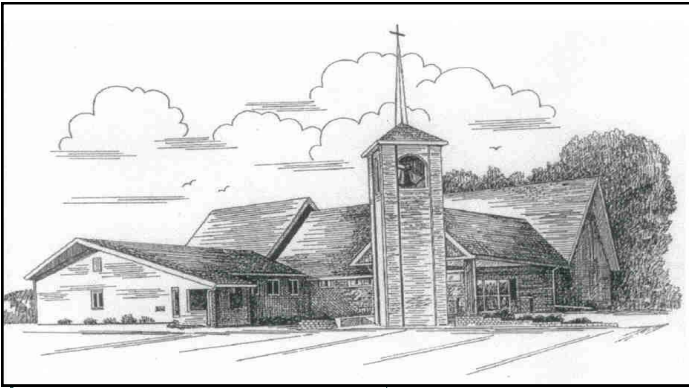




Zion Lutheran Church Arlington, MN

October Newsletter

October 2025

Church Address:
814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371
Arlington MN 55307
Phone: 507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

Note from Pastor Gretchen

Chattin' It Up...

- God's Work. Our Hands
- Vryheid Information
- Paving the Way
- Board of Stewardship

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Here are some excerpts from a reflection by Kerri Meyer, from *Good Courage Farm* that talked about 'Fruition and Frost.' I appreciated the images I could almost smell as I read them. Enjoy!

"The growing season at Good Courage is coming to fruition, now. We are joyful, and we are weary. ... fruition reminds us that there *are* things that come to ripeness, things that can be savored and shared. As the psalmist sings, "You crown the year with your goodness, abundance flows wherever you pass" (Psalm 65). God is still making abundance possible.

"September on the farm is a moment when *fruition and frost* are what we're living for. Yes, the fruits are sweet and abundant, but the trees and vines, the squash and the sunflowers—they are pouring out every last drop of life's energy into seed and fruit. The bees are worn thin with their gathering, waking cold and immobile in the morning-chilled dahlias and Michaelmas daisies. The tomatoes are still twining green and laden with shades of orange and red, *and* they are newly fragile; we break the plants apart on accident as we pick in the evening shade. We too are stretched by the work of bringing it all in.

"I finish most September days grateful and exhausted, saying, "Okay, it can freeze, now. Bring it on."



"Sometimes it seems as though the whole Creation is panting with the labor of harvest, almost longing for the first frost to ease its striving. Frost, when it comes, is the friendliest of enemies—it settles gently, silvers the fields, and tells the weary land and its creatures, "Rest. That'll do."

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

“Fruition is a pattern that brings grief and life. Frost enhances the sweetness of a fruit’s sugars for a moment, even, just before it finishes off both the fruit *and* all of the pests that have troubled us, the pestilence that we’ve struggled against. This is important to know.

“Even more important to remember, about all that comes to fruition:

Within every ripened fruit, *gathered or fallen*, is the seed of next season.

“In this place where we live and grow, the frost comes with a message of difficult hope: Only the cold yet to come can crack open those seeds, scar them into germination. But they *will* grow. Spring is not a one-time affair, friends. There are uncountable good harvests ahead — and so much good work.

“My prayer for all of us is that *fruition* and *frost* might together speak a word of hope into our own season. The truth – that only love frees us from fear – is what will come to sweet fullness, in time.

“And even when the air grows cold and we worry what will wither and when, we know that the ripening is how God gives us the seeds of what comes next and the energy to tend them.

“The sweetness of the present moment and the chill that closes one chapter both carry God’s assurance that nothing is wasted, nothing is lost. Past, present, and yet-to-come are braided together by grace. So let’s take heart: in the fullness of this season, amidst all its changes, we are invited to trust that God’s goodness is still ripening, still flowing, still bringing life. Look for it.

“All that God longs for will most surely come to fruition.”

I am grateful for you and the ministry we share in this season of ripening, harvest, and seed.

Pastor Gretchen



Presiding Bishop Installation—Yehiel Curry

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2 p.m.

Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The presiding bishop installation is open to the public, and tickets are not required. **Doors open at 1 p.m.**

Central time, and worship begins at 2 p.m.

A public reception to greet the new presiding bishop will be held at Central Lutheran following the installation.

Complimentary parking will be available on Oct. 4 at the Central Lutheran parking facility. Visit [Directions & Parking - Central Lutheran Church](#) to find directions to the church and information on parking.

A live video stream of the installation will be available for those unable to attend.

Contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested in attending in person or creating a watch party.

In the Lives of our Members



2 Deb Stenzel
3 Adrianna Krueger
4 Janet Rowe
5 Al Albrecht
6 John Woehler
10 Dean Bergersen
13 Dakotah Robinson
14 Alexander Herrera-Guzman

17 Scott Krueger
19 Karen Arneson
20 Diane Ebersviller
20 Nyla Matzke
23 Johanna Rowe
23 Aiden Christeson
23 Nathan Schauer

October 1, 2000 Kevin & Nancy Biermann
October 2, 1971 Larry & Jan Gieseke
October 4, 2008 Dan & Ida Johnson
October 5, 1996 Aaron & Jennifer Gieseke
October 6, 2007 Dan & Melissa Scharpe
October 7, 1973 Jim & Myrna Scharpe
October 14, 2000 Birendra & Sheri Kumar
October 16, 1976 Gordon & Barbara Bergs
October 16, 1999 Scott & Joann Beneke
October 17, 2020 Dakota & Brittany Robinson
October 21, 2023 Avery & Kaylee Aalfs
October 24, 1981 Larry & Pam Schiroo
October 26, 2024 Tyler & Madison Anderley
October 31, 2021 Ryan & Kate Bergs



Hold up in prayer....

Christy Hebeisen in her battle with cancer

Dilshad Perani—family friend of Kamps family.
Battling rare chronic disease.

Marlene Fure—Pastor Gretchen's sister dealing
with a variety of autoimmune diseases.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Bayside Manor

Rhoda Woehler
Lyle Woehler

French Meadow-LeSueur

Deb Otto

At home in Winsted

Luverne Bergs

May Creek, Walker, MN

Gary Revier

At home in Arlington

Hylma Matzke



Zion Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President L Gieseke.

Attendance:

President: Larry Gieseke	Bd/Deacon: Michael Christeson	Bd/Worship & Music: Ann Werner
Vice President: Jon Hazelwood	Bd/Trustee: Rich Nagel	Pastor: Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla
Secretary: Roseann Nagel	Bd/Education: Stephanie Krueger	
Treasurer: Absent	Bd/Stewardship: Jane Scharpe	
Others present:		

Devotions were provided by Pr. Gretchen Pierskalla.

MOTION BY J SCHARPE, SECONDED BY S KRUEGER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ONE NEW BUSINESS ITEM. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

Secretary's Report: Minutes for August council meeting were published in newsletter and emailed to Council prior to meeting. **MOTION BY R NAGEL, SECONDED BY J SCHARPE TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was available at meeting. Due to absence of Treasurer, no verbal report was given. **MOTION BY J SCHARPE, SECONDED BY S KRUEGER TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT. MOTION APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Pastor's Report: Fun month with a lot of outdoor time. -- LSS Meals on Wheels distribution out of Zion facilities going well. -- "God's Work, Our Hands" will be this coming Sunday with a couple of planned projects—backpacks and roll bandages. -- Will be attending ELCA Systems Academy in Chicago 9/14-9/17. (see attached report for August)

Board of Deacons: Michael Christeson – No report

Board of Stewardship: Jane Scharpe – Fall theme is "Hearts of Generosity." -- Coffee fundraising sales have begun and coffee is available from the Stewardship members. – Reminder to let Stacy know if you have a Nativity Set that can be used for the upcoming Nativity Stroll during Arli-Dazzle.

Board of Trustees: Rich Nagel — Sump drain line out of the SE corner has been tracked and repaired. The new line is in and access covered. Project was completed by Howard and Brandon Brinkman at a very discounted fee. Thank you to the Brinkmans. -- Portico (the benefit system for our Synod and pastors) has 2026 benefit information. Information will be available at October meeting – Trustees will work with Treasurer to prepare budget for 2026 for final approval at December council meeting.

Board of Worship and Music: Ann Werner – Finalized hymns through November 2, working with Stewardship theme for fall. Held church service at cemetery. Discussed Reformation and All Saints Day.

Board of Education: Stephanie Krueger – First day of Sunday School September 14 with nine eligible children. – Confirmation begins September 24th – Will contact insurance agent regarding required legal obligations for background checks and training to see what is provided – Participating in Main Street Trick or Treat – Sermon notes forms are on Narthex desk – Sunday School curriculum set for K through 5 grades – invitations to children to attend Sunday School sent – Age-appropriate Bibles will be purchased for children in Kindergarten, second grade and students being confirmed.

Standing Committees

President Gieseke dispensed with Standing Committee reports as none were submitted.

Old Business

Insurance Follow Up – Rich Nagel -- Reminder that premiums were made to old and new insurance carriers to maintain coverage. A refund will be received from Church Mutual and State Farm now that the new coverage is in force. – President Gieseke will finalize execution of required forms. – Rich Nagel will follow up with new insurance carrier regarding Certificate of Liability Zion has on file from Lutheran Social Services as proof of their insurance coverage when using our facilities.

Anniversary Committee – Jane Scharpe – Church Directory committee Members (Lana Woehler and Wendy Kube) will begin process next spring. – Sesquicentennial theme will be “Rooted, Grounded and Growing in Christ” (from Ephesians). – will have something each month to commemorate anniversary – requested \$1,000 in next year’s budget for committee/anniversary expenses. – Meeting again in November.

Nominating Committee – Jane Scharpe -- Meeting set for September 29.

New Business

A request was received from LSS/Meals on Wheels to allow for a small freezer to be placed in the Sunday School room they are using for their distribution office so frozen meals may be stored. The program has expanded to rural residents and this would aid in distribution for rural residents who must pick up their own meals. **MOTION MADE BY RICH NAGEL AND SECONDED BY M CHRISTESON TO ALLOW FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A SMALL FREEZER OWED BY LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES, FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF MEALS ON WHEELS, IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM ASSIGNED TO MEALS ON WHEELS. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE.**

Adjournment: MOTION BY S KRUEGER AND SECONDED BY J SCHARPE TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED BY VOICE VOTE. Meeting adjourned by President Gieseke at 7:40 pm.

Meeting ended with Lord’s Prayer.

Upcoming Meetings:

Committee Night, Thursday, October 2, 6:30 pm
Church Council, Wednesday, October 8, 7:00 pm

Roseann Nagel,
Council Secretary

Approved: Pending

Dates to Remember



THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Blessing of the Animals on Sunday October 5, 2025

What is your favorite animal? Do you have any pets? Do you care for animals? Please send a picture of your animal(s) to Stacy in the church office to be part of the slide show for the month of October and to be blessed during worship on Sunday, October 5. Animals are such a blessing to us, let us bless them in return!

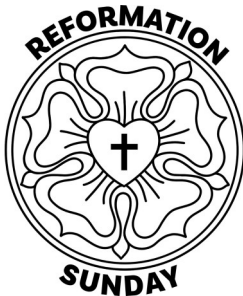
Reformation Day observed on Sunday October 26

On October 31st, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517 by the end of the seventeenth century. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free. On Sunday, October 26, Zion will be giving Bibles to our Sunday School and Confirmation students during worship to celebrate the good news that comes to us in the scriptures. Please let Pastor Gretchen know if your child has not yet received a bible.

Spark Picture Bibles: McKenna Schauer, Josephine Barfnecht, Waylon Robinson, Adonis Williams, Jazzy Wark

Spark Reader Bibles: Ava Foss, Adilyn Kamps

Collaborate Bibles: Alice Foss, Jacob Frauendienst, Daphne Hazelwood, Cooper Heeran, Taylor Johnson, Murdock Krueger, Jack Ruehling, Grant Schauer, Jeremiah Vasquez, Emmilia Wark



All Saints Sunday – November 2, 2025

We will remember the saints who have gone before us in death and the saints who have come among us through baptism in the past year during worship. We will light candles in their memory and share the Lord's supper.

This event is open for anyone who is interested in these topics, and especially helpful for Board members who will serve on Zion church council in 2026. Contact Pastor Gretchen to register or if you want more information.



Congregations of every size and context can nurture faith, create welcome, and embrace ministry with youth and young adults.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Todd Buegler
Senior Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna MN

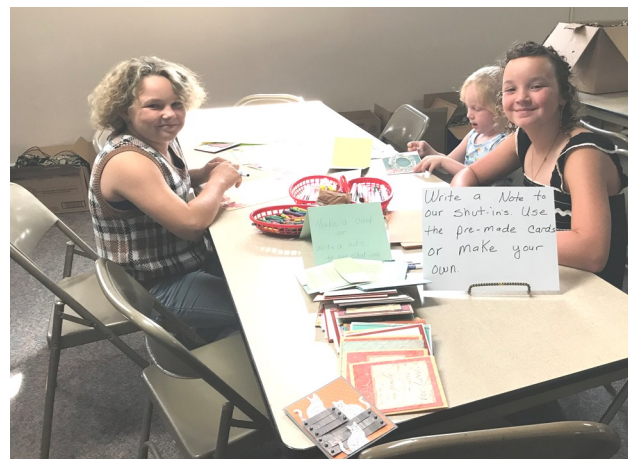
Featuring: the **SYNOD YOUTH BAND**
Lunch catered by Qdoba!

Register online at www.swmnelca.org/event/ecd2025
\$30 per person.

Attend your choice of 2 out of 6 Workshops!
Workshop descriptions will be posted online at www.swmnelca.org.



Bandages: 31
School Kits: 114



Vryheid Information

Vryheid Circuit African partnership meets in person and online on Thursday October 2

The fall gathering for the Minnesota Valley Conference African partnership is 6-8 p.m. Thursday, October 2 at First Lutheran in St. Peter. All are welcome to attend in person, plus view online for the first time. The gathering starts with a simple meal involving a free will offering.

The purpose is to learn how to best walk together in ministry with the Vryheid Circuit in southern Africa. It is hoped that each conference congregation can send at least one representative/contact to gatherings, while all are welcome. If attending in person send RSVP by September 30 to Dave Pedersen, dlpeders@msn.com. (Come even if you did not) Also ask Dave for the zoom link. **Contact Pastor Gretchen if interested in attending in person or online.**

Funding actions at April gathering in Gaylord:



The annual funding for nutritional food meals was set at \$3,500, which was matched for a total of \$6,700 that resulted in 202 boxes of meals that were received in Vryheid in July.

The group Approved to send \$6,000 to the Home Based Care program in the Vryheid Circuit. This covers funding for 2024 and 2025. The delay in sending was because the program was in transition to new director Thabani Khumalo.

Approved to send \$3,000 to the Vryheid Circuit partnership committee for education programs. Another \$1,000 went for undesignated needs. It turned out Vryheid had an emergency need for about \$1,000 to repair the wood floor in the Deanery, which was destroyed by termites.

The ministry is made possible by financial donations from congregations and individuals. It is requested each congregation provide around \$500 per year with some able to do more and some less. Make check out to your church with a memo for MVC African Partnership. Church treasurers are asked to send a check for the total of the gifts received with the same memo. Mail to conference treasurer Carla Klawitter at PO Box 62, Morgan, MN, 56266. Email- carlaklawitter@hotmail.com. Send donations to the conference, not the synod.

Plus, people are sought to be on a working committee that does much of the communicating with our partners behind the scenes. Information: contact either partnership chair Jim Roebke jeroebke@gmail.com or secretary Dave Pedersen dlpeders@msn.com.

ZCW

October Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle
October 7 at 10:00am

Wednesday Circle
October 1 at 1:30pm

Harvest Supper
Friday, October 24—4p-7p

Harvest Supper – Friday, October 24 4-7 pm

Mark your calendars and tell your family and friends to come to Zion and join us for fellowship and a delicious Windsor Chop with all the trimmings.

Many members contributed to make last year's Harvest Supper a huge success. We need your help again this year. We will be making and selling lefse but will change this year to have a Silent Auction and no Bake Sale at this time.

Lefse making is October 15 beginning at 9 am. We need many batches of dough, and lots of helpers to make and pack the lefse. Learners are welcome.

Apple/Cranberry prep is October 22 at 9:00am.

Please consider what you can contribute to the Silent Auction. Baskets with a theme, services such as oil changes, handyman, make a tray of holiday cookies, eggs, meat packages, hosting special dinners such as a German meal or Scandinavian meal are just a few ideas. We are each blessed in many ways and this is a good time to share those blessings.

Items needed for the meal include milk, butter, brown sugar, white sugar, cranberries, and apple and pumpkin desserts or cash to help pay for Windsor Chops. A sign-up list is posted in the narthex.

Help is needed from guys, gals and kids, so please sign up as to when you can come and help.

Let's work and fellowship together while we earn \$\$ for our parking lot.

ZCW continued

Zion Church Women (ZCW) - General Meeting

Zion Lutheran Church Women met in a general meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 7 pm.

There were 12 in attendance. Pastor Gretchen opened the meeting with a devotion about Holy Friendships. Her message reminded us that for such a time as this, we can use soul friends.

The Secretary's report was approved as printed and stands as read. The treasurer's report reflected the Treasury Activity from April 11, 2025 through September 17, 2025. We supported one campership this year. Our balance on September 18, 2025 was \$3155.90. There was a motion by Betty Rud and seconded by Lorraine Mielke to approve the treasurer's report as printed. Motion passed. The report will be kept on file.

Circle reports:

Tuesday Circle is to serve the next funeral. They are getting the school bags and supplies ready for God' Work, Our Hands Sunday. There will also be bandage rolling and making card for the shut-ins that day.

Wednesday Circle has chosen a LWR kit. They are gathering supplies for fabric kits.

Mission Action- no report

Mission Community/ Mission Growth- In July, 65# of food was taken to the food share. 12 quilts were taken to LWR and 8 were delivered to food share.

Mary Albrecht shared some Sunshine Committee information. She often does not hear of folks to whom she should be sending cards. Pam will talk to Stacy about putting the information into the newsletter.

Election of Officers- Peg Kamps will move to President, Pam Schiroo will be the Vice-president, Mary Sylwester will remain treasurer, and Jackie Alsleben will become our new secretary. A motion was made by Mary Sylwester to accept the slate of new officers, seconded by Betty Rud- motion passed.

Old Business:

The quilt we sent to the Green Lake quilt auction brought \$500. We have received a thank you letter from them.

Three of our ladies went on the bus tour to LWR and GHM in July. Starla Schilling shared some photos and highlights of the trip.

New Business:

There were 20 quilts designated for the Women's Shelter at Detroit Lakes. These were not delivered, so 12 quilts will go to LWR, and 8 to food share.

The Harvest Dinner is coming up. Please look for the sign up sheets for workers. As we are trying to get more ladies involved in the activities/ work of ZCW, it was suggested that you invite someone who may not otherwise come, to come and work with you. There will be a quilt raffle at the Harvest Dinner (and possibly continue to the Community Christmas program).

Bandage Rolling was a success at the God's Work, Our Hands Day. We will provide bandage rolling supplies during coffee hour the fourth Sunday of the Month. A motion was made by Brenda Danielson and seconded by Mary Sylwester to have the ZCW provide the \$.10 per roll for shipping costs for all of the bandages created at our church. Motion passed.

We had a discussion about how to get more women from our church involved in ZCW.

- Remind them that all women are in ZCW when they join the church

- Talk with them one on one- get to know them and what do they want from church women

- Text chains

- ZCW needs to be meaningful to our women

- We need to schedule more carefully to provide work opportunities and Bible Study time for when our working women are available

- Ask them to help with ZCW projects-lefse making, etc making sure these activities are at times when they could actually come.

- An informative article in the newsletter each time, so we are not an "invisible" organization.

- Most of these ladies will provide food or something when asked, so don't forget to ask them.

- ZCW minute in the slide announcements

- Pray, pray, pray

- We will continue this discussion, so be thinking of things we could do.

The Minnesota Valley Fall conference meeting will be on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at Immanuel Lutheran in New Auburn. Registration is at 11:30, lunch at 12:00. The cost will be \$12. A motion was made by Mary Sylwester and seconded by Lorraine Mielke to pay the registration of all who wish to attend. Motion passed. Be sure to look for information on the bulletin board and sign up.

Where do we want some of our money to go at the end of the year? We should give away at least 10% of our treasury. We plan to give \$200 to CADA House, \$200 to LSS, and \$200 to Safe Avenues.

Try to think of ideas of how we make sure our meetings work- for everyone. More discussion on this to follow at next meetings.

We received a Thank you note from Evan Pautsch for the beautiful graduation quilt.

Upcoming Activities: Harvest Dinner, Thankoffering Service, Community Christmas concert

Lorraine Mielke and Mary Lietz will be choosing a date for the ZCW potluck dinner.

Our next general meeting will be held in January following the Sunday church service. The date will be posted as we check the church calendar for annual meeting dates.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mary Sylwester and seconded by Peg Kamps. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Danielson, secretary

ZCW continued

Zion Church Women

Did you know that every woman in our church is part of the Zion Church women group. You may not attend the Circle/Bible Study groups, but you may be asked to bring a salad, or cake to a funeral or be asked to work at a funeral or an event.

We have lots of ZCW (Zion Church Women) events in the fall. The Harvest Supper will be on October 24 from 4p-7p. You could help make some of the food or lefsa for the sale at the dinner. You should look for the sign up sheets to donate milk, or something—and to sign up for a working shift. Ask a friend to join you, to make it an even more enjoyable experience.

Thankoffering occurs in November. Thankoffering is a way to express your gratitude to God for all the blessings of the past year. The Thankoffering service will be Sunday November 16 during the worship service. Look for an envelope in your mailbox.

Lastly, our ZCW sponsors a Community Christmas program. This occurs early in December. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you for an enjoyable evening. The offering goes to help in our local community.

Please prayerfully consider becoming active in Zion Church Women. Let your wishes be known—about what projects you'd like to see, when meetings are, etc.

Our next meeting will be in January—on a Sunday morning following worship. If you've not joined us before, please come.

Wednesday Circle is putting together Fabric Kits for LWR as our Mission Project. The kits will be sent by LWR wherever they are needed, to teach sewing skills. Please use the guidelines below if you can help us. A container will be in the Narthex for your contributions—fabric and/or thread will be welcome! If you would prefer to help us buy fabric and pay shipping costs to send the kits to LWR, please see Mary Lietz or Mary Sylwester. Thanks for all your help! Kits will be assembled at the **November 5 Wednesday Circle Meeting**.

August Giving 2025

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Parking Lot</u>	<u>Hunger Jar</u>
8/3/2025	46	\$150.00	\$37.00
8/10/2025	49	\$125.00	\$53.62
8/17/2025		\$5.00	\$10.00
8/24/2025	37	\$1,030.00	\$30.00
8/31/2025	27		\$25.75





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



FABRIC KITS

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER

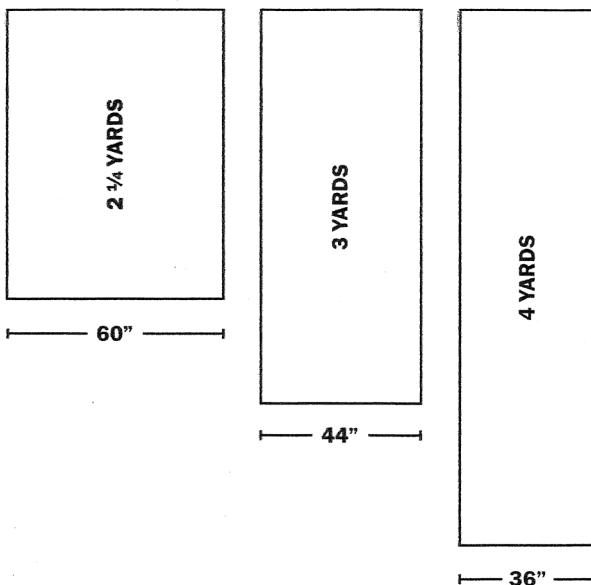
- Fabric should have no stains or holes.
- Pieces do not need to match in size or color/pattern as long as they fit into one of the three size options.
- Each spool of thread should match one of the pieces of fabric included. Neutral thread is also a good option.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags

HOW TO PACK YOUR FABRIC KITS

- Wrap one piece of fabric and spools of thread inside the other piece of fabric, ensuring nothing will fall out. Secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.
- Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH FABRIC KIT

- ☐ **TWO** spools of neutral-colored, general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each
- ☐ **TWO** pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Each piece should match one of the sizes below:
 - 2 ¼ yards of 60" wide fabric
 - 3 yards of 44" wide fabric
 - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric



COMMITTEE
night



Zion Board and Committee Night

Thursday, October 2 at 6:30p

Meet with your Board or Committee and collaborate with others on shared ministry ideas. At 7:30 p.m. gather for ministry sharing fellowship with refreshments and prayer.

Paving the Way



The Parking Lot Fundraising project is off to a great start this summer, the county fair parking project brought in \$1536 to our fund.

Another car sticker amount of donations have come in during August, bringing totals to 29 parking spots and \$50,000 raised.

Upcoming projects are:

- Elephant Joe's coffee fundraiser is planned in October. Further information to be coming.
- The ZCW Harvest Supper is also planned on October 24.

Core Parking Lot Committee

Bruce Kallhoff, Mary Sylwester & Laurie Stern



Calling all coffee lovers!



Elephant Joe's Coffee Fundraiser

Elephant Joe's Coffee fundraiser for the parking lot is underway! Each bag is \$17. (Think Christmas gifts.)

It's been rumored that Vanilla Hazelnut (ground only) is very tasty! As well as medium blend Scandinavian Blend (ground or whole bean) and Minneapolis Mud which is a dark roast (ground or whole bean). There is also a medium roast Decaf option. And gift cards are also an option! (Again, think Christmas gifts!)

Also, on **Sunday, October 12th**, Elephant Joe's coffee truck will be in the parking lot of Maverick gas station on the corner of Highway 5 and Main Street 8:00 -11:00 am. They have more options than coffee if you aren't a coffee drinker. We hope that everyone will have an Elephant Joe's cup in their hand at worship!

Please see any of the Board of Stewardship members to put in your order!

Jackie Alsleben, Pam Schiroo, Jane Scharpe, Starla Schilling, Mary Kallhof, Janet Rowe

Board of Stewardship

**WE'VE GOT TIME AND TALENT, YES WE DO!
WE'VE GOT TIME AND TALENT, HOW ABOUT YOU?!**

Coming soon to a mailbox near you... Time and Talent Sheets! Whether you bake communion bread, usher, run the audio/visual, serve on a board, or any of the many other things on the Time & Talent sheets, you've got talent! And YOU are needed at Zion.

You've got time & talent! Yes you do!! Please prayerfully consider sharing it!

Please return the Time and Talent Sheets to the basket in the narthex by November 2, 2025

Hunger Jar for the month of October has been designated to Feed My Starving Children.

Nativity Collection Tour

Do you have a collection of Nativity sets? The Stewardship Board is planning a Nativity Collection Tour in the basement at Zion the day of Arlidazzle. We would love to see everyone's beautiful displays. The plan is to have everyone set up their own display for the community to walk through to look at them.

Please see one of the Stewardship board members for details: Starla Schilling, Jane Scharpe, Jackie Alsleben, Mary Kallhoff, Pam Schiroo or Janet Rowe.

Everyone can serve

Look for opportunities to serve; don't wait to be asked! Remember: You can serve without being a part of an "official" ministry. We all can:

- extend the word of welcome, whether or not we are official greeters;
- be listening, caring friends, whether or not we are official lay counselors;
- be ready to give reason for the hope that is in us, whether or not we are on the evangelism team;
- be enthusiastic participants and ready to give a hand, whether or not we are on the planning or cleanup committees.



October Bible Readings

October 5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalms 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 12 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:6-9

Proverbs 11:24-25

Philippians 4:15-20

Mark 4:26-29

October 19 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:7-16

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

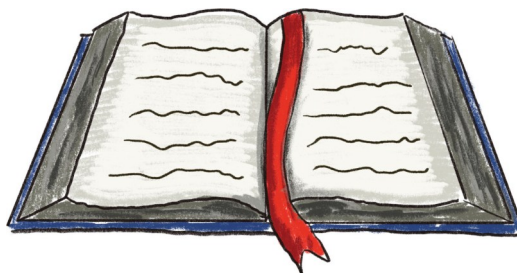
Matthew 6:19-21

October 26 – Reformation Sunday

Isaiah 58:5-12

Hebrews 13:1-3, 5-6, 15-16

Luke 6:27-38



Synod News

Synod Listening Process

Last summer and fall the Southwestern Minnesota Synod listened. Insights from a survey (with 182 responses), along with conversations in person (held in four locations), help shape synod priorities to equip congregations and leaders in this changing time.

We will share findings, interpretations, and critical questions around each of the major themes.

We Heard You: Volunteerism

Findings

While some congregations celebrate how volunteers step forward, many others struggle to find the people to accomplish the expected congregational tasks.

‘Decreased institutional loyalty’ was reported as third most of the congregational changes reported in the survey.

Interpretation

Following the pandemic, organizations of all types report a change in the level of volunteerism. Many people who had been regular volunteers had that pattern broken and never returned to those roles.

Volunteering in a congregation can prove amazingly rewarding. It can also become a source of frustration.

Many congregations do a poor job of recruiting volunteers. Some rely on worship announcements and newsletter notices and wait for people to step forward. Often the expectations of the role are unclear. Sometimes the role may no longer be necessary.

The reality is that only a small percentage of people will willingly step forward to fill a role. A significantly higher percentage will say yes if directly approached and given a clear understanding of the expectations and the impact of the work.

A focus on making the volunteer experience a positive one can have a lasting impact.

Critical Questions

How are volunteers invited to step forward?

Is the volunteer task still needed, or is there a lack of interest in that area of ministry? How else might the task be accomplished (if at all)?

How are volunteers made to feel appreciated for what they do?

What is the interplay between volunteer and staff roles?

2025 Fall Theological Conference—Little Crow Resort & Conference, Spicer, MN
Sunday, October 5—Tuesday, October 7

CONFIRMATION CORNER



Class Dates

October 1	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class
October 22	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class
October 29	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class
November 5	4-5:30p	6-8th Grade Class
	6:30-8p	9th Grade Class

6th, 7th, 8th grade Confirmation Classes Wednesdays 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

October 1: Introduction

October 22: The Beginning

November 5: God's Promise to Abraham

9th grade Confirmation Classes Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

October 1: Baptism

October 22: Holy Communion

October 29: Martin Luther and Being Lutheran

November 5: Apostle's Creed – Believing in God the Creator

OCTOBER 5th After worship at Zion is an informational meeting for the **Jr High Youth Gathering November 21-22 in Willmar MN**. It is a time to gather with youth around the synod around the theme: "Strengthened by Faith" based on Isaiah 41:10. This event is planned by the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO Board) which is made up of synod youth, pastors, and adults. Youth Led mass gatherings including worship, singing, faith talks by youth, build relationships, hang out with other youth from your synod nightlife featuring swimming, games, food, dancing, service projects and more!

Junior High Youth Gathering

Location: Willmar Conference Center & Best Western Plus/Holiday Inn Express, Willmar MN

Dates: This year, we are again only offering ONE date option for the JH Gathering: Friday, November 21 – Saturday, November 22, 2025

2025 theme: "Strengthened by Faith," based on Isaiah 41:10.

With Thankful Hearts

Thank you for your recent generous gift for supporting the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

LSS Church Partnership Team

thank
you

We would like to thank you for your contribution to the Sibley County FoodShare. Your generosity continues to provide emergency assistance to the hungry of Sibley County. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Lisa Eyrich
Sibley County FoodShare*

Thank you to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in August

Mary Lietz & Mary Sylwester
Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Board of Worship & Music



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

Facebook at

Zion Lutheran Church

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

In the office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: pastor@zionarlington.org

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)

October 5
 Usher: Wayne & Ann Werner
 Mary Lietz, Nancy Mathwig
 Greeter: Tim & Stacy Haggemiller
 Acolyte: Jack Ruehling
 Reader: Brenda Danielson
 Altar Guild: Wayne & Ann Werner
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroy
 Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

October 12
 Usher: Francis Rowe, Diane Wink
 Dale & Laurie Stern
 Greeter: Brad Danielson
 Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez
 Reader: Scott Bergs
 Altar Guild: Jackie Alsleben,
 Stacy Haggemiller
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroy
 Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

October 19
 Usher: Deb Stenzel, Scott Bergs
 Cindy Vazquez, Jeremiah Vazquez
 Greeter: Jerry & Diane Ebersviller
 Acolyte: Cooper Heeren
 Reader: Bruce Kallhoff
 Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

October 26
 Usher: Jan Wark, Wendy Kube
 Peg Kamps, Adilyn Kamps
 Greeter: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
 Acolyte: Murdock Krueger
 Reader: Peg Kamps
 Altar Guild: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff
 Bread Maker: Larry Schiroy
 Paraments: Jackie Alsleben

October 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Sunday, October 12 Elephant Joe's Coffee Truck at Maverick's Gas Station 8am—11am						
17th Sunday after Pentecost Blessing of the Animals 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion 10a—Sunday School	5 6	7 10a—Tuesday Bible Study	8 7p—Church Council	9 10a—Adult Bible Study	10 11	1 13p—Wednesday Bible Study 4-5:30p—6, 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation 6:30-8p—9th Grade Confirmation
18th Sunday after Pentecost Elephant Joe's Coffee 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion 10a—Sunday School	1 2	3 4	5 9a—Lefse Making	6 10a—Adult Bible Study 11a—Prayer Shawl	7 8a—Men's Prayer Breakfast	1 8a—Men's Prayer Breakfast
19th Sunday after Pentecost 9a—Contemporary Worship 10a—Sunday School	1 9	2 12p—Minnesota Valley Conference Meeting	2 9a—Squash & Apple/Cranberry Prep 4-5:30p—6, 7 & 8 Grade Confirmation 6:30-8p—9th Grade Confirmation	3 10a—Adult Bible Study	4 4p-7p Harvest Supper	5 5
Reformation Sunday Bandage Rolling 9a—Worship w/Holy Communion 10a—Sunday School	2 6	7 8	8 6:30-8p—9th Grade Confirmation	9 10a—Adult Bible Study	10 11	1 1