Life & Growth at Zion

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 7-8, 2026



Welcome to Worship!

Information for guests & visitors, including our beliefs and procedures for Holy Communion as a congregation of the LCMS, can be found on the cards in the back of each pew. If you have any questions please reach out to our pastors or the church office using the contact information found on the last page of this newsletter.

Blessings on your time in worship!

As We Gather...

The Lord is grieved by the empty worship of His people. Their songs and their offerings mean nothing when their hearts are far from Him, and He will not accept them any longer (Amos 5:21–23). And the day of the Lord will actually catch them off guard and unprepared. Jesus offers the same warning in the parable of the ten virgins, calling His disciples to watch for a bridegroom who will come at an unknown day and hour (Matthew 25:13). Jesus' warning calls us to attention as we reflect on our own position of waiting for His return. His warning is followed by Paul's further description of what our waiting looks like. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, our waiting is also filled with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).

Week at a Glance

Saturday, October 7

- 5:00pm: Worship w/ Holy Communion

Sunday, November 8

- 8:30am: Traditional Worship
- 9:30am: Sunday School
- 9:30am: Pray & Praise with Parents
- 9:40am: Bible Class
- 10:45am: Creative Worship w/ Holy Communion
- Noon-2pm: Art & Pizza

Monday, November 9

- No School-Martin Luther School
- 7:00pm: AA Meeting

Tuesday,November 10

- 1-2:30pm: Tuesday Bible Class

Wednesday, November 11

- 8:20am: Martin Luther School Chapel
- 4:00-8:00pm Mercy Meals
- 5:45pm: Hosanna Choir Rehearsal
- 6:00pm: Confirmation
- 6:00pm: King's Kids
- 6:45pm: Bells
- 7:30pm: Youth Group

Saturday, November 14

- 5:00pm: Worship w/ Holy Communion

Sunday, November 15

- 8:30am: Traditional Worship w/ Holy Communion
- 9:30am: Sunday School
- 9:30am: Pray & Praise with Parents
- 9:40am: Bible Class
- 10:45am: Creative Worship

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

UPCOMING Events



Sunday, November 8
Pick up potatoes.

Sunday, November 8
9:40am Pastor Marcis continues the Bible Class on "The Writings of Paul". Meet in the basement.

Pray & Praise with Parents
9:30am
Class in the Nursery.

Sunday, November 8
Noon-2pm
Art & Pizza

Tuesday, November 10
Tuesday Bible Class
1-2:30pm
Everyone is welcome to join this study of Job.

Wednesday, November 11
8:20am
Martin Luther School Chapel

The Weigh-In Challenge to fill the pantry continues. See page 5 for current results.

Wednesday, November 11
Mercy Meals

Sunday, November 8
Abraham Follows God's Direction
(Preschool-Grade 4)
Large group opening.
"What is Worship?"
& Bible Reading Buddies with Younger Classes
(Grades 5-8)
Large Group Opening



Sunday, November 8
8:30am: Hadley Zacher
10:45am: David Orgaard
Samantha E

Sunday, November 15
8:30am: Wyatt Kummer
10:45am: Cooper & Kira Younker

Today's Sermon

Ready or Not -- Here Christ Comes!
Matthew 25:1-13

Do you remember some of your favorite childhood games? There was hide-and-seek or kick-the-can. Both involved someone being "it". They had to count to give everyone a chance to find a safe place. The time ended with the phrase, "Ready or not, here I come!" The time was up. There was no more opportunity to hide or find a safe place. Such will be the case with the Last Day. Ready or not, here Christ comes. The Lord wants us to be ready and be prepared. MANY ARE NOT PREPARD. Ready or not…the bridegroom comes. Ready or not, here Christ comes! God's word is clear. Christ will come as the judge of the living and the dead. Make no mistake many have made their little heaven here on earth. Many are unconcerned about an eternal future. Preparing for the Lord's return means we are to be watching, waiting. One thing is certain the Last Day will come suddenly. WITH WISDOM WE WAIT. It is not worldly wisdom. God's wisdom becomes our wisdom by grace through faith. By grace our loving Lord and merciful Father in heaven changes our hearts. In God's grace we are prepared to welcome bridegroom whenever he returns. Ready or not…here Christ comes! This is not meant to scare anyone. Thankfully the Lord gives us his wisdom to be alert and watching. Thankfully the Lord gives us his assurance that we are safe in his tender care.

Questions:

1. What does it mean "Ready or Not here Christ comes"?

2. How will Christ judge the living and the dead?

3. How does Jesus prepare us for his return?

Nomination Forms for the office of Senior Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck, ND are currently available on the small table in the back of the church. Please complete by Wednesday, November 18, 2026. Once completed, please give the form to Joshua Albers, or place in the box on the table on the small table in the back of the sanctuary.

Pastor Marcis will lead
"The Writings of the Apostle Paul",
Bible Class in lower level.
Everyone is invited to attend.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

P: LET US PRAY TO THE LORD



What is the "Prayer of the Church"?

The Prayer of the Church, or the "general prayer" as it's sometimes called, is the part in the service where the pastor leads us through a series of petitions, or prayers, with responses from the congregation. For example, after each petition the pastor may say: **"Let us pray to the Lord,"** and the congregation may respond with **"Lord, have mercy."** See if you can find the Prayer of the Church in your hymnal. Try to find the other response that the pastor and congregation might say.

R: LORD, HAVE MERCY



Why do we do this in the Divine Service?

Do you know anyone who needs praying for? Wouldn't you like to have the rest of the congregation praying for that person too? During the Prayer of the Church, we pray for all of the people of our congregation, particularly those who are sick and shut-in. We also pray for our missionaries, for our government, for all believers and many others. No wonder it's called the Prayer of the Church!

Parents: Before the Divine Service, remind your children to pay close attention to the words of the prayers. Encourage them to join in the responses with the rest of the congregation. Try using these responses in your prayers at home.

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JOIN THE FUN TODAY

ZION CHRISTMAS BOOK

Art & Pizza

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

FROM NOON - 2PM

Calling all artists!

All ages are invited to help us illustrate the children's book we are creating for Zion Sunday School students as a Christmas gift! All supplies are provided, as well as free pizza for participants. We need you to draw, paint, or create scenes from the Christmas story so we can publish the book.

*Any Thrivent Grant funds would be appreciated to cover the cost of supplies, printing and binding the book. The book will also be used for our Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 13th at 9:30 am.

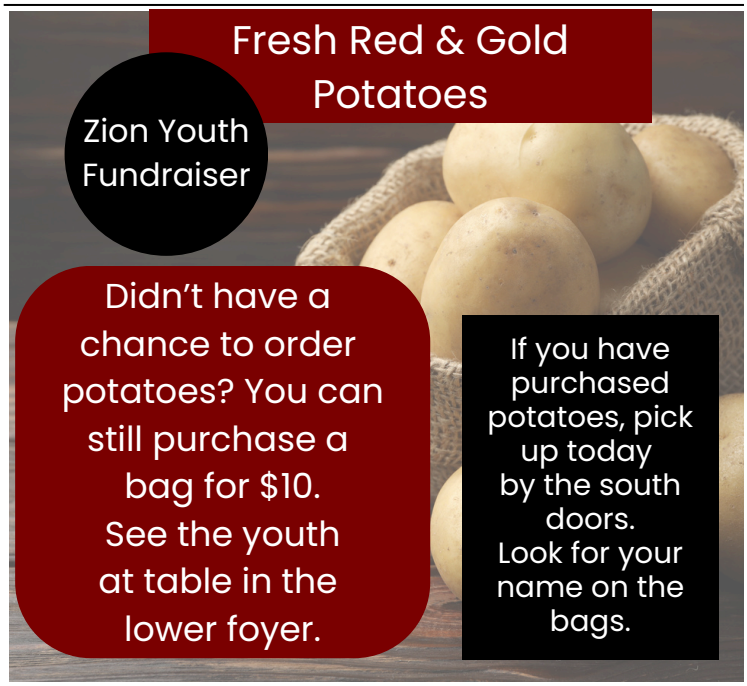
Contact Kristin with any questions: kristin.nistler@gmail.com



Zion YOUTH

Wednesday, November 11
7:30-9:00pm
Mercy Meals

Questions?
Contact Director of Family Ministry,
Kristin Nistler
Kristin.nistler@gmail.com
*Activities are subject to change based on weekly needs, so, please make sure you check the GroupMe App on Wednesdays.



If you would like to participate in packaging Mercy Meals, there are sign up sheets in the lower foyer.

Wednesday, November 11th, Zion will participate in a Mercy Meals packaging event.

If you would like to help pack meals, sign-up sheets with times from 4-8pm, are available in the lower foyer. If you would like to help cover the cost of the meals please use one of the envelopes on the table in the back of the sanctuary & place it in the offering plate.



Mercy Meals

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Zion Lutheran Church

4:00 - Sign up available in foyer
5:00 - Sign up available in foyer
6:00 - Pastor Otto & Marcis Confirmation Classes & Parents
with help from King's Kids Group
7:00 - Kristin's Confirmation Class & Parents
8:00 - High School Youth

What you can do:

Donate funds to cover the cost of Mercy Meals

Volunteer to help package meals & bring a friend!

Pray for the people packing, transporting & receiving the meals

zionbismarck.org 701.223.8286 kristin.nistler@gmail.com

Zion Lutheran Church
Kids' Christmas Mini-Program
Sunday, December 13th
at the 9:30 am Worship Service



Grades 1-4

O Come O Come Emmanuel Verse 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Angels We Have Heard Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Chorus

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

We Three Kings Verse 1

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

The First Christmas (Action Rhyme)

Original Author Unknown
Teacher speaks & kids say the echo
For Toddlers, Fae's class and Jenny's class
(Kindergarten and younger)

Clop, clop, clop went the donkey's feet,
Stomp feet on the ground
Clop, clop, clop down the stoney street.
Stomp feet
Nod, nod, nod went Mary's head.
Sleeping head on folded hands
She was tired, and she needed a bed.
Sleeping & close eyes
Knock, knock, knock went Joseph at the door.
Make knocking with fist
"Do you have room for anyone more?"
Arms out to the sides
"No, No, No!" the innkeeper said,
Shaking finger forward
"I don't even have one more bed."
Shake head back and forth
"Wait, wait, wait," the innkeeper said,
Make a stop motion with hands
"You can use my stable for a bed."
Point to the side
"Shh, shh, shh...What is that I hear?
Shushing finger to mouth
The cry of Baby Jesus, oh so dear!"
Make a rocking baby motion with arms

Confirmation students will sign up for the reading parts in class.

All Grades: Colored Bells

Away in a Manger Verse 1 sung

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the heavens [or sky] looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

MLS Chapel
8:20am
November 11
Pastor Woodside

Martin Luther SCHOOL

No school Monday, November 9th.

Martin Luther School
Designer Handbag Raffle continues.
Purchase your $10 raffle ticket
today, between services
in the lower foyer.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER.

Next Sunday, November 15th is the final day of the Weigh-In Challenge. Your donations to Zion's Little Pantry are greatly appreciated. We hope to gather enough food to keep food in the pantry for a few months. The pantry is filled three times a week. The combined total of groceries placed in the little pantry is approximately one grocery cart full each week.
As you can see, there is a need for this outreach, and your help is greatly appreciated.

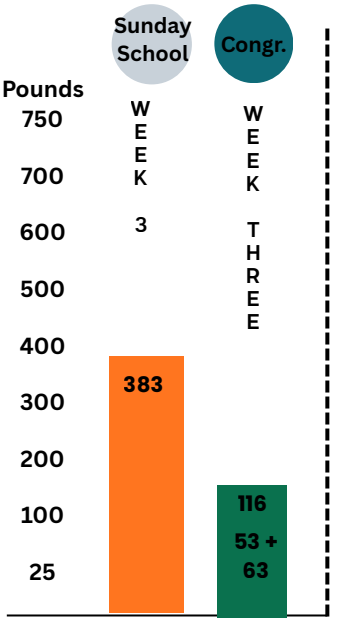
November 15!

Sunday School Students...
November 15th is
"Bring Your Parents"
to Sunday School Day.

The 2027 Calendar for Altar Flowers is now available in the upper foyer for anyone who would like to donate flowers during the year of 2027.
Flowers can be in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one, or just to share the beauty of the flowers with the congregation.
Beneath the calendar is a form to fill out prior to the day you would like the altar flowers.
Please include the information you would like included in Life and Growth.
The price remains $75 for two bouquets. You can pay via check or on Zion's giving app.
Note: Flowers are not placed on the altar during the season of Lent. That will be from February 10th through Easter Sunday, March 28th, 2027.







Sunday School Children

have been participating in the Weigh-In Challenge!



Sunday School students along with friends who have used Thrivent Action Grants, have together donated 383 pounds of canned goods to Zion's Pantry.

Students have been asked to bring the following items on the dates shown.

November 8: Mac & Cheese

November 15: A can of your child's favorite soup.



Please note: we cannot accept food donations in glass jars, or expired foods.

Annual Soup/Chili Cook-off & Dessert Bake-Off Sunday, December 13th



Sign-up sheets are available in the lower foyer

Cook-Off participants: Please bring a large crockpot of your favorite soup or chili.

Bake-Off participants: Please bring at least 4 dozen sample size desserts.

Serving 4:00-6:30 pm

Mark Your CALENDAR

Single Service Sunday

December 13, 2026

9:30am

Join us for the Children's Christmas Program

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

The guidelines for the 2027 Lutherans for Life Essay Contest are posted by the church office.

Take a second to pray for the precious lives of unborn children and the mamas who carry them. And then join fellow Lutherans in supporting efforts to protect them both! Keep up to date at *www.LCRLFreedom.org/subscribe*

LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

From the District President's Desk

The District Convention is still more than a year away, but the District Staff has already been working hard to make it a success. The Convention will take place at the Hilton Garden Inn–Fargo on January 17–18, 2028, under the theme A Conscience Captive to the Word. Rev. Bryan Wolmueller will serve as our keynote speaker, presenting on the doctrine of the conscience. Along with the business of the district, we look forward to gathering around God's Word for catechesis on this important topic. I want to thank Tami, Tana, and Dana for all the work they have already put into the 2028 Convention.–*Rev. Mark Chepulis, North Dakota District President*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA

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701-223-8286

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tmarcisjr@gmail.com

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Website:
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Worship:
Saturday 5pm - Contemporary
Sunday 8:30am - Traditional
Sunday 10:45am - Creative
Sunday School (September-May) 9:30 am
Adult Bible Class (year round) 9:40 am



Nadine Ehrhardt is in charge of the altar flowers for the month of November. You can sign up to purchase flowers on the chart in the upper foyer, or contact Nadine at 701-220-4874

Worship Attendance

Saturday, October 31
5:00pm: 20
Sunday, November 1
8:30am- 120
10:45am-107

Stewardship

November MTD General Offering:
$16,204.
Average Budget Monthly Expenses:
$58,750

"Building Healthy Families"

Married readers: remember when you first dated your spouse and couldn't wait to spend time together? You made plans, paid attention, asked questions, and found little ways to make each other smile. Then came marriage, jobs, children, bills, laundry, and a thousand other things competing for your attention. It's tempting to assume that a good marriage will simply stay good. But like a beautiful garden, a healthy marriage needs regular tending to flourish. Attention, encouragement, laughter, forgiveness, prayer, and time together make a world of difference. Here's a challenge for married couples this week: Do something together that you enjoyed when dating. Take a walk, go for a drive, share a favorite dessert, or just sit and talk without checking your phones. Remember why you fell in love—and thank God for the gift of your spouse!
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Main Street Living

Rev. Christopher Durham, Wittenberg Chapel, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message for the "Two Kingdoms, One Lord" based on Proverbs, chapter 8.
This Is the Life program:
"Flight Plan" - A man dealing with the death of a young boy with terminal illness. Will it strengthen his faith or destroy it?

"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally-produced TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service.Programs are broadcast starting at 10:00 am Central Time on WDAZ Xtra Channel 8.3, Bismarck/Dickinson.

"Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life."
- John 6:68 -

Today's Readings:
Old Testament
Revelation 7:9-17
Epistle Reading
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Holy Gospel
Matthew 25:1-13

NextWeek:
Old Testament
Zephaniah 1:7-16
Epistle Reading
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Holy Gospel
Matthew 25:14-30