



Zion Lutheran Church

The Tidings Summer 2026

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

www.zionferguson.com

and clicking

LIVE STREAM



**July 10th & 11th
2026**

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



SHIFT TIMES

Fri, July 10th:

5:30 PM to 7:45 PM

Sat, July 11th:

9:00 AM to 11:15 AM

12:15 PM to 2:30 PM

3:30 PM to 5:45 PM

Registration is Open!

[fmsc.org/volunteer-listing/?
mobilepack=2607-058SC](http://fmsc.org/volunteer-listing/?mobilepack=2607-058SC)



*For registration help, call 314-223-7155

**Our goal is to have 800 volunteers pack
2017,728 meals in 4 shifts. This comes out
to 28 pallets of ingredients costing \$64,000.**



The Season of Pentecost:

Being Blessed and Gifted by the Holy Spirit

As the calendar transitions to “summer,” we enter what some folks call “ordinary time—” all those weeks after Pentecost, where this year, we will return to the well of Matthew’s stories about Jesus and how we are freed to live as “blessed” children of God.

This summer, as Zion continues our work of communal discernment and we take the next big steps toward a specific path forward in faith, I want you all to remember the truth that each week is a week “After Pentecost.”

We often talk about Pentecost as the Holy Spirit’s formation of the church, but I wonder if we might lean into our Pentecostal Identity: as being blessed and gifted by the Holy Spirit. What if life “After Pentecost” is less about a one-time event with a crazy rush of wind and sound, but more about the ongoing work of God’s Spirit in our gathered community.

My colleague and writing friend Laura Kelly Fanucci recently reflected about this idea on her blog:

Holy Labor. “‘What if,’ I lean forward, ‘the real miracle of Pentecost was not that tongues of fire appeared out of nowhere, but that the Spirit fanned into flame the fire that already burned inside every single person in that room?’

‘What if,’ I lean back, ‘we could see each other’s flames all the time? What if, when you walked out of this church today, you could see the burning faith of everyone here today? What if we tried to live like that every single day?’

Suddenly I can see them for a split second—dancing, glowing, gleaming tongues of fire atop every head. Just a flash, and then it’s gone.

Maybe they think I’m crazy. (Maybe I am.)

But in that burst of a burning moment, Pentecost glows possible, palpable, powerful.”

This season, After Pentecost, Zion will be taking tangible steps and trusting the Spirit of God is leading us toward a different, a new, and a possibly terrifying way of being church together for the sake of the world. It’s my hope and prayer that we can have the vision and insight my friend had among her faith community—to see the image of God glowing in one another, and to remember that After Pentecost, we all have exactly the gifts of the Spirit we need, already burning in our hearts.



God’s peace,
Pastor Matt

June Birthdays

7th Erin Martin
Johnnie Tucker
8th Kristen Kinney
15th Judy Stoverink
23rd Jack Harrison
26th Cadence Kinney



July Birthdays

3rd Stacey Miller
22nd Justin Kinney
29th Annis Tucker
31st Robert Negwer

July Anniversaries

12th Robert & Esther Negwer

St. Stephen's Food Pantry Summer Collection Goal



CANNED VEGETABLES

Things to Know About Summer

- **Worship in the Upper Room** on June 7th & July 5th
- **Congregational Conversation** after worship on June 14th
- **Father's Day** is June 21st
- **Laundry Love** is June 22nd & July 27th
- **Fellowship** is June 28th & July 26th
- **The Office Will Be Closed** on Fri, July 3rd
- **FMSC Mobile Food Pack** on July 10th & 11th
- **VOTER'S MEETING ON JULY 19TH** (there will be no other Zion meetings in July)
- The next **GRC Meeting** is July 19th at Atonement

A Message from the President

Dear Zion Family,

We will have two congregational meetings this summer that will help direct what options we explore going forward to help determine what Zion's future might look like. We appreciate everyone being engaged in this process so far. We hope everyone will stay involved during these upcoming meetings.

Before, between, and after these meetings, please know that you can share your thoughts, feelings and questions with me or Pastor Matt. You can also talk to the other members of the task force. These members are Deb Murrish, Kristen Kinney, Richard Schademann and Norma Wolz.

Blessings,
Pam



2026 Synod Assembly

June 6th will be this year's Central States' Synod Assembly, held virtually at sites across the Synod. This year's Assembly Theme is Life Together. Drawing from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's wonderful book by that name, synod leaders will ask how we—Lutheran Christians of Missouri and Kansas—might best do life, together. The word synod means, “on the road together,” so a synod assembly is a great place to consider what it means to be called together for the purpose of serving God and our neighbors. Likewise, our synod Mission Statement begins with the reminder that in Christ, through baptism we have unity: United with Christ in Baptism. Traveling the way of Jesus. Joining God's reign of justice and radical love in the world. Because we have unity, we are freed to serve. Pastor Matt, Pam Statler, Richard Schademann, and Charlie Kinney (bonus youth member) will be Zion's voting members at the Assembly, held locally at Bethel Lutheran in University City.

Community Baby Shower

Thirteen expectant and new mothers, along with their guests, attended the community baby shower hosted by the Great Rivers Collaborative and Bridging Ministries. We are thankful to everyone who donated items and helped make the event a success.

*Pictures from the event on later page

June: A Month of Celebrations

June is a month of celebrations in the life of the world, and by extension, the life of the church.

We will gather for a special worship service celebrating and commemorating Juneteenth on Sunday, June 14th, preceding our Congregational Conversation and Straw Poll. As a part of the Straw Poll, and in response to the congregational conversations to date, members will also be invited to participate in a survey to gauge where our community is on the continuum toward becoming Reconciling in Christ (RIC), a formal open and affirming congregation for LGBTQIA+ individuals. If we choose to do so, becoming an RIC Church involves creating a formal welcome statement, education, and more. If you have questions, please talk about this process, please talk to Pr. Matt or Kristen Kinney.

It's actually quite fitting we begin to consider this possibility in June, where Pride Celebrations happen across our nation.

God's Helping Hands

Thank you for supporting God's Helping Hands through the years! Director Janis Hutchinson will retire **June 30, 2026** after over 20 years of service to our neighbors in The Ville area of Saint Louis. A Retirement Reception will be held at Unity Bel-Nor for Janis near the end of June, where you may also share your personal well wishes. God's Helping Hands has been a recipient of Zion's benevolence offerings for many years!

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth (June 19th) is the oldest known celebration of the end of slavery in America. After the Emancipation Proclamation was issued on January 1, 1863, owners in many isolated areas kept word from the people they had enslaved so they would not flee. On June 19, 1865, some of the last enslaved people in America were freed when the news, at last, reached Confederate Galveston, Texas. Since that day, Juneteenth has been celebrated to honor the African Americans who built this nation.

What is PRIDE?

Pride Month (LGBTQIA+ Pride Month) is celebrated annually in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots, and works to achieve equal justice and equal opportunity for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual or aromantic people, among many other distinctions. In June of 1969, an uprising of supporters took place at the Stonewall Inn in New York City seeking to end harassment and persecution to which LGBTQIA+ Americans were commonly subjected. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that LGBTQ individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally, and to continue to raise the need for liberation and full participation and inclusion.

Why do Lutherans acknowledge and celebrate these two events?

The East-Central Synod of Wisconsin has a lovely explanation of why these celebrations connect to our faith lives. "The month of June holds space for communities across the country who have been historically marginalized to celebrate stories of liberation and freedom. These celebrations echo the stories from our faith about the Lord who liberated those in bondage to slavery, who leads people out of exile, and who frees those bound to sin and death through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acknowledging these celebrations and including them in our worship and fellowship does not resolve the historical hurts and suffering inflicted upon historically marginalized people by the church as an institution and the people within. What acknowledgment and celebration of these events does do is open our minds to a deeper, more authentic inclusion of all people.

We desire to create hospitality and warmth that is authentic and safe - welcoming all people into the rich theological traditions we hold - a theology and grace that sets us free to love, serve, and heal. We repent of our part in past sufferings of all marginalized people, but especially BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ peoples. May Christ continue to heal us and make us whole - and we are more whole - when the whole body of Christ is loved, supported, and celebrated."

~ Pastor Matt

Congregations in Collaboration

Piecing Together Ministry Cooperatives

WHAT: An EMC Lay Academy focused on Collaborative Ministry

WHEN: Saturday, June 27 from 10 AM to 2 PM (lunch included)

WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church [820 Lockett Rd., Kirkwood, MO]

The Eastern Missouri Conference (EMC) of the ELCA invites you to a workshop for congregational lay leaders exploring Collaborative Ministry. This workshop is designed to help you, as the priesthood of all believers, define what collaborative/cooperative ministry is, begin discerning what energy you have to pursue collaborative/cooperative ministry, and possibly introduce you to potential collaborative/cooperative ministry partners in the area.

This event is sponsored by the EMC. Attendance is free, although there is a suggested donation of \$10 per person to cover the cost of lunch. All are welcome to attend, whether you are already engaged in some form of collaborative ministry or you are wondering how to open the door to collaboration.

Contact the church office (314) 522-0100 to register for the event. RSVP by June 23, 2026.



**DONATE TO REDUCE
GUN VIOLENCE**

You can support a gun buyback day at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ferguson by donating to the diocesan Gun Violence Prevention Mission, putting "Guns to Gardens" in the memo field.

All donations will purchase Aldi gift cards which will be given to those who turn in firearms. Go to diocesemo.org and select the GIVE tab or use the QR Code below.



COMMUNITY Baby Shower



Zion Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – 6:30PM (Zoom Meeting)

In attendance: Pam Statler, Johnnie Tucker, Pastor Matt, Pat Martin, Jay Martin, Kristen Kinney, Richard Schademmann, Jan Roevekamp, Stacey Miller

OPENING AND PRAYER: Pam

PASTOR'S REPORT AND DISCUSSION: Pastor Matt

- Supply Preachers are lined up through September
- Pam and Pr. Matt participated in a conference meeting with the Synod Staff on May 9th
- 3 lay voting members for the Virtual Synod Assembly (Pam, Richard, Charlie)
- Preparing a bible study on Revelation in the summer
- Key Leadership will be working on Safe Gatherings training (Similar to Mandated Reporter Training) and background checks

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS AND NEXT STEPS TASK FORCE:

Pastor Matt

- Congregational Conversation on May 3rd went well – things were positive
- RIC (Reconciling in Christ) was a big positive option as was the possibility of the hub
- June 14th will be the “Straw poll” and the survey for RIC
- Congregational meeting in July for discussion and vote
- Task Force will meet to discuss this further

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Pam Statler

- Nothing major to report
- Moved money to checking account to pay tuition support for the Lutheran North students
- All documents were shared (Monthly Financial Statement, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, and Check Register)

UPDATES:

Great Rivers Collaborative: Pam Statler & Pastor Matt

- Meeting on May 17th at Unity

Member Care Team: Pastor Matt

- Contact with members has been good – Carol Tillman and Erma Miller have been top of mind
- Doris McCall is planning her 100th birthday in the fall – wanting to do something at Zion

Community in Unity: Stacey Miller

- Baby shower is set for May 16th at Unity
 - 16 mothers are signed up
 - Purchasing last minute items and have gathered everything together

Space Sharing: Pastor Matt

- The Bridge needs more space, and Pam was able to rearrange some storage spaces in order to move stored items out of Room One (will be accomplished this summer).
- Having intentional conversations about what the process of moving toward both congregations sharing and utilizing the sanctuary upstairs might look like down the road – nothing has been formally decided.
 - The Bridge shared it would be willing to take on some extra responsibilities and add things to the worship space that could help both congregations
 - Possibly add screens and projections systems for use by both congregations
 - Add separate sound system in the balcony for The Bridge
 - Update the “cry room” (possible carpeting and paint)
 - An increase in rent with any use of the sanctuary seems reasonable and will be addressed

Property Concerns: Pam Statler

- No major concerns

CONFIRM APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 2026 MEETING

- Motion made by Pastor Matt to approve the minutes from the April meeting, seconded by Pam, and approved by Council

CLOSING PRAYER & MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:40PM

NEXT MEETING JUNE 9TH

Zion Lutheran Church

June Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Holy Trinity 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Fellowship  R&W Devenport	June 1 1:00pm- Worship Team 6:30pm-Member Care	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:30am-Worship  J Tucker  E Martin	8  K Kinney	9 6:30pm-Council	10	11 6:30pm-CIU	12	13
14 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Cong. Convo.	15  J Stoverink	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change	22 6pm-Laundry Love TIDINGS DEADLINE	23  J Harrison	24	25 11:30am-Pokeno	26  C Kinney	27
28 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Fellowship	29	30	July 1	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 Independence Day

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in June

	Jun 7	Jun 14	Jun 21	Jun 28	Jul 5
Presiding	M Schlake-Kruse	M Schlake-Kruse	R Schademann	P Schaefer	M Schlake-Kruse
Music Accompanist	-	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin	-
Assisting Minister	-	N Wolz	P Statler	R Schademann	-
Lector	-	D Balestier	K Malin	K Kinney	-
Children's Message	-	M Schlake-Kruse	N Wolz	K Kinney	-
Ushers	-	K Malin	J Roevekamp	S Dunham	-
Altar Guild	-	D Balestier	D Balestier	TBD	-
Video Streaming	B Budenholzer	P Statler	K Kinney	B Budenholzer	B Budenholzer

* 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

July Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 28 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Fellowship	29	30	July 1	2	3 Office Closed	4 Independence Day
5 9:30am-Worship	6	7	8	9	10 FMSC Mobile Food Pack	11 FMSC Mobile Food Pack
12 9:30am-Worship  R&E Negwer	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am-Worship & Noisy Change 10:45am-Voter's Meeting 2:00pm-GRC Meeting @ Atonement	20	21	22	23 11:30am-Pokeno	24	25
26 9:30am-Worship 10:45am-Fellowship	27 6pm-Laundry Love TIDINGS DEADLINE	28	29	30	31	Aug 1

Zion Lutheran Church

Serving on Sundays in July

	Jul 5	Jul 12	Jul 19	Jul 26	Aug 2
Presiding	M Schlake-Kruse	R Schademann	M Schlake-Kruse	P Schaefer	M Schlake-Kruse
Music Accompanist	-	J Martin	J Martin	J Martin	-
Assisting Minister	-	J Roevekamp	K Kinney	R Schademann	-
Lector	-	N Wolz	L Moore	S Miller	-
Children's Message	-	N Wolz	M Schlake-Kruse	K Kinney	-
Ushers	-	P Statler	K Malin	D Balestier	-
Altar Guild	-	K Kinney J Kinney	K Kinney J Kinney	K Kinney J Kinney	-
Video Streaming	B Budenholzer	K Kinney	B Budenholzer	P Statler	B Budenholzer

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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**

Summer 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