

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2026



Zion Lutheran Church
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In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Let All Things Now Living

One License #HB258

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

One License #1156540

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

HYMN

All Are Welcome **RED ELW #641**
(Vs. 1, 4 & 5)

**1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
 and all can safely live,
 a place where saints and children tell
 how hearts learn to forgive.
 Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
 rock of faith and vault of grace;
 here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
 beyond the wood and stone
 to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
 and live the Word they've known.
 Here the outcast and the stranger
 bear the image of God's face;
 let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

- 5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

***We Praise You, O God* RED ELW #870
(Vs. 1 & 3)**

- 1 We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882-1963

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

God of all peoples,
your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God's imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.

¹Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

⁸ Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**

³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**

⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.

[Paul writes:] ¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a} God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy.

³² For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE RISE FOR THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah RED ELW #172

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

One License #84967

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus teaches his disciples that true purity is a matter of the heart rather than outward religious observances. Almost immediately, this teaching is tested when a woman considered to be a religious outsider approaches him for help.

[¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her

at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON ON THE STEPS

SERMON "The Persistent Gentile Woman of Great Faith"

Pastor Bill Nelsen

HYMN OF THE DAY

Healer of Our Every Ill **RED ELW #612**

(Vs. 1, 3 & 4)

Refrain

Healer of our ev'ry ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.

- 1** You who know our fears and sadness,
 grace us with your peace and gladness;
 Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*
- 3** Give us strength to love each other,
 ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
 Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

**4 You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain***

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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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

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart

One License #BP1474

OFFERING HYMN

***Praise and Thanksgiving* RED ELW #689
(Vs. 1)**

**1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee RED ELW #759
(Vs. 1 & 2)

- 1 **My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!**
- 2 **May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!**

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

This Little Light of Mine

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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!

Thank you to Pastor Bill Nelsen for leading us in worship this morning.

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

Pictures for the Announcements:

What are you doing this summer?

Fair Pictures

Grandparents Day (Sunday, September 13)

Send a picture into the office to be included on the announcement slides.

Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Worship Assistants

August 16

Usher: John & Lana Woehler
Dale & Laurie Stern
Greeter: Hannah Bartlette
Acolyte: Emmilia Wark
Reader: Larry Gieseke
AV Team: Jeremiah Vazquez
& Jan Giesen

August 23

Usher: Mary Sylwester, Scott Bergs
Deb Stenzel, Starla Schilling
Greeter: Alex & Cassidy Battcher
Acolyte: Jack Ruehling
Reader: Elton Hazelwood
AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad

Pr. Gretchen will be out of the office
Monday, August 3 – Sunday, August 16.
If you have a pastoral need please contact:

Pastor Kay Rohloff
(Immanuel/New Auburn)
507-339-7947

Date	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	ELCA Missions	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot
8/9/2026	\$ 1,595.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 25.00	\$ 50.30	\$ 110.00



Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

This Week at Zion:

Sunday, August 16	9:00a	Worship
Wednesday, August 19	6:30p	Harvest Dinner Meeting Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, August 20	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
Friday, August 21	10:00a 11:00a	Visitation for Larry Stenzel Funeral for Larry Stenzel
Sunday, August 30	9:00a 5:30p	Contemporary Worship Backpack Blessing Ecumenical Music in the Park

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