

# Zion Lutheran Church



**Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**

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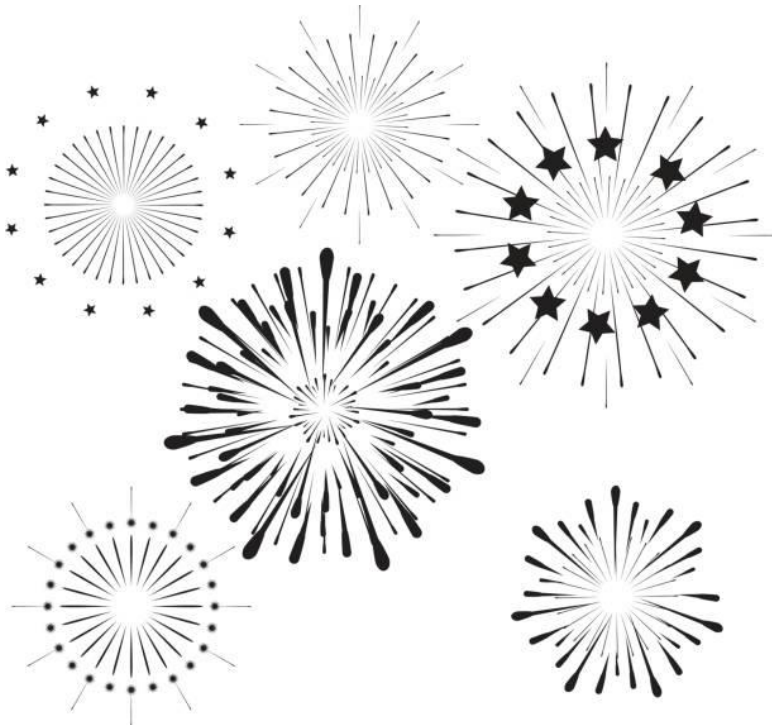
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**July 6, 2025**



# Zion Lutheran Church

## Sundays with Zion

Worship . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Bible Hour . . . . . 11:00 a.m.

## ***Independence Sunday – July 6, 2025***

Please observe a few minutes of quiet time as you prepare for worship. We invite you to **pray** and read the **Scriptures** for the day.

### ***WELCOME TO WORSHIP!***

***WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER TODAY*** (Please see “Words to prepare our hearts and lives” on page 9)

***ALL WORSHIPERS*** are asked to please fill out the information sheet in the bulletin. Before we begin, you are also invited to pray and to read the Scripture for today’s worship.

***WE LOVE OUR KIDS*** ... We love to have them in the service with us, but if your child needs a break, we do have a “cry room” in the entry way of the church.

### ***A PRAYER AS WE GATHER***

*O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as You gather us together to worship You in spirit and in truth, prepare us to receive the preaching of Your Word and all Your life-giving gifts such that we would repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Rescuer, and grow in caring service for all. Hear us for His sake. Amen.*

## ***“Save Your People, Bless Our Land”***

### **God’s People Gather**

Did you see a fireworks display on the 4<sup>th</sup>? Which fireworks wowed you the most? What make them so cool to draw our oohhhs and ahhhhs? Today, using various scriptures, we remember the fireworks of God’s power that He causes to burst in the sky of our lives.

### **Hymn**

(Tune: America the Beautiful)

Almighty God, to you we fly for mercy and for grace.

Oh, hear our penitential cry and do not hide your face.

Arise, arise, O Lord of hosts; be jealous for your name.

Oh, come, and drive from out our coasts the sins that put to shame.

The pow'rs, O Lord, ordained by you with heav'nly wisdom bless.  
Make them your servants just and true who rule in righteousness.  
The Church of your beloved Son inflame with love's pure fire;  
Unite your people, Lord, as one, and life and truth inspire.

P Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things.

**C Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth.**

P Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

**C The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us. He will bless those who fear the Lord, both small and great.**

P Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing.

**C Declare the wonderful deeds of God who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.**

P For the Lord God said, "If you will obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples.

**C For all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."**

P Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth.

**C "Yes," says the Spirit, "for they rest from their labors, and their works follow after them."**

### **Prayer of the Day**

We thank and praise you, dear God, for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and the blessings you grant us by your gracious hand. Help us never to take for granted the foresight of our forebears who made this country possible and gave our leaders direction on how we should live as a nation. May we always remember that we as Christians are not only citizens of this country, but children of your family and heirs of your heavenly kingdom yet to come. May your saving message in Jesus and your blessings of eternal life guide and sustain us above all else as we live and serve within the borders of this land. Amen.

## Hymn

(Tune: America the Beautiful)

Your finest blessings from on high in rich abundance pour  
That we may laud and magnify and praise you more and more.  
O Lord, adorn with precious peace our own, our native land,  
And crown with joys that never cease the labors of our hands.

## First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:12-19

When you have finished paying all the tithe of your produce in the third year, which is the year of tithing, giving it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, so that they may eat within your towns and be filled, then you shall say before the Lord your God, "I have removed the sacred portion out of my house, and moreover, I have given it to the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, according to all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not transgressed any of your commandments, nor have I forgotten them. For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created. I have not eaten of the tithe while I was mourning, or removed any of it while I was unclean, or offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the voice of the Lord my God. I have done according to all that you have commanded me. Look down from your holy habitation, from heaven, and bless your people Israel and the ground that you have given us, as you swore to our fathers, a land flowing with milk and honey."

This day the Lord your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul. You have declared today that the Lord is your God, and that you will walk in his ways, and keep his statutes and his commandments and his rules, and will obey his voice. And the Lord has declared today that you are a people for his treasured possession, as he has promised you, and that you are to keep all his commandments, and that he will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that he has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he promised.

## Hymn

(Tune: LSB 394, Songs of Thankfulness and Praise)

Christ, by heav'nly hosts adored, gracious, mighty, sov'reign Lord,  
God of nations, King of kings, head of all created things,  
By the Church with joy confessed, God the Son forever blessed,

Pleading at your throne we stand; save your people, bless our land.

On our fields of grass and grain, send, O Lord, the kindly rain,  
And throughout the spacious land crown the labors of each hand.

Let your kind protection be over commerce on the sea.  
Open, Lord, your bounteous hand; save your people, bless our land.

Give us rulers faithful, true, such as love and honor you;  
Let the powers you ordained be in righteousness maintained.

In the people's hearts increase love of piety and peace.  
Thus united, we shall stand one wide, free, and happy land.

## **Second Reading**

1 Peter 2:1-10

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

## **Hymn**

(Tune: America the Beautiful)

Oh, praise the Lord, America; sing anthems gratefully.  
And let God's saving Word sound forth from sea to shining sea.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! With hearts and voices raised  
God's mercies sing: Let freedom ring, for which the Lord be praised!

## Children's Message

### Gospel Reading

Luke 25:13-35

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Gospel Response

(Tune: LSB 921, On What Has Now Been Sown)

Before you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns above  
And rules the world below, boundless in pow'r and love.

Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,  
our hearts we raise to you, our king!

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; your great Redeemer own;

Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship him alone.

Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,  
and bow before the Crucified.

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; your great Redeemer own;

Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship him alone.

Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,  
and bow before the Crucified.

Message

Fireworks of God

Pastor Russ Hess

## Our Response to the Word

### Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel (Silence for reflection on our need for forgiveness)*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority (*John 20:22-23; 1 Corinthians 4:1*), I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Stand*

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel (Silence for reflection on our need for forgiveness)*

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P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority (*John 20:22-23; 1 Corinthians 4:1*), I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **A Creedal Hymn**

(Tune: LSB 677, For All the Saints)

In God we trust, Lord of eternity,  
By whose strong Word creation came to be,  
Lord of the nations, clothed in majesty. Alleluia! Alleluia!

In God we trust, the Father's own true Son,  
By whose strong death redemption has been won,



And by whose rising new life is begun. Alleluia! Alleluia!

In God we trust, the Holy Spirit dear,  
Whose inspiration shines the Gospel clear  
That all the world the saving Word may hear. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **Offering**

### **Prayers**

**P** God of our Fathers, we praise you for the liberty you procured for us when you sent your Son to be our Savior. Please extend your reign in our day through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of your sacraments that through your Church, a great many disciples would be made. Glory, glory,

**C Hallelujah!**

**P** God of our Fathers, thank you for the freedom you have given us in this great land. Please bless our military men and women and uphold them in your love. Bless also our government and all in authority over us that they may serve with honor and integrity and uphold the common good. Glory, glory,

**C Hallelujah!**

**P** God of our Fathers, where there is opportunity, let us come to the aid and defense of the defenseless. Allow us to speak up for the rights of all who are oppressed, especially the aged, the infirm, the weak, the unborn and all who need our care. We pray all of this through Christ, our Lord. Glory, glory,

**C Hallelujah!**

**P** *Amen.*

## **A Prayer for Our Country**

**All:** Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a

united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in You fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## Lord's Prayer

(Tune: LSB 804, O Worship the King)

Our Father on high, give ear to our prayer.  
Your name, far and nigh, revered ev'rywhere.  
Your kingdom come, Sov'reign, and your gracious will,  
On earth as in heaven be done by us still.  
The bread that we crave provide us each day.  
Be near us to save from evil always.  
In time of temptation your strong guidance give;  
As we forgive others, our sins, Lord, forgive.  
For you, Lord, are King; almighty you reign.  
Your glory, we sing with grateful refrain. Amen.  
From this hour so may it be done;  
Your kingdom, your power, your glory alone!

## Words of Institution

*The Lord's Supper is a wonderful means of grace given to us by God. Christ gives His body and blood to forgive sins, renew faith, and growth in His love and service. We also remember and praise God for the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf on the cross. Out of pastoral concern and care and taking to heart the word in 1 Corinthians 11:36, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." To receive this means of God's grace properly we should positively answer the following:*

- *Do I need forgiveness for sin?*
- *Do I believe in Christ as my Savior and have been Baptized?*
- *Do I believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine?*
- *Do I desire to turn from sin and live for God and others in love and service?*

*If you are unsure and/or desire to learn more about what it means to take the Lord's Supper, please speak with an elder or pastor before / after the service. Those not partaking of the Lord's Supper, including children, are invited to come forward with arms folded across the chest to receive a blessing. Grape juice is available in the center of the serving tray. God's Blessings!*

**Prayer before Communing**

*O Lord, our God, in Holy Baptism You have called us to be Christians and granted us the remission of sins. Make me ready to receive the most holy Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins, and grant us grateful hearts that we may give thanks to You, O Father, to Your Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**After Receiving Communion**

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving Body and Blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths feasted on this holy meal, we may by faith obtain and forever enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, eternal life in Christ, and unity with one another; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**What Is This Bread** LSB 629

What is this bread?  
Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break,  
This life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?  
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace  
Brings His embrace  
Of life and love until I sing!  
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I,  
That I should live and He should die  
Under the rod?  
My God, my God,  
Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?  
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul  
He makes us whole—

Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me?  
I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe  
That I receive  
His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

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**Your Table I Approach** LSB 628

Your table I approach;  
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart  
Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find  
Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood,  
Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord,  
In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place,  
This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more  
Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

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## Benediction

Psalm 67

P God, be merciful to us and bless us; make your face to shine upon us,

**C that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.**

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

**C The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.**

P May God continue to bless us. May people everywhere honor him.

## Closing Hymn

(Tune: LSB 717, Eternal Father, Strong to Save)

To Abraham in days of old A wondrous blessing was foretold:

“By you the world will come to know The saving grace which I bestow.”

That promise kept we now confess: “God truly has drawn near to bless!”

Descendants of God’s promise true, We dedicate ourselves anew

“One nation under God” to be In justice, truth and liberty.

O Lord, fulfill your purpose grand; Through your saved people bless our land!

So may your people now be led Throughout the world your Word is spread,

By word and deed the cross proclaim That all may trust Christ’s saving name

And share God’s age-old pledge to bless With peace and hope and  
righteousness.

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# ◆ The **VISION** of Zion Lutheran Church ◆

In response to God's amazing grace and love  
Zion Lutheran Church is a place of refuge  
where children, youth and adults are:

**GROUND**ED in God's unchanging Word,

**REACHING OUT** with the Good News of  
Jesus Christ locally and globally,

**ACCEPTING** others in the same loving way  
God has accepted us,

**CHANGING** into committed Christ followers, and

**EMPOWERED** to be Christ's hands and feet  
joyfully serving others.

## **Our Core Values**

### **We Believe:**

- ◆ We are saved by Grace through Faith in Jesus Christ. (*Eph. 2: 8-9; Rom. 3:22-24; Titus 3:4-7*)
- ◆ Jesus is the Way, the Truth & the Life! No one comes to the Father except through Him! (*John 14:6; Acts 4:12*)
- ◆ Scripture is the Word of God. It is without error and our only source for life and faith! (*2 Tim. 3:16; John 20:31; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)
- ◆ Baptism & the Lord's Supper are the means by which God touches our lives with His grace. (*Rom 6:1-7; 1 Peter 3:21; Matt 26:26-28; 1 Cor 11:23-26*)
- ◆ God has chosen us to proclaim the Gospel to our community and world. (*Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15*)
- ◆ In the power of God working through the Holy Spirit & Prayer. (*John 14:26; Acts 4:31; Mark 11:24; Phil 4:6-7*)
- ◆ We desire to remain a loving (*1Cor 13; 1John 4:7-11*), caring family of God.
- ◆ We cherish our Lutheran heritage.