



***12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025***

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Morning Has Broken
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

INVOCATION SONG

We Are Gathered Here

We are gathered here in the name of the Father.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Father,
chosen by God's grace.

We are gathered here in the name of the Son.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Son,
chosen by God's grace.

**We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit.
We are gathered here to sing God's praise.
We are gathered here in the name of the Spirit,
chosen by God's grace.**

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Karol Baer and David Lee Brown
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GATHERING LITANY

L: Good and gracious God, we are gathered before you at Zion's cemetery surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us. We are deeply grateful for their witness that reminds us that generation after generation we are surrounded by your love and grace.

C: We are touched by the beauty of creation. You knit us together into a Holy people, living a new life in Christ.

L: Faithful One, You are here with us now, just as you promised whenever two or more gather in your name.

C: And your living word comes to us with life-giving power; may we receive it and respond faithfully.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: O Lord, we pray that you would prepare us to receive what you have in store for us today. Cleanse our minds of all distracting thoughts. Cleanse also the desires of our hearts.

C: We have failed to love you as we ought. We have failed in loving others as we love ourselves.

L: You have promised that you receive repentant sinners and forgive them. So we ask your mercy once again for the sake of Jesus. Forgive our sins in the name of Christ. Bring healing and wholeness to our bodies, our families, your church and your world.

L: God, our heavenly Father, hears the prayers of His Children and answers those prayers. Our prayer are answered in the person of Jesus Christ, His Son, who died for our sin that we might have new life in Him. Therefore, by the authority given to me, you are forgiven in the name of Jesus. Walk in the light of Gods' grace. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!

Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord! (two times)

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia!

Praise ye the Lord! Alleluia! Praise ye the Lord!

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God,

you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SONG

This Is the Day

**This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.**



WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.

- ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 112

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

***Help Us O Lord
(Sung twice)***

Help us, O Lord, to hear your word.

Open our hearts to feel your word.

Give us the strength to live your word each day.

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GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.



OFFERING

Gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Everybody's Got Something to Offer

Chorus:

Everybody's got something to offer
Young and old, the prince and the pauper
Everybody's got something to offer
in the name of the Lord

To the lost and the lowly ones
the message it is clear
we have all got a gift to give
our hands, our hearts, our tears (Chorus)

To the believers gathered here
the message it is true
we have all got a gift to give
in all we say and do (Chorus)

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us by the word that is proclaimed in word and deed
that our work and words may be for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

SONG OF COMMITMENT

Be Glorified

In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified

In my life Lord, be glorified, today

2. In our homes, Lord...

3. In our schools, Lord ...

4. In our world, Lord...

BENEDICTION

May you rest in the knowledge that God's got you, like the strong and steady hands of a midwife on a slippery newborn baby.

May you delight in the grace and forgiveness of Jesus, inviting us again and again to repentance and repair

May you recognize new birth all around, the spirit of +God made manifest in abundant imagination.

CLOSING PRAYER

For All Your Goodness, Lord

**For All your good ness Lord, we give you thanks
Thanks for the food we eat, thanks for the friends we greet,
For Each new day we meet, we give you thanks.**

DISMISSAL

**Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



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Letter on file.

Church ArtPro
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Weekly Announcements



Please keep these family, friends and members in your prayers:

Dilshad and Sonya Perani, Gary Revier and Deb Otto

Welcome Guests!

Please sign the visitor book in the entrance to the sanctuary.

We are glad you are here!

Hunger Jar for the month of August is designated to Sibley County FoodShare.

Baking communion bread

Who bakes the communion bread at Zion? Would you like to be one of them? It's really easy and Jane Scharpe is willing to have a baking class for anyone interested.

Please contact Jane (507-995-2736) and become a communion bread baker!

Where have you worshiped this summer? The Board of Worship & Music is inviting you to share a bulletin from where you worship when you're at the cabin, on a trip or just visiting friends.

Pin it up on the map on the bulletin board by the front door. Put your name on it, if you want it back at the end of summer.

blessing for the coming school year!

Thank you for joining us at the Zion Cemetery today for worship.

The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1.

Confirmation Orientation—Parents of students entering grades 6, 7, 8 & 9, there will be a confirmation orientation meeting on **Wednesday, September 3 at 6:30pm**. We are in the process of shifting the program so that students affirm their faith in the spring of 8th grade, instead of 9th grade.

Boards and Committees of Zion have agreed to move their meeting to the first Thursday of the month, so that the confirmation students can meet on Wednesdays.

September 7 is Grandparents Day. Send in a picture to Stacy at the Office of you and your grandchildren and it will be seen during the Announcements before church begins.

September 14 is the beginning of Sunday School and God’s Work, Our Hands day of service. We are still collecting service projects, so far we have 2—converting sheets into bandages and filling backpacks.

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Worship Assistants

August 31

Ushers: Brad & Brenda Danielson
Gordon & Barb Bergs
Greeter: Mary Albrecht
Acolyte: Ashley Schauer
Reader: Jane Scharpe
AV Team: Elton Hazelwood
& Tim Michaelis

September 7

Ushers: Tim & Stacy Haggenmiller
Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
Greeter: Darrel & Jackie Alsleben
Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps
Reader: Starla Schilling
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe &
Starla Schilling
Bread Maker: Jane Scharpe

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

pastor@zionarlington.org

Unscheduled—Interruptible Hours for the week of August 31

Tuesday, September 2—11a-4p

Wednesday, September 3—2p-5p

or by appointment

Stacy's Hours

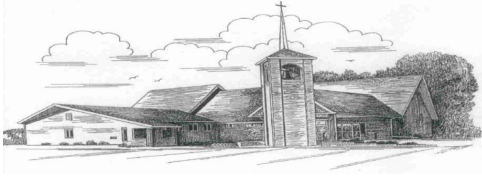
Monday—Thursday

2:30p-5p

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Church: 507-964-5454

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Web: zionarlington.org // YouTube: Zion ELCA Arlington MN



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, August 31	9:00a	Contemporary Worship @ Zion Cemetery
Tuesday, September 2	10:00a	Tuesday Bible Study
Wednesday, September 3	1:30p 6:30p	Wednesday Bible Study Confirmation Meeting
Thursday, September 4	10:00a 6:30p	Adult Bible Study Committee & Board Meeting Night
Sunday, September 7	9:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion

This is the ~~day~~
the Lord has made;

