



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings

May 2026

COMMUNITY Baby Shower

DONATION DRIVE

Items will be collected from now until May 9th

Suggestions for donations...

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Diapers (all sizes) | Wipes |
| Bottles & Bottle Brushes | Gentle Baby Soap |
| Bibs | Burp Cloths |
| Formula | Soft Books |
| Baby Food | Wash Cloths |
| Infant Feeding Spoons | Infant Toys |
| Pacifiers | Baby Detergent |
| Receiving Blankets | Baby Nail Clippers |
| Gift Cards (Target, Walmart) | Hats, Socks |
| Onesies (up to 12 mo) | Diaper Cream |
| Sleepers (up to 12 mo) | |



We kindly ask that all items donated be **NEW** or **GENTLY USED**

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Watch worship services live on Sundays at 9:30 A.M. by visiting:

www.zionferguson.com

and clicking

LIVE STREAM

Next Steps: Congregational Feedback Session

May 3rd Following Worship

Plan to join in a sharing session where you will be asked to give input, feedback, and share hopes and concerns about the 5 possible paths for Zion's Next Steps. We will use a guided discussion format to help get the process going.

Please review, pray, think, and dream about the possible options. Reach out and talk to others to constructively think about what you are feeling. If you have questions or want to clarify anything, please contact Pam Statler or Pastor Matt.

Also, mark your calendars for the next Congregational Conversation: June 14th, where we'll have a "Straw Poll" for you to share what you're thinking and we get a sense of what folks are feeling about the next steps. There will be ways to participate online in the straw poll as well, if you aren't able to be with us in person.

Zion Lutheran Church (the people!) has been and is called by God, gathered together by God's Spirit, is enlightened with the gifts of its people and its neighbors and its community, and is imbued with the holiness and grace and love of God we know in Christ Jesus.

Zion Lutheran Church Future Steps Timeline



April 19th:
First Presentation of Next Steps



Task Force continues researching.
Congregational prayer and discernment
Ask Questions!

May 3rd- Conversation:
"Share your Feedback"



Church Council processes feedback;
Task Force hones and clarifies steps
Ongoing prayer and discernment.

June 14th Conversation:
Straw Poll- In Person and Online



Task Force and Council review poll
results and put forth recommended
path selections

Recommended paths clarified.
Final listening/question time.



July Congregational Meeting :
Final Discussion and Path
Selection Vote

Commit to one year of focused planning and
discernment.
Work out details, kinks, and take actionable
steps forward.



May Birthdays

25th Christine Walters

May Anniversaries

31st Ron & Wanda Devenport

Things to Know About May

- **Congregational Feedback Session** on 5/3 following worship
- **Baby Shower Donations** to be collected through May 9th
- **Noisy Change Day** is 5/24
- **Office Closed** on 5/25 for Memorial Day
- **Tidings Deadline** is 5/26
- **Pokeno** will gather 5/28 at 11:30 AM
- **Food Pantry:** our new collection goal for May is canned vegetables



A blue poster for 'GIVE STL DAY' on May 7, 2026. The text reads: 'SAVE THE DATE! GIVE STL DAY MAY 7, 2026'. Below this, it says: 'For 24 hours, support LuMin St. Louis through the St. Louis Community Foundation. Your donation supports inclusive, progressive campus ministry in the St. Louis Area'. A QR code is provided with the URL 'www.givestday.org'. A starburst graphic at the bottom right says: 'HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$5,000!'. A small house icon is in the top right corner.

A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

I wanted to thank everyone for everything they do for Zion. We have turned our focus to what direction we want to explore for the future but all of the regular things still need to happen and everyone is working hard on those things, too.

It is never too late to engage in our conversations and discernment about our future. Our next congregational conversation will be after worship on May 3rd. It will be available on Zoom as well. We want to allow folks to think about what they have learned about various options and ask questions or offer thoughts about what we have discussed so far. If you aren't sure about what has been discussed, come and find out more.

There is still a lot to explore as we narrow our focus on what our future might hold. Everyone's input is valuable. If you think you may not have anything to offer as input, being engaged in the process is important, too. We are a church family and are made stronger by doing this together.

Blessings,
Pam 

Reflections on Memorial Day in a Time of Global Conflict

Written by Pastor Ryan Ritzmann, Christ Lutheran Church, Charlotte, NC

I approach Memorial Day with a mixture of emotions: gratitude, grief, humility, and a deep longing for the peace that Christ alone can bring.

Memorial Day is a time when our nation pauses to remember those who have died in military service. We acknowledge the real and tragic cost of war, the many lives cut short, the families left grieving, and the wounds, both visible and invisible, that ripple through generations.

For some, this day is personal. A name etched into a monument. A folded flag on the mantle. An empty seat at the table. For others, it is more distant; a day marked only by barbecues or sales and maybe a moment of silence during a parade. But as Christians, we are called to do more than observe. We are called to lament.

We lament the lives lost. We lament the wars that required them. And we lament a world in which violence is still so often seen as a way to resolve conflict.

**"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."**

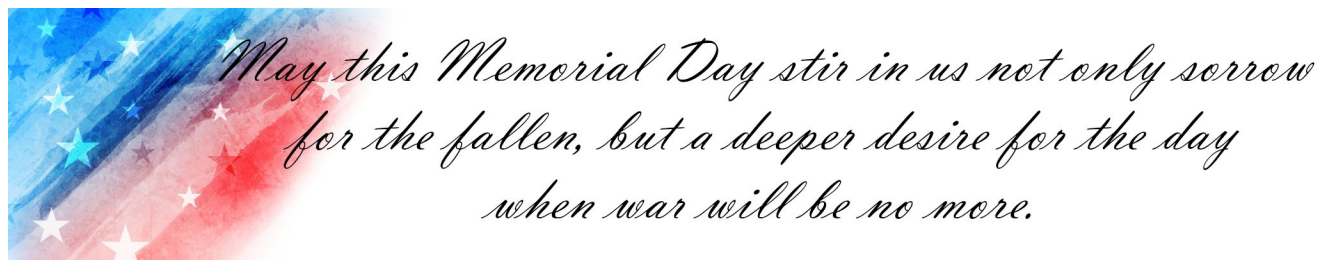
Matthew 5:9

This beatitude stands in tension with the reality of war. As Christians, we hold a vision of a world where swords are beaten into plowshares and where no one resorts to war anymore (Isa 2:4). Memorial Day reminds us not only of what has been lost, but of how far we are from God's original design, the one He wants for us, yet.

We honor the fallen today not by glorifying war, but by seeking a world in which such loss is no longer necessary.

This means praying for peace. This means questioning the systems and powers that perpetuate violence. This means caring for veterans, many of whom return home with deep spiritual and emotional scars. This means remembering that our highest allegiance is to the crucified and risen Christ, because it is in Him that perfect peace is found. A Peace that seems so foreign to us that it surpasses all understanding (Phil 4:7).

So today, we remember with reverence. We grieve with those who grieve. And we recommit ourselves to the hard work of reconciliation, justice, and mercy.



Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - 6:30PM (Zoom Meeting)

In attendance: Pastor Matt Schlake-Kruse, Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Stacey Miller, Richard Schademann, Erma Miller, Johnnie Tucker, Jan Roevekamp

Absent: Jay and Pat Martin

OPENING AND PRAYER

- Prayer from Pam
- Walk to Emaus - what are your “what ifs”?

PASTOR’S REPORT AND DISCUSSION

- Bishop Donna has stated that she really enjoyed worshipping with us on Palm Sunday
- Made it through Holy Week
- Pam Statler and pastor doing a walk through with Pastors Boone and Nathan of the building to get an idea of how space might be shared in the long run and to get an idea of what their needs are
- The next few months will be focused more on administrative goals
- Six members of the congregation will be going through Safe Gatherings training and background checks

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS AND NEXT STEPS TASK FORCE

- Congregational Conversation set for April 19th
 - What are the 5 paths to discern and pray about
 - Discussed what the council was thinking and feeling about the options - what questions might come up during the conversations

TREASURER’S REPORTS

- All documents were shown to the council - check register, fund balances, etc.
 - Quarterly mission support checks were issued during March
- Insurance premiums increase
- God’s Helping Hand mission support
 - Still looking for support even with the retirement of the executive director

SYNOD ASSEMBLY

- Appoint voting members
 - Pastor Matt
 - Pam Statler
 - Richard Shademann
 - Charlie Kinney
 - Motion made to appoint these voting members to attend Synod Assembly, seconded by Stacey, approved unanimously

UPDATES

• Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC)

- Focus on Ministry meeting - April 22nd at 7pm, Zion
- Retirement service for Pastor Larry at Atonement, Aug 30th
 - This will be during their normal church time so Zion will be joining them this Sunday for worship and there will be no worship at Zion

• Member Care Team

- No meeting held - check ins show that members are doing well

• Community in Unity

- Meeting held on April 9th
- Working on the Community Baby Shower on May 16th

• Space Sharing

- No updates

• Property Concerns

- Switched from Heat to AC
- No major updates - cameras going up in stairwell

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 2026 MEETING

- Motion made by Jan to approve the minutes, seconded by Stacey, and approved



CLOSING - PRAYER BY PASTOR

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:00PM

NEXT MEETING MAY 12TH

Zion Lutheran Church

May Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 3 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Congregational Feedback Session	4 1:00pm-Worship Team 6:30pm-Member Care	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30am-Worship	11	12 6:30pm-Council	13	14 6:30pm-CIU	15	16
17 9:30am-Worship	18 6pm-Laundry Love	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pentecost 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED  C Walters	26 TIDINGS DEADLINE	27	28 11:30am-Pokeno	29	30
31 Holy Trinity 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Fellowship  R&W Devenport	June 1	2	3	4	5	6

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in May

	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Presiding	M Schlake-Kruse	R Schademann	M Schlake-Kruse	BJ Arnold	K Koch
Music Accompanist	J Martin	J Martin	TBD	J Martin	J Martin
Assisting Minister	J Roevekamp	P Statler	R Schademann	K Kinney	N Wolz
Lector	K Malin	S Miller	L Moore	N Wolz	D Balestier
Children's Message	M Schlake-Kruse	N Wolz	M Schlake-Kruse	K Kinney	N Wolz
Ushers	S Dunham	D Balestier	J Roevekamp	P Statler	S Dunham
Altar Guild	K Malin	K Malin	K Malin	K Malin	K Malin
Video Streaming	B Budenholzer	K Kinney	P Statler	B Budenholzer	K Kinney

* Scheduled servers are subject to change at the discretion of organization leaders.
 If you have a schedule conflict, please inform the Church office of any changes or schedule swaps.

Zion Lutheran Church
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www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating
God's Grace**

May 2026

Zion Leaders

Congregation Council

Pastor: Matt Schlake-Kruse
PMA: Richard Schademann
President: Pam Statler
Vice President: Stacey Miller
Secretary: Kristen Kinney
Treasurer: Jan Roevekamp
Member At-Large: Jay & Pat Martin
Member At-Large: Erma Miller
Member At-Large: Rich Schademann
Member At-Large: Johnnie Tucker

Member Care Ministry

Ron Devenport
Wanda Devenport
Sue Dunham
Linn Moore
Richard Schademann*

Committee Chairs

Finance: Pam Statler
Property: Johnnie Tucker
Stewardship: Pam Statler

Organizations

Hospitality: Annis Tucker
Norma Wolz
Altar Guild: Deb Balestier

Team Leaders

Worship: Norma Wolz
Community in Unity: Stacey Miller
Education: Richard Schademann
Financial Sustainability: Pam Statler
Alt. Worship: Deb Murrish

Team Members:

Worship Team

Norma Wolz*
Bill Budenholzer

Community in Unity Team

Stacey Miller*
Pam Statler
Bill Budenholzer
Linn Moore
Deb Murrish
Kristen Kinney
Justin Kinney
Richard Schademann

Education Team

Norma Wolz
Richard Schademann

Financial Sustainability Team

Pam Statler
Justin Kinney
Jan Roevekamp

Alternative Worship Team

Deb Murrish*
Kristen Kinney
Christine Walters
Bill Budenholzer
Pam Statler