

ANNOUNCEMENTS – July 6, 2025

This Week at Zion

Sunday, July 6 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary / with communion
 11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC

Monday (7/7)

[Pray for parents that support Christian education.]

Tuesday (7/8)

[Pray for opportunities for children to daily see God's mercy.]

Wednesday (7/9)

[Pray for church people to tell their stories of God's work in life.]

Thursday (7/10)

[Pray for exchange students in Christian schools.]
 6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting

Friday (7/11)

[Pray for first year teachers in Christian schools.]

Saturday (7/12)

[Pray for early childhood centers to know and show Christ.]

Sunday, July 13 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Classic Worship – Sanctuary
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth and Adult Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Cont. Worship – MMC/ with communion

From The 66...

Luke 10:20b

"But rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

No one can snatch us out of the nail-marked hands of Jesus. He has redeemed us and claimed us as His own. As those whose names are written in heaven, we seek to live heavenly lives here on earth. This is the foundation of all our good works, including the good work of faithfully supporting the work of the church. It's our joy in having been redeemed by the Lord through the activity of the church that motivates us to support it.

& the book of numbers.

LAST WEEK:

God's People Assembled: (as of 6/29/25)

Classic 8:00 am: 75
 Contemporary 11:00 am: 93
 Online: see us on Facebook and zionlc.org (worship tab)
 Children's Church Total: 14
 Christian Education Youth: 13 Adults: 27

God's People Give with Treasure (as of 6/29/25)

Offering: \$13,147.35

God's People's Response through May 2025:

Giving: \$230,129 Expenses: \$223,657
 Budget: \$231,220

To hit stewardship forecast for 2025: \$11,561/ week

For ways to contribute please go to our website
www.zionlc.org and look under the "Give" tab.
 Thank you for your continued support!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

For the safety of our members and friends we have blocked out this section. If you'd like a copy in full, please contact Zion, office@zionlc.org. Thanks!

Looking Ahead. Giving Back. Noting an Opportunity.

Our staffed **Nursery** is for children ages 3 and under. The nursery is downstairs in the children's ministry area. Parents are welcome to keep their kids in the service, but if they have the wiggles, the nursery is for you. Would you like to help out in the nursery? If you would like to be on the sub list, contact Carolyn Remmele (carolyn.remmele@gmail.com).

Sunday School is off this week, but it usually **meets 9:45-10:45 a.m.** Parents, check your kids in and out and when Sunday School is over, please come and pick them up. The summer topic is Old Testament history. Youth topic is Servant Leadership.

Summer Songs Sermon Series — This summer we'll be looking at the songs that have guided people of the Book for generations – the book of Psalms. Hymns, songs, poetry, and words of wisdom wrapped up for our walk as disciples.

Names of God" Adult Study for Summer Sundays - To be precise, God has only one name. In the Old Testament, the one true and living God reveals himself as "the Lord." But God is also given a variety of descriptive titles in Scripture. These "names" help us see more deeply into God's nature and work and power. This study guide is an exploration of the key "names of God" revealed in the Bible. But it's not just an academic study centered on ancient words and obscure events. Each study is designed to give you a clearer understanding of who God is and draw you closer to God in worship and devotion and trust. **July 13 and 20.** Questions, ask PJ

Joint Worship Services -- The Advent/ Christmas Joint Service this past year was so much fun that we decided to do a few this summer. **July 27 and August 31 will be joint services.** They all will be at 10:00 a.m. They all will have communion. And they all will be in the MMC. They will either be Classic or Contemporary in feel (depending on the Sunday) and we look forward to seeing you there. Questions, ask PJ

Maddux News - Many thanks for the wonderful donations. Your generosity is appreciated. WE HAVE PLENTY of Kroger bags now, Thank you. Look for new salmon-colored lists on tables. WEEKLY items needed: Loaf of Bread, box of mac n cheese, box of crackers, can of fruit or jar of applesauce, bag of cookies, box of cereal, 1 jar of jelly, and a bag of cookies, Spaghetti noodles and jars of sauce or can of chili.

Youth Notes – The LCMS Youth Gathering is July 19-23 (travel dates July 17-24).

Zion Women's Guild is putting together a **welcome basket for the new Deaconess Intern**, Julia Witt. We would like to ask each of you to consider contributing a gift card in any amount from an area store, restaurant or venue. The purpose is two-fold: to help Julia set up house, and to give her a taste of all that the Cincinnati area has to offer. See "letter insert" for more details or contact Denise Brown, president of Women's Guild.

New Sunday Entrance Procedures: To mitigate unknown visitor entry and provide a safe worship environment, Zion leadership has decided to limit access to the main entrance doors during our primary service times. This will ensure that we can identify and greet our visitors, in addition to having a better awareness of who is in the building at all times. Notices will be placed on the following doors to communicate this new policy.

- Fellowship Hall Parking Lot Door Near Elevator – Door will be open for 8:30 a.m. service entry and Sunday School entry. Door will be locked to further entry after Sunday School ends. The rear parking lot entrance and circle drive doors will remain open.
- MMC South Parking Lot – Door will be locked to further entry once 11:00 a.m. service begins to avoid disruption to the service. The rear parking lot entrance and circle drive doors will remain open.

Thanks to the following groups for their help with the VBS volunteer meals. Everything was delicious! Monday Morning Women's Bible Study, Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study, Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study and Elders. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make VBS such a success! 48 kids learned the Good News about Jesus and spreading the word. Many of them did just that by inviting friends!

Julia's installation is July 27 and her start date is July 28! Please pray for her start and our ministry together!

Flowers given for the Glory of God are provided by Don and Mary Duncan, Honoring Our USA..
If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact: Dylan Boone -- Trustee

"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."

Praying. Asking. Seeking. Knocking.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING; JOYS IN GOD'S +WORK AND WILL

We pray for...

- **Summer** trips. Summer work. Summer activities. Those that work and serve in extreme heat.
- **Fourth of July plans.** Safety. Joy. Appreciation of the blessings we have in this country and the price paid for them.
- **Julia Witt, our deaconess intern** and our ministry together.
- **Schools and Colleges, medical and first responders** – all in our communities who make it work and thrive.
- **Those who protect and serve** in our lives (governmental, law enforcement, military, many more). For officers mourning the recent loss of one of their own and for peace for our community.
- **The mission of Grace Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH.**

IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for. . .

- **Those that are lost and separated from God's loving embrace.**
- **For the citizens and residents, neighborhoods, law-enforcement/ military, leaders of L.A. and our country.**
God, grant peace and the resources they need for body and soul. May mercy and justice be upheld.
- **For the forgotten, pushed aside, and marginalized.**
- **For a new and deeper appreciation for whole-life, God-gifted stewardship** – financial, relational, physical, and spiritual.
- Relief of pain, strength, and healing for **Jerry Porter (surgery July 14), Jean Stratton, Sharon Ruppel, Doris Motley, Linda Hughes, and Pat Shaw; other family/ friends** in need of healing.
- **Those in Care Centers/ Those at Home:** Debbie Rose Howard, Bill Siegel, Janet Brunner, Vera Zimmerman, Anna Moynahan, Ty and Michele Arendall, Bob and Sharon Ruppel, Vida Musselman, Jody Wiebe.
- **All families walking through the valley of death's shadow.** Comfort and strength in *the* Resurrection.
Those who suffer with no voice, place, or advocate.

Telling the Stories

On June 22, 23, and 24 I was at the Ohio District Convention. Do you even know what I am referring to?

If you are a *triple-L* (as people used to say in St. Louis when we were there) then as a *Life-Long-Lutheran* you probably know that each church in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is a part of a district. It's an oversight-thing. It's an encouragement-thing. It's a leveraging of the combined size of many churches to do bigger missions-sort of thing. There are 33 geographic districts and 2 non-geographic. See this handy link for a quick look at all the districts of the LCMS: <https://www.lcms.org/districts>

Well, anyway, I was at our OH-District Convention in Dublin, OH on those above-mentioned dates. We as an assembled body there voted on positions within the district, policies that bind us, and priorities that define us. Sometimes those are exciting topics... *sometimes they are very procedural.* Here is a link for our convention documents if interested: <https://www.oh.lcms.org/ohio-district-2025-convention-business/>

Now, I get it... perhaps for some of you, this excites you because for some reason you really love the parliamentary procedure in action – if this is true, God loves you and so do we – because we need such people to get things done. For some of you this is, well, near the last thing you'd ever want to get caught dead at. The give and take of motions, the discussion over wording, and the asking for nominations and "seconds" on things makes you sleepy even as I talk. Allow me, though, to say that this was a really good time. Why?

It was good because the church is still at work in the big and the small. People are still passionate to serve her in constructive ways. God's message and mission has and needs such times. See Acts 1 for instance. There the disciples voted as to who was to replace Judas. It wasn't saving 3000 people or changing the hearts of a town, but it was necessary for fellowship, mission, and the message going out. I thank God for these times, for the people who serve and encourage, and the districts that give structure to the mission of the LCMS. -PJ

"TAKING THE CROSS OF GRACE AND PEACE..."

Devoting Ourselves to the Word

LSB 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,
With tender mercy cheer me. Earth has no pleasure I would share.
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare; If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake.
Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

Text: Public domain

Lord, Thee I love with all my heart. I've learned more and more here lately (and especially in this stage of my career) that I need to build such a saying as this solely on the love of Christ. I knew this before, but I tried to build such a saying as this on my zeal, my knowledge, my skill, the seminary I graduated from, the books I read, the conferences I attended, the family I father, or the sheer will power I could muster. All those are admirable things in life, but none of them can support or prompt or uphold that simple phrase: *Lord, Thee I love with all my heart.*

It has to come from a place of being loved, accepted, and chosen in an act of will and grace outside myself. It has to come from the perfect will of a Son who lived a perfect life in my miserable stead. Who died and rose again for me. When I daily wake and wear the apparel of these clothes – I'm free and excited to love Jesus and others. If I do this any other way – I get the victory and experience the defeat and that is a hard place to be; an impossible place to be.

This past week (at the OH District Convention) I heard our Synodical President Matthew Harrison quote from Luther and the confessions. Here's the gist: *When God says in John 3 that He so loved **the world** that He gave His one and only Son, we should keep that phrasing. I know that there are those out there who will say that we could put our name in the place of "the world," but then I'd always be looking for another Martin Luther.*

The point is simple: God so loved the world of which we are a part. Not a certain Martin Luther only (or fill in the blank). He loved the world. And once you know that, then sing that simple phrase out of deep mystery and confidence: *Lord, Thee I love with all my heart.* I hope each day in Christ's love you will. -PJ

Letting the Little Ones Come to God (Draw us something)!

Drawing Prompt: How can we live "free in Christ"?