The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 21, 2025





Zion Lutheran Church

23167 Topeka Street Vassar, KS 66543 785-828-4482

www.ZionVassar.org

Growing Together in Christ's Love and Grace

Let us know you're here!

Visitors: Scan the QR code

- or -

TXT the Keyword CONNECT to **785-828-4482** to fill out a simple online form or submit a prayer request.



Members: TXT "CHECK" to Check-In.

Thank You!

+ WELCOME - AS WE GATHER +

+ PREPARATION +

844 LORD OF ALL NATIONS, GRANT ME GRACE



Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, 1916-2018, alt.

Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002205

Tune: Public domain

+ INVOCATION +

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **B**ut with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

 Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.

Righteous are you, O LORD, and right are your just decrees.

You have appointed your testimonies in righteousness and in all faithfulness.

My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words.

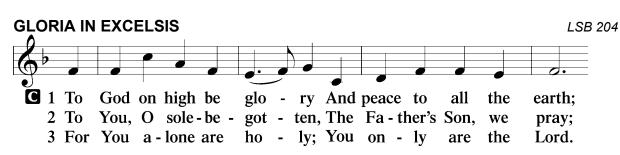
Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.

Your righteousness is righteous forever, and your law is true.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Your testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.







Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth! O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way. For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end,
⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances,
⁶that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

- "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."
- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE 1 Timothy 2:1–15

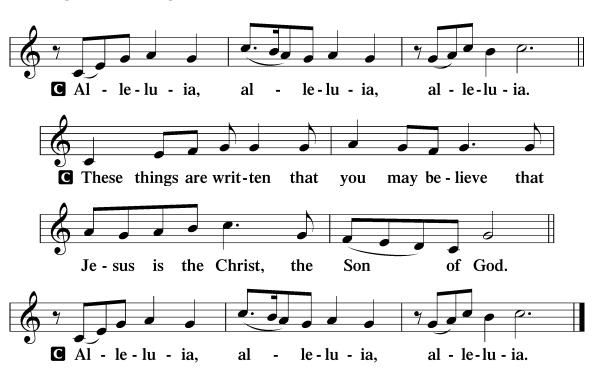
¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. ⁷For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

⁸I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; ⁹likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, ¹⁰but with what is proper for women who profess godliness—with good works. ¹¹Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. ¹²I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. ¹³For Adam was formed first, then Eve; ¹⁴and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. ¹⁵Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 16:1–15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

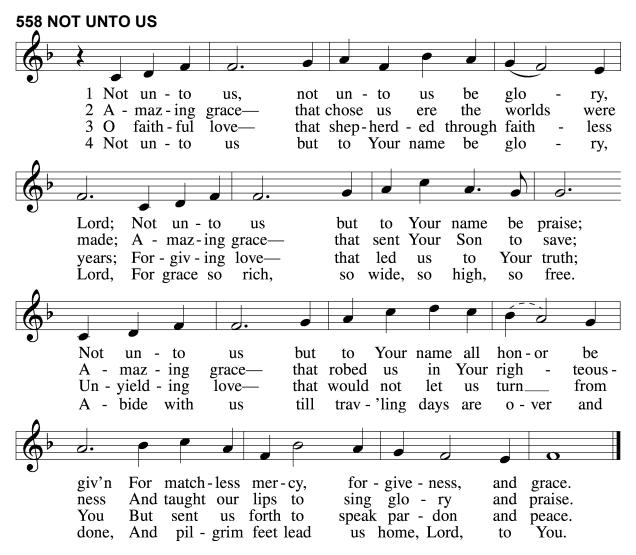
¹[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. ²And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' ³And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' 5So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' ⁷Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' 8The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

¹⁰"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? ¹³No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

¹⁴The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. ¹⁵And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "The Boss and the Worker"



Text and tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923-93

Text and tune: © 1993 Ruth Eggert. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002205

SERMON: Having a "Come to Jesus" Moment and Gambling on Grace

(Stand)

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with...

- **P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- ... to You alone be glory, honor, worship and praise, O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING

Members simply text the word **CHECK** to **785-828-4482** then click & submit online to **Check In** for attendance during the day. Or please complete the "**Let's Connect" Card** in the pews with your Name(s), email, and phone and hand to the ushers as they are returning from the altar. **VISITORS**, please hold your card to give to Pastor at the door and receive a 'Thank You' Gift.

(Stand)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **W**e lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings ... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son ... the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses

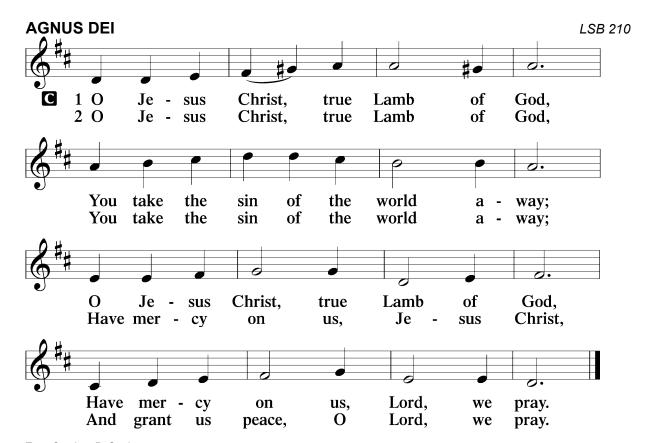
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.



Text: Stephen P. Starke

DISTRIBUTION

(The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive)

A NOTE TO OUR VISITORS

Christ's Supper is a blessing to the individual and group at His table. In eating the bread and drinking the wine, our Lord gives into our mouths the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, a physical gift of Jesus' love and real presence in, with, and under the bread and the wine. The person is receiving the assurance that his/her sins are forgiven and is strengthened in the hope of eternal life with Christ. As in his or her baptism, the person is joined with Christ.

In this communion we are also joined with other Christians who share our beliefs. At the Lord's Table we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and by a community of people who profess the faith with the same understanding that is ours.

We ask that you speak to an elder or pastor before partaking of the Lord's Supper if there is a question about our practice. Ask an usher to direct you.

If you are not sure if your understanding of scripture matches that of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, you are welcome to come to the rail and receive a blessing. Signify as such by crossing your arms in front of you.

WHILE COMMUNING

- If you have difficulty walking to the altar, alert the ushers. The pastor and assistants will come to your pew to serve you.
- All are invited to receive the gifts. Please follow the directions of the Ushers/Elders to come forward.
- If kneeling is a challenge for you, please feel free to stand at the rail.
- If you are receiving communion, please slightly cup your hands to receive the host (Gluten-Free host is available in the center cup on the paten if desired lift your hand to reach for the host from the center cup). Otherwise, please cross your forearms in front of your chest to receive a blessing.
- An optional Non-Alcoholic choice (lighter-color/rose) is available in the center of the tray of individual cups.
- If you are receiving from the common cup, please cross your hands to indicate so to the lay assistant with the individual cups. Once the assistant passes, please place your hand out to receive the common cup and help guide it to your mouth.

(In dismissing the communicants, the following or something similar is said:)

THE DISMISSAL

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart

in peace. ■ Amen.

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

557 SEEK WHERE YOU MAY TO FIND A WAY



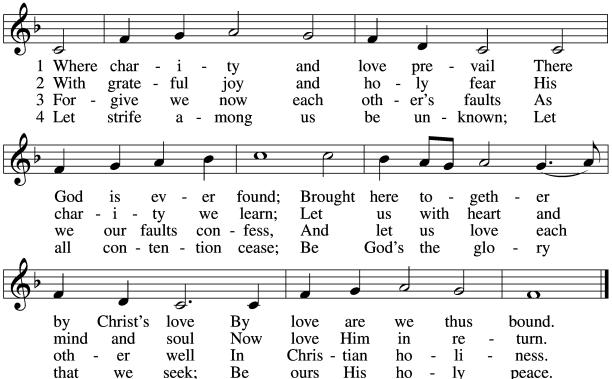
Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Arthur P. Voss, 1899-1955, alt.

Tune: Johann Stobäus, 1580-1646

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Tune: Public domain

845 WHERE CHARITY AND LOVE PREVAIL



- 5 Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son; As members of His body joined We are in Him made one.
- 6 For love excludes no race or clan
 That names the Savior's name;
 His family embraces all
 Whose Father is the same.

Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97, alt.

Tune: Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842

Text: © 1960 World Library Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002205

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- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
- 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer it; Our works and con duct
- 3 By grace God's Son, our on ly Sav ior, Came down to earth to
- 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer-tain; As long as God is



Why doubt it this word of not. stag - ger at prom - ise? His have worth. God love our Re - deem - er. no in sent Was bear our sin. it be - cause of your own mer - it What saints have penned by spi - ra - tion. true. it stands. in -



false - hood taught? No! Has Scrip-ture Then this word must ev - er Christ Je - sus, this sin - ful earth: His death did for to our died vour soul That Je - sus to win? No. it was grace, and His Word our God com-mands, Our What in faith in what our



by sins saved a - lone. a - tone. And we are grace That brought Him from heav'n - ly throne. a - lone, His grace De - pends on grace— grace through His Son. God done

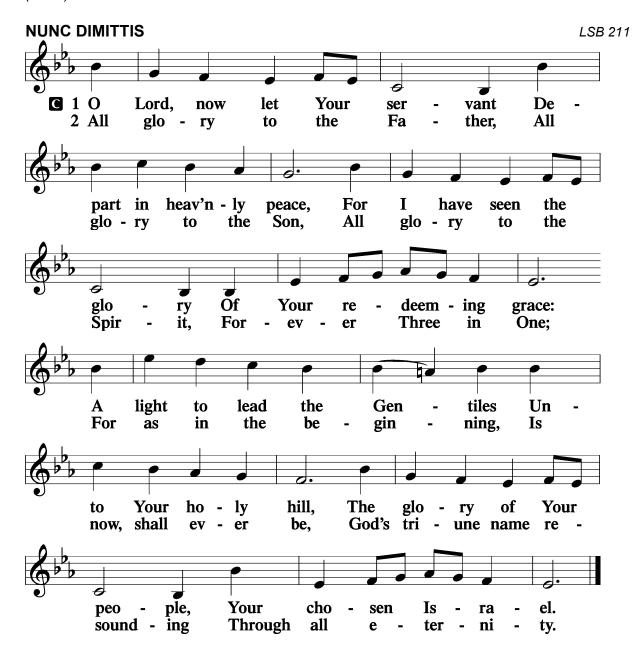
- 5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
 In tribulation's furnace tried,
 By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
 The Father's heart is open wide.
 Where could I help and strength secure
 If grace were not my anchor sure?
- 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice; For though I know my heart's condition,

I also know my Savior's voice. My heart is glad, all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775

Text and tune: Public domain



POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have ... and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICAMUS LSB 212

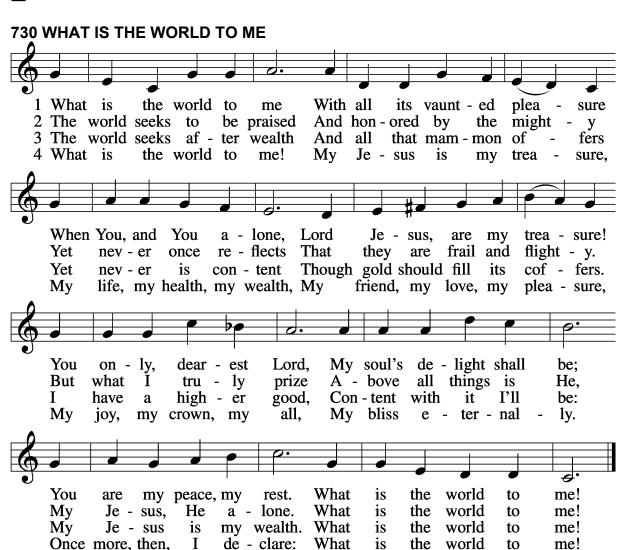
- A Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and

→ give you peace.

Amen.



Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645-1732; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

IN OUR PRAYERS

HEALING AND CARE: for those suffering from cancer: Stu Duncan, Jenny Peimann, Dan Henderson, Sheri Bravenec, Bonnie Von Lehe, Frank Wagner, Nancy Lahm, Barbara Feltner, Joetta Asbury, Tom Arb, Sharon Eilert (Eva's sister).

CONTINUED HEALING: Christopher Smith, Gabriella Schultz, Michael Nally, Charlie Timberlane, Logan Brady, Kathy Bigham, Jean Curtis, Carl Sluder, Raymond Zorn, Lyn Wren, David Wagner, Cecil McMullen, Ann Becker, Mark Feltner, Darrell Sturdy, Diane Schulze, Mac McDonald, Keith Scheid, Pete Scheid, Glenn Templeton, Betty Meyer, Bill McDonald, Harley Browning Eva Anschutz, Ruby Zorn, Harvey Sanders, Alden Wendling.

SHUT-INS: Don & Ann Becker, Virginia Elmore, Jim & Pat Croucher

Record of Faithfulness

Attendance Last Sunday 64

Offering Last Sunday: \$4628 (Needed weekly = \$3193)

Building Fund Last Sunday: \$200

Grace Fund Last Sunday: \$0

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated this morning as we receive the Lord's Body and Blood. Fill out the "Let's Connect" card if participating. Please speak to the Pastor or an Elder if this is your first time to commune with us.

WELCOME to all who worship with us this morning, especially our guests. You are invited for coffee and snacks after our service. You are also invited to stay for Bible Study and Sunday School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP WANTED: Church Secretary. Part-time, up to 8 flexible hrs./wk. (ex: could be 4 hrs. 2x/wk....). Job Description available in Church Office. If interested, please see one of the Elders and please provide a "Letter of Interest."

Job will be posted until filled.



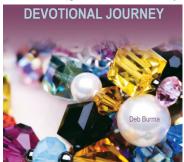
Hearts of Mercy & Compassion needs YOU to

Volunteer for this ministry opportunity, averaging about 1-2 hours per month (volunteers can be from outside of ZION)...

- Sponsor (ensures HMC is supported) Pastor to begin
- HMC Ministry Coordinator (Primary point person)
- Cross Builders (identify and recruit capable woodworkers)
- HMC Assemblers (cricut, assemble, pkg, & ship HMC)
- Ministry Connectors (deliver HMC, photos, identify opportunities for HMC)

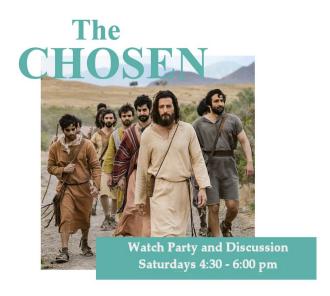
See Pastor Jim for questions. Indicate your interest - Sign Up at the table in the Fellowship Hall Today!

LADIES RETREAT: Treasured – Saturday



Sept. 27, 2025, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

Join us for a bedazzling Women's Retreat Getaway hosted by Daughters of Zion Lutheran Church. Questions? Contact Theresa at 785-219-2251 or theresa.heidenreich@gmail.com for more information about this illuminating event! Mark your calendar now, invite your friends... Be Here!



Join The CHOSEN Study! Saturdays, 4:30-6 pm.

Starting Sept. 13, 2025! Each week from 4:30 to 6:00 PM, we'll gather to:

- + Read short Scripture passages connected to the episode.
- + Watch a full episode of "The CHOSEN."
- + Discuss the themes from an LCMS perspective.

Free - INVITE someone!!!

LYNDON FALL FESTIVAL, Oct. 4, 1-5 pm – Zion will have a table – stop by and encourage others to visit. VOLUNTEERS needed to help at the table...

YOUTH GROUP LEADERS: Oct. 5 following service – plan for a short meeting to touch base and talk about how we can encourage our NXT Group.

NOISY OFFERING, Oct. 5: Daughters of Zion will be gathering 'mites' for the LWML to support missions on that Sunday.

CHOIR PRACTICE, Oct. 22, 2025

@ 7 PM: If you can carry a tune (and if you can't carry a tune in a bucket, encourage someone who can) You're invited to JOIN US for song and fellowship.

We're tuning up for the Advent & Christmas Season!



SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

Serving In Worship Today

Greeters	Diane Schulze, Kathryn Phoenix
Organist	Tanya Fraker
Acolyte	Loren Eissler
Reader	Mathew Anschutz
Ushers	Clint Sturdy, Caleb Anschutz
	Loren Eissler, Marvin Zorn
Elder	Braeden Murphy
Lay Assistants	Casey Monthey, Phillip Wendling

Serving Next Week

Greeters	Larry & Toni Wendling
Organist	Tanya Fraker
Acolyte	Phillip Wendling
Reader	SueAnn Schultz
Ushers	Loren Eissler, Clint Sturdy.
	Reed Silver, Donice Browning
Elder	Braeden Murphy

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book (Confession & Absolution from DSS1)
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NOTE TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS

We are very glad you are here! Our services may look and sound different (other worldly, perhaps), but please bear with us! We worship the way we do for a reason and there is a certain rhythm involved. We gather to receive the gifts of salvation our Living Triune God comes to serve through His Word and Sacrament. In these gifts we receive the enlivening of our faith, forgiveness from our sins, and life eternal. Worship is the unwrapping of these gifts. The liturgy, hymns, and preaching proclaim His Word to us. They remind us of the promise of salvation as a gift we have in our baptism, and they prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Lord's Supper. Through these means of grace God comes to serve us in this Divine Service, and so our worship is centered around receiving these gifts of God through faith.

Pastor Jim Kirschenmann GV (314) 884-0828

Email: Pastor@ZionVassar.org

You may Call or TXT the Church Office Phone Number at ANYTIME: **785-828-4482**

Email: Office@ZionVassar.org

Service Time: Sunday 9:00 am

Bible Study and Sunday School: 10:30 am

Services Streamed on Social Media...

https://bit.ly/m/zionvassar

Take this WITH you - Pass this bulletin along to someone to invite them...

PRAYER/CHAT: Text 833-374-4619





Scan me