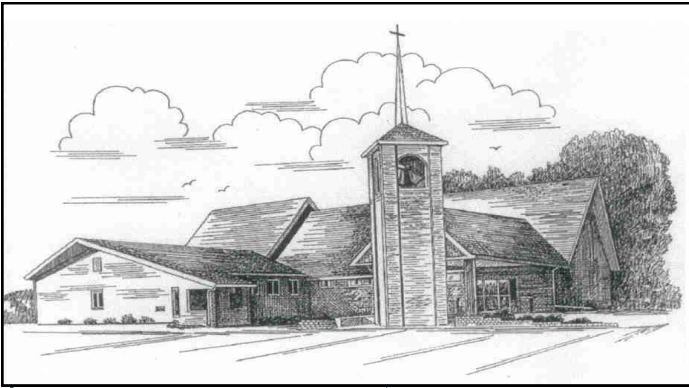




*Zion Lutheran Church
Arlington, MN*

August Newsletter

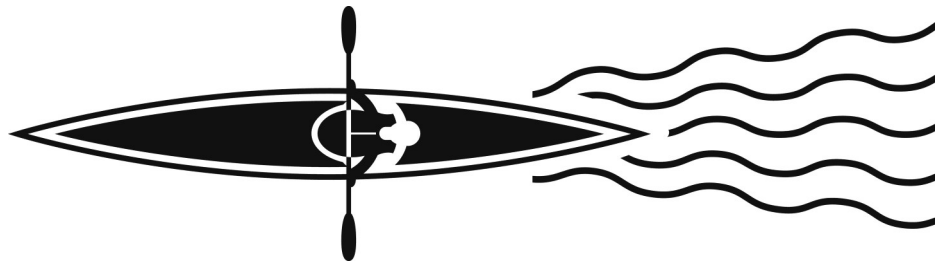
August 2026

Church Address:
814 W. Brooks St, PO Box 371
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Note from Pastor Gretchen

Chattin' It Up...

- God's Work, Our Hands
- Paving the Way
- Summer Fun
- August Worship Assistants



I was sad when I heard the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was closing because of the wildfires. I was sad for the people who had planned canoe trips into the wilderness who would not get to experience the beauty and the challenges one faces on that kind of journey.

I had only heard about the BWCA from friends in college when I applied to be a canoe guide. I remember the excitement of becoming a canoe guide. I had taken Water Safety Instruction for my physical education credit which allowed me to qualify to be a camp counselor "on the trail" instead of "in camp."

The staff, new guides and seasoned ones together, went through orientation on the beach of the camp. We packed up our gear for the staff trip and piled into the vans that drove us to our entry point.

I was excited and had no idea what I was getting into.

The staff divided into groups of 10 and set out in opposite directions on a circle route of lakes and portages. We worked hard learning the wilderness skills we would pass on to our campers: carrying canoes and gear over portages, paddling across windy lakes, reading maps, pitching tents, cooking over an open fire. We shared stories, laughter and devotions around the campfire. Went to sleep and at daybreak go up to do it all again the next day.

Inside this issue:

<i>From our Pastor</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>In the Lives of our Members</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Church Council Highlights</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>ZCW</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>August Bible Readings</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>August Calendar</i>	<i>12</i>

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Standing on the shore after the first portage from the parking lot seemed like a dream. I was standing in the steps of many who had traveled there before me. I took a deep breath of the warm pine-y air as I looked across the glistening lake. The moment of gratitude and awe was interrupted by other guides arriving on the shore, teaching me how to efficiently load a canoe and get ready to paddle.

Through those summers I would watch my campers move through the muscle aches of the first couple of days as I had. I was beside them as they learned the tasks of orienteering and setting up camp. It was a delight to see these skills become a new knowledge and freedom in my campers. Together we discovered the joy of working together in community.

Knowing the goodness of something makes me want to share it with others.

Where have you experienced goodness? Who do you want to share it with?

Joyfully and gratefully yours,
Pastor Gretchen



COMMITTEE
night



Wednesday, August 12
Committee Meetings at 6p
Church Council to follow at 7p

In the Lives of our Members

3	Jon Hazelwood	16	Jane Scharpe
4	Dale Wark	17	Courtney Foss
5	Barbara Bergs	18	Scott Bergs
6	Bill Wark	20	Lorraine Mielke
10	Stacy Haggemiller	20	Madison Anderley
10	Jim Pederson	26	Jan Gieseke
10	Nick Schiroo	26	Murdock Krueger
11	Cole Lovaas	27	Mary Christeson
12	Montana Schmitz	30	Elton Hazelwood
13	Diane Wink		



August 8, 1992 Rigo & Cindy Vazquez
 August 11, 2018 Brett & Julia Barfnecht
 August 13, 2022 Alex & Cassidy Battcher
 August 20, 1988 Gerald & Brenda Woehler
 August 20, 1976 Neil & Lorraine Mielke
 August 24, 1968 Dean & Sandy Bergersen

August 22, 2021 Pr. Gretchen's Ordination



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, July 8, 2026

The meeting opened with a devotion by Pastor Gretchen Pierskalla based on Isaiah 55. The agenda was approved with the addition of a discussion on a pulpit swap.

The Council approved the June meeting minutes and the June Treasurer's Report. The church ended June with a **-\$4,799.99** balance, and summer attendance has declined.

Pastor's Report: An additional organist/pianist is needed for August and September. Maranatha Church has requested to use the church for worship again. The Trustees and Executive Team will meet to discuss insurance, building use expectations, liability coverage, and whether the arrangement will involve a donation or rental fee.

Board Reports:

- **Deacons:** No report.
- **Education:** The board did not meet. Sunday School Bibles will need updating to the NRSVue translation.
- **Stewardship:** Planning for the fall stewardship campaign, including Time and Talent sheets. Upcoming events include Feed My Starving Children (July 27), Clattering Coins for Christ (September 20), and hopes to hold the Nativity Stroll downtown during Arli-Dazzle.
- **Trustees:** Still awaiting a response from Mueller & Sons regarding the parking lot project.
- **Worship & Music:** Worship plans and hymns have been prepared through September, an outdoor worship outline has been developed, and a prayer program is being explored.
- **Core Parking Lot Committee:** Fundraising has reached **\$106,000**. Upcoming fundraisers include Sibley County Fair parking and a bingo event on September 20.
- **Executive Team:** Contacted the Synod office for guidance on the church constitution.

Old Business:

- No update on the parking lot project; still waiting to hear from Mueller & Sons.

New Business:

- Building rental rates for non-members need clarification due to discrepancies in the church yearbook. The Executive Team and ZCW will review the rates.
- Pastor Elizabeth Becker of Immanuel/Brownton requested a pulpit swap with Pastor Gretchen on August 30. The Council expressed positive support for the idea.

The meeting adjourned at **8:04 p.m.** with the Lord's Prayer. The next Committee Night and Church Council meeting are scheduled for **August 12, 2026**.

Date	Attendance	Weekly Operating Offerings	Weekly Operating Goal	Debt Retirement	ELCA Missions	Hunger Jar	Parking Lot	Confirmation Camp
6/7/2026	53	\$ 2,297.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 57.00	\$ 110.00	\$ -
6/14/2026	50	\$ 3,063.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 25.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 26.00	\$ 85.00	\$ -
6/21/2026	37	\$ 1,286.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 136.66	\$ 675.00	\$ -
6/28/2026	34	\$ 791.00	\$ 4,038.31	\$ 400.00	\$ 61.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 90.00
Paypal		\$ 300.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Monthly Totals		\$ 7,737.00	\$ 16,153.24	\$ 475.00	\$ 236.00	\$ 264.66	\$ 880.00	\$ 90.00

Board of Stewardship

August 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



August Quilting Dates

Tuesday, August 11–10am

Tuesday, August 25–10am

God's Work, Our Hands

All members of Zion are invited to participate in God's Work, Our Hands school kit assembly project as a kick-off to the first day of Sunday School on September 13. So far, with Thrivent grant dollars, I have purchased notebooks, pens, pencils and erasers sufficient to fill 60 school bags. Needed are 60 boxes of crayons, 50 rules and 50 pencil sharpeners (Target brand is best) to complete our initial goal of 60 filled school bags. But we do not need to stop at 60 filled school bags. I have 80 bags available to fill. A collection box has been set up in the Fellowship Room. Please refer to the list of school supplies. Let's make this a fun project.

Thanks!

Lorraine Mielke

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2", no loose leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 1/2" eraser

Zion Youth

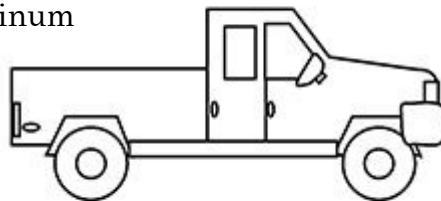


August 23 from 6-8 PM youth entering grades 7-12 are invited to a campfire at Zion. We will be having hotdogs and s'mores and lawn games (example: bean bags).

In case of inclement weather it will move inside the church for activities.

Sign up on the bulletin board! Hope to see you there!

Thank you to Bruce Kallhoff
for taking the aluminum
cans to recycling.



In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*

Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*

Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*

Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*

Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*

Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*



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

We will be having a Sibley County Fair parking fundraising again July 29- August 2 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.

We are having a Zingo Bingo event on Sept.20 . Please see the signup poster located near the Narthex thermometer. Many leaders and helpers are needed to help make this a successful event. Each of you have a special talent to add to this event that you will enjoy sharing with fellow members and the community. Even just convincing friends, co-workers and family members to come have fun and fellowship will make this a memorable and successful day!

We are having a Silent Auction in conjunction with the Zingo Bingo event. Please contact Mary Kallhoff with your items and ideas. Ask if your business, employment business, family member business, or favorite store would have a contribution of material or money to donate towards this fundraising event. Consider creating a basket to be auctioned at this event.

Please let the committee know of any other fundraising planned idea, every little bit brings us closer, we are already at \$106,000 which is 62% of our fundraising goal!

Core Parking Lot Committee

SUMMER FUN:



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.

August Bible Readings

August 2 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5 - Eat and drink that which truly satisfies

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Romans 9:1-5 - The glory of God's people Israel

Matthew 14:13-21 - Christ feeding five thousand

August 9 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18 - The LORD speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb

Psalms 85:8-13

Romans 10:5-15 - Hearing and confessing the word of faith

Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on the sea

August 16 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 - A house of prayer for all peoples

Psalms 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 - God's mercy to all, Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28 - The healing of the Canaanite woman's daughter

August 23 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6 - The enduring foundation of God's salvation

Psalms 138

Romans 12:1-8 - One body in Christ, with gifts that differ

Matthew 16:13-20 - The profession of Peter's faith

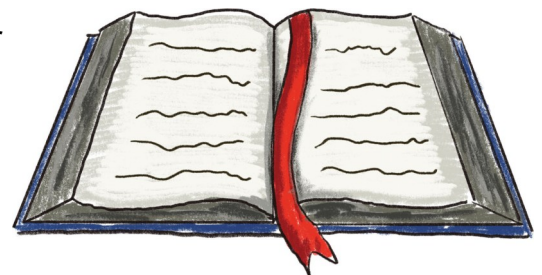
August 30 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21 - God fortifies the prophet against opposition

Psalms 26:1-8

Romans 12:9-21 - Live in harmony

Matthew 16:21-28 - The passion prediction and rebuke to Peter



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 June

Larry Gieseke
Neil & Lorraine Mielke
Lorraine Mielke & 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—August

August 2

Usher: Jane Scharpe, Dave Breyer
Jan Wark, Scott Bergs

Greeter: Jackie Alsleben

Acolyte: Cooper Heeren

Reader: Scott Bergs

AV Team: Joe Prasad & Elton Hazelwood

Altar Guild: Nancy Mathwig, Jane Scharpe

Bread Maker: Carrie Bartlette

August 9

Usher: Carrie Bartlette, Alex Battcher
Wayne & Ann Werner

Greeter: Carrie Bartlette

Acolyte: Murdock Krueger

Reader: Stephanie Krueger

AV Team: Elton Hazelwood & Tim Michaelis

Altar Guild: Bruce & Mary Kallhoff

Bread Maker: Carrie Bartlette

August 16

Usher: John & Lana Woehler
Dale & Laurie Stern

Greeter: Hannah Bartlette

Acolyte: Emmilia Wark

Reader: Larry Gieseke

AV Team: Jeremiah Vazquez & Jan Giesen

August 23

Usher: Mary Sylwester, Scott Bergs
Deb Stenzel, Starla Schilling

Greeter: Alex & Cassidy Battcher

Acolyte: Jack Ruehling

Reader: Elton Hazelwood

AV Team: Tim Michaelis & Joe Prasad

August 30

Usher: Mary Lietz, Nancy Mathwig
Gordon & Barb Bergs

Greeter: Gordon & Barb Bergs

Acolyte: Daphne Hazelwood

Reader: Bruce Kallhoff

AV Team: Matt & Jan Giesen



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
2 <u>10th Sunday after Pentecost</u> Sibley County Fair 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	3 Pastor Gretchen vacation	4 Pastor Gretchen vacation	5 Pastor Gretchen vacation	6 Pastor Gretchen vacation 10:00am Adult Bible Study	7 Pastor Gretchen vacation	8 Pastor Gretchen vacation
9 <u>11th Sunday after Pentecost</u> Pastor Gretchen vacation 9:00am Worship w/Holy Communion	10 Pastor Gretchen @ Preaching Seminar	11 Pastor Gretchen @ Preaching Seminar 10:00am Quilting	12 Pastor Gretchen @ Preaching Seminar 6:00pm Committee Night 7:00pm Church Council	13 Camp House Retreat 10:00am Adult Bible Study	14 Camp House Retreat	15 Camp House Retreat
16 <u>12th Sunday after Pentecost</u> Camp House Retreat 9:00am Worship	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline 6:30pm Harvest Dinner Meeting	20 10:00am Adult Bible Study	21 10:00am Visitation for Larry Stenzel 11:00am Funeral for Larry Stenzel	22
23 <u>13th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Worship 7:00pm Bonfire (Grades 6-12)	24	25 10:00am Quilting	26	27 10:00am Adult Bible Study	28	29 Basement Reserved
30 <u>14th Sunday after Pentecost</u> 9:00am Contemporary Worship 5:30pm Music in the Park	31	1	2	3 10:00am Adult Bible Study	4	5

