

Zion Lutheran Evangelical Church
----- Bringing Hope Through Christ
7455 Foothills Drive Farmington, NM
505-325-3420 Website: zionlutheran505.com
Facebook: Zion Lutheran Church
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
Newsletter for October, 2026

COMING SOON! On Sunday, Oct. 4, there will be a Congregational Pre-Budget meeting following the Mexican style food fellowship. Those who wish may bring a Mexican Food dish to pass – finger foods are encouraged. Your participation in bringing food is greatly appreciated. The Congregational Pre-Budget meeting is primarily an opportunity for folks to examine next year's budget, offer questions for clarity & provide input in the form of suggestions or proposals.

DID YOU KNOW??? Lutheran Women in Mission League (LWML) mission statement is: As Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, & equip women to honor God by serving others. In 2025, there was a goal of over \$2,000,000 to fund 33 grants, for missions worldwide as well as in America. One grant, \$125,00, funded providing Arch children's Christian books to immigrant children in USA. Another grant (\$62,000) fed malnourished Haitian boys & girls. Still another grant (\$100,000) provided Lutheran Hour digital programming for middle-school & high school students as well as young adults. Through yet another grant, troubled youth in Milwaukee Wisconsin received counseling through Christian counselors. This program grew to beyond capacity. In addition, Zion's women have the means to reach out into our own local community. October 11 is LWML Sunday – a day to spotlight the ministry of LWML. This organization gives "mission focused women" an opportunity to use their gifts of time & talent to proclaim Christ. Every woman at Zion is invited to be part of LWML because every woman has the gifts of time & talent.

POCKET PRAYERS

Hector Salinas, Lennis Walker, Deborah Perleberg, Tyler, Jeanne, DJ, Macie, Lisa, Thompson Family, Kerry, David Lukow, Roy and Dale Esau, Carol Unger, Deborah Unger, Shanda Unger, Shea and Jessica, Debra Mobley, Jack McKeever, Annette Lewis, Jason Hobbs Ray Ayers has come off the prayer list as he does not need heart surgery after all. Thank you for your prayers. To God be the glory!

PRAYER TEAM NEWS

If you would like to be a member of any or several of the teams, please let Leslie Fitz (505-402-3688) or Diane Ayers (505-330-4865) know. The task is simple. We just pray. Here are the prayers for this month:

Zion Church Prayer Team is praying for our church property. The much needed rains have brought a flooding problem in the narthex. Pray that the leak will be found & the cost will be reasonable. Please pray that the budget process will be smooth & Zion will have ample financial resources for the coming year.

Divine Service Prayer Team continues to pray for each person as we kneel or stand at the altar rail. Members of this team lift up our names & ask God for healing in body, mind and spirit. As Pastor considers recording his sermons, the team is praying for an impact on our city. They also are praying for an opening on a secular radio station for Pastor to share the Gospel message.

Community/State/Nation/World Prayer Team is thanking God for the rain. The members of this team pray blessings over the homes in their neighborhoods. As they drive to church, they pray over the homes in Zion's neighborhood. They pray for God to reach into each home and draw families to Him. They are praying for those who serve in the military, particularly those who serve in the Middle East.

Healing Prayer Team is at the front of the church after each service to pray for anyone needing personal prayer. Team members pray and anoint each person with oil (and give good hugs too). Several members of this team accompany Pastor on his visits to our homebound members. Others regularly visit those who are ill or disabled to pray with them. These team members are trained in healing ministry and keep all prayer requests totally confidential.

*****Please do not hesitate to come forward for prayer. All prayer is powerful, but much more so when team members lay hands on you and anoint you with oil. If you have any concerns, please let us pray for you in person. Note from Sonia Lukow: I had a nice conversation with Deb Perleberg today. She is well into the first month of phase two of her leukemia treatment, and has a port installed in her chest for a continuous drip of immunotherapy medication. She is back at her son's house in Tucson, and goes to the cancer treatment center each week to get the port dressing changed. The medication makes her very tired, but nothing hurts and she is feeling pretty good right now. She feels so very blessed! She will get a 2 week break from the medication in mid October, so she and her son Eli will be coming to Farmington Oct 15-19 to winterize her house and visit with people. She would really like to come to church on Oct 18th!

Pastor's Prayer Team continues to give thanks and praise to God for a Pastor who loves the Lord. They pray for the Facebook and website video project he records each week. This team provides prayer covering for all of Pastor's travel.

ZION CIRCLE BRIEFS – Next meeting is October 21 @ 10AM Nominations are opened for President, Vice President & Secretary. Reformation Sunday is October 25, with an all church potluck.

LWML in a GLIMPSE – LWML has reserved two tables at the fundraising banquet for Grace Place, a cost free outreach to pregnant women who need support. Through offering free pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, pregnancy options, education & counseling concerning lifestyle choices & family health, they support mothers & fathers who are considering abortion. They offer material assistance in the form of baby items/clothing. Grace Place also provides abortion recovery support programs. All of these support services are paid for community donations. If you carry a burden for parents & their babies, contact Dianna Thur to reserve a place at LWML's banquet table on November 6.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS September 8, 2026

Attendees: Richard Kynast, Dave & Mary Ripley, Dale Leikam, Steve Unger, Mark Lukow, Tim Snyder, Jim Lukow, Pastor, and Sandra Lanier

Pastor's Report

Pastor requested feedback on the Worship Anew that was played the previous week in his absence. Jim Lukow felt the program should be used in Pastor's absence. It was suggested that everyone sit as close to the front as possible. Mark Lukow reported that attendance was down and felt the idea needed to be promoted better. In 2028, Zion will celebrate its 75th anniversary. Discussion was held regarding whether the anniversary should be celebrated throughout the year, on one day, or not at all.

Elders' Report

The Elders discussed Worship Anew at their meeting. The Elders will be reaching out to members who have not attended church in a while. The Elders' message in the newsletter may be discontinued.

Trustees' Report

The alarm system went haywire, resulting in multiple calls regarding the security alarm. A rope has been hung across the entryway into the parking lot, which has decreased the number of trespassers. The sheds are mice infested & a mouse deterrent building is needed.

Old Business

Resource Notebook has proved to be valuable

Current laptops will continue to be used until they wear out.

New Business

The preliminary 2027 budget was presented & will be presented to the congregation on October 4th ahead of the October 13 Church Council meeting.

Pastor's Message

“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:7-9)

Catechesis. C-A-T-E-C-H-E-S-I-S. Catechesis. I used to love watching the Scripps National Spelling Bee as a kid on TV. Very fun to watch those very smart kids spell words that I had never heard of and could never spell. This word can be tricky to spell, but it is a very important word. Catechesis comes from the Greek, katecheo, which means “to teach,” “to instruct,” and literally “to sound into the ears,” like the Greek word echo, of which we get the English word echo. Learning the faith as the people of Israel were to do, by teaching their children the commandments and Law of God wherever they went in and outside the home, is something we have lost today. Confirmation class seems to be the one stop shop for learning the faith and once it is done, the learning stops. But the learning of God never stops. It is a life-long endeavor, from womb to tomb. The sound of God’s teaching should never stop from attending Divine Service and Bible study and your own personal devotion and study of God’s Word at home.

We catechize the young and old because God’s Word is worth knowing, remembering, confessing and living. Both upon the heart and mind. Our whole being needs to know who God is, its creator and preserver. Luther saw the importance of this. In his day, not everyone went to school for an education. He certainly wanted children and adults to know God. He translated the New Testament into the common German, so that mothers and fathers could teach their children about God and His Holy Word. In 1529 and 1530 he published Luther’s Small Catechism and Large Catechism to teach the faith. And he instructed husbands and fathers to teach their households about God using the catechism in a simple way, so all in the house knew about God and could memorize the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer and know about the Sacraments and their treasure. Fathers and husbands are still expected today to teach their children the faith in this way. You may not know everything yourself, but that’s okay. Your pastor can help you out. How wonderful to know that we do not stop learning about God. There is so much there that we could never stop learning and growing in God’s love for Him and for one another. God’s Word is an ongoing echo in the lives of God’s people. It is an echo worth hearing- again and again.

God’s peace to you through Christ!

Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf