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## ANNOUNCEMENTS – September 14, 2025

### This Week at Zion

#### Sunday, September 14 – Fourteenth 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  
12:15 p.m. Zion Youth Ministry Team

#### Monday (9/15)

*[Rejoice that God gives and sustains faith.]*

#### Tuesday (9/16)

*[Pray that God would lead those separated from Him to repent.]*

10:00 a.m. Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study  
6:45 p.m. Men's Tuesday Night Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Deacon Meeting  
7:15 p.m. Tuesday Evening Women's Bible Study

#### Wednesday (9/17)

*[Pray and know the joy of confession/ absolution before God.]*

9:00 a.m. Forest-Aires

#### Thursday (9/18)

*[Thank God for pastors.]*

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

#### Friday (9/19)

*[Thanksgiving for corporate confession/ absolution.]*

1:30 p.m. Adult Game Day - Dominoes

#### Saturday (9/20)

*[Thank God for the vocations God gives.]*

#### Sunday, September 21 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

### From The 66...

#### Luke 15:2

**"And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'"**

Thanks be to God: Jesus receives us sinners! What the Pharisees can't understand, we praise with all our being. We give thanks for the grace of God, and we live by that grace. The more of it we receive, the more we will want to conform ourselves to the image of our generous and gracious Lord. Knowing the Lord and trusting Him come first, and the desire to imitate Him can't help but follow.

### & the book of numbers.

#### LAST WEEK:

##### God's People Assembled: (as of 9/7/25)

Classic 8:30 am: 78

Contemporary 11:00 am: 100

Online: see us on Facebook and [zionlc.org](http://zionlc.org) (worship tab)

Children's Church Total: 16

Christian Education Youth: 23 Adults: 36

##### God's People Give with Treasure (as of 9/7/25)

Offering: \$15,088.00

##### God's People's Response through July 2025:

Giving: \$321,430 Expenses: \$302,167

Budget: \$323,708

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

For ways to contribute please go to our website  
[www.zionlc.org](http://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](mailto:office@zionlc.org). Thanks!

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

## 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](mailto:carolyn.remmele@gmail.com)).

**September Sermon Series: Bonfire Stories** -- Big Idea: This four-week series "brings us around the fire," retelling the stories of significant events that happened around fires in the Old Testament. This series focuses on crucial ways God shows up and reveals his presence, power, provision, protection, and the purification of his people.

**Fall Bible Study** -- Are farmers the only people who work out in the field? Are church workers the only people who can be a witness of Christ? The answer to both of these questions is a resounding NO! In our upcoming Sunday morning Bible Study, "Witnessing in the Field", we will be discussing what it looks like to be a witness to Christ in the world, using Mark Wood's Book *Connected to Christ: Witnessing in Everyday Life* as a guide for our study and discussion. **Please join us in September and October as we learn to be farmers for Christ!**

**Maddux News** - Due to a generous gift from one of our Women's bible study groups, we are only in need of stocking up on two things: FRUIT CUPS and PACKS OF COOKIES. Thank you again for your wonderful support.

**The Retreat is coming!** -- The Retreat is Coming! That's the **LWML Fall Retreat** on **Saturday, September 20** at **Christ Lutheran Church**, 3301 Compton Road. All women are invited for breakfast starting at 9:15 a.m. with sign-in and lasting until 1:30 p.m. We are compassionate and passionate women for the LWML and will do an Ingathering for The Welcome Home Collaborative. **Registration is due before September 14.** Join us for the fun and fellowship. Meet your friends from around the city and make new ones. Learn and be inspired by Pastor Etter's "Laughing, Crying, Cursing, Sighing: using the Psalms in our Prayers." See *Information Table* for signups.

**Zion Dinner Club** -- Do you love a good meal? Are you looking to connect with other members of the congregation? Please join us for a new and exciting opportunity - the Zion Dinner Club! This fellowship opportunity will pair you with one to three other 'families' (singles, couples, or family units) within the congregation, and you will get together once a month to share a meal. Each group will have a 'host' assigned who will be in charge of picking the restaurant for the month and helping coordinate a date and time to meet with the group. Then all that is left to do is meet at the restaurant and get to know each other! The Dinner Club will run from September through November, and you will have the option to sign up, stay in the dinner club, or take a month off each month. Please sign up at the link below. The deadline to sign up is **September 15th**. This is a great opportunity to build connections and form relationships with people you may not have had the chance to meet otherwise! Please reach out to Halle Raicevich with any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44A8AF2FA7FEC25-58019130-zion>

**Help Build Hope** -- Join us for a service opportunity on **October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Nagel Middle School** as we join Help Build Hope in assembling wall frames for the Cincinnati Habitat for Humanity. This opportunity requires no previous experience and is open to all people aged 5 or older. So, bring your friends and your family and join us in this opportunity to share the love of Christ by serving our neighbors! If you would like to help even more, or are unavailable to serve on Saturday, there will also be a lumber cutting event for those 16 and older on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30-8:00 p.m. You can sign up at the following link: <https://form.jotform.com/250159050719051>

Sign in instructions for accessing "Member" information on our Zion Church Website are located on the Information Table in the Atrium. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Shaffer, Zion Business Manager at [Businessmanager@zionlc.org](mailto:Businessmanager@zionlc.org) or 513-231-2253.

**Adult Game Day** is this **Friday, September 19, 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Let's get together again for Dominoes. Everyone is welcome and bring friends. If you want a snack or drink, just bring your own.

**Eat. Pray. Wii** -- Join me (Julia) for an evening of food, fellowship, and Wii Sports with other young adults (age 18-30) on **Wednesday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m.** (subject to change if needed). Details and RSVP: <https://forms.gle/4XB93Kt42B5avbfx7>. Contact Julia Witt with any questions.

**The Upper Room** is a digital gathering place for young adults at Zion Lutheran Church in Cincinnati! Here, you can connect with other young adults, catch the verse of the day, read devotions, share prayer requests, and keep up to date with any activities or ministry opportunities at Zion. Join the Discord Server at: <https://discord.gg/tgD8xM2knc>

**Flowers given for the Glory of God** are provided by Marilyn Kuntz, In Memory of Her Mother (Ruth Kuntz).

If you happen to have a building-related issue, please contact:

Patty Varney -- 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...

- **Teachers, students, aides, helpers, leadership in local schools.** May they learn Your world, Lord. May they also find ways – be given ways – to learn of You and Your love for them in Christ.
- **Colleges and those that attend.** May they find ways to deepen their faith.
- **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 Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cincinnati, OH.**

## IMMEDIATE NEEDS / PETITIONS

We pray for. . .

- **Those that are lost and separated from God's loving embrace.**
- **For those affected by natural and man-made disasters, choices, and actions.** God, grant peace and the resources they need for body and soul.
- **For the forgotten, pushed aside, and marginalized.**
- **For a deeper appreciation for whole-life, God-gifted stewardship** – financial, relational, physical, and spiritual.
- Relief of pain, strength, and healing for **Karen Vollbracht, Jerry Porter, Doris Motley, Bill Spies, Jean Stratton, and Linda Jenkins and 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, Jean Stratton, 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



Using dominoes to tell the Bible story.



Sunday School, grades 1-3



Sunday School, Pre-K and Kindergarten



Sunday School Kick-off



Sunday School, grades 4-6



Practicing to sing before the service

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

## Devoting Ourselves to the Word

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*  
2 Corinthians 5:17

*"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."* I guess someone thought up this old saying to help children not worry about what other people said to or about them, to teach them that words can't really hurt you.

Well, we all know that's not exactly true. Words can cause lasting emotional pain. Words like "rejection", "failure", "I hate you", "why can't you ...", "you look ...", "I never wanted for you to be born", "you are a disappointment". We sometimes feel like we are always being told that we aren't smart enough, aren't good looking enough, aren't good enough, can't get the job done, aren't strong enough. This list could go on and on. It's little wonder that many people carry with them mental and emotional pain every day.

Famous people will sometimes say that the trick is to just not listen to or read what other people are saying about you. Ignore it. I'm sure that works for some of them, to a degree. But I'm also sure the jabs sometimes still get through. And what if the hurtful words are said by a loved one? A family member or a close friend? How do you ignore that?

There is One, however, who loves you unconditionally. Who doesn't judge you based on how you look or on what you do, who doesn't judge based on accomplishments (or lack of). Who is glad that you exist because He made you and died for you. He is closer to you than your closest friend or family member.

Rather than ignore what the world says, which is much easier said than done anyway, shift the priorities. Know that what God thinks of you, who He says you are, is infinitely *more important* than what others say or think about you.

Last week, I wrote that being baptized means that your name has a new meaning: "(insert your name here) belongs to God". Baptism has another meaning: who does God say that I am? Here are a few things that God says about you: "redeemed", "loved", "forgiven", "created", "part of God's family", "worth dying for".

If you have been baptized, think about what God has said about you, what God says to you. Sometimes it's hard to ignore what the world says, but the truth is, what God says (your baptismal identity) is infinitely more important. If you have not been baptized, hear God's desire to give you a new identity, a baptismal identity in Christ. - CG

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

Drawing Prompt: What is "prayer"?