

September 27, 2026 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad to be gathered with you. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please ask an usher to answer any questions you may have. Cameras are in use for livestreaming the worship service.

The altar flowers are given by Leah & David Wintemute in memory of Lysod Kunkel and in honor of Carson Wintemute. The prelude is "As the Deer" by Martin J. Nystrom.

8:30 a.m.

Assisting Minister — Lou DiCriscio
Acolyte — Ana Jebesen
Greeters — Bonnie & Frank Stanski
Ushers — Jeff & Helen Livingston
Altar Guild — Anita Zarate

11:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister — John Minerowicz
Acolyte — Caleb Schumann
Greeters — Rick & Carolyn Schroeder
Ushers — John McAleer & Mike Mikitiuk
Altar Guild — John & Wendy Minerowicz

Opening Hymn	"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"	ELW 533
Hymn of the Day	"I'm Going on a Journey"	ELW 446
Closing Hymn	"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"	ELW 551



September 20th Attendance

<u>8:30 a.m.</u>	<u>11:00 a.m.</u>
29	46



Next Sunday at 11:00 a.m. we will welcome new members to the congregation! Please be sure to introduce yourself to these folks and make them feel welcome as they become part of the Zion family.



All are invited to join Zion's lively bunch of retirees for **Lunch Bunch!** We gather on the second Thursday of each month at a local restaurant for fun and fellowship. On October 8th we are headed to Brasserie 513 in Califon. Please sign up via the link emailed from the Parish Office to reserve your place at the table.



Calling all crafters and even those not so crafty! Please join us at the CEB on Saturday, October 10th, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. as Betty Lanka leads us in creating a beautiful beaded ornament gift for one of this year's Alternative Giving charities. We promise good fellowship and fun as we learn together.

Come join the choir! Zion's Parish Choir and Handbell Choir are looking for more folks to join them. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, please speak to BJ or send him an email at music@zionoldwick.com



Zion's Social Ministry committee is hosting an **Animal Shelter Helpers Drive**, sponsored by Jersey Cares. Donations can be left in the entryway at the CEB any time between now and October 31st. Please see the September newsletter for the list of accepted items.

Financial Summary YTD

INCOME

\$276,134

EXPENSES

-\$268,310

DIFFERENCE

\$7,824



venmo

Scan the QR code to make a contribution to Zion via Venmo.

Halloween Hospitality



October 31st
5p.m. — 8 p.m.

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (*read responsively*)

¹Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

²**I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—**

³that which we have heard and known, and what our forebears have told us, we will not hide from their children.

⁴**We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works God has done.**

¹²God worked marvels in the sight of their ancestors, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan,

¹³**splitting open the sea and letting them pass through; making the waters stand up like walls;**

¹⁴leading them with a cloud by day, and all the night with a glow of fire;

¹⁵**splitting the rocks in the wilderness and giving them drink as from the deep;**

¹⁶bringing streams out of a rock, making them flow down like a river.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."



	First Sunday	Second Sunday	Third Sunday	Fourth Sunday
September	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27
Sunday School Theme: Creation	No Programming, Final Summer Sunday	Rally Day! Students return to classrooms (dismissed from worship after Children's Time)	Bible Lesson: The Vineyard Workers	Bible Lesson: The Chief Priests
Special Events		Zion Ministry Fair!		
October	10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25
Sunday School Theme: Community	Bible Lesson: Parable of the Vineyard	All School Event: Stewardship	Bible Lesson: Paying Taxes	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL (10am Single Service)
Special Events				Confirmation and Youth Sunday