



# Zion Lutheran Church

## The Tidings September 2026

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

[www.zionferguson.com](http://www.zionferguson.com)

and clicking

LIVE STREAM

**THE GREAT RIVERS  
COLLABORATIVE  
TRIVIA  
NIGHT**

Benefiting The Child  
Advocacy Center of  
Northeast Missouri

**Friday  
September 25<sup>th</sup>**

Atonement Lutheran Church Gym  
1285 N. New Florissant Rd, Florissant  
MO 63031

Doors open at: 06:30pm  
Game starts at: 07:00pm

**\$200**  
table of 8

Soda  
Provided

Bring your  
own Snacks

For registration & sponsorship  
opportunities

Scan  
Me!!

[kkinney@cacnemo.org](mailto:kkinney@cacnemo.org)

*Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may **hear** them, **read**, **mark**, **learn**, and **inwardly digest** them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and **forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life**, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*



I will never forget the time the worship committee decided to “shake up” the weekly reading of scripture for the start of a new school year. We’d talked through which translation we’d use, which lessons we’d take a sabbatical from reading aloud, and how we’d sing the psalms. We’d educated the congregation, added newsletter articles, and prepped folks what was going to change. I’m sure my mouth was below the floor when one of the Youth Group Leaders came to me, perplexed, and asked, “*What happened to that part in the service when I make my grocery list?*”

Each week, our excellent readers offer us delightful passages from the Bible: God’s Word. We hear of stories from God’s journey with our ancestors in faith and the evolving role of God’s beloved people Israel. The poetry and music of the psalms offers us words to praise, lament, and reflect on the wisdom of God. Letters written to early Christ-followers give us a glimpse of the universal challenges of living out our faith and living in Christian community. The stories of the four gospels connect us to the teachings, ministry, and actions of Jesus—God’s Word—as he brought good news and freedom to humankind.

Earlier this summer, we began a Monday-morning bible study on the book of Revelation. As we’ve unpacked the layers of this powerful witness to Christ’s victory over Sin, Death, and the Devil, it struck me that we may need a refresher on how scripture functions for us as ELCA Lutherans and impacts our lives.

Per the ELCA’s constitution, “The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God’s Spirit speaking through their [human] authors, they record and announce God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God’s Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.” Congregations receive and use these scriptures “as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life.”

What does this mean for our lives with the Bible? It means it’s good for us to hear it, read it, reflect upon it, and wrestle with it, especially the parts we think we’ve got down pat. It means we look to the Bible not as a book of answers, nor a book of rules, but as a guidebook to help us discern what faithfulness and ethics look like in many differing contexts. It means we can find sustenance, challenge, hope, and courage in the way these holy words have spoken to centuries of people like us. We may not even agree on what each word means ! And it means that we need not worry about its authenticity or efficacy or perfection—for the purpose of scripture is to “reveal God’s love and mercy and grace.”

As we continue our path exploring what partnership means for Zion, I hope we continue to use scripture as a part of our discerning, deciding, and discussing how we bear the light of God’s love in Christ to the world. May the prayer atop this message be a regular part of your life—and may the time we hear God’s Word in worship keep your attention—rapt with the hope and grace and love we so yearn to find!

Happy reading,  
Pastor Matt



## September Birthdays

22<sup>nd</sup> Charlie Kinney  
23<sup>rd</sup> Doris McCall  
27<sup>th</sup> Kimberly Malin  
28<sup>th</sup> Jay Martin

## September Anniversaries

7<sup>th</sup> Stephen & Emily Voss-Light  
17<sup>th</sup> Elliot & Hannah Devenport  
27<sup>th</sup> Jason & Andi Martin

† Longtime member and good friend to many, Carole Herrmann, passed away on August 11th. A service for Carole will be held at Lord of Love Lutheran in Belton, MO on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The visitation begins at 10:00 AM and the memorial service will follow.

## Things to Know About September

- 7<sup>th</sup>: Labor Day = Office Closed
- 13<sup>th</sup>: GWOH Worship @ Unity
- 19<sup>th</sup>: 1:30 PM Doris' 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- 21<sup>st</sup>: Tidings Deadline & Laundry Love
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Noisy Change & Fellowship
- Food Pantry Goal = Mac n' Cheese

## A Message from the President

Dear Zion Friends,

I wanted to use this message to celebrate a milestone for our Laundry Love ministry. We have been serving our neighbors through that ministry since August 2022; four years of being out in the community meeting people and building relationships!

I want to thank Deb Murrish and Stacey Miller for their devotion to this ministry. They are there every month and are the smiling faces that help each person that we meet at the laundromat. We've had other volunteers along the way that we are very grateful for, too. Our teens, Jayda and Charlie, earn service hours for Lutheran North when they come to help.

I am involved, too, and can personally share how rewarding and fun it is to serve each month. Everyone is happy to see us and it feels good to get to know folks. We brought Christmas gifts at our December event and one of the community members who comes every month brought us gifts of fabric softener and laundry detergent sheets. We are definitely building relationships.

Please consider joining us at an event to see how fun it is to be out in the community with our neighbors. If you are not able to attend an event and would like to help, please contribute on a Noisy Change Sunday or write a donation check any time with a notation that it is for Laundry Love. We appreciate your ongoing support!

Blessings,  
Pam



PEOPLE SERVED

870



LOADS

6,304

Totals as of August 24, 2026

## Zion Partnership

The Partnership Team has begun its work to investigate potential partnership opportunities, starting with determining who we are now and what we would bring to a partnership. We have distributed surveys to the congregation and are reviewing those responses. The next step will be investigating various types of partnerships. If you are interested in being part of this team, let Pr. Matt or Deb M. know.

## Thrivent Choice

The Thrivent Choice program has been upgraded, making it even easier for Thrivent clients to live generously and support organizations like Zion. Here are three changes to the program:

- 1.) ALL Thrivent clients are awarded Thrivent Choice Dollars. Before only Thrivent clients who owned certain products with Thrivent received Choice Dollars.
- 2.) Thrivent Choice Dollars are now available in full at the start of the calendar year. Before they were accrued over time.
- 3.) Now Thrivent clients can direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars at any time during the year. Before, clients were required to direct their Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31st each year.

Please consider directing your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion Lutheran Church. Thank you!

## Holy Closure

The congregation of Shepherd of the Hills, St. Ann voted to enter Holy Closure in August. Their service of Holy Closure is still being scheduled for later fall 2026.



**COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR**

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH 9:00AM-1:00PM**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT - FELLOWSHIP HALL**

1285 N. New Florissant Road, Florissant, MO 63031

**FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL JOYCE (314)-740-2137**

**FREE SERVICES:**

- FLU SHOTS
- COVID SHOTS
- MEDICINE SHOPPE

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**BE PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER**

To schedule an appointment, scan QR code or call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401

**THERE WILL ALSO BE MANY OTHER VENDORS**

**Everyone is Welcome!**



**COFFEE, CONVERSATION & THE FUTURE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION**

Enjoy coffee and pastries while connecting with leaders from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and learning how theological education is evolving to meet the needs of today's church.

Whether you are an alum, supporter, pastor, church leader, student, or simply curious about LSTC's work, we invite you to join us for an informal morning of conversation, updates, and community.

### Come learn about

- The future of theological education
- New opportunities through Project Starling (our online learning platform)
- Preparing leaders for the church today and tomorrow
- Ways to stay connected with the LSTC community

### Hosted by

Genie & Harry Mueller

Christie & Larry Tietjen

### Meet & Hear From



Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan, President



Rev. Robert O. Smith, PhD, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs



Kurt Hendel, Emeritus Professor and witness to the Seminex movement



Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**ALL ARE WELCOME. BRING A FRIEND.**

Join us Friday

**SEPTEMBER 11**

9:30-11:30 am

RSVP



or email [advancement@lstc.edu](mailto:advancement@lstc.edu)

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

14088 Clayton Rd  
Chesterfield, MO  
63017-8356

# Oh, Tidings of Comfort and Joy!

This fall, we gather in worship to conclude our journey through Matthew's Gospel—with its star, Jesus: Emmanuel—God with us! As people alive in our world in 2026, there is much around us that leaves us in need of comfort, consolation and hope. I often tell myself not to let some news or someone or something steal my joy. Faithful Worship touches these needs and these realities. Our prayers and music over the next three months will offer us reminders of God's gift to the world: Comfort and Joy!

Especially of note are two aspects of our worship. Following up on our Upper Room worship, Sunday morning prayers will begin with an open space to share things you want to pray for aloud (or in your hearts). We'll pray surrounded by the spiritual "Sweet Hour of Prayer," as our concerns are lifted up among the wider community.

Secondly, I'm excited to introduce a newer hymn for our opening time of confession and forgiveness. *Your Heart, O God, is Grieved* is a Slovak hymn with the Kyrie built in. It's opening line is a petition, followed by a singable melody, reminding us of the comfort and assurance we receive in Christ. The text and tune are here for your preview.

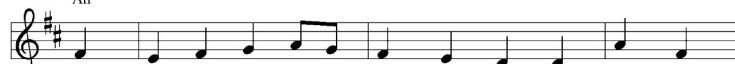
## Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved *Vieme to, Panež Bože náš*

Leader



*Oče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - ľuj sa nad na - mi.*  
1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.  
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All



*Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na*  
Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry  
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of  
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



*nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'*  
e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -  
death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the  
that your word has made. Now make us grow and



*ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.*  
sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.  
Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.  
help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
Music: ZNAME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ, *Transciscus*, 1636  
Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

## Holy Closure Service: Living Christ

**SUN, SEP 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 2:00 PM**

**2725 Concord Dr.**

**Please RSVP to:**  
**(314) 839-0466**  
**by Sep. 10<sup>th</sup>**

After more than 60 years of faithful ministry to the North County community, Lutheran Church of the Living Christ in Florissant will celebrate its final worship service as it concludes its congregational ministry. You are invited to join us for this special occasion as we gather to give thanks, remember God's faithfulness, and commend the ministry of Lutheran Church of the Living Christ. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow the service, providing an opportunity to reconnect, share memories and celebrate the many blessings God has bestowed upon this congregation over the past six decades.

# **Council Meeting Minutes - Zoom 7:00pm**

## **August 11th, 2026**

**In attendance:** Pam Statler, Kristen Kinney, Pastor Matt Shlake-Kruse, Stacey Miller, Richard Schademann, Erma Miller, Johnnie Tucker

**Absent:** Jan Roevekamp, Pat Martin, Jay Martin

**OPENING AND PRAYER: Pam Statler**

**PASTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION: Pastor Matt**

- Staff and Volunteer Safe Gathering background checks and training have been completed
- Three trips outside Zion this Fall
  - August 30th - Pastor Larry's Retirement Service at Atonement
  - September 13th at Unity for God's Work Our Hands
  - December 20th - Joint Baptism for Baby Schlake-Kruse at Saint Mark's Episcopal in the City
- Baby Schlake-Kruse is set to be delivered on the 19th of October - Pastor Matt will take 2 weeks at that time and then the rest of his leave in February/March
- The Council can remove members from the roster of the congregation that are no longer active
  - Motion made by Pam Statler to formally remove The Vogelsang Family and Dorothy Scales from active rostered members of the church (4 members in total), seconded by Kristen Kinney, approved

**CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS AND NEXT STEPS TASK FORCE**

- Hoping to have leaders report back to council about what is happening in the different small groups (RIC, Partnership, and House In Order)
  - Partnership Group has already had a meeting
  - A lot of really good resources about what kind of partnership are you looking for?
    - What are the different variations?
    - How can that look with churches, nonprofits, or other agencies?
      - Shared Ministry Model
        - Not a full partnership - assets and other things do not play into it - looks more contractual than relational
      - Merger and Consolidation
        - A merger is two churches coming together to make one church ( $A+B=A$ )
        - A consolidation looks more like 2 churches coming together to make a new church ( $A+B=C$ )
    - Anchor and Boat model
      - Adopter and adoptee church
        - What can we do together? How can we help you?
  - Pastor Matt started reaching out to different churches about how we could partner together and what it would look like

## **TREASURER'S REPORTS: Pam Statler**

- Fund Balances were reported
  - Higher loss due to 3 payroll month and 2 deductions for property insurance, one on the 1<sup>st</sup> and one on the 31<sup>st</sup>
  - HVAC repairs (Sanctuary and Upper Room)
- Income Statement, Check Register, and Balance Sheet were all provided

## **UPDATES:**

- **Great Rivers Collaborative**
  - Lots of transitions and changes
    - Living Christ received and accepted an offer on their building - last service will be 2:00pm on September 27th
    - Atonement has signed a covenant with a 2nd Interim Pastor, Pr. Jerry Mansholt starting in October
    - Shepherd of the Hills voted unanimously for Holy Closure on Sunday 8/09/2026
  - Atonement will not be worshipping with everyone on God's Work Our Hands day but they are asking Thrivent members to request light kits or water purifiers to put together on that day
  - GRC Trivia Night - September 25th at Atonement - Doors open at 6:30 and the game starts at 7:00 - Tables are \$200 for a table of 8
- **Member Care Team: Pastor Matt**
  - Reaching out as they can
  - Pastor Matt is trying to visit at home members, but timing is a challenge. Please let him know if someone needs a home visit so he can make sure to visit.
  - People are doing well
    - Judy Stoverink had knee surgery
    - Johnnie Tucker is having eye surgery
  - Asking Member Care team to make sure everyone knows about Doris McCall's Birthday Party
  - Keith Burns has officially retired from Boeing
- **Community in Unity: Stacey Miller**
  - Meet on Thursday 8/13
  - Laundry Love is going well
  - Discussing God's Work Our Hands - Worship at Unity and then will go over to Oak Knoll in the afternoon for Bingo and Ice Cream (2:00pm)
- **Space Sharing: Pam Statler**
  - No major updates
  - The Bridge is celebrating 5th anniversary on Sunday September 6th after Worship
  - Discussed the possibility of someone from their congregation discussing where they are now
  - Pastor Matt reviewed the agreement with The Bridge since it is self-renewing, no major changes need to be made. There are no provisions for assigned parking areas.
- **Property Concerns: Pastor Matt and Pam Statler**
  - Church Building Concerns

- Power surge/outage on July 4th
  - Upper Room air conditioner repair
  - Blower Motor in sanctuary air conditioner
  - Stove and oven in the upstairs kitchen
    - Council agreed to replace the stove
  - New light fixture over ramp down to the MPR downstairs
  - Quotes for repairing the concrete ramp and fixing the railing in front of the building are being obtained
  - Fryers need to be cleaned - Justin Kinney has agreed to clean them
  - Discussion about the possibility of having volunteers come out to help clean up the clutter and the “stuff” from church - would take organizing and figuring out where stuff goes or doesn’t

**CONFIRM APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 2026 MEETING AND VOTERS MEETING ON JULY 19TH, 2026**

- Motion made to approve the minutes from both meetings by pastor Matt, seconded by Stacey Miller, and approved

**CLOSING PRAYER BY PASTOR MATT**

**ADJOURNED: 8:12PM**

**NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 8TH**



The poster features a black and white background image of a rock band performing on stage with spotlights. On the left, the word "BINGO" is written vertically in large white letters next to a graphic of a speaker. In the center, the text "SAVE THE DATE" is in green, "ROCK N' ROLL" is in large white letters, and "SEPT 19 6PM" is in a green rounded rectangle. Below that, "REGISTRATION OPEN SEPTEMBER 1ST" and "\$20/PERSON" are in green. At the bottom, a white box contains the address "GRACE UMC 6199 WATERMAN AVE 63112". On the right, there is a 5x5 bingo grid with the word "BINGO" at the top and a QR code at the bottom right.

|       |   |   |   |   |
|-------|---|---|---|---|
| BINGO |   |   |   |   |
|       |   |   |   | ○ |
|       | ○ |   |   |   |
|       |   | ○ | ○ |   |
|       |   |   |   |   |
| ○     |   |   |   |   |

# *Zion Lutheran Church*

## **September Calendar**

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Mon                                                                                                                                               | Tue                                                                                                       | Wed                                                                                                       | Thu                                                                                                           | Fri                                                     | Sat                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug 30<br>9:30am-Worship @ Atonement<br>10:45am- Pr. Larry Retirement Party                                                                                                                                                                                     | 31<br>10am-Bible Study                                                                                                                            | Sep 1                                                                                                     | 2                                                                                                         | 3                                                                                                             | 4                                                       | 5                                                                         |
| <b>6</b><br>9:30am-Worship                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>7 Labor Day</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br> S&E Voss-Light    | <b>8</b><br>7:00pm-Council                                                                                | <b>9</b><br>6:30pm-RIC Meeting                                                                            | <b>10</b><br>6:30pm-CIU                                                                                       | <b>11</b><br>11:00am-Carole Herrmann's Memorial Service | <b>12</b>                                                                 |
| <b>13 GWOH Sun.</b><br>10:30am-Worship @ Unity<br>11:30am-GWOH Service Projects                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>14</b><br>10am-Bible Study                                                                                                                     | <b>15</b>                                                                                                 | <b>16</b>                                                                                                 | <b>17</b><br> E&H Devenport | <b>18</b>                                               | <b>19</b><br>1:30pm-Doris McCall's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration |
| <b>20</b><br>9:30am-Worship<br>2:00pm-GRC Meeting @ Zion                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>21</b><br><b>TIDINGS DEADLINE</b><br>10am-Bible Study<br>6pm-Laundry Love                                                                      | <b>22</b><br> C Kinney | <b>23</b><br> D McCall | <b>24</b><br>11:30am-Pokeno                                                                                   | <b>25</b>                                               | <b>26</b>                                                                 |
| <b>27</b><br>9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change<br>10:45am-Fellowship<br> K Malin<br> J&A Martin | <b>28</b><br>10am-Bible Study<br>6pm-Laundry Love<br> J Martin | <b>29</b>                                                                                                 | <b>30</b>                                                                                                 | Oct 1                                                                                                         | 2                                                       | 3                                                                         |

# *Zion Lutheran Church*

## **Serving on Sundays in September**

|                               | <b>Sep 6</b>  | <b>Sep 13<br/>@ Unity</b> | <b>Sep 20</b> | <b>Sep 27</b>   | <b>Oct 4</b>         |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Presiding</b>              | P Schaefer    | C Langdon                 | R Schademann  | M Schlake-Kruse | P Schaefer           |
| <b>Music<br/>Accompanist</b>  | J Martin      | -                         | J Martin      | J Martin        | J Martin             |
| <b>Assisting<br/>Minister</b> | R Schademann  | -                         | N Wolz        | K Kinney        | P Statler            |
| <b>Lector</b>                 | N Wolz        | -                         | L Moore       | S Miller        | D Balestier          |
| <b>Children's<br/>Message</b> | N Wolz        | -                         | K Kinney      | M Schlake-Kruse | N Wolz               |
| <b>Ushers</b>                 | P Statler     | -                         | D Balestier   | J Roevekamp     | S Dunham             |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>            | D Balestier   | -                         | D Balestier   | D Balestier     | J Kinney<br>K Kinney |
| <b>Video<br/>Streaming</b>    | B Budenholzer | -                         | 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  
123 Carson Road  
Ferguson, MO 63135  
314.522.0100 Office  
office@zionferguson.com  
www.zionferguson.com



**Celebrating  
God's Grace**

## September 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