Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2024

Pastor Caitlin M. Kurtz

Every Week at Zions: @ 10:30 Worship. 9:15 Sunday School Wednesday night 5:30 meal, 6:15 Rejoicing Spirits Worship, 6:50 Bible Study

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)

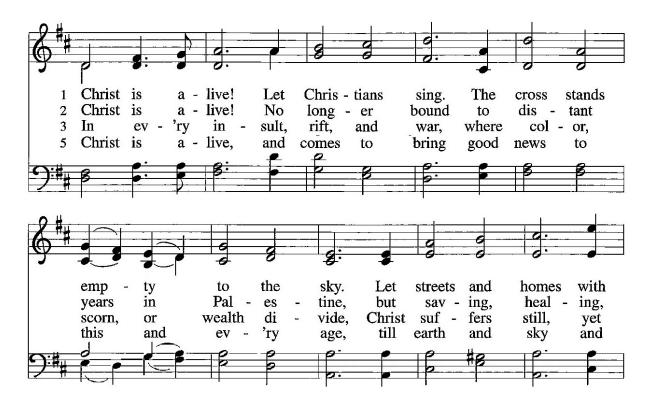
Welcome and Announcements and Prelude

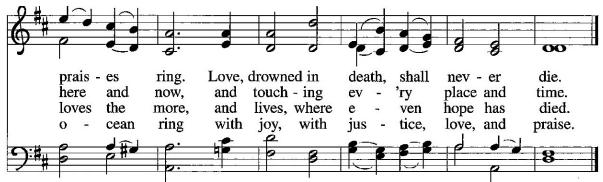
*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: Amen.
- P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection

- P: Gracious God,
- C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
- P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **C: Amen.**
- *Opening Hymn: ELW 389 Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing v.1,2,3 & 5 You are invited to face the rear of the sanctuary and turn towards the cross as it passes.





Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Music; T. Williams, Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789 Text @ 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company TRURO LM

*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.

*Hymn of Praise



*Prayer of the Day

P: O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20 (pg. 622 in pew Bible)

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, 'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!' But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

After the Reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 54 (pg. 454 in pew Bible, next) (read responsively)

Leader: Save me, O God, by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

Congregation: Hear my prayer, O God; give ear to the words of my mouth.

L: For the insolent have risen against me, the ruthless seek my life; they do not set God before them.

C: But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.

L: He will repay my enemies for their evil.

C: In your faithfulness, put an end to them.

L: With a freewill-offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O Lord, for it is good.

C: For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

SECOND READING: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a (pg. 982 in pew Bible)

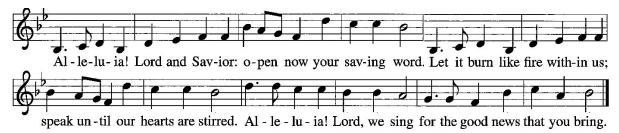
Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

After the Reading: Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON as the children come forward, please join in singing:

Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love. Serve Him, serve Him, all ye little children, God is love, God is love.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 (pg. 821 in pew Bible)

Before reading: P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark, the 9th Chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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

*HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984 Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985 BEACH SPRING 87 87 D
Text © Oxford University Press Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

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 entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior." respond: Amen)

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

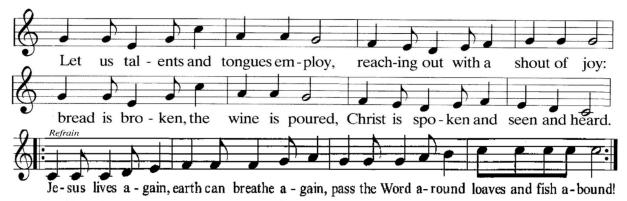
P: The peace of Christ be with you all. C: And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM

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



Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929 Music: Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980 © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. LINSTEAD L M and refrain

*Offering Prayer

P: Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able.

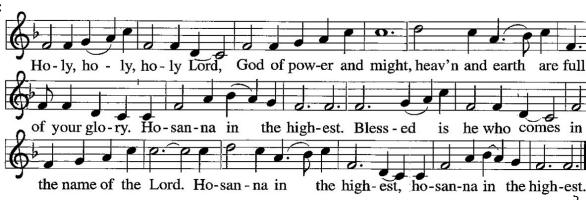
P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

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: Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator. In the beginning your hands reached into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, guiding us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called us time and again to return to life with you.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people like a mother hen.

Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one would break the bonds of love, our Lord Jesus 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.

In the same way 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send your Spirit upon this meal, that we would overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we pray:

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, now and forever. **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

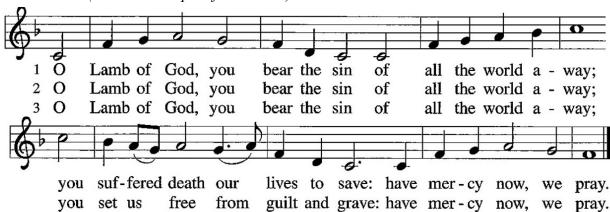
P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

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:

#469 Lord of All Hopefulness

(LBW- green book) #

e - ter-nal

#474 Children of the Heavenly Father

#365 Built on a Rock

peace with

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn: ELW 843 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

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 God's hands at work in the world! 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!

This week we especially remember in our prayers: Andy Bomberger, Lee Keifer, Heather Light, Bruce Northridge, Nancy Winklebleck, Betty Kleinfelter, Pastor Ted Hummel, Marta, Alexa, Luke, and the people of war-torn countries.

This Week at Zions:

Sept. 23, Monday @ 6:30 pm Mission ministry committee meeting

Sept. 25, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

Sept. 25, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Sept. 27, Friday, @ 10:00 am Pre-School Event

Sept. 28, Saturday @ 9:00 am Babies and Bibles

Next Week at Zions:

Oct. 2, Wednesday @ 9:00 am Quilting

Oct. 2, Wednesday @ 5:30 community meal, 6:15 pm Rejoicing Spirits worship, 6:50 Bible Study, 7:30 adult choir rehearsal

Other News from Zions:

Babies and Bibles: Saturday September 28 at 9 AM Jesus says "Let the little children come unto me". Through this ministry, we share the Good News of scripture with the youngest members of our congregation, and their families, surrounding them with a caring community as they grow in faith. Children ages birth through age four (and older siblings) are welcome to attend, with their adults. This year, we are exploring the fruit of the Spirit--beginning with JOY!

September 29 is Quilt Sunday! We'll be blessing and sending forth the 50 quilts that have been created this year for Lutheran World Relief. When you arrive, they will be draped over the pews--please sit on them and fill them with your love and prayers. After worship, they'll be boxed and sent for distribution around the world.

Bishop Jim Dunlop will be with us on Sunday, October 6. Bishop Dunlop as served as the Bishop of our synod since 2013, and will be retiring next year. We invited him to worship with us, and share a word about the state of the Church, as he sees it, before his retirement. You are invited and encouraged to attend the adult forum beginning at 9:15 AM that morning, followed by worship at 10:30 AM. This is a great time to ask questions, learn from his experiences, and participate in the life of the larger Church.

Weekly Sunday School: Children ages four through fifth grade *with their adult (parent, grandparent, friend)* meet in a downstairs classroom. Students in Confirmation (typically 6th - 8th grade) meet with Pastor Caitlin in the "Martin" room. Ann Kulp teaches the adult class which meets in the "Katie" room. The adult class will be looking at "Holy Places" in September, and beginning a study on nature in scripture in October.

Men's and Women's Bible studies will begin in October and will meet on the second Sunday of the month (October 13 would be the first). Donuts and coffee will also be available.

Wednesday night activities have begun, including a new Bible study. It's a great mid-week pick-me-up, and an opportunity to gather with others for a warm meal, worship, and Bible study. Dinner begins at 5:30 followed by Rejoicing Spirits worship at 6:15 PM, adult Bible study at 6:50 PM, and adult choir at 7:30 PM. Bible study is led by Pastor Caitlin and will look at the book of Ephesians--no Bible study experience needed!

We have kicked off a "Loaves and Fishes" campaign in celebration of the 50th Year of ELCA World Hunger. Over the next months, we hope to raise \$3000 in special offering to fund six fish farms (\$250/each) and thirty home gardens (\$50/each including seeds, tools, and agricultural training). You can give through Simply Giving, PayPal, or the yellow envelopes in your pews. THANK YOU for your generosity!

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 a dish to share. Some 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 prepare a dish to freeze and keep at church for when it's needed, or sign up for a date that would be convenient for you. Thank you!

YOUTH CHOIR has begun: Youth choir will meet after church in the sanctuary on for practice. 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 information.

Need a study Bible? We have multiple, brand new paper back copies of the Lutheran Study Bible, and we'd love to give you one! We used to give these to our Confirmation students but have found that they don't always hold up to their use, so now we give them hardback versions. In addition to scripture, these Bibles are full of informational tidbits and devotional questions. Pick up on today in the Gathering Area!

Check out "September's Member to Remember" on the bulletin board. Maryann Nelson is this month's star! You can read about her faith and experiences at Zion's in the weekly e-mail or on the bulletin board by the church office.

LARGE PRINT bulletins are now available with the elevette bulletins and the ushers.

The NL Ministerium is preparing for the 2024-25 Release Time program, which teaches Bible stories to third grade students from the Northern Lebanon Elementary School. We could use a few more teachers, and substitutes for this program (curriculum provided). If you're interested in helping, please let Pastor Caitlin know. You can also sponsor a student by marking a portion of your offering for "Release Time": \$15 purchases a Bible for the student to keep, \$30 funds transportation for a student for the school year, and \$45 fully sponsors a student by providing a Bible and transportation. THANK YOU for your support!

Now hiring: Wednesday Meal Coordinator. 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 29. Please help spread the word!

*** 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.

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!!

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. Our crucifer also helps 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 Michele McQuaide at (330) 958-3399.

Serving at Zion's		Today	Next Sunday
Lector		Jim Gill	Christine Techky
Prayer		Stephanie Livingston	Nancy Ludwig
Children's sermon		Terry Ludwig	Nancy Ludwig
Comm. Assts.		Ed & Elaine Ludwig	Kelly Rittle, Deb Long
Greeter			
Acolyte		Greyson McQuaide	Daryl Root
Crucifer		Daryl Hess	Logan Livingston
Altar Guild		Bucks family	Strattan/Wenrich
Elevette		Ann Kulp	Tom Frey
Ushers	Septem	ember: Luke Hiester, Linda Toth	

MUSICIAN: Maryann Guldin
SOUND: Houser family
ZION'S OFFICE: 717-865-2848
zions@comcast.net

VIDEOGRAPHER: James Cascarino
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pastorckurtz@gmail.com