

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday September 1, 2024 10:00 am
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost



Zion's Mission Statement

*As a body of believers, created by God, redeemed by
Christ, empowered by the Spirit, we are called to bear
witness to God's love.*

Congregation of the Montana Synod, E.L.C.A.

Glendive, MT 59330
Website www.zionlutheran.us
406-377-3369

WORSHIP LEADERS

Sermon & Liturgy: Steve Merrill

Reader: Don & Adele Idso

Ushers: Don & Adele Idso

Deacons: Norman Unterseher

Sound System: Bill Miller

Acolytes:

Chancel Guild: Penny Z

Musicians: Mary Senvold / Marla McCormick

Next Sunday September 8, 2024

Isaiah 35:4-7a

Psalm 146

James 2:1-13

Mark 7:24-37

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Church office hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-noon. Church office e-mail is
churchlady@zionlutheran.us

**Indicates Congregation Stands When Comfortably Able*

Introduction:

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

Announcements:

Opening Hymn: ELW #680 We Plow the Fields and Scatter

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

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.

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.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn:** ELW Hymn #879 For the Beauty of the Earth

***Apostolic 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.**

***Kyrie:** Page 203 in the front of the hymnal

***Hymn of Praise:** Page 204 in the front of the hymnal

***Prayer of the Day:**

O God our strength, **without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 Pew Bible on page 164 in the Old Testament

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 15

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)

¹LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**²Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

**⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected,
but they honor those who fear the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health
and do not take back their word.**

⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain,
nor do they take bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Second Reading: James 1:17-27 Pew Bible page 219 in the New Testament

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror;

²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

***Gospel Acclamation:** page 205 in the front of hymnal

The Holy Gospel is from Mark, the 7th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***Gospel:** *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23* Pew Bible page 39 in the New Testament

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
⁷in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." ²¹For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message: Steve Merrill

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn #512 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

***Apostles' Creed:** Page 105 in the front of the ELW

***Prayers of Intercession:** Our response to Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

***Sharing the Peace:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Share the peace as you feel comfortable.

Offering Hymn: ELW Hymn #525 You Are Holy

Offering Prayer:

Blessed are you, O God, **source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer:** Page 208 in the front of the ELW

***Blessing:**

God all mighty, God most merciful + bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** ELW Hymn #583 Take My Life, That I May Be

***Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

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We encourage you to sign the pew sheets when they are passed to you. The black folder is on the inside aisle. We use them for our record of communion, and numbers are reported the Synod office. They also alert us to visitors and new people attending, and you may use them to leave a message to the pastor.

Prayers of the People Colossians 4:2
“Continue earnestly in prayer being vigilant in it with Thanksgiving”

Prayers for all impacted by the Coronavirus, and for their caretakers.

Prayers of Peace for Our Nation

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Food Bank: There is always a need of nonperishable food such as peanut butter, cereals, mac and cheese, boxed mixes, canned fruit, veggies and soup. Also, sugar and flour. You can drop your donations directly at the Food Bank or into the shopping cart in the Narthex.

Sunday School: Sunday School will be starting on September 8 at 9:00 am. We are in need of teachers, and helpers. It will be held the first three Sundays of each month. Please register your student if they have not attended before.

Baptism: Rafe William Stortz, son of Nathan & Kourtney Stortz was baptized Thursday, August 29. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

God's Work, Our Hands: Zion will be joining the ELCA nationwide on September 8 in the God's Work, Our Hands project by collecting either paper products for Head Start families or loose change or food donations for the local Food Bank. All collections stay in our community.

Lutheran World Relief: ZLCW is collecting toothbrushes and bar soap for the ELCA layette and personal care kits for the month of September. These items must be in original wrappings. Additional nail clippers would be appreciated. A basket is in the narthex for donations.

Youth Director: Youth and Education Committee has posted the position of part time Youth Director, 15-20 hours per month. Contact Megan Kubesh at 406-939-1006 for more information.

Live Streaming: Remember we have the live streaming of the Sunday 10 am service when you are out of town with vacation, sports, or other events. Please check it out.

Prayer Chain: Contact the church office at 406 377-3369 and leave a message or email churchlady@zionlutheran.us for prayer requests.

Up Coming Events: Sunday School begins September 8
God's Work, Our Hands September 8

Sunday September 1, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Worship-Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Scouts

Monday September 2, 2024

5:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes-Dave B & Don I

7:00 p.m. Scouts

Tuesday September 3, 2024

Wednesday September 4, 2024

10:00 a.m. Prayer Circle

Thursday September 5, 2024

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study-YRI

6:00 p.m. Worship

Friday September 6, 2024

Saturday September 7, 2024

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Furniture Room-Sheryl & Sharon

Sunday September 8, 2024

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship-Sanctuary

7:00 p.m. Scouts