:1-10 - Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**

*Read responsively.*

To the leader. A Psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God,

**according to your steadfast love;**

according to your abundant mercy

**blot out my transgressions.**

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,

**and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you, you alone, have I sinned,

**and done what is evil in your sight,**

so that you are justified in your sentence

**and blameless when you pass judgement.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,

**a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

You desire truth in the inward being;

**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;

**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,

**and blot out all my iniquities.**

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:12-17**

Lector – *The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders of the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited for evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God. Paul writes:*

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. Here ends this reading.

### **Prayer of the Day**

*As you are able, please stand.*

P- O God,

**C- overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who would go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that they may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain life through you Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen**

### **Gospel – Luke 15:1-10**

P- Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the

initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

### **The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: **“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.”**

### **The Parable of the Lost Coin**

**“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Message – God’s Work! Our Hands!**

If we were advising the shepherd in Jesus’ first parable, we would caution him against leaving the ninety-nine sheep to search for the one lost sheep.

## ***Is it really worth the risk?***

If we were financial managers advising the woman in Jesus' second parable, we caution her about throwing a party that will cost more than the one lost coin

## ***Is it really worth the expense?***

These parables turn our conventional way of thinking upside down, ***and it just doesn't make any sense!***

It does **NOT** make sense to seek out the one lost sheep or throw a party after finding the lost coin unless we understand that ***wholeness is part of holiness***. Without the lost sheep or coin our community is **INCOMPLETE**. The coin is **NOT** lost just anywhere, but lost within the house.

**How many Lost Sheep and Coins are here in God's house this morning?**

## **Offering Hymn – Amazing Grace ELW 779**

1 Amazing grace!– how sweet the sound–  
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.



5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

### **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**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker 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**

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

### **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 – Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608**

*1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.*

*See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.*

*Refrain:*

*"Come home, come home!*

*You who are weary, come home."*

*Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"*

*2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?*

*Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]*

*3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!*

*Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. [Refrain]*

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

**Britan's number – 308-730-0599**

Pastor.....Rev. Jerry Gilbreath  
Organist..... Alnora Daubendiek  
Acolytes.....Max Behrens, Henry Garton  
Reader..... Jenny Busboom  
Greeter.....Paul & Jenny Busboom

## **Vital Statistics**

85 3768.00

## **This Week**

Sunday School 8:45

Breakfast Club 9am

Worship 10am

## **Monday**

Quartet Practice 6:30pm

Men's Choir Monday 7 pm

## **Wednesday**

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Confirmation 6pm

WELCA 7pm

## **This Week at Fuller Park:**

### **THURSDAY**

5pm Freeman SB JV vs Beatrice High School

6:30pm Freeman SB Varsity vs

### **NEXT Sunday**

Sunday School 8:45

Breakfast Club 9am

Worship 10am

## **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.**

**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**

**TODAY IS THE DAY...we assemble LWR School Kits** right after the service. A big thank you to all who contributed to this project from packing boxes to notebooks and everything in between.

Thanks also go to Mert Rademacher for acquiring a Thrivent Grant to support this project. God's Work - Our Hands! We are better together!

**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.

**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!**

**Helping out Next Sunday**

**Acolytes: London Meints, Paxton Parde**

**Reader: Carrye Meints**

**Greeters: Dave & Carrye Meints**

**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