Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church

14th Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz

Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship

Sunday School and Wednesday night activities will resume in fall.

Zion's worship services are live-streamed and archived on YouTube. While the focus is always on the worship leaders and the sanctuary at large, your voice and image may be included as part of the recording. If you do not wish to appear on film, please sit in, or under, the balcony and ask an usher for communion to be brought to your seat. If you have any other questions, please speak with Pastor Caitlin. Thank you for your understanding and support in spreading the Gospel message!

*(Congregation please stand as able)

Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. C: Amen.
- P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: God, our provider,

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.





*Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. C: And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (pg. 187 in pew Bible)

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

After the Reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22 (pg. 441 in pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

Congregation: The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

- L: When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.
- C: The Lord is near to the broken-hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.
- L: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.
- C: He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.
- L: Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- C: The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20 (pg. 952 in pew Bible)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

After the Reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON WITH BLESSING OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

as the children come forward, please join in singing:

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap) My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do! (clap, clap) The mountains are His, the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork too, My God is so great, so strong and so mighty! There's nothing my God cannot do! for you!

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel: John 6:56-69 (pg. 868 in pew Bible)

Before reading: P: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 6th Chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.'

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

After the reading: P: The Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 475 Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove



OUR OFFERINGS: OUR TRUST, PRAYERS & GIFTS

*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator 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 into hell. 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.

Note: the word "catholic" here means the church around the world.

*Prayers of the People

(after hearing, "Lord in you mercy," respond: Hear our Prayer)

(after hearing the final prayer petition, "We lift these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping." respond: **Amen**)

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

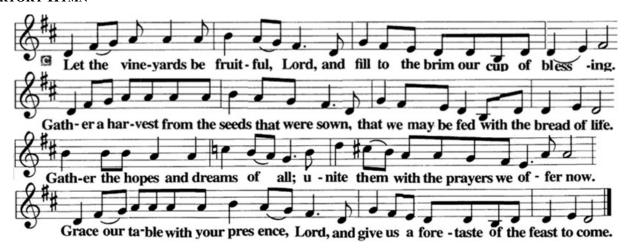
P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC: Zion's Band

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

During this portion of the worship service, we offer to God a portion of what God has first given us, trusting that God will use these gifts to do God's work in the world. We offer thanks to God with financial gifts, song, and prayer. Or you can scan this QR code to go to our electronic giving website: http://www.zionsjonestown.com/giving/, where you can choose to give either through PayPal, or Simply Giving, which is our regular electronic offering service, offering both one-time, and regular, automatic options.

*Offertory Hymn



*OFFERING PRAYER

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **C: Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able.

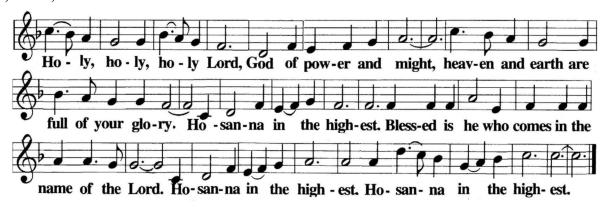
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



*Words of Institution

P: Blessed are you, Lord our God, for creating us to live together in unity and for forgiving our failures in following your call.

Blessed are you, Abba Father, for sending your beloved Son and for adopting us to be your family of sisters and brothers. Lord we receive this good news.

C: Lord, we receive this good news.

P: Blessed are you, Sovereign of mercy, for establishing your kingdom in Jesus the Messiah. He healed the sick and welcomed women and men, and taught the commandments.

Blessed is he, the Son of Man, who became a servant to all, and who overcomes the might of Satan until the end of time. Lord, we believe this good news.

C: Lord, we believe this good news.

P: On the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember the good news of his life given for us, his death on the cross, and his rising from the tomb, and together we say:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: By the power of your Spirit, hidden in the ministry of Jesus, reveal yourself to us here, hidden in this bread and cup. Do not forsake us, but save us in the time of trial. By this mystery of Christ's body and blood, cast out our demons, cleanse our hearts, and strengthen our service toward all in need. Lord, do not ever forsake us.

C: Lord, do not ever forsake us.

P: To you, Lord God, the Blessed One, and to your Son, coming at the end in glory, and to the Holy Spirit, descending on us now like a dove, be all our praise and thanksgiving, now and forever. Amen. **C: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, 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.

*Invitation to Communion

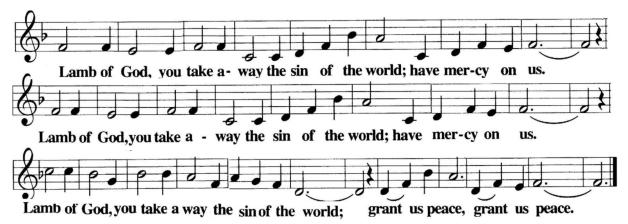
P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

This is the Lord's table where all are welcome. At the ushers instruction, you are invited to come forward, pick up either a pre-filled grape juice cup, or empty communion cup, and kneel or stand at the communion railing. (gluten free wafers are available for those who need that, please let Pastor know when you are communing) Here, you will first receive the bread, and then either a blessing of your grape juice, or the wine poured into your glass. After consuming both elements, return to your seat by the side aisle, placing your empty glass in the tray.

Those who are worshipping at home this morning are invited to **pray this prayer**, trusting that Christ's spiritual presence is with you at all times and places. If you would like Pastor Caitlin to bring communion to your home, call her at 717 865 3652 and she will be glad to do so.

"Loving Jesus, since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine according to your promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion, I ask you to come to me in Spirit. Feed me, for I am hungry; strengthen me, for I am weak; enliven and sanctify me with Your sacred Body and Blood. Deliver me from all sin and make me always obedient to Your commands. Let me never be separated from You, my Savior, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God forever and ever. Amen."

Lamb of God (Based on Gospel of John 1:29)



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: #699 Blessed Assurance

(WOV- blue book) #706 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

#700 I Received the Living God

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. Grant comfort to all in need of healing, and strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. C: Amen

*BENEDICTION

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn: LBW 495 Lead On, O King Eternal!

As the cross is recessed, you are invited to turn your body towards the rear, symbolic of our desire to follow Christ out into the world.



*DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. C: Thanks be to God.

We're glad you're here! Whether today is your first day at Zion's, or your thousandth, we're glad you're here, and we look forward to worshiping with you. If you're new, or it's been a while, we invite you to fill out one of the "We're glad you're here" white envelopes located in the pew back to ensure our records are correct, and so we can connect with you further. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you, and welcome! Large print bulletins are available, if needed, ask any usher!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Heather Light, Lee Keifer, Bob Houser, Andy Bomberger, Lindsay, Traci, Pastor Ted Hummel, and the people of war-torn countries.

This Week at Zions:

August 28, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting August 28, Wednesday @ 7:30 pm Adult Choir rehearsal resumes August 28 & 29, Wed. & Thur. @ 6:00 pm Preschool Open House

Next Week at Zions:

Sept. 4, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

Sept. 8, Sunday @ 10:15 Nursery will be open during worship

Sept. 8, Sunday: God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Other News from Zions:

Adult choir rehearsals begins THIS Wednesday, August 28 at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. New singers are always welcome! The rest of Wednesday night activities (meal, Rejoicing Spirits, and adult Bible study) resume on Wednesday September 11 at 5:30 PM, 6:15 PM, and 6:50 PM respectively.

Zion's nursery will be open on Sunday, September 8 and then once a month after that, with dates published in advance. The nursery is located in the lower level of the Sunday School wing and open to children birth through age three. Children are always also welcome in worship; the nursery is offered as an option for those who would like to use it.

Sunday, September 8: God's Work, Our Hands afternoon of service Zion's is joining the movement with hundreds of other ELCA congregations to participate in an afternoon of service at the beginning of September. After worship and lunch, we'll break into groups to pack college care packages, finish quilts for Lutheran World Relief, do yard work for two local seniors, and (children especially) make some stuffed fish for a "loaves and fishes" fundraiser that also begins off that day! There will be jobs for every age and ability, and we hope you'll be able to participate!

Sunday, September 15 we will host Zion's Olympic Breakfast at 9:15 AM which will kick off the Sunday School year. Even if you don't usually attend Sunday School, we invite you to this time of fellowship and learning. We'll gather all together in the Social Hall for a light meal and then share some friendly competition to celebrate the beginning of a new year.

YOUTH CHOIR BEGINS SEPT. 15: Youth choir will meet after church in the sanctuary on Sunday, September 15 for the first practice of the year. There are no age restrictions to participate, and we can't wait to have you help us make a joyful noise and help to lead worship this year! Contact Joanna Guldin (joanna.guldin@gmail.com or 717-228-9846) for more information.

Friends of Spang Crest fall Chicken Bar-B-Que will be held Friday, Sept. 6, from 2:30-6:00 pm. \$11.00 includes 1/2 chicken, baked potato, roll & applesauce. See Leah Wolfe for tickets! Proceeds benefit the residents of Spang Crest.

Thank you to the Fabric Fairy! We don't know who it was that dropped off big bags of beautiful, usable fabric in the quilting room...but we're grateful! If you'd like to reveal yourself, we'd love to know who shared this treasure!

Check out "August's Member to Remember" on the bulletin board! Philip Mohn is this month's star! You can read about his faith and favorite experiences at Zion's in the weekly e-mail, or on the bulletin board by the Church Office.

Our children's Sunday School class needs another teacher! Teachers serve on a rotating basis, roughly once a month. All materials and a detailed lesson plan is provided. It's fun AND a meaningful way to live out the promises we make at every baptism--to help children know the love of God as they grow in faith and life. One of our teachers will be unavailable for the next five months due to military commitments. If you're able to lend a hand, even if just for those months, your help would be greatly appreciated!

Like to cook? Want to support life-giving ministry? Twice a month, our Wednesday night meal is pot-luck style (casseroles one time, soups another), with participants asked to bring in something to share. There are weeks we run short for a variety of reasons, including difficult household situations (for whom the hot Wednesday night meal and fellowship time is especially helpful!). If you'd be able to contribute a casserole or pot of soup from time to time, it would be a gift! Please let Pastor Caitlin or Judy Merkel know so we can include you on communications--you can either prepare a dish to freeze and keep at church for when it's needed, or you can sign up for a date that would be convenient for you. Thank you!

Did you know? Due to new babies and changes in health, Zion's is looking for a few more CRUCIFERS. A crucifer is someone who carries a cross. At Zion's, this involves leading the procession at the beginning and end of the service. Symbolically, the procession indicates the Christian life, following Christ wherever he leads – into the sanctuary to worship and out into the world to serve. Our crucifer also helps serve communion by refilling the chalices (the wine cups) from the flagon (the large pitcher of wine) as needed. Any adult or confirmed youth who can carry the cross is eligible to be a crucifer. Crucifers serve one week at a time, scheduled around your availability. If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact the Church Office or call or text Michelle McQuaide at (330) 958-3399.

An USHER sign-up sheet has been posted on the large bulletin board in the gathering area. If you can share your gifts as an usher, please sign-up! Positions are still available!!

*** GREETERS ARE NEEDED *** If you are able to serve in this way, please contact Noel Strattan, dns@telecommute.net or Greeter sign-up is available online.

Now hiring: Wednesday Ministry Assistant We are grateful for Maddie Hess' faithful service as our Wednesday Ministry Assistant during the past year. Due to a new job, she needs to step back her position at the church, so we are now looking to hire her replacement. This person will be primarily responsible for the meal we serve before Rejoicing Spirits--either cooking meatballs or chicken nuggets, or arranging pot-luck contributions and preparing the salad and drinks. A complete job description is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office, or available at www.ZionsJonestown.com Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to pastorckurtz@gmail.com by Sunday, September 22. Please help spread the word!

Serving at Zion's		Today	Next Sunday
Lector		Terry Ludwig	Kelly Rittle
Prayer		John Mohn	Michele McQuaide
Children's sermon		Pastor Caitlin	
Comm. Assts.		Noel Strattan	Ed & Elaine Ludwig
		Deb Long	
Greeter			
Acolyte		Derek Wolfe	Gracie Bucks
Crucifer		Madison Hess	
Altar Guild		Strattan/Wenrich	Bucks family
Elevette		Ann Kulp	Noel Strattan
Ushers	August- Rick Herr, Georgetta Wolfe, Jim Fowler		

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino

SOUND: Houser family PASTOR: Caitlin M. Kurtz

ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848 PASTOR'S OFFICE: 717-865-3652 pastorckurtz@gmail.com