Life & Growth at Zion

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 10-11, 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...

What is more difficult to believe: a fable about a man defeating a deadly dragon by eating it or a prophet's prediction that the Creator God would defeat death itself by swallowing it? What does Isaiah, the prophet, mean by saying God "will swallow up death forever" (Isaiah 25:8)? Does God eat? The mighty, eternal, creator God is life Himself and has no need for sustenance. In order to "swallow death," God took on our human form. We die because of the corruption of sin. To "swallow death," the incarnate Savior "ate," or consumed, death by taking the sin of the world onto Himself on the cross of Calvary. Jesus did not die for Himself. Jesus died your death for your sin. So it is that when a sinner is baptized into Christ Jesus, he or she is "baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3). Thereby, "you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3). Even with saving faith in Christ, we still have Christian funerals. But by faith we wait, hope, and fully expect to be raised in the resurrection to eternal life, to be present at the great feast of salvation. In Christ, the enemy, death itself, has been transformed for us by God now to be but His divine remedy, freeing us from sin and eternal death. Therefore, by faith in Christ we no longer need to fear death but rather can see it as a peaceful sleep from which we are promised to be awakened to eternal life and the wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom.

Week at a Glance

Saturday, October 10

- 5:00pm: Worship
  w/ Holy Communion

Sunday, October 11

- 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
- 6:00pm: Young Adults Planning Meeting

Monday, October 12

- 7:00pm: AA Meeting

Tuesday, October 13

- 1-2:30pm: Tuesday Bible Class
- 6:30-8pm: Grief Support Group at Shepherd of the Valley

Wednesday, October 14

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

Thursday, October 15

- 9:00am: Quilting

Friday, October 16

- 9:00am: Quilting
- 1:00pm: Chancel Circle

Saturday, October 17

- 5:00pm: Worship

Sunday, October 18

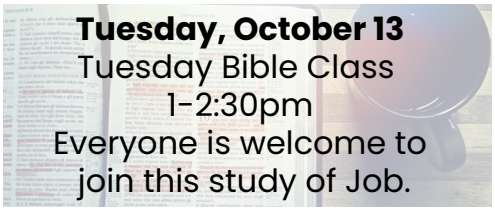
- 8:30am: Traditional Worship
  w/ Holy Communion
- 9:30am: Sunday School
- 9:30am: Pray & Praise with Parents
- 9:40am: Bible Class
- 10:45am: Creative Worship

UPCOMING Events

Sunday, October 11
9:40am
Pastor Marcis will lead
"The Writings of the Apostle Paul",
Bible Class in lower level.

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

Sunday, October 11
6-7pm
Young Adults Planning Meeting



Tuesday, October 13
Tuesday Bible Class
1-2:30pm
Everyone is welcome to
join this study of Job.

Martin Luther School

Wednesday, October 14
8:20am
Martin Luther School
Chapel



October 18-November 15
Weigh-In Challenge
To fill the pantry returns!

SOUTH DAKOTA YOUTH RETREAT

October 23-25, 2026
For More Information
See flyer on the bulletin board by Kristin's office.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, October 11
Noah Builds an Ark
Genesis 6:5-22
(Preschool-Grade 4)
Devotions & Donuts-Bring a Friend
(Grades 5-8)
Large Group Opening



Sunday, October 11
8:30am: Aubree Cowan
10:45am: Marcus Ell
Sunday, October 18
8:30am: Alijah Schiermeister
10:45am: Hailey & AJ Hjelmstad

Today's Sermon

Attacking Anxiety
Philippians 4:6-7

How can we deal with the reality of anxiety? How can we live without worry in times like these? God has the solution for high anxiety. Cast all your anxiety on him because He cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 Our problems are opportunities. The simple fact is that we hang on to our difficulties. We do not share our problems with others. We do not share our problems with God. Is it any wonder why we feel so overwhelmed so often? When we hold onto our difficulties, rob ourselves of the blessing of God's assistance. God desires to lift your burdens. God wants us to give Him our anxiety. God knows everything. He knows your sins. He knows your pain and hurts. He knows your needs. God wants you to give Him all of your anxiety. Not part of it, not some of it, not most of it but all of it! Why don't we do just that? God can handle all of your problem better than you can. God cares about you. There is zero value in worry. It does nothing good for us. The words of Jesus express this truth completely: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" Anxiety adds distress to our difficulties. God gives us His promises. Never will I leave, never will I forsake you. Good news – God always keeps His word. The remedy for anxiety – Prayer. Peace is beyond understanding. Peace is the calm assurance and security that can only come from the love of God. If you have a burden that you have been carrying, give it over to God. If you have a difficulty that you cannot bear, give it over to God. If you have a problem that seems impossible to solve, give it over to God.

Questions:

1. How does anxiety affect you?

2. What does God want us to do with our burdens?

3. What does real peace give us?

Living the FAITH

To hear or view Zion's podcast or video podcasts, go to: *www.zionbismarck.org*
Choose: "About Us", then "Podcasts", click on "Learn More;"
Choose either the Video Podcasts or Podcasts,
then select the one you would like to see or hear.

Bible Class continues to meet in the basement.
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

What is the "Offering"?

This is the time during the service when we offer gifts to God with the rest of the congregation. The Offering is concluded with the *Offertory*, which is the song that we sing while these gifts are being presented at the altar.



Why do we give some of our money to the Church?

The money that we give goes to help support all the work of the church. If you think about it, all that we have is a gift from God. When we give an offering, we are saying thanks to God for all of His wonderful gifts. As Christians, we give to God in response to what He has given to us: life; food; family; and, most important, our Savior Jesus! We don't give because we have to, we give because, in faith, we want to!

Parents: Before the Divine Service, remind your children what giving to the Offering means. Help them to think of all the things that they have and how they are really gifts from God. Encourage them to set aside a certain amount of their own money each week to give.

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Zion YOUTH

Wednesday, October 14th
7:30-9:00pm
Guest Speaker:
Pastor Mark Christensen
Topic: Communion

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.



Potato Sales!

Zion Youth in grades 5-12 will begin selling potatoes Sunday, October 18.

YOUTH RETREAT

Contact Kristin for more details:
kristin.nistler@gmail.com 701-400-2069

Grades 9-12
Rapid City, SD
October 23-25, 2026









If you are interested in sponsoring a student or doing a partial scholarship, please contact Kristin!

$200 per person
COVERS HOTEL, FOOD AND TRANSPORTATION

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Mary & Martha FELLOWSHIP

Two sisters. Two callings. One heart in Christ.

"Mary has chosen what is better."
LUKE 10:41-42

JOIN US ON MONDAY EVENINGS

- 9/21
- 10/19
- 11/16
- 12/14

LADIES! MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Times
6:00 pm
Potluck
6:30-8:00 pm
Bible Study

All ladies are welcome!
COME AS YOU ARE. BRING A FRIEND.
LET'S GROW TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORD.


FRESH
RED & GOLD
POTATOES
Grown in the Red River Valley
ZION YOUTH
FUNDRAISER
10 lb bag for $10
Pick up is at
Zion Lutheran Church
Thursday, 11/5
through Sunday, 11/8
Payments by check or cash
or on Zion's giving app
- Youth Fundraising
Potatoes can also be
purchased and donated
to the Heaven's
Helpers Soup Cafe'
or to families in need.
Students:
50% of your sales go
directly into your
youth account for
activities and trips!
Made with PosterMyWall.com

MLS Chapel
8:20am
October 14
Pastor Otto

Martin Luther School

"Annual Purse Raffle".
Martin Luther students will be selling raffle tickets for $10 each.
This is your chance to win a Designer Handbag!

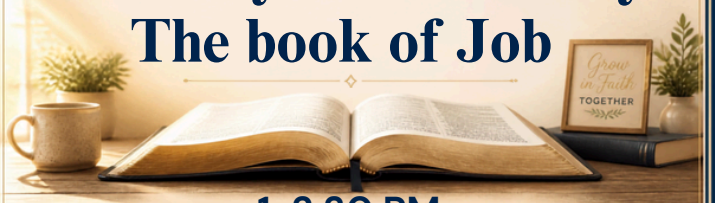
Martin Luther School
Purse Raffle



- Tickets available now through December 7,
- Each raffle ticket is $10
- Every student will receive a pack of ten tickets to sell to family and friends
- Tickets will also be available at the LCMS churches in Bismarck/Mandan
- Drawing will be held December 10th after the annual Christmas concert at Martin Luther School

Your opportunity to win one of 14 DESIGNER HANDBAGS

Tuesday Bible Study
The book of Job



1-2:30 PM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Study meets in the church basement



Chancel Circle will meet
Friday, October 16th at 1:00pm
in the lounge.
(Please note the time change.)



Quilters
Just a reminder that we are working this Thursday and Friday beginnng at 9:00am each day.

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

Orphan Grain Train — Relief for Human Need Worldwide



Cold and flu season has arrived. Just a reminder tissues are available at the coffee bar and the entrances into the sanctuary. Hand sanitizer stations are also available by all doors.

It's that time of the year again. The Chancel Circle is asking the congregation of purchase poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas. Either red or white poinsettias are available for $12 each. Envelopes are provided on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please complete the information, enclose your payment, then place in the offering plate or the Chancel Circle mailbox which is located by the elevator. Please make checks out to Zion, or you may also purchase online using Zion's app before November 1st.

Zion's Food Pantry Weigh-In Challenge

Congregation, Here is the Challenge:

Purchase non-perishable foods between October 18-November 15.

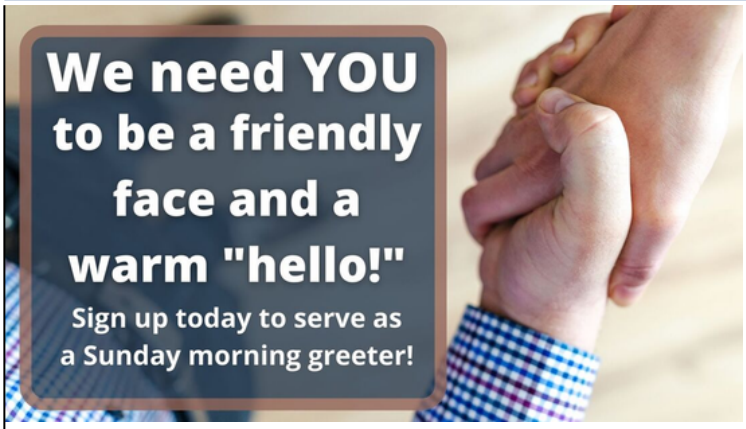
Place your donation in the pantry collection box in the lower foyer.

(Remember, we cannot accept food that has expired or is in glass containers).

Your donations will help stock the Little Free Pantry which located on the east side of the church.

Donations will be weighed weekly and amounts posted in Life and Growth.

On Sunday, November 15th the final totals will be posted.



Scan the QR code to sign up today!

Once you scan the code it will take you to the "SignUp Genius" page where you can sign up to be a Zion greeter. Choose the date and the service time.

Have you noticed the Sunday School Prayer Wall?



You are encouraged to read the prayers and include your own on one of the prayer cards which are located on the round table by the prayer wall.



Pastor Douglas Bergelin has recently accepted a call to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Delavan, WI. Pastor Bergelin was Associate Pastor at Zion from 2007-2015.

Pastor Bergelin continues to serve on the Dakota Family Services Board of Directors for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We pray God's blessings on Pastor Bergelin and his ministry in Delevan, WI.

YOUNG Adults



Young Adults Planning Meeting
Today, Sunday, October 11th
6:00pm.

If you are between 18-35, (take note of age group)

You are encouraged to come and enjoy fellowship, devotions, meet with Pastor Otto, and give your input on future events. Dessert is provided

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS. TOGETHER IN FAITH.

Since 1978, LCEF has partnered with LCMS members and ministries to fund projects that support the work of God's kingdom. By investing with LCEF, you not only work toward your financial goals but also provide vital resources that empower ministries to thrive.
More information is available at *www.lcef.org*.

From the District President's Desk

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Your pastor labors to bring you Christ. His is the voice that Christ uses to proclaim forgiveness into your ears. His are the hands that the Lord uses to place His body and blood into your mouth and to splash the waters of Baptism onto your head. He's there at the most joyous times in your life and he's there in the most sorrowful. God bless the pastors of the North Dakota District. There are a number of ways you can show your appreciation: monetary gifts, a bottle of his favorite beverage, words of gratitude. But the best way to show appreciation is to be in church and receive the gifts that Christ distributes through your pastor. - *Rev. Mark Chepulis, North Dakota District President*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA
413 EAST AVE D
BISMARCK, ND 58501
701-223-8286

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Thomas R. Marcis, Jr. (701) 220-8437
tmarcisjr@gmail.com
Associate Pastor:
Rev. Vincent J. Otto (701) 319-5667
rev.vincentotto@gmail.com
Director of Family Ministry:
Kristin Nistler (701) 400-2069
kristin.nistler@gmail.com
Director of Junior Youth Ministry:
Russ Weixel (701) 400-6492
weixelzion@gmail.com
Administrative Secretary:
Gayle Little (701) 220-0582
zionlcmsbis@gmail.com
Assistant Secretary:
Roxanne Rosin
zionoffice501@gmail.com

Website:
www.zionbismarck.org
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



Altar flowers this week are given to the glory of God by
Fae & Jeremy Glass
in honor of their 26th anniversary.

Carol Baker is in charge of the altar flowers for the month of October.
You can reach Carol at 701-530-9981

Worship Attendance

Saturday, October 3
5:00pm: 28
Sunday, October 4
8:30am- 162
10:45am-117

Stewardship

October MTD General Offering:
$17,915.
Average Budget Monthly Expenses:
$58,750

"Building Healthy Families"

Friday, October 16 is "National Boss's Day", which reminds us of a biblical truth that applies every day of the year: God calls us to honor those in authority. Children learn this not only from what we teach but from what they hear us say about employers, teachers, leaders, and others in authority. Consider how your words do (or don't) model respect and gratitude for the children in your household.
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) is a religious liberty organization in Washington D.C. that serves as a voice for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its partners in the public square. LCRL provides input, education, advice, advocacy, and resources in the areas of life, marriage, and religious liberty and seeks to engage in discussions with lawmakers, media, and the public to uphold the rights and responsibilities of Christians in society.
www.LCRLFreedom.org

Main Street Living

Rev. Daniel Voth, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND, presents the message for the Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost, based on Matthew 22:1-14. This Is the Life program: "Return Trip" - The fourth commandment, human guilt and divine forgiveness.

"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
Isaiah 25:6-9
Epistle Reading
Philippians 4:4-13
Holy Gospel
Matthew 22:1-14

NextWeek:
Old Testament
Isaiah 45:1-7
Epistle Reading
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Holy Gospel
Matthew 22:15-22