

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Old Zionsville, PA

Cherish God's Love!

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026 | 9:30^{AM}

Welcome to Zion's Lutheran Church!

We are a community that cares for one another. Feel free to voice your prayer concerns. Know our hearts join together as we pray. Everyone's voice is needed to tell the good news of God's love in Jesus; whether it be singing hymns, reading lessons, or greeting your neighbors.

If you would like to learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please visit <https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching>. If you would like to learn more about the Zion's Church, please visit <http://www.zelcoz.org>.

Service of Morning Prayer (*Matins*)

Prelude

"The Church's One Foundation"

setting by David Blackwell

"We Walk by Faith"

setting by Lynn Trapp

The assembly stands.

Opening Dialogue

One: O Lord, + open my lips

All: And my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!

The Invitatory (*Invitatorium*)

One: Give glory to God, our light and our life

All: Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

Gathering Hymn

"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

ELW 645

Prayer of the Day

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026 | 9:30^{AM}

One: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.

Time for All Ages

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 138

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast | love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

³ When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth. R**

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the Lord,
that great is the glory | of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand shall save
me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your
hands. R**

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day

"The Church's One Foundation"

ELW 654

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

One: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly sits.

Sermon

Silence for reflection.

One: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

All: But in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

The assembly stands.

Canticle of Zechariah (*Benedictus*) "Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ELW 552

Prayers of Intercession

(after each petition:)

One: Merciful God,

All: Receive our prayer.

The Sharing of the Peace

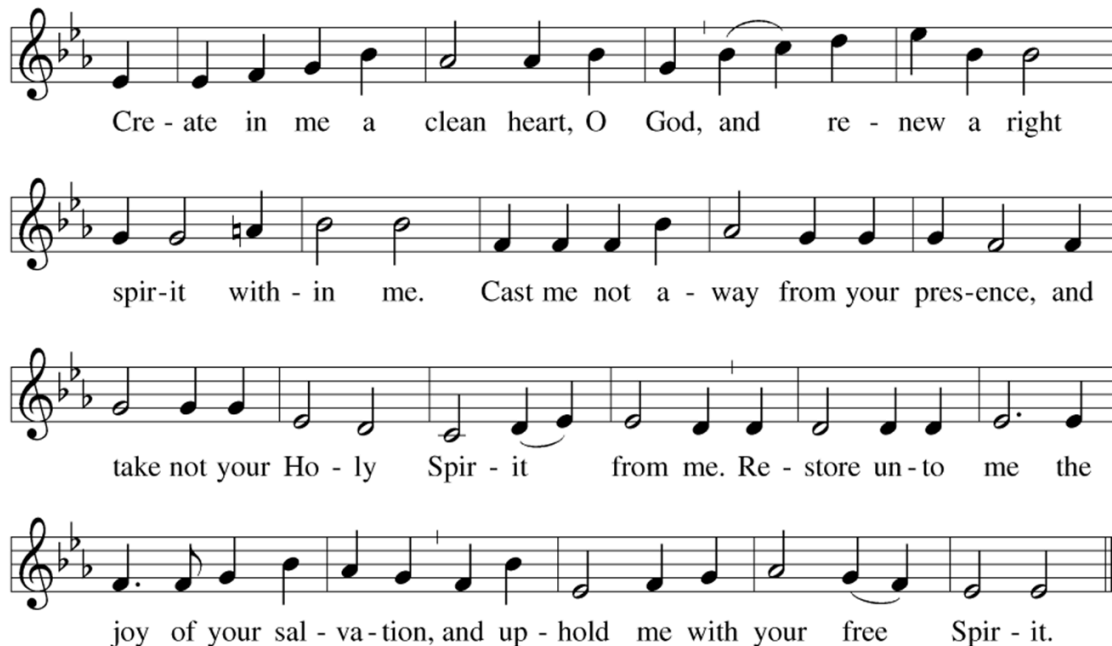
Please share the peace as you feel comfortable.

One: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

“Create In Me”



Thank you for supporting the Ministries of Zion's Lutheran, either by placing a donation in one of the plates/boxes at the entrances to the sanctuary, or by conveniently contributing online at the Vanco Mobile App, which can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play. Contributions to Zions can also be made by using your phone camera and positioning it over the QR code to the right.



Offertory Prayer

One: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

All: **We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

One: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver**

us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly sits

Announcements

The assembly stands.

Blessing

One: Let us bless the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

One: Almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

ELW 820

Postlude

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

setting by Matthew Corl

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Worship Leaders This Morning

Ministers	All the members of Zion’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister	Rev. Thomas D. Busteed
Director of Music	John Binde
Lay Reader	Fred Scheirer
Live-Streaming	Dyane Miller
Greeters	Ellen and Joe Litzenberger

For Those in Need of Prayer

Additional Prayers—Blanche Schantz, Marvin Schantz, Christine Rex, Sandy Schlicher, Brenda Snyder, Maverik Wolbach, Holly Washburn, Melissa Yaglowksi, John Hinnerschietz, Verna-Ann Tacker, Gerald Diehl, Melanie Wesser, Michelle Lewis, Earl Howell, Jared Washburn, Carol Yocum, Mark Sinex, Larry Kriebel, Daryl Bohn, Viola Bartholomew, Jane Merkel, Anne-Rose Reeves, Hector Valentine, Ruth Walck, Larry Yocum.



Today, August 23th
Monday, August 24th
Tuesday, August 25th

Worship @ 9:30^{AM}
Technology meeting @7:00^{PM}
Congregation Council @7:00^{PM}

Announcements August 23, 2026



Please join us for coffee hour and snacks after the service in the Upper Room.

God's Work our Hand Sunday September 13th, 2026

Each year, the congregation brings in guest speakers on this day who relay information about their organization and the needs of the people they serve. This year, we will be honored to have members of the Canine Companions share their program with us. Francis and Janet McBride will share how they first trained the puppies (usually Labrador Retrievers). They train them for about 12-16 months to prepare them for the next, more need specific training for individuals. Dogs may be trained to help autistic children and adults, those in a wheelchair, or perhaps someone with hearing loss.

Of course, a dog or two will accompany Fran and Janet that day! There will be a period of questions and answers during our luncheon following the service. Mark your calendars for this special event!



Simone



Francis and Janet with Simone



Janet McBride, Simone, Co-Trainers, Dillon (their newest trainee), Francis McBride

13th Sunday after Pentecost + August 23, 2026

Revealing God

Jesus came to earth as God *incarnate*, meaning “in or having bodily form.” This was no accident. The prophets of the past had used their bodies and their words so people could understand God. In Christ, God was revealed in flesh and blood, allowing us to know who God is and what God’s priorities are for creation.

Peter points this out to us, saying that Christ is “the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). As a *living* God, moving among us as Jesus Christ, God reveals Godself directly. God reveals the divine nature and priorities through Jesus’ earthly life. Jesus lives without possessions, sharing in the suffering of people who are poor and oppressed. On the Galilean coast he feeds thousands of people before teaching them. He befriends outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Canaanite woman. He calls out the greed and misplaced priorities of the wealthy by flipping tables. Instead of merely telling us, Christ incarnate shows us that God has a serious concern for all people on the margins of society.

As the church is formed into the body of Christ, we too now reveal to the world who God is and what God’s priorities are. How does our ministry show God’s concern for those who are poor and marginalized today? Do we seek out and walk alongside people cast out by dominant society? Do we not only preach the word but make sure people are fed as well?

By accompanying our neighbors in their struggles for dignity, justice, and the right to flourish, we do the good work of followers of Jesus, striving with God for the end of all oppression and death, for a world made whole.

“Cherish God’s Love”

Cherishing God’s Love, we seek to foster relationships of
Faith, Fellowship, Family, and Fun
within our church and our community.
Zion’s Vision Statement, 2026

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