

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Old Zionsville, PA

Cherish God's Love!

Creation In Christ Sunday
September 6, 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>.

Called to Community

Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matt. 18:20). In these Sundays after Pentecost, we are repeatedly reminded that God has not abandoned us and that Christ's resurrection and ascension are a beginning for us, not an end. The readings this week focus on the practical work of the gathered Christian community: turning from sin to repentance, from conflict to reconciliation. The question is as relevant today as it was for the disciples and the first Christians: How do we live together, work together, as the body of Christ? We have been saved by grace, liberated by God's love to love one another. What does it mean for us and for our community to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 13:14) and to clothe ourselves in love?

We keep asking these questions because the way we gather as Christians continues to be profoundly countercultural. We do not gather as a social club, drawn and kept together only by shared demographics and interests. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to continue to gather if conflict arises, if uncomfortable issues are raised, or if "the way it's always been" begins to change. If church is only a social club, there is no reason to do the hard work of reconciliation and forgiveness.

God calls us into community knowing that being in community is hard. In scripture we can find practical guidance for gathering through good and hard times. The Holy Spirit is always at work—in, through, and among us—to gather and regather us again. In community we meet and become Christ's body in ways that are impossible for us as individuals; all the commandments are fulfilled in this call to neighbor-love (Rom. 13:9).

Prelude

“Improvisation on Pleading Savior”

arr. by Michael Ware

The assembly stands.

Gathering Hymn

“Earth and All Stars”

ELW 731

Invocation

One: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

One: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen.**

One: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

One: Most merciful God,

All: **We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

By what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

So that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

To the glory of your holy name. Amen.

One: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

All: **Amen.**

The Apostolic Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

“Pelas dores deste mundo”

ACS 1051

*For the troubles and the suf'rings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy:
The whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help
From oppressed and hopeless people:
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for peace,
The blessed peace that comes from making justice,
To cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for pow'r,
The pow'r that will sustain your people's witness:
Until your kingdom comes. Kyrie_eleison!*

Prayer of the Day

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray,

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly sits.

Time for All Ages

First Reading: Genesis 1:1—2:4a

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit form the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good and then rests on the seventh day.

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything

that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷ So God created humans in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹ God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

^{4a} These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. One: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 148

God's splendor is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord | from the heavens;
praise God | in the heights.

² **Praise the Lord, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the Lord, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the Lord, heav- | en of heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
who commanded, and they | were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**

⁷ Praise the Lord | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,**
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;
⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;
¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,**
creeping things and | flying birds;
¹¹ sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;
¹² **young | men and maidens,**
old and | young together.
¹³ Let them praise the name | of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.
¹⁴ **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful**
servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Acts 17:22a, 24-28

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

^{22a} Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

One: The word of the Lord.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel and sings:

Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel - John 1:1-5

One: The holy gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly sits.

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly then stands for the hymn.

Hymn of the Day

“God, When Human Bonds Are Broken”

ELW 603

Nicene Creed

One: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection + of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

(after each petition)

One: Hear us, O God,

All: **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

As the gifts are brought forward and presented at the altar, the assembly sings:

Offertory Hymn

“Have You Thanked The Lord”

ELW 829, refrain only

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God’s name?

Don’t you know that no tomorrow is quite the same?

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,

And rejoiced that, rain or sunshine, our God is there?

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.



Offering Prayer

One: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always
All: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

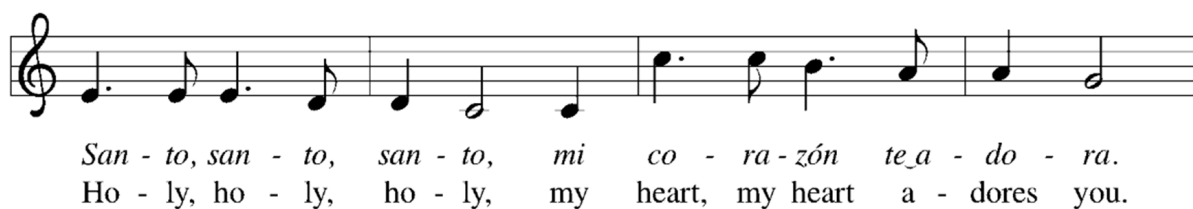
All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... *(Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:)*... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus "Santo, Santo, Santo"



Eucharistic Prayer with Words of Institution

One: *(The minister continues, using an appropriate form.)* ...now and forever.

All: **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 Breaking of the Bread

One: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Agnus Dei "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The assembly sits.

Music During Distribution of Communion

Prayer After Communion

One: Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

All: **Amen**

Announcements

The assembly stands.

Blessing and Dismissal

One: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

One: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW 836

Postlude

“Hymn to Joy”

arr. by Don Phillips

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Upcoming Commemorations

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

Worship Leaders This Morning

Ministers	All the members of Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Presiding Minister	The Rev. Thomas D. Busteed
Guest Director of Music	Sue Marin
Communion Assistant	Elliot Fegley
Acolyte	Megan Loeb
Lay Reader	Isabel Miller
Live-Streaming	Dyane Miller
Greeters	JoLinda and Tim Buss

For Those in Need of Prayer

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

Creation In Christ Sunday

September 6, 2026 | 9:30^{AM}



Today, September 6th

Wednesday September 9th

Wednesday September 9th

Saturday September 12th

Worship @ 9:30^{AM}

LMD Mtg. @ 10:30 ^{AM}

Jubilation Ringers @6:30^{PM}

Craft Crew @ 9:00^{AM}

Announcements September 6, 2026



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



Boy Scouts are seeking help for the annual Scouting for Food Nov 7 and 14. Please reach out to Abe Ruth (Contact: Aberuth@gmail.com) or pastor.

Pastor Tom has a new email address: zelcozpastor@gmail.com
Please update your contacts. Thanks!

God's Work Our Hands 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! Mark your calendars for this special event! Join us for a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall after the service. Members are asked to bring their favorite dish or a dessert to share.

The little wooden church will be out in the narthex to accept donations for the entire month of September. Checks should be made payable to "Canine Companions."

There will also be a collection box for toys and treats. Most of the puppies are Labradors, Golden Retrievers or a mix, so please gauge the size of treats and toys accordingly.



Simone



Francis and Janet with Simone



Creation In Christ Sunday + September 6, 2026

Introduction to the day

Supported by the Lutheran World Federation and World Council of Churches, ELCA worshiping communities are encouraged to celebrate this new day, using the lectionary texts provided by the Consultation on Common Texts. The date to observe Creation in Christ will need to be determined locally. Although celebration is encouraged on September 1 or the Sunday following, with the observance of Labor Day in the United States some communities may opt to celebrate in late August or later in September, perhaps aligning with the autumnal equinox. Others may keep a Season of Creation, beginning on or near September 1 and ending with the commemoration of Francis of Assisi on or near October 4. Adopting this new date on the liturgical calendar will be an evolving process, just as the process to get to this point involved much thought, prayer, and deliberation. You are encouraged to discern what works best in your context, knowing that resourcing and support for this day will be available over time and will be renewed and refined along the way.

Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things. We hear today of the triune God who creates all things: sun and moon, shining stars, sea monsters, creeping things and flying birds—and, yes, even human beings. God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation.

“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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