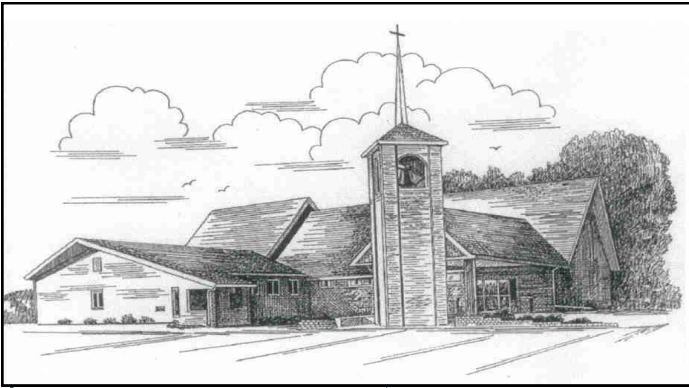




*Zion Lutheran Church
Arlington, MN*

July Newsletter

July 2026

Church Address:
814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371
Arlington MN 55307
Phone: 507-964-5454
Email: zion.elca.814@gmail.com

Note from Pastor Gretchen

Chattin' It Up...

- Paving the Way
- Summer Fun
- July Worship Assistants

My spiritual director, Susan, shared this quote by Henri Nouwen:

*"You and I are called to become other Christs,
to be living manifestations of God in this world.
God dwells in us in such an intimate way
that we indeed are becoming manifestations
of God's glory in this world."*

And after a couple minutes of silence, she asked, "How has God's glory been manifesting in your life?" After some more silence, I sheepishly responded, "I don't know that I have been looking for it". After another pause I said, "but it does come unbidden".

I was remembering something that happened on a recent trip to Ely with my husband, John. On the way home a large female moose and her twin calves stepped out of the woods by the side of the road. We stopped and just looked at them for the longest time and then they trotted across the road and into the woods. It felt like such a gift to see these magnificent animals. A gift we might have missed. But there they were, in all their God given glory.

After a day of fishing on Gypsy Lake, I said to John, "Could there be a better day?" The sky was cloudless, and we had the lake to ourselves, and a few beaver.

(It is easy for me to notice God's glory in nature.)

Then Susan asked, "How is God's glory manifesting through you?"

I was not sure. "I guess if God's glory comes unbidden like the Moose

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we saw on the road, then it's probably similar." I wondered: did the Moose *know* she was manifesting God's glory?"

Nouwen asserts, "God dwells in us in such an intimate way." Wow. Breathe that in. That's deep. God dwells in you and me so deeply that "we indeed are becoming manifestations of God's glory in this world." Can we see this in each other?

How has God's glory been manifesting in your life?

How is God's glory manifesting through you?

What a beautiful scavenger hunt to have over the summer travels!

Gratefully yours,
Pastor Gretchen



COMMITTEE
night



Wednesday, July 8
Committee Meetings at 6p
Church Council to follow at 7p

In the Lives of our Members

1 Allen Wendlandt	18 Larry Schiroo
2 Melissa Scharpe	19 Judy Gaare
3 Mausten Krueger	19 Jacob "JJ" Schauer
6 Craig Bullert	20 Samuel Bullert
7 Whitney Osborne	20 Mary Lietz
8 Scott Beneke	23 Hannah Bartlette
8 Debbie Swenson	24 Mary Seeman
8 Wayne Werner	26 Starla Schilling
11 Cindy Quast	28 Julie Beneke
14 Peyton Lovaas	29 Kate Arneson
14 Neil Mielke	29 Aaron Gieseke
14 Waylon Robinson	29 Jack Ruehling
16 Josephine Barfnecht	29 Dale Stern



July 5, 1969 Rich & Roseann Nagel
 July 7, 2007 Michael & Mary Christeson
 July 12, 1975 Allen & Pam Wendlandt
 July 23, 1977 Mike & Starla Schilling
 July 23, 1988 Steve & Mary Trocke



Hold up in prayer....

Christy Hebeisen in her battle with cancer

Dilshad Perani—family friend of Kamps family.
Battling rare chronic disease.



Remember Our Homebound Members

Bayside Manor
Rhoda Woehler
Lyle Woehler

French Meadow-LeSueur
Deb Otto

At home in Winsted
Luverne Bergs

May Creek, Walker, MN
Gary Revier

At home in Arlington
Hylma Matzke



Zion Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Highlights Thursday, June 11, 2026

The meeting opened with devotions by Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla based on John 3:8.

The agenda was approved with additions for the Executive Team Report and Building Use Permission. May council meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report was approved with a correction changing "March" to "May." at the top of the page. May ended with a deficit balance of -\$4,423.78, with income below budget but expenses also lower than expected.

Pastor Gretchen reported on May celebrations, confirmation activities, youth bowling, attendance at the Synod Assembly, and preparations for an upcoming funeral and baptism.

Board reports included:

- **Education:** Planning a youth bonfire and game night in August for grades 6–12 and exploring new Sunday School curriculum.
- **Stewardship:** Clattering Coins for Christ scheduled for June 21; a Feed My Starving Children outing is planned for July 27.
- **Trustees:** Parking lot project expected to begin at the end of June; routine maintenance continues.
- **Worship & Music:** Worship plans completed through August; considering an outdoor service during parking lot construction; bulletin format review underway due to Microsoft Publisher retirement in October 2026; Ecumenical Music in the Park scheduled for August 30.
- **Core Parking Lot Committee:** Fundraising total has reached **\$105,000** with additional projects and events planned.
- **Executive Team:** Working to finalize the congregation's constitution and bylaws.

Old Business

- Handicap ramp access door project remains on hold until after parking lot completion.
- Parking lot construction is expected to begin at the end of June and take about one week, weather permitting.
- Connection Card was approved, with a reminder to include annual communion card completion in announcements.

New Business

- Remaining funds from the Zion Men's Group account were transferred to the Water's Edge Ministries fund.
- An In-Kind Donation Form was introduced for donors who prefer not to be publicly recognized and need documentation for tax purposes.
- A request was received from Community Faith Outreach to hold a Bible study at Zion. The council will review past building-use agreements and continue discussion at the July meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. and concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meetings: **Committee Night and Church Council on July 8, 2026.**

Date	Attendance	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Debt Retirement	ELCA Missions	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot	Memorial Fund	Confirmation Camp
5/3/2026	54	\$ 4,080.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 31.99	\$ 135.00		\$ 99.00
5/10/2026	89	\$ 1,844.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ -	\$ 44.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 50.00		
5/17/2026	101	\$ 1,871.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 31.15	\$ 1,025.00		
5/24/2026	50	\$ 905.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	
5/31/2026	43	\$ 1,345.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 650.00	\$ 925.00	\$ 35.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69.00
Monthly Totals		\$ 10,045.00	\$ 20,191.55	\$ 675.00	\$ 1,034.00	\$ 164.81	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 168.00

Board of Stewardship

July Hunger Jar is dedicated to Sibley County FoodShare.

ZCW

Bible Study Group

Tuesday Circle and Wednesday Circle

Will not meet for the months of June, July and August



July Quilting Dates

Tuesday, July 14–10am

Tuesday, July 28–10am

Paving the Way—Parking Lot Fundraising



We look forward to having the parking lot paved this month.

A big thank you to those that helped serve at the Green Isle Irish baseball games during June.

We will be having a Sibley County Fair parking fundraising again in July to go towards our new parking lot upgrade. A signup poster will be put up in the narthex next to the fundraising thermometer to help collect \$ and direct people where to park if needed.

Please let the committee know of any other fundraising planned idea, every little bit brings us closer, we are already at \$104,000 which is 60% of our fundraising goal!

Core Parking Lot Committee

SUMMER FUN:

Monday, July 27 Packing session from 5-6:15 p.m. at Feed My Starving Children located at 18732 Lake Drive East, Chanhassen, MN 55317 Carpool leaves at 3:45 p.m. SIGN UP on the clip board BY JULY 19. Pick up a permission slip for youth participants.



August 13-16, CampHouse Ordinary Time



Sign up to be part of a relaxing time away at camp with worship, music, arts and activities. Carpool on Thursday and return on Sunday. Sign up on the bulletin board. Located north of Duluth, not far from Lake Superior, Camp House is one of Water's Edge Ministries (formerly known as Green Lake Lutheran Ministries) sites. Offering guest cabins, sauna, pizza from the brick oven and quiet afternoons by the lake. The rhythm of life at Camp House includes daily worship, time for study and conversation, music that speaks to your faith journey and invitations to engage in creative expressions each day led by pastors, musicians and artists in residence.

There is also time to paddle around Lake George, enjoy a book by the lake, explore the area on a fat tire bike, engage in conversation over a meal, or even visit sites along the north shore. Each participant is invited to make their day exactly what they seek in their Ordinary Time experience. No matter your age, the quiet, un-plugged setting will get into your blood and call you back year after year. Sign up to join the fun with other folks from Zion August 13-16. See Pastor Gretchen for more information.

June Bible Readings

July 5 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Zechariah 9:9-12—*The king will come in humility and peace*

Psalms 145:8-14

Romans 7:15-25a—*The struggle within the self*

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30—*The yoke of discipleship*

July 12 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:10-13—*The growth of the word to accomplish God's purpose*

Psalms 65:[1-8] 9-13

Romans 8:1-11—*Live according to the Spirit*

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23—*The parable of the sower and the seed*

July 19 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 44:6-8—*There is no other God than the LORD*

Psalms 86:11-17

Romans 8:12-25—*The revealing of the children of God*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43—*The parable of the weeds*

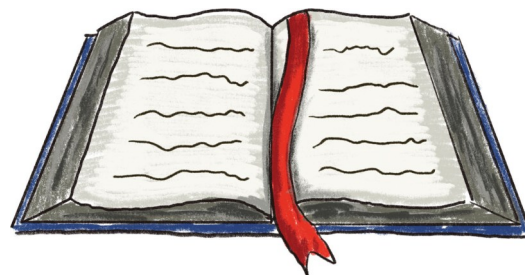
July 26 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 3:5-12—*Solomon's prayer for wisdom*

Psalms 119:129-136

Romans 8:26-39—*Nothing can separate us from God's love*

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52—*Parables of the reign of heaven*



With Thankful Hearts

Thank you for your recent generous gift for supporting the services of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

LSS Church Partnership Team

thank
you

We would like to thank you for your contribution to the Sibley County FoodShare. Your generosity continues to provide emergency assistance to the hungry of Sibley County. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*Lisa Eyrich
Sibley County FoodShare*

Thank you to those who provided goodies for Fellowship Hour in May

Neil & Lorraine Mielke
May Sylwester & Mary Lietz



Zion Lutheran Church services can be viewed on:

YouTube at

www.youtube.com

Search: Zion ELCA Arlington MN

www.zionarlington.org

Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla

952-237-1060

In the office: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Off on Fridays and most Saturdays

By email: pastor@zionarlington.org

By cell: 952-237-1060

including for emergencies anytime (death, hospitalization, etc)

Worship Assistants—July

July 5

Usher: Mark & Lisa Strobel
 Larry Gieseke, Larry Klunder
 Greeter: Mark & Lisa Strobel
 Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
 Reader: Cindy Quast
 AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen
 Altar Guild: Jane Scharpe & Jackie Alsleben
 Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

July 12

Usher: Larry & Pam Schiroo
 Kevin Kamps, Adilyn Kamps
 Greeter: Jan Wark
 Acolyte: Jeremiah Vazquez
 Reader: Wendy Pederson
 AV Team: Jan Giesen & Jeremiah Vazquez
 Altar Guild: Lana Woehler & Peg Kamps
 Bread Maker: Jackie Alsleben

July 19

Usher: Jon Hazelwood, Elton Hazelwood
 Stephanie Krueger, Murdock Krueger
 Greeter: Wayne & Ann Werner
 Acolyte: Adilyn Kamps
 Reader: Nancy Mathwig
 AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad

July 26

Usher: Jim & Wendy Pederson
 Peg Kamps, Francis Rowe
 Greeter: John & Lana Woehler
 Acolyte: Jazmyne Wark
 Reader: Brenda Danielson
 AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Elton Hazelwood

The Water's Edge Ministries (formerly GLLM) Quilt is finished and ready to be donated to the Quilt Auction on July 24-25 at Green Lake Bible Camp. This years 60" x 74" quilt is called "Farmers Prayer" and is a tribute to hard-working farm families that tend our land, including farm imagery and Bible verses.



July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <u>5th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Contemporary Worship	29	30	1	2 10:00am Adult Bible Study	3	4
5 <u>6th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	6	7	8 6:00pm Committee Night 7:00pm Church Council	9 10:00am Adult Bible Study	10	11
12 <u>7th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	13	14 10:00am Quilting 1:00pm Ecumenical Meeting 3:00pm Anniversary Committee	15	16 10:00am Adult Bible Study	17	18 8:00am Men's Prayer Breakfast
19 <u>8th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Worship	20	21	22	23 10:00am Adult Bible Study	24 Water's Edge Ministries Quilt Auction	25 Water's Edge Ministries Quilt Auction
26 <u>9th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Contemporary Worship	27 5:00pm Feed My Starving Children Packing	28 10:00am Quilting	29 Sibley County Fair	30 Sibley County Fair 10:00am Adult Bible Study	31 Sibley County Fair	1 Sibley County Fair

