

Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church

----- Bringing Hope Through Christ

7455 Foothills Drive Farmington, NM

505-325-3420 Website:

zionlutheran505.com

Bible Study & Sunday School: 9:00 AM

Divine Service -10:15AM

Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf Cell phone:

605-419-7830

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 11:30 Monday –  
Thursday

July, 2026

**COMING SOON!** There will be a special worship time/service at the July 5<sup>th</sup> Divine Service celebrating our nation. An Independence Day meal will follow with Zion Circle providing hot dogs & condiments. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to pass as we celebrate America 250 – an event of a lifetime!



**DID YOU KNOW?** Trivia Questions: 1) What does “semi-quincentennial mean? 2) What were the names of the original 13 colonies? Who created the 13 colonies? What was the group name of the original 13 colonies? 3) Who led the committee who wrote the Declaration of Independence? 4) What date was the Declaration of Independence voted on? 5) Currently, the Liberty Bell rings on what day? How many times? What is the inscription on the Liberty Bell? (Answers following Finance

Report)

**MANY THANKS!!** The church council has spent many extra &- prayerful hours considering the proposed security system for the church. You are each one appreciated!

**POCKET PRAYERS:** Lennis Walker, Snyder and Holcomb families, Deborah Perleberg, Tyler, Jeanne, Macie, DJ, Thompson family, Lisa, Kerry, Roy and Dale Esau, David Lukow, Carol Unger, Deborah Unger, Shanda Unger, Shea and Jessica, Debra Mobley, Jack McKeever, Annette Lewis, Jason Hobbs

**PRAYER TEAMS:** I am so grateful that I belong to a praying church. From the text prayer chain to the teams who pray daily for Zion Church, Divine Service, Community/State/Nation/World, at any time, I know someone in our church is praying. Thank you to our Healing Team: Tim and Anne Snyder, Leslie Fitz, Gisele Neel, Lee Steaves, Ray Ayers and Marian Riggert. These folks pray after every service for the healing of our congregation and several visit our homebound to pray with them as well. What a blessing and a gift to know that we can receive prayer for any need we may have. I give thanks to our God for Zion Church and all who pray. – Diane Ayers

**Prayer by Text:** if you would like to be included on this list or if you have an immediate prayer request, text Leslie Fitz: 505-402-3688. For both lists, be sure to have permission for a name to be added. Remember by being on the Prayer by Text List, you agree to keep those prayers confidential. -Leslie Fitz

**LWML IN A GLIMPSE:** Fall Rally September 12 @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Durango. Theme: Christ is the Light of the world. Coming in 2027: RMD Women's Retreat – September 10-12 Study: Daniel @ Woodland Park, CO - Dianna Thur  
**Zion Circle Briefs:**

There is not a July meeting. July 5 is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fellowship lunch when we will celebrate Independence Day, following the Divine Service.

**Secret Sister Big Reveal.** It has come to be a tradition that our Secret Sisters come together for the BIG REVEAL! Dale does his magic in the kitchen by preparing a delicious meal. The date is set! **July 25, Saturday.** We'll have our special guest – Pastor Bieberdorf. I need your information sheets with pictures, ASAP (I will get your pictures back to you) Please contact me with questions. “Charm is deceptive, & beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” Proverbs 31:30 -31

**FINANCES AT A GLANCE**

Actual operating income.....	\$12,128.98
Budgeted operating income.....	\$15,172.50
Under budget.....	\$3,043.52
Actual expense.....	\$24,799.83
Budgeted expense.....	\$12,895.69
Over budget.....	\$11,904.14

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Answers to Trivia Questions -1) Semi-quincentennial means 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an event - 2 ½ centuries as an independent nation. 2) The original 13 colonies: New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North & South Carolina & Georgia. British Colonies along the Atlantic seaboard of North America 3) Thomas Jefferson led the committee of 5 4) While the Declaration of Independence was voted on July 4 it was signed on July 8 5) The inscription on the Liberty Bell reads:” Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” Leviticus 25:

**CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

Minutes review for meeting on June 9, 2026 Attending: J & B Lukow, D & M Ripley, B. Fitz, R. Kynast, D. Leikem K. Dale Leikam, A Galloway, Pastor, M & S Lukow, Steve Unger, S. Lanier

**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor shared highlights from the District Convention in Colorado Springs. Dale attended with Pastor. They cast ballots for LCMS President.

**Elder’s Report:** Elders met before the council meeting with no report for the council meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report:** actual expenses for May were \$23,799 which included down payment of security system cost of parking lot repairs.

**Old Business:** The installation of security system was discussed with a review of the unsigned contract. Many details were discussed & decisions covered.

**New Business:** Concerns about the laptop Candace uses during Divine Service: it locks up & timing is thrown off. Options were offered. The church picnic was discussed as well as the upcoming Independence Day celebrating 250<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Kriskindlemarkt was discussed & Dale volunteered to chair it again in 2026. Zion’s constitution & bylaws were discussed, especially concerning large expenditures, such as the security system.

Richard Kynast reminds anyone who has an interest to contact him to receive an emailed copy of the full minutes.

**ELDER’S MESSAGE**

July greetings to God’s children at Zion! This month we celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our country (one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all) as well as

the blessings of living in such freedom. Recently those attending Pastor Biberdorf's Sunday morning Bible Study experienced the joy of studying the blessings of our baptism in Christ Jesus. After a review of Luther's Small Catechism and the scriptures that discuss baptism, Pastor asked the group to generate a list of blessings received through baptism. The following is a quick outline, including scriptures, of some of the responses (which pretty much filled Pastor's white board in the Fellowship Hall).

### **The Blessings of Baptism**

The Holy Spirit and God's Grace Titus 3:4-8 and Acts 2:38; Forgiveness of Sins Colossians 2:12-14 and Acts 2:38; Salvation Mark 16:16; Life in Christ Romans 6:1-11 and Colossians 2:12-14; Eternal Life John 3:3-4; Becoming Children of God and Becoming Heirs of His Promise; Galatians 3: 26-4:7; Sanctification (made Holy in God's eyes) and Justification (made righteous in God's eyes) 1 Corinthians 6:11

We might celebrate the blessings of life in this temporal nation, but our blessings in Christ Jesus make us citizens of God's eternal kingdom where His death and resurrection have won the victory over sin, death and Satan! No wonder Pastor starts each Holy Service with remembrance of our Baptism.

I wish you all a blessed month and, if you aren't attending Pastor's Sunday Bible Study, I encourage you to start coming. Try it; you'll like it! And if you hurry, you'll get a chance to help decide what we study next.

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6: 3-4

In Christ, Jim Lukow

### **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!" (Psalm 33:12)*

The United States of America celebrates 250 years this year. What a wonderful thing to be alive for! A chance to look back on how God has sustained this nation with many blessings. We honor those who gave their lives to defend this land and keep our liberties. We thank God for those leaders who have steered us from tyranny and kept our freedoms in balance and for future generations to enjoy. It has not been easy, especially as Christians we now endure an unchristian land with more and more people who do not believe or confess Christ as Savior. This occasion reminds us that truly blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and we have so much to thank Him for. Our July 5th service will be all about that as we sing patriotic songs and hymns, the prayers of the church will be in thanksgiving for all that God has blessed the US with. And my message that day will be based on this verse

**from Psalm 33:12. I look forward to preaching a special message that day, for how often does something like this come around in one's lifetime?**

**There are a lot of ungrateful people who think that God is not in charge and we have done all in this nation ourselves. That is simply not true. Just as God guided the nation of Israel, God guides all the nations of the world. He let Babylon and Assyria flourish for a while and then tore them down for their unfaithfulness toward Him. He let Rome and other nations rule for many years, but each one fell. God is our King and supreme ruler, He has blessed the United States to be a beacon and leader for other nations, but if we fall away from Him, He can certainly let us fall also. Let us be truly grateful for the United States and what God has allowed us to do. We have the freedom to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to do it freely in worship and Bible Study. We are so blessed to be Americans and to uphold our Christian duty as well as our American duty too. Let our leaders take advice from Psalm 2, "Now, therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. Blessed are all who take refuge in him." Have a blessed Fourth of July as we thank God for 250 years of His grace upon this land!**

**God's peace to you through Christ!**

**Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf**