

# *Welcome!*



Woman,  
you are set free  
from your ailment

LUKE 13:12

## *Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church*

101 N. Greenwood Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252  
(570) 668-2180 - Email: [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

*Our Mission: Empowered and Inspired by God to bring others to Christ.*

# The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

## *The Liturgy of Word and Sacrament*

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

*\*Congregation please stand*

### **The Pre-service Music**

## ~ The Gathering ~

### **\* The Confession and Forgiveness**

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE ✚ SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

**Amen.**

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST, LET US CONFESS OUR SIN.

*Please kneel if able.*

MERCIFUL GOD,

**you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

YOU BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS AND YOU ARE GOD'S CHILDREN THROUGH FAITH. IN THE CROSS OF ✚ CHRIST, AND THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. CLOTHED WITH CHRIST, YOU ARE A NEW CREATION.

**Amen.**

### **\* The Gathering Hymn**

***"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"***

No. 549

### **\* The Greeting**

THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE LOVE OF GOD. AND THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE WITH YOU ALL.

**And also with you.**

### **\* The Kyrie (ELW No. 175)**

**Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.**

### **\* The Hymn of Praise "Gloria" (ELW Pg. 176)**

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!**

**Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!**

**And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God.**

**And on earth peace to God's people. Glory to God!**

**\* The Prayer of the Day**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

*(Spoken)* And also with you.

LET US PRAY:

**O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**The Special Music** – Alexander D’Alonzo

**~The Word~**

**The First Lesson Isaiah 58:9b-14**

*God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm 103:1-8 Tune “Hallelujah! Jesus Lives!” No. 147**

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME.

**God provides from heav’n above, Mercy, kindness, steadfast love.**

HE FORGIVES ALL YOUR SINS AND HEALS ALL YOUR INFIRMITIES; HE REDEEMS YOUR LIFE FROM THE GRAVE AND CROWNS YOU WITH MERCY AND LOVINGKINDNESS.

**God provides in love for all, Who in need upon him call.**

HE SATISFIES YOU WITH GOOD THINGS SO THAT YOUR YOUTH IS RENEWED LIKE THE EAGLE’S.

**As God’s child, you now may share, All the Father’s constant care.**

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, BLESS HIS HOLY NAME.

**God provides from heav’n above, Mercy, kindness, steadfast love.**

FOR ALL WHO ARE MISTREATED, THE LORD BRINGS JUSTICE.

**God provides in love for all, Who in need upon him call.**

HE REVEALED HIS WAYS TO MOSES, AND LET THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL SEE HIS MIGHTY DEEDS.

**As God’s child, you now may share, All the Father’s constant care.**

**The Second Lesson Hebrews 12:18-29**

*Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.*

*(After the reading)*

THE WORD OF THE LORD

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* The Gospel Acclamation (ELW Pg. 179)**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!**

**\* The Holy Gospel St. Luke 13:10-17**

*Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.*

*(Before the Gospel)*

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER:

**(Spoken) Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the Gospel)*

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**(Spoken) Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

*Pastor Scott Lingenfelter*

**\*The Hymn of the Day**

***“Praise the Lord! O Heavens”***

No. 540

**\* The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker 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 to the dead. 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**

**\* The Prayers of Intercession**

LET US PRAY FOR THE CHURCH, THE CREATION, AND THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD, FOR GOD IS NEAR.

*A brief silence.*

YOU CALL YOUR CHURCH TO PROCLAIM LIBERATION AND FREEDOM TO ALL. GIVE WISDOM TO BISHOPS, SYNOD COUNCILS AND STAFF, AND CONGREGATION LEADERS AS THEY PURSUE A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE CHURCH AND SOCIETY. HEAR US, O GOD.

**Your mercy is great.**

YOU INSPIRE ALL CREATION TO SING AND BLESS YOUR HOLY NAME. SEND HEALING RAINS TO PARCHED PLACES AND RELIEF TO FLOODED LANDS. LEAD US TO ENACT POLICIES TO REBUILD RUINED ECOSYSTEMS AND HABITATS. HEAR US, O GOD.

**Your mercy is great.**

YOU WORK VINDICATION AND JUSTICE FOR ALL WHO ARE OPPRESSED. STRENGTHEN THE RESOLVE OF WORLD LEADERS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE WAY OF LOVE AND MERCY, SO THAT ALL PERSONS MAY EXPERIENCE ABUNDANT LIFE. HEAR US, O GOD.

**Your mercy is great.**

YOU SATISFY YOUR PEOPLE WITH GOOD THINGS. IN YOUR STEADFAST LOVE, RECEIVE THE CRIES OF ALL WHO ARE BENT OVER UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ADDICTION, ISOLATION, AND MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ILLNESS ESPECIALLY FORREST, STEVE, CHRISTINE, EDDIE, GEORGE, JAN, AND ALL OUR MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND. MANIFEST YOUR HEALING PRESENCE IN THEIR MIDST. HEAR US, O GOD.

**Your mercy is great.**

YOU CALL US TO DELIGHT IN THE SABBATH. INVIGORATE WORSHIP PLANNERS AND LEADERS WITH CREATIVITY TO AID THIS ASSEMBLY IN FRESH AND FAITHFUL PRAYER AND PRAISE. ENABLE ALL WHO GATHER HERE TO BE NOURISHED AND RENEWED. HEAR US, O GOD.

**Your mercy is great.**

WITH ALL YOUR APOSTLES, PROPHETS, AND SAINTS, WE GIVE THANKS AND BLESS YOUR HOLY NAME. AS THEY NOW REST FROM THEIR LABORS, GUIDE US BY THE WITNESS OF THEIR LIVES TO PURSUE YOUR REIGN, WHICH CAN NEVER BE SHAKEN. HEAR US, O GOD.

**Your mercy is great.**

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, (PLEASE SHARE ANY PERSONAL PRAYER PETITIONS) HEAR OUR PETITIONS THAT WE SPEAK OUT LOUD AND THE ONES THAT WE HOLD IN OUR HEARTS. HEAR US, O GOD,

**Your mercy is great.**

CONFIDENT IN GOD'S PRESENCE AND PROMISE, WE ENTRUST OUR PRAYERS TO THE ONE WHO ALWAYS RECEIVES THEM; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR WISDOM AND COMPANION.

**Amen.**

**\* The Peace of Christ**

THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU ALWAYS.

**And also with you.**

~The Meal~
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**The Offering and Offertory**

*Zion members, please use your envelopes for contributions so that your offering may be officially recorded. Please mail your envelopes to Zion Lutheran Church 101 N. Greenwood Street Tamaqua, PA 18252 or visit [ziontamaqua.com](http://ziontamaqua.com) for our Vanco option.*

**\* The Offertory Procession “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” (ELW Hymn No. 182)**

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; Unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence, And give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

**\* The Offertory Prayer**

LET US PRAY: CREATOR GOD, IN YOUR WISDOM YOU BRING FORTH ALL THAT IS GOOD AND THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL. STRENGTHEN US AT YOUR TABLE WITH THESE GIFTS OF THE EARTH AND OUR LABOR, THAT WE MAY WORK FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR.

**Amen.**

**\* The Great Thanksgiving**

**\* The Preface and Sanctus (ELW Pg. 180)**

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

*(Spoken)* **And also with you.**

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD OUR GOD.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

IT IS INDEED RIGHT.....THEIR UNENDING HYMN: (ELW Pg. 181)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**\* The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

HOLY, MIGHTY, AND MERCIFUL LORD, HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.....POUR OUT UPON US THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE, O LORD, AND UNITE THE WILLS OF ALL WHO SHARE THIS HEAVENLY FOOD, THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD; TO WHOM, WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE ALL HONOR AND GLORY, NOW AND FOREVER.

**Amen.**

**\* The Lord's Prayer**

JESUS, 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**

**\* The Invitation to the Holy Meal**

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS SET BEFORE YOU. EAT AND REJOICE.

**\* The Agnus Dei “Lamb of God” (ELW Pg. 182)**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

**The Distribution**

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present in the Sacrament are welcome to commune when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Zion members, please complete a Communion card once a year for our records.*

**\* The Post-Communion Blessing**

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST STRENGTHEN YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS GRACE.

**Amen.**

**\* The Post Communion Prayer**

LET US PRAY: MOTHERING GOD, YOU GATHERED US TO YOUR TABLE AND WE DRANK DEEPLY OF YOUR GRACE. SEND US OUT BY YOUR SPIRIT TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES AND PROCLAIM YOUR LOVE IN JESUS' NAME.

**Amen.**

## ~The Sending~

### \* The Blessing

THE LOVE OF GOD ABOUND IN YOU; THE GRACE OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST FILL YOUR HEARTS; AND THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT ✝ BLESS YOU AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

(Spoken) Amen.

### \* The Dismissal

GO IN PEACE. LIVE BY THE SPIRIT.

Thanks be to God.

### \* The Sending Hymn

*“Glories of Your Name are Spoken”*

No. 358

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

<sup>9b</sup> If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places  
and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

<sup>13</sup> If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,  
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;  
if you honor it, not going your own ways,  
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

<sup>14</sup> then you shall take delight in the LORD,  
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;  
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

## Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

<sup>18</sup> You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! <sup>26</sup> At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” <sup>27</sup> This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup> for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

## Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

**August 31, 2025 readings are:**

Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*August 23-24, 2025*

*\*If you need assistance, please see one of the ushers in the back of the church; Large Print Bulletins are available. Grape juice is available in the tray for those who wish not to partake of the wine. Please Silence your cell phones during service. A Family Room is available for use during or after services, located across from the office. A changing station is available for your convenience in the restroom across from the Family Room. We respectfully ask that you refrain from taking photos during the service. Opportunities are always available after the service. Welcome visitors, please sign our guest book. Thank you.*

## **GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

**THE ALTAR CANDLES** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of her parents, Arlington & Yustina Hawk by Dave & Darlene Fetterman

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God and

In honor of my loving wife, Sharon Connely on our 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by her husband, Art.

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Shayne Titus Livingston by his family.

**CURRENT FUND DONATIONS** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Dorothy Rother Epler for her heavenly birthday August 15<sup>th</sup> by daughters Frances, Joan & Carol

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND DONATIONS** are given to the Glory of God and

In loving memory of Margaret Clark by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mehalko

In loving memory of Tom Hewitt by Mr. & Mrs. Joe Mehalko

*Please remember the following in your prayers: Forrest, Steve Ristila, Christine Zimmerman, Eddie Smith, George Weaver, Jan McRoberts, and all our members who are homebound.*

A reminder that both a record of communion AND a record of contribution is necessary to maintain voting active member status. Please remember to complete a communion card and to use your offering envelopes. Thank you, Church Council

## **Welcome!!**

Parish office phone number and fax is 570-668-2180.

Parish office email address is [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net)

Parish website is [www.ziontamaqua.com](http://www.ziontamaqua.com)

Parish Office Hours- Monday & Wednesday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tuesday: 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Zion's 2024 Church Council officers:** Michael Haspe, President, Brian Lawfer, Vice-President, Amanda Hascin, Secretary, Dave Gensure, Treasurer, and Ann Marie Hadesty, Financial Secretary. Other members of Council include Arlene Derr, Glenn Fritzinger, Thomas Graham, Carol Hartung, Brittany Scalfani Mary Ruth Taylor, Michelle Valentine; and Shelly Woodring; if you have suggestions or concerns, please seek out a member of Council so that we can promptly address the needs of the congregation.

# This Week in Our Church

## SUNDAY, August 24, 2025

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament

## SATURDAY

6:00 Saturday Evening Worship

## SUNDAY, August 31, 2025

9:00 The Service of Word & Sacrament/ Baptism

### Supporting Zion's Ministries

*"Empowered and inspired by God to bring others to Christ"*

Received 8/17/25 in support of Zion Ministries:

From our gifts	\$0.00
From Thrift Store	\$0.00
From Endowment (other)	\$0.00
From Culinary	\$0.00
Received for Endowment:	\$0.00
Received for Capital Campaign:	\$0.00

Received year-to-date for Zion's mission/ministries:

From offering/gifts/memorials:	\$80,478.88
From Thrift Store:	\$4,213.67*
From Endowment:	\$22,905.00
From Culinary:	\$11,800.00

Year-to-date total for Zion's mission/ministries: \$119,397.55

\* Thrift Store donates half of income to Outreach total income - \$8,427.34

*Thank you for your gifts. Your gifts allow us to share the word of God and the love of Jesus with our congregation and our community.*

**DEADLINE:** All information for the **September 2025 issue of the "Herald"** is due at the church office **ASAP**. You may e-mail your information to [zionlcof@verizon.net](mailto:zionlcof@verizon.net) or stop in during regular office hours. Thank you for your co-operation!

**Culinary Hoagie Sale** September 11<sup>th</sup> - deadline to order is September 7<sup>th</sup> - Regular Hoagies are \$8 each. Pick up is from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. Order at <https://www.ziontamaqua.com> or by calling 570-668-4451. Thank you for your support!!

## Upcoming Events

**ASAP** – Newsletter Deadline

**September 4** – Choir Rehearsal Begins

**September 5** – Blessings Thrift Shop

**September 7** – God’s Work, Our Hands

**September 11** – Hoagie Sale

**September 21** – Back to Church Sunday

**September 21** – Sunday School/ Confirmation Begins

**Zion’s Blessings Thrift Shop** is on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 5 pm. The sale features gently used clothing for all ages, toys, books, and general household items. Come take a look! Limited Take-Out Menu. Thank you all for your continued support!

***Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors needed for 2025 - The Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsor list for 2025 is on the bulletin board. The costs of the flowers are \$42.60; individuals will be billed from the florist. The cost of the bulletin sponsorship is \$16.00; monies are due when you place your name on the list. Please remember to fill out a card with your honorarium or memorial, this information is needed for the bulletin. Please do not sign up without filling out a form. Please contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you in advance for your sponsorship!***

**Joyful Noise:** The August Joyful Noise Collection benefits the Zion organ fund. Sandy Mehalko reports that Zion’s magnificent organ is going to need some significant work soon. Please be generous.

**Choir rehearsals will begin on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.** Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. We hope to see you there! Thanks, Sandy

**God’s Work, Our Hands will be Sunday, September 7, 2025 at 12:00 noon.** How will you participate this year? Zion is planning three ways: (1) Do something for the church; (2) Do something for Zion members who need help; and (3) Do something for the community. If you do not wish to participate in one of these organized activities, you are encouraged to do something for someone else. Signup sheets are available in the Gathering Room.



**The Church office will be closed Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> in Observance of Labor Day. Have a safe Holiday!**

**Zion Construction Update:** The work on the tower and gable is now well underway. The crew has made significant progress in the last month and is now beginning the repointing and restoration work. While we aren't able to provide a definite completion date, as that can change based on weather conditions, it looks like mid-October is a reasonable estimate. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you, Brian Lawfer, Acting Property Committee Chair

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** - Sunday School begins on September 21, 2025. Sunday School follows our Morning Worship Service from 10:15 – 11:00 am. While we don't have attendance "requirements" for children in Sunday school, it is important to send your child(ren) as often as possible. While we understand the children are involved with other commitments, the lessons taught in Sunday School are essential in preparing them for their Catechetical education. (Confirmation).

**CONFIRMATION** - Confirmation begins on September 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 am -12:30 pm. Students entering 7th grade (or above) are eligible to begin Confirmation. The program is a 2 year period of study which prepares the student to affirm their baptismal covenant, and take over responsibility for their faith journey. The program is flexible and is spread over two years to ensure even if minimal time is missed, the student is prepared to accept this responsibility.

**FIRST COMMUNION** - Classes are held on three Sunday mornings: Sunday, November 2, 9, & 16, from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Children who are in 5th grade or older and who have been baptized (or who would like to be baptized) are eligible for First Holy Communion. A parent or relative who is a member of Zion Lutheran Church is required to accompany them to classes and worship. First Communion is scheduled for Sunday, November 23, 2025, during the 9:00 am worship service. Parents, please register your child (ren) now by calling 570-668-2180.

Registration forms for all educational opportunities are on the Gathering Room table. Questions & requests for additional information can be directed to [zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutheraneducation@gmail.com)