



May 2025

Pastoral Ponderings

From Pastor Phil.....

As many of you know, my dad is coming home. With his immanent return, there are things that need to be done around my parents' house in anticipation for him. Ramps need to be put into place, furniture moved around, and various little things done in anticipation for his coming back. The other day, I went over and built a ramp that would go from the front porch into the main entry. The day started out a little cool, to the point that I was wondering if I would need a jacket. As the day moved on, it got warmer and warmer. The sun came out, and as it did the temps increased. As I worked along, I began to sweat. The funny thing about sawdust and sweat is that it seems that sweat is the perfect adhesive to keep the sawdust stuck on the body. When I went home that afternoon, I took a shower and got ready for Saturday worship services. The shower felt incredible. The grime from the day washed away, leaving me clean. The next day, it was much cooler, but as my parents' house was being worked on again, the grime built up again. This time, it wasn't so much saw dust sticking, as other stuff. Dirt stuck to the knees of my pants. Grime stuck to my hands. What was once clean, was not dirty and grimy all over again.

Sin is very much similar to the saw dust and grime of home renovation. As I was working, I didn't notice that sawdust was sticking to me. It was just kind of there. I went to get into my vehicle to come home, and before stepping in I noticed how much stuff was on me. Sin is the same way. Original sin is on us, and we hardly notice it. It's just there in the background. It just kind of sticks to us, and we don't recognize it until the Spirit of God helps us to see our need.

Important Dates:

You're invited to attend Zion's Tea Party on Sunday May 4th, 2025, 1-3 p.m. at the Zion School Gym. RSVP is required.

Zion PTL Hog Raffle on May 7th @ 7:00 p.m. at Zion School's Family Fun Night.

VBS June 9-13.

PTL Fish Stand – serving on Friday June 27-Saturday June 28th

Join Us!

As we see that need, given by the Holy Spirit, we look to Jesus, and in faith, receive an incredible washing. Holy Baptism washes away all the stuff. All the sweat, grime, filth of sin is washed away from us, and in its place, we are made clean through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. As our liturgy says, baptism is a lavish washing that takes away all our sin. As an old VBS song says, we are squeaky clean through Jesus Christ.

We live in the real world though. No sooner than we are washed clean in baptism, we do something that brings us back to being filthy. We get dirty when we get angry at the car that cut us off. We have a new speck of grime on us when we get angry because things didn't work the way we wanted. A little more filth hits us as we do the thing that we know we shouldn't- maybe it's skipping church during the summer because of... . It's so easy to get dirty again. It's so easy to step outside of that baptismal grace. The joy is that the grace of baptism overcomes all. The forgiveness of Jesus stands. We can slip, we can make mistakes, but as we seek the cross, as we try to follow Jesus as we are called to, through the Holy Spirit, we rejoice as we stand in that baptismal grace. Through it all, Jesus remains sufficient for our salvation.

Paul reminds us in *Colossians 2:12-13*:

"¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,"

Praise God, our righteousness doesn't depend on us staying clean. Jesus brings us all the good things that we need. We receive connection to Him in Holy Baptism, we receive the forgiveness of sins, and the community of faith in Holy Communion. As each of us go into the summer, remember all the good things that Jesus has done for you. Next time you take a shower after a good day, maybe take a moment and thank God that He has cleansed you from a filth that is so much worse than the grime we get on our bodies.

Christ is risen!!

Pastor Phil

Confirmation

Congratulations to Zion's 2025 Confirmation Class!

Lucas Allen Cook ~ John 17:11

Landon Nathaniel DeVries ~ Colossians 2:6-7

Danielle Mildred Gorenz ~ Deuteronomy 4:23

Brodie Dean Knoche ~ Romans 12:12

Anna Colleen Mosser ~ Romans 8:38-39

Kolbe Harris Pfeiffer ~ Galatians 6:9

Cade Justin Rucker ~ Romans 10:9

Aleah Grace Wyatt ~ John 15:5

First Communion was Sunday, April 13, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m.



Congratulations to those who are graduating from

Junior High, High School,

College, and beyond!

Zion Teens Show Leadership Skills that Benefit All Ages

During January and February, Leah and Livia had the opportunity to lead a multi-generational Bible study at our church. We used the same curriculum that some of us learned at YouthLead in the spring of 2024. It focused on filtering out the world's messages and embracing what God says about us. It was really powerful to be part of conversations between youth and adults, and to see how God's truth speaks across all generations.

Then in early March, four of our youth—Livia Crouch, Hailee Henke, Tommy Campbell, and Leah Cook—attended YouthLead again. YouthLead is such a unique experience. High school students who show leadership in their congregations are chosen by youth leaders or pastors to attend. While we're there, we go through a curriculum developed by the LCMS Youth Executive Team, and it equips our youth to return home and share what they've learned with our church, schools, and community. This year's theme was about how to care for others—whether they're Christian or not—when they're going through tough seasons. It reminded our youth how important it is to listen, to show up for people, and to share the hope we have in Christ.

The four youth who attended are part of our church's youth executive team. One of their biggest responsibilities each year is planning and leading the middle school retreat at Rustic Acres Jellystone Park. They take what they learn at YouthLead and build the retreat around it so that younger students can be encouraged and grow in their faith too. This year, we're focusing on how to care for others when they're struggling—something that feels really relevant and needed right now in our society as a whole.

Through these experiences, our older and younger youth have the opportunity to pour into others and serve alongside each other. It's not just about planning events—it's about living out our faith, leading with compassion, and learning how to reflect Christ every day. It's been incredible to see how God uses each of us in different ways to work together for one common goal. We are so grateful for the support of our church that makes all of this possible. Thank you for the continuous prayer and support of our young leaders in our church! Thank you! -Leah Cook

You are Invited!!!

Tea Party

Sunday May 4th, 2025. 1-3pm at Zion Lutheran School Gym.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

This event is FREE, however a good will offering can be made for donation to Lutheran World Relief.



Guest Speaker, Peggy Kuethe, will discuss "Crazy Quilt Life".

Bring a quilt to display if you have one. We will also make a friendship quilting craft.

RSVP Required as space is limited, first come first serve:

To RSVP call/text Susan Fletcher at 618-660-5786 or via signup sheets available in the church Narthex.



You're invited to attend Zion's Tea Party on Sunday May 4th, 2025, 1-3 p.m. at the Zion School Gym.

Snacks & refreshments will be provided.

During this FREE event, there will be an opportunity to give a donation to Lutheran World Relief.

Your **RSVP is required**, as space is limited.

To RSVP, please call or text Susan Fletcher at 618-660-5786

There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church.

VBS Save the Date :

Join us for an Epic Australian Adventure June 9-13!

This summer, we're going on an epic adventure through Australia, and you're invited!

We'll encounter amazing animals, lush landscapes, stunning sea life, and wondrous wilderness. And most importantly, we'll be guided by our Savior, Jesus, who tells us, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" in our theme verse, John 14:6.

Registration information coming soon!

Volunteers needed to help make VBS a success. If you would like to help this summer with VBS please contact Heather Girardin or Stacy Jarman.



May 2025

Zion Lutheran Church




Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Find Zion's Calendar Online @ https://www.zion-luth.org/		1	2	3
On Mondays Pastor Phil is at His Service Station noon to 2.	On Thursdays Pastor Phil is at His Service Station 10 to noon.			8:30 Adult Bible Study 10-noon H.S.S. 630 Trustees 730 Men's Club		5 pm Divine Service
Tea Party @ 1pm 4	Zion School 5	Teacher Appreciation 6	Family Fun Night 7	Week This Whole Week 8	Teacher Appreciation Lunch 9	10
8 & 1030 Divine Service 9:30 SunSchool 5p	12-2 H.S.S. DQ Night Fundra.	6:30 Elders' Mtg.	8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10-noon H.S.S	Lunch for Teachers today	5 pm Divine Service
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8 & 1030 Divine Service 9:30 SunSchool	12-2 H.S.S. Sports Banquet Tonight	9-1 Pastors' MidState Cir.-1 Conference Nokomis Pre-K – Kindergarten Graduation	8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 6p Bible Study	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10-noon H.S.S 6p Parish Ed		5 pm Divine Service
18	19	Field Day 20	Last Day of School 21	22	23	24
8 & 1030 Divine Service 9:30 SunSchool	12-2 H.S.S. 6p Evangelism	4:30 Stewardship 8th Grade Graduation	8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 2:30 Staunton Health 6p Bible Study	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10-noon H.S.S		5 pm Divine Service
25	Memorial Day 26	27	28	Ascension of Our Lord 29	30	31
8 & 1030 Divine Service 9:30 SunSchool	Church Office is Closed today for the holiday.	6:30 Council Mtg	8:30 Chapel 9-12 Lydia Circle 10:30 Glenwood 6p Bible Study	8:30 Adult Bible Study 10-noon H.S.S		5 pm Divine Service

Be a Light

3rd Annual Youth Retreat



\$60



June 17-19

Starts at 4:30 the 17th
Ends at noon on the 19th

Join us for a 2 night retreat at Rustic Acres! Our YouthLead team will be leading Bible study sessions, fun team building activities, servant event, and some time to relax at the pool and by the bonfire. Space is limited! Registration will be first come first serve.

Who:

Youth entering 7th-9th grades in the fall

Where:

Rustic Acres
Jellystone Park

REGISTRATION IS OPEN UNTIL MAY 9

Rustic Acres Youth Retreat 2025 Registration

Youth entering 7-9th grades in the fall are eligible to attend. The registration fee of \$60 is due with the form. **Registration fees are non-refundable and are due by Friday, May 9.**

Name: _____

Youth phone number: _____

Grade entering in the fall: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone number: _____

Additional emergency contact name & number: _____

Email address (please print clearly): _____

T-shirt size: Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL Adult XXL

Allergies: _____

Medical conditions we should be aware of and treatment plan (ex. asthma - inhaler): _____

Additional information & a packing list will be emailed after the May 9 registration deadline. Contact Kristi Cook with any questions - Kristi.cook@zion-school.org

 Please join us for the Fifth Annual Zion Family Campout!!! 

SAVE THE DATE
August 1-3, 2025

This year's theme is **WILD WEST!!!**



More details coming soon!!!