

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, Sept. 5 – 5:30 p.m. & Sunday, Sept. 6, 2026 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church & School, Litchfield, IL

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All of Zion's church and chapel services are streamed live to our social media platforms and are available for public viewing.

Welcome to all gathering together with us in worship today! May our time together in God's Word be blessed by Him. We appreciate you signing the Record of Fellowship book for your family members in attendance today. Record any changes of address or phone number so we may update our Church records. VISITORS, please also sign; we love to know our visitors.

Receiving Communion – 5:30 p.m. & 8:00 a.m.

In preparation, examine yourself by asking these questions: Am I truly sorry for my sins?

Do I believe I am forgiven because of Jesus' suffering and death?

Do I believe in the Real Presence of Christ's Body and Blood in the Sacrament?

Do I desire to be strengthened to live a God-pleasing life, and to forgive others?

This is the faith expressed by those in fellowship with the LCMS. Members of LCMS congregations may commune with us. If it is your first time with us, please speak to the pastor before communing.

Prayers For Healing: Steve Steelman, Gary Gerdes, Jerry Mehochko, Tony Bergman, Darin Riemann, Bill Kalaher, Pat Battoe, Jay Pryor.

Zion Lutheran School; Government Officials and Nation; Military and all First Responders.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Given in memory of Matthew Hull by Bill & Georgia Hull.

BULLETINS: Given by Rex & Cindy Nail in celebration of their 45th wedding Anniversary.

WSMI: We pray that you have been enjoying the morning devotion that airs prior to the morning news. What a great way to start your day! We appreciate the donations! Any amount can be put in the box or taken to the office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY was a wonderful event with about 75 people enjoying breakfast and activities together. All had a great time, and the children went home with special items from the day. We were able to share leftover biscuits with St. Clare food pantry and fruit with the school children. Thanks to all who helped make this a success!

MISSION SERVICE: The donations were delivered to the seminary this week. The vehicle was full, thanks to your generosity and a Thrivent grant. We will be gathering items needed by our school cook and our custodian. Some of the items requested are Dawn dish detergent, Clorox, Windex, Odor Ban, paper towels, and napkins.

Thank You: You may notice the sanctuary is brighter this weekend. Thank you to a memorial gift that we were able to replace burned out bulbs along with updating the bulbs.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS This weeks Bible Readings: Monday - Exodus 3:1-15
Tuesday - Luke 9:51-55 Wednesday - 1 Kings 18:20-39 Thursday - Isaiah 9:6-7
Friday - Matthew 1:18-21 9/13 - Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

FESTIVAL BELL CHOIR will begin rehearsing for the Fall season on Sept. 9th at 6 P.M. Anyone who would like to join us and has never played bells is more than welcome. No experience required. Any questions please contact Keith at 217-313-9011.

HARVEST BLESSINGS TABLE: Thanks to all who have shared the beautiful vegetables from their gardens. The table will be in the hallway for all to enjoy! If you have extra produce, put it out there and watch it disappear!

ADULT INFORMATION CLASS: We will be starting an adult information class on Tuesdays at 7 PM, beginning September 22. This class goes through the main teachings of the church, especially from the Lutheran perspective. This class is for anyone who would like to become a member at Zion, just would like to know more about the Lutheran teachings, or would like to review our teachings. We welcome questions in this class. If you or someone you know, would like to join in the class, please let Pastor Fred know so that we will have materials available for everyone.

Last Week's Attendance – 5:30 p.m. – 39 8:00 a.m. – 66 10:30 a.m. - 73
Plate & E-Giving Offering – \$ 6389.07 (Weekly needs \$13,008.00)

SERVING US THIS WEEKEND

Pastor: Fred Kraemer Organist: Keith Marburger
Elders: 5:30 p.m. Allan Spelbring 8:00 a.m. Chris Poirot & Mike Helgen
10:30 a.m. Allan Spelbring
Acolytes: 5:30 Jasper Amyx 8:00 Reagan Burenga 10:30 Willard Peck

Upcoming Events:

Monday, Sept. 7	No School – Office Closed- Labor Day W.O.W. Bible Study – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 8	Sewing Circle – 9:00 a.m. School Board – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 9	Chapel 8:30 a.m. Confirmation – 6:00 p.m. Festival Bells – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 10	Berean Bible Study – 9:15 a.m. Stewardship – 5:30 p.m. Church Council – 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 12	Worship Service - 5:30 p.m.

HYMN OF INVOCATION LSB 901 “Open Now They Gates of Beauty”

ORDER OF SERVICE Divine Service Setting One, Page 151

INTROIT  *Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5*

How great are your works, | O LORD!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,*

to sing praises to your name, | O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the | morning,*

and your faithful- | ness by night,

to the music of the lute | and the harp,*

to the melody | of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad | by your work;*

at the works of your hands I | sing for joy.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

How great are your works, | O LORD!*

Your thoughts are | very deep!

KYRIE Page 152

HYMN OF PRAISE (5:30 & 8:00) Page 155 “*This is the Feast*”
(10:30) Page 154 “*Gloria in Excelsis*”

SALUTATION & COLLECT Page 156

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–9*

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

EPISTLE *Romans 13:1–10*

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is

owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

ALLELUIA & VERSE Page 156

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1-20*

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

(10:30) CHILDRENS MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 820 “My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker”

SERMON “Giving the Forgiveness of God” (Matthew 18:15-20)

(5:30 & 8:00) NICENE CREED Page 158

(10:30) HYMN OF RESPONSE LSB 707 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”
APOSTLES CREED Page 159

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

OFFERTORY Page 159

(5:30 & 8:00) SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT Page 160

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS LSB 707 & LSB 620

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Page 164 *“Thank the Lord”*

(10:30) The Lord’s Prayer Page 162

BENEDICTION Page 166

DEPARTURE HYMN LSB 578 “Thy Strong Word”