



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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June & July 2026 Newsletter

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JUNE / JULY SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	Greeter	USHER	PowerPoint
<u>6/28</u>	Linda Robinson	Lynn Franz & Jody d'Autremont	John & Jody d'Autremont	Bill & Vickey Cowen	George Maruska
<u>7/5</u>	George Maruska	Linda Bradley			
<u>7/12</u>	Karen Combs				George Maruska
<u>7/19</u>	Teresa Stokken		Glenn Stokken	Monte Boettger	
<u>7/26</u>			Lois Davidson		

Please call the office if you would be willing to fill any of the open positions for this month.

***IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY, PLEASE FIND YOUR OWN REPLACEMENT**

Click [**HERE**](#) to see Zion's Google calendar.



Greetings, ZLC!

This summer, you are invited to begin reading *Evangelism in an Age of Despair: Hope Beyond the Failed Promises of Happiness* by Andrew Root in preparation for a fall Adult Forum series I will be teaching entitled, *Holy Resistance: The Courage to Abide in an Age Divided*. Root's book helps us think honestly about our modern times, and its production of loneliness, anxiety, sadness, disconnection, and the church's call to offer something deeper than simple happiness or calculated strategies for church growth. While reading the book is not required to participate, it will help guide and enrich our conversations together.

Beginning this fall, we will gather for six sessions to explore what it means to remain rooted in Christ and in relationship with one another during a divided and weary time. Together, we will reflect on faithful community, good conflict, human dignity, consolation, and what it means to reimagine life together as the body of Christ. This series will also connect with Zion's strategic plan as we consider how God is calling us to strengthen our ministry, deepen participation, welcome others well, and serve our wider community with courage and hope.

Sessions will be held on August 9, August 16, September 6, September 27, October 4, and October 25. We will survey the congregation to determine whether Adult Forum will take place before or after worship.

In this newsletter, you will also find a letter from ZLC member Tanner Trafton. Tanner is preparing to travel with a team from Grace Bible Church to Nicaragua in July, where they will serve churches in the Balgue community on Ometepe Island. During the trip, the team will support local churches through men's leadership training, gospel-focused community outreach, testimony sharing, youth camp ministry, and possible medical support as needs arise. The youth camp will serve teens ages 12–17, including some from non-church backgrounds. Tanner asks for prayers for safe travel, good health, encouragement for the local churches, and faithful service among the people they will meet. He is also hoping to raise \$2,500 to help cover trip expenses and reduce the cost of camp for youth in need. Please see his letter for more information and for ways to donate.

Blessings as summer kicks off in full swing! It continues to be an honor to serve you during this time of transition.

Pr. Stacey



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

We share God's call to experience purpose, wholeness, and community in Jesus Christ and faithfully steward his creation.



If you haven't already, please download this app.

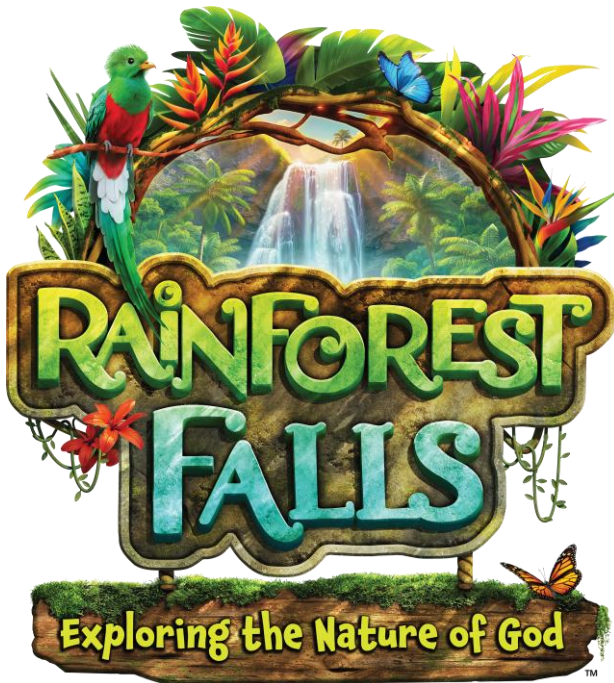


If you need help please call the office or Falan.

Staying connected with our church just got easier. Just download the Instant Church app and you will have access to our church directory.



If you haven't already, please download this app. You can use your home computer or a smart phone.



Thank you to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School such a wonderful week! Whether you volunteered your time, led a class, donated supplies, or prayed for our program, we are so grateful.

This year we welcomed 52 kids. One of the greatest blessings was seeing so many children from our community join us, including many who do not regularly attend church. This was a great opportunity to share God's love beyond our church walls. Thank you for helping create a place where every child felt welcomed.

-Falan

Dear Zion Lutheran Members,

I hope this letter finds you doing well! I wanted to share with you an exciting opportunity that has come up this summer. I'm planning on traveling with a team sent out by my church (Grace Bible Church) to Nicaragua, where we will be serving five similar churches in the community of Balgue, which is located on Ometepe Island.

During our time there, Pastor Jon Montoya will be conducting a men's training for key church leaders (about 50 men), and we as a group will be involved in a gospel-focused outreach in the Balgue community. We will also be memorizing our testimonies in Spanish and sharing about the Lord's work in our lives as God gives us the opportunity.

Another major part of this trip will be helping facilitate a youth camp held by those same five churches. Over the course of 3 days, we will be expecting to interact with at least 60 teens (ages 12-17). The really exciting part about this is that about a third of them will come from non-church backgrounds. This will provide a unique platform for many of them to hear the gospel for the first time.

Our goal with this trip is to support the Nicaraguan churches in carrying out their mission – to teach their men to be equipped in how to handle and live out God's word and to disciple and guide the young people in that area. I, along with a nurse on the team, may be providing some medical support during our time on this trip as needs arise. Considering this, we ask for your prayers that we would be an encouragement to and faithfully serve the people of Nicaragua while we are there. We also ask for your prayers for safe travel and for the health of our team, the local pastors & support, and for the people we will be serving. We also ask that you prayerfully consider supporting us for this trip financially. I'm hoping to raise \$2,500 to help cover the costs of the trip and also to provide funds that will go towards reducing the cost of the camp for those in need. If you would like to support our team and me in this ministry, a check can be left at Zion Lutheran Church, or if you prefer to give online, please use the QR code/link below. For tax purposes, please make checks out to "Grace Bible Church" and put "CrossLife Nicaragua Team 2026" in the memo line. I greatly appreciate your prayers throughout this trip!

Sincerely,

Tanner Trafton



June Social Concern is...

S.M.I.L.E.S.

Supplemental Meals in Lewistown Elementary Schools S.M.I.L.E.S. provides food for elementary students on the weekends. 100% of every donation stays local and goes to our community!

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark SMILES in the memo line of your check.

July Social Concern is...

Lutheran World Relief

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II, grounded in Lutheran theology and building on decades of experience, Lutheran World Relief tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. Our goal is to help people build self-sufficiency and create new community-owned approaches to problem-solving that will last long after our projects end.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please mark LWR in the memo line of your check.



***Scott *Ed *Jessie * Tia *Mike**

***Holly *Matt *Stephanie *Avis**

***Larry *Byron *Norma D. *Dianne**

***Scott *Pam *Ron**

Fall Adult Forum Series with Pr. Stacey

Before or after worship?
≡ We're surveying the congregation. ≡

Holy Resistance:

*The Courage to Abide
in an Age Divided*



August 9 - The Gift of Tension: Communion Beyond Comfort



August 16 - The Ache of Modernity: Isolation, Anxiety, & the Search for Belonging



September 6 - The Stories We Inhabit: The Formation of Modern Identity



September 27 - Good Conflict: Listening Beneath the Argument



October 4 - Who Is My Neighbor?: Jesus on Difference & Human Dignity



October 25 - Reimagining Life Together: Putting the Theology of Consolation to Work

Suggested Reading to Aid in Our Discussion

*Evangelism in an Age of Despair:
Hope Beyond the Failed Promises of Happiness*
by Andrew Root

"Evangelism" is a contested, even conflicted word. But churches are declining in numbers and resources. Andrew Root reimagines outreach for late modern life, where the pursuit of happiness has so often left us stressed, anxious, lonely, and depressed. Drawing on a theology of consolation, he offers a hopeful vision: in our sadness, when others care for us and we lean honestly into sorrow, we may discover the living presence of Jesus Christ.



June/ July Calendar of Events

6/21 **Worship @ 9:30am**
6/24 **Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm**
6/25 **Quilting @ 9am**
6/28 **Worship @ 9:30am**
7/1 **Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm**
7/2 **Men's Bible Study @ 6:30am**
 Quilting @ 9am
7/5 **Worship @ 9:30am**
7/8 **Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm**
7/9 **Quilting @ 9am**

7/12 **Worship @ 9:30am**
7/15 **Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm**
7/16 **Men's Bible Study @ 6:30am**
 Quilting @ 9am
7/19 **Worship @ 9:30am**
7/20 **Council Meeting @ 6pm**
7/22 **Men Over Lunch 12:00pm**
7/23 **Quilting @ 9am**
7/26 **Worship @ 9:30am**
7/29 **Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm**
7/30 **Quilting @ 9am**



DUTY GUIDELINES FOR USHERS

1. Be on duty fifteen minutes before service.
2. If necessary, turn on lights in nave, chancel, and narthex.
3. Make sure guest register is open and working pen is with it.
4. Check bulletin for baptism or special events that may need attention. Check with pastor if you have questions.
5. Stand near the nave doors to distribute bulletins. As needed, usher persons to their pews (e.g., the infirm, new members, etc.) especially as last-minute folks come in and see that the back pews are full. Leave one of the doors open for late comers.
6. Fill out the *Attendance Record*. Leave in the narthex or place in the offering plate.
7. **The Offering**
 - Offering plates will remain at the back (not passed through the pews).
 - Always look at the bulletin to see when the offering should be taken to the front.
 - Receive the offering in the choir loft and narthex, as needed.
 - **When the Pastor comes to the altar rail to receive the offering, ushers come forward with one offering plate and leave the other on the table for anyone who might have forgotten to give their offering.**
9. **The Communion.**
 - Ushers should open the narthex doors and take their positions in the aisle at the front during the singing of the “Lamb of God”, so that members can be directed forward while the pastor communes the assistants.
 - Ushers will move back pew by pew to maintain a steady line of communicants.
 - Inform the pastor if there are persons to be communed in their pew.
10. Tidy the pews after worship. Pick up papers and put hymnals and Bibles in place.

Communion Guidelines

Please come to the sacristy during the singing of the “Holy, Holy, Holy”.
(If that is not sung, come during the Offering.)

Wash your hands at the sink.

Decide who will:

- who will serve wine, who will pick up cups (if serving by trays),

During the singing of the “Lamb of God” come to the front and stand at the altar to receive communion.

Leave the emptied trays at the altar. Place the covers on the unused trays remaining on the tables. Exit through the sacristy to take your seat.
