

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



COMING SOON! All Church Picnic on September 13, following Divine Service. Invite a friend or family member or neighbor for our service/picnic. The best way to grow a church is to invite someone to come – they'll like us! Hot dogs & the fixins' will be provided. Bring picnic style food to pass.

Did You Know? Pastor will be gone Friday September 4 and will return on Monday, September 7. The 10:15 Divine Service on September 6 (no Bible Study at 9AM) will be carried by a Lutheran broadcast. The Worship Anew Program is a weekly, 30 minute service that includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and sermons. Since 1980, Worship Anew, headquartered in Fort Wayne, Ind., has been broadcasting weekly worship services for aging adults who seek to help them live an abundant life in Christ. Today, Worship Anew reaches thousands of people each week across the nation and around the world on television and streamed online. For more information: worshipanew.org

POCKET PRAYERS: Ray Ayers, 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

PRAYER TEAM NEWS: If you would like to be a member of any or several of the teams, please let Leslie Fitz or Diane Ayers know. The task is simple. We just pray. Here is an overview of what we do:

Zion Church Prayer Team is praying for our church property. People are spinning their tires in our parking lot and meeting to exchange drugs on Zion grounds. This team prays that God will protect His church and that all those who enter our property will feel His power, turn from their evil ways, and accept Christ as their Savior. They pray for a hedge of protection all around our property, in and out. (Job 1:10) They continue to pray for unity in the Zion family of believers. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

Divine Service Prayer Team is praying for each person as they kneel or stand at the altar

rail. Members of this team lift our names to God for healing in body, mind and spirit. They pray for a mighty touch from God for each person in our Divine Service and for joyful praise in the temple of the Lord. (Psalm 95:2) They pray for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we gather together to worship. (John 24:16)

Community/State/Nation/World Prayer Team is praying for the peace of our God to rule and reign in the Middle East and in the Russia/Ukraine war. They pray that His plans for each region will come to pass, that God will send envoys and diplomats who are wise peacemakers. (Matthew 5:9), and that God will contend with the evil leaders of Iran. This month the team is also praying for the orphan children of the world, in places such as Nepal, Nigeria, Myanmar, and for children who have been exploited by human trafficking, world-wide & in America. (Psalm 82:3) On a local level, the team is praying for wise reform in the CYFD in New Mexico.

Pastor's Prayer Team is giving thanks and praise to God for a Pastor who loves the Lord. They are praying for the video project he is preparing for our website and Facebook site. His upcoming Labor Day weekend trip is being covered in prayer by this team.

Healing Prayer Team is at the front of the church after each service ready to pray for anyone who requests 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 completely confidential.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” – Philippians 4:6

VALUABLE INFORMATION Just recently, Anne had an idea to put together a Resource Directory to inform members of our congregation or anyone who needs resource information. The Resource Directory includes various medical & non-medical accommodations for transportation; senior and low-income housing; counseling opportunities; food assistance. As a result of Anne's research, there is a looseleaf Resource Directory in the narthex on the ledge under members' mailboxes. Perhaps someone can add to the Directory – if so, just slip your information into the book. It is our hope that this Directory will be helpful for referral -----Submitted by Tim Snyder

ZION CIRCLE BRIEFS - will meet on Wednesday, September 16 at 10AM. This is an important meeting because nominations will be received for officers plus there will be discussion about the direction Zion Circle may want to go in the future. There will not be a Fellowship gathering in September because there will be an all-church picnic.

CHOIR - Choir remains in the planning stage. If you appreciate the choir, let Diana Thur know.

LWML IN A GLIMPSE



Ladies of Zion – there's a road trip ahead to Durango to attend the LWML Rally. The car-pool leaves at 7:45 on Saturday, September 12. Make a reservation with Dianna Thur! The group is taking motel size bars of soap & hand sanitizers. Everyone can contribute these items. LWML will have a brief meeting on September 13, after Divine Service, before Picnic.

Financial Report for July 2026:

Actual Operating Income.....	\$10,528.25
Budgeted Operating Income.....	\$15,372.50
Budget Shortfall.....	(\$4,844.25)
Actual Operating Expense.....	(\$2,088.95)
Budgeted Operating Expense.....	\$15,385.21
Budget Overage.....	\$8,452.01

YTD

Actual Operating Income.....	\$105,711.71
Budgeted Operating Income.....	\$106,407.50
Budget Shortfall.....	(\$695.79)
Actual Operating Expense.....	\$94,783.32
Budgeted Operating Expense.....	\$92,570.02
Budget Overage.....	\$2,213.3

Church Council Highlights

August 11, 2026

Attendees: Dave & Mary Ripley, Jim & Barb Lukow, Andrew Galloway, Bob Fitz, Tim Snyder, Richard Kynast, Dale Leikem, Mark & Sonia Lukow, Steve Unger, Alden Gabel, Pastor, Sandra Lanier

Pastor's Report – Pastor's will be out September 4-7 & he suggested using Worship Anew on Sundays when he is gone. Lasts 30 minutes. Better option than having no service at all. It's difficult to find an interim pastor.

Elders Report – Shut-ins are being visited. Trustee Report – Controller & broken belts for AC were repaired. Game cameras show the same individual in the parking lot. Richard will present the idea of another gate to the congregation on Sunday.

Financial Secretary/Treasurer Report – See attached LCEF line is error actual \$162,016.09 Reports approved.

Old Business – Resource Directory for special needs is in process & will be available to church members soon. Trash dumpster now has wheels.

Laptop – Matthew Lukow will work on the projector the next time he is in town.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people.” (Ezekiel 37:12b-13)

Have you ever seen Skeleton Dance? It is an animated short that Walt Disney made in 1929. It’s about four skeletons who dance in a graveyard after midnight. It reminded me of this passage, a very well-known passage, from Ezekiel 37. The prophet Ezekiel is brought to a valley filled with dry bones. And no, they’re not dancing, they’re dead. The Lord then instructs Ezekiel to place breath, sinews and flesh into the bones and have them come alive again. Ezekiel does as he is instructed to do and bones come together to form an exceedingly great army.

What is going on here? These bones represent the nation of Israel, which is being held in Babylon. God is not going to leave them there forever. His anger will end and they will return to Jerusalem, their native land. God will raise them from their spiritual death and bring them back to life with His Spirit and His Word. “And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land.” The people of God returned and rebuilt the temple and continued to worship the Lord their God. This passage does have something to do with us too. As the new Israel, we will rise from our graves when Christ returns. God will put a new Spirit within us, and we will live forever with God and all believers, doing more than just dancing together but praising our God for all time. God’s promises are sure and certain and will never fade away. Our eternal hope is in Christ, who has defeated death and the grave for us. We can now treat our grave as a bed, of which we will be awakened from one day, one glorious day. “This body in the grave we lay there to await that solemn day when God Himself shall bid it rise to mount triumphant to the skies.”

God’s peace to you through Christ!

Pastor Nathanael Biberdorf