



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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September 2026 Newsletter

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Sept - Oct SERVANT SCHEDULE:

	LECTOR	COMM. ASST.	Greeter	USHER	PowerPoint
<u>9/27</u>	Dana Leininger	Bill & Vickey Cowen	Donna Strouf & Sharon Nordahl	Wayne Leininger	Kyrie Benes
<u>10/4</u>	George Maruska		Avis Simpson		
<u>10/11</u>	Cindy Giese	Cindy Giese & Starla Solberg			Monte Solberg
<u>10/18</u>	Lynette Sallee	Anjeanette Carlson		Brian Sallee	George Maruska

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.



Friends of ZLC, Over the past two months, on the Sundays I've preached and led Adult Forum after worship, we've been exploring a question that feels increasingly urgent: How do we live faithfully with one another in a time when disagreement so easily becomes division? We began with what theologian Andrew Root calls the "Ache of Modernity," tracing how Western understandings of identity have shifted from something largely received through family, community, faith, place, and tradition toward something we increasingly feel responsible for creating ourselves. That freedom is good, but it can also become a burden. When we feel responsible for constructing and defending who we are, disagreement can begin to feel like a threat to our very identity. Against that backdrop, we've returned to Jesus' teachings. In Matthew 14, amid hungry crowds and stormy seas, we considered the difference between certainty and trust. Faithfulness does not mean eliminating tension, but learning to remain present—to God and to one another—even when the waters are rough. Matthew 15 pushed us to ask whether we can have our assumptions challenged, listen across difference, and hold convictions without contempt. In Matthew 18, we explored Jesus' language of "binding and loosing" as faithful discernment: not simply asking What does this rule say? but What was it meant to protect or make possible? As Lutherans, Law and Gospel also help us listen for both the word that exposes what is broken and the word that announces what God has done and promises to do. All of this brings us back to identity. Our culture offers countless ways to define ourselves—our accomplishments, failures, beliefs, politics, affiliations, and groups. The Gospel tells us something deeper. Before you have constructed the perfect identity, proved your worth, chosen the right side, or convinced anyone that you are correct, God has already spoken: You are loved. You are forgiven. You belong to Christ. Perhaps that security allows Christians to live differently in an anxious and divided age. We can remain curious, practice discernment, repent and forgive, resist reducing our neighbors to labels, and stay at the table even when we disagree. The church cannot cure every ache of modern life. But we can practice another way of being human together: a community where identity is received as gift, disagreement need not destroy belonging, mercy is not weakness, and Christ remains present even when life and relationships get hard. Join us after worship on October 4 and October 25 for the final two Adult Forums in our Holy Resistance series. Building on the tools we've practiced for discernment, listening, and abiding in relationship across difference, we'll explore what it means to honor difference while upholding the God-given dignity of our neighbors. Finally, we'll turn toward the ministry of consolation—learning how sharing the stories of God's presence in our own lives can console, connect, and become a deeply relational form of evangelism. If you haven't attended the earlier forums, you are still more than welcome to join us for the remaining two!

Peace and God's good blessings, 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.



Join us for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 25th following worship!

We're inviting the congregation to join in the fun by decorating your trunk and handing out candy to our kids!

Get creative!

Everyone is encouraged to participate! The more decorated trunks we have the more fun it will be for the kids.

September Social Concern is...

Social Concern for September: Love INC.

Our vision is to see Christian churches united in purpose & fully engaged in actively living out their faith by lovingly serving people in need in their community.

When Christian churches across denominations come together in a unity of purpose - to serve their neighbors in need - the world takes note. Heart of Montana Love INC helps churches coordinate their efforts and complement one another in effective outreach.

Overall, our mission is to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities in the name of Christ. Practically speaking then, we're a network of churches that links church ministries and volunteers to people in need. We cooperate with churches, community agencies, other nonprofits, and community businesses to provide effective help for anyone facing a tough time.

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

October Social Concern is...

Social Concern for October: Farm In The Dell

Heart of Montana Farm in the Dell is a non-profit 501c3 organization providing a life-long home in an agricultural setting for adults with developmental disabilities.

The farm will provide residential and vocational opportunities for our neighbors, our friends, and our families who are vital members in our community.

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

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.





Sept / Oct Calendar of Events

9/23 Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm

B.L.A.S.T/Rainbow Choir

Confirmation @ 3:30pm

Wee Singers @ 4:30pm

Youth Bible Study @ 6:30pm

9/24 Quilting @ 9am

Zoom Bible Study @ 12pm

9/27 Worship @ 9:30am

9/30 Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm

B.L.A.S.T/Rainbow Choir

Confirmation @ 3:30pm

Wee Singers @ 4:30pm

Youth Bible Study @ 6:30pm

10/1 Quilting @ 9am

Zoom Bible Study @ 12pm

10/4 Worship @ 9:30am

Adult Forum @ 10:30am

10/6 Hosanna Circle @ 4:00pm

Caring Ministry @ 5:30pm

10/7 Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm

B.L.A.S.T/Rainbow Choir

Confirmation @ 3:30pm

Wee Singers @ 4:30pm

Youth Bible Study @ 6:30pm

10/8 Quilting @ 9am

Zoom Bible Study @ 12pm

10/11 Worship @ 9:30am

10/13 Rachel Circle @ 9:30am

10/14 Men Over Lunch @ 12:00pm

B.L.A.S.T/Rainbow Choir

Confirmation @ 3:30pm

Wee Singers @ 4:30pm

Youth Bible Study @ 6:30pm

10/15 Quilting @ 9am

Zoom Bible Study @ 12pm

10/18 Worship @ 9:30am

10/19 Council Meeting @ 6pm



*Scott *Ed * Tia *Mike
*Stephanie *Avis
*Maureen *Wayne *Norma D.
*Dianne *Scott *Pam *Krista *Ken
*Mark *Margie *Gordon *Tracy

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**
 - 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.