

“Receive the  
**Holy Spirit.**

If you forgive  
the sins of any,  
they are forgiven them;  
if you retain  
the sins of any,  
they are retained.”

John 20:22-23, NRSV

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## ***Pentecost Sunday*** ***May 24, 2026***

*Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God’s presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God’s presence to all people. Paul reminds us that though we each have different capacities, we are unified in the Spirit that equips us with these gifts. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God’s redeeming love to all the world.*



## GATHERING

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

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome*

CCLI #12994

*O Day Full of Grace*

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*Spirit of the Living God*

CCLI #23488

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHERING SONG

*Come Now is the Time to Worship*

Verse:

Come now is the time to worship  
Come now is the time to give your heart  
Come just as you are to worship  
Come just as you are before your God  
Come

Chorus:

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God  
One day every knee will bow  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now

Ending:

Come come just as you are come come

CCLI Song # 2430948

Brian Doerksen

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## 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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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

O Lord, you know us through and through. You know our sinfulness.

**Father, we confess we have sinned against you, and against other people. We have failed in loving You as we ought. We have also failed to love our neighbors.**

Forgive us for our sins of commission-

**For those things we did and thought—that we ought not.**

Forgive us also for our sins of omission

**For our failures in thought, word and deed.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

You have promised that you receive repentant sinners and forgive them.

**So we ask your mercy once again, for the sake of Jesus.**

**We pray your healing power—that we might delight in your will,**

**And by our lives bring glory to your name.**

**Amen.**

In His mercy, God gave His Son to die for us and for our sins.  
For His sake, God forgives us all our sins.  
Therefore, in the name of Christ, and by His authority,  
I now declare to you the complete forgiveness of all your sins.  
**THEY ARE NO MORE!**  
Christ has taken them on Himself and removed them.  
You are free!  
Live in that gracious freedom and be healed in Him.

## **SONG**

*Kyrie Eleison*

### **Chorus:**

**Kyrie Eleison on our world and on our way  
Kyrie Eleison ev'ryday**

**For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all,  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

**That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor,  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

**For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family,  
for life and for love for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord (Chorus)**

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## **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.**

**SONG**

**We are all on a journey  
from the cradle to the grave  
We are given life through the price  
our Savior had to pay**

**Chorus:**

**Oh let our hearts praise the Lord  
Oh let our hands praise the Lord  
Oh let our voices praise the Lord  
Oh let our lives praise the Lord**

**We can feel suffering  
there is someone near in need  
We are given choice, heart, hands, voice,  
they are within our reach (Chorus)**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God

**on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



## WORD

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

### **FIRST READING: Numbers 11:24-30**

*The Spirit comes upon the elders of Israel*

<sup>24</sup> Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered seventy of the elders of the people and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders, and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup> Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup> And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." <sup>28</sup> And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" <sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!" <sup>30</sup> And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

<sup>24</sup> How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

<sup>25</sup> **Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,  
living things both small and great.**

<sup>26</sup> There go the ships to and fro,  
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.

<sup>27</sup> **All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.**

<sup>28</sup> You give it to them; they gather it;  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.

<sup>29</sup> **When you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**

<sup>30</sup> You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.

<sup>31</sup> **May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**

<sup>32</sup> You look at the earth and it trembles;  
you touch the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>33</sup> **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my being.**

<sup>34</sup> May these words of mine please God.  
I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>35b</sup> **Bless the LORD, O my soul.  
Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13**

*Paul is helping the Corinthians understand the relationship between our God-given unity and Spirit-created diversity. The Spirit creates the unity of faith and gives all Christians diverse gifts for the common benefit of all. We need one another's diverse spiritual gifts because the same Spirit has given them to each person for the common good.*

<sup>3b</sup> No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all

baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

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: John 20:19-23**

The holy gospel according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON ON THE STEPS**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading*** RED ELW #401  
**(Vs. 1 & 3)**

- 1** Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading,  
fashion us all anew.  
It's your leading that we're needing,  
help us to follow you.

***Refrain***

**Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Come, come, come, Holy Spirit, come.**

- 3** Guide our thinking and our speaking  
done in your holy name.  
Motivate all in their seeking,  
freeing from guilt and shame. ***Refrain***

Text: Wilson Niwagila; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

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## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,**

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

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

**For us and for our salvation**

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

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

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

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

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

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

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

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

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

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**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**

***Spirit of Gentleness***

One License #44816 & CCLI #101393

## **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.

Loving God,  
**we offer the gifts of our hearts and our hands.  
Signs of your gracious love.  
Help us share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.  
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.**



## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

### BLESSING

Benediction Song – echo song

(leader in italics; congregation in bold)

*L) May the Lord bless and keep us;*

**C) May the Lord bless and keep us.**

*L) Make his face to shine upon us;*

**C) Make his face to shine upon us.**

*L) May his blessing go with us;*

**C) May his blessing go with us.**

*L) and give us peace*

**C) And – give – us - peace**

*L) In the name of the Father;*

**C) In the name of the Father**

*L) In the name of the Son;*

**C) In the name of the Son.**

*L) In the name of the Spirit;*

**C) In the name of the Spirit**

*L) All three –in-one;*

**C) ALL – THREE – IN – ONE!**

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

***Come Christians, Join and Sing***

Arr. John Innes

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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 May is designated to Feed My Starving Children.

**Coffee Hour**—The confirmation youth have indicated they would like to go to Confirmation Camp at Camp House in 2027. They are looking to raise money to attend Camp. The proceeds from Coffee Hour from March through June have been designated for Camp.

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	ELCA Missions	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot
5/17/2026	\$ 1,871.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 20.00	\$ 31.15	\$ 1,025.00

## Worship Assistants

### **May 24**

Usher: John & Lana Woehler  
Dale & Laurie Stern  
Greeter: Jane Scharpe  
Acolyte: Jazmyne Wark  
Reader: Cassidy Battcher  
AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen

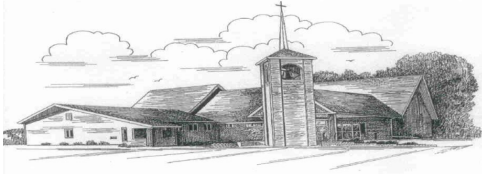
### **May 31**

Usher: Mary Sylwester, Scott Bergs  
Deb Stenzel, Starla Schilling  
Greeter: Johanna Rowe  
Acolyte: Cooper Heeren  
Reader: Starla Schilling  
AV Team: Tim Michaelis &  
Jeremiah Vazquez  
Altar Guild: Nancy Mathwig

Pr. Gretchen will be out of the office Monday, May 25 through Sunday, May 31. If you have a pastoral need please contact:

**Pastor Elizabeth Becker-Back**  
**(Grace/Brownton)**  
**270-792-6491**

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## *Zion Lutheran Church ELCA*

### This Week at Zion:

Sunday, May 24	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Contemporary Worship</b>
Thursday, May 28	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Sunday, May 31	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Worship</b>

LSS Meals on Wheels Monday—Friday 9:00a—12:00p

