



Welcome

October 17 & 18, 2026

I was glad when they said to me, let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalms 122: 1

Church Attendance Last Weekend

Saturday: 80 Communed: 59

Sunday: 132 Communed: 99

Serving this Weekend

Altar Guild: Kathy Kohn

Organist: Angel Metro

Saturday Elders: Charles Smith & Troy Sova

Ushers: Sandy & Susan Westphal, Katherine Hilbrandt

Sunday Elders: Zach Varner & Randy Hebel

Ushers: Anna Diener, Graham Varner, Aiden & Gracie VanOchten

Sunday School: This week, we learn how God provided "A Merciful Substitute." God had blessed Abraham with the son he had waited for his entire life; yet now God asks the seemingly impossible—sacrifice your son to Me. By faith, Abraham takes Isaac to the mountain, trusting God, who was able to raise his son from the dead. Abraham completes the test, and God provides the sacrifice.

New Membership Class meets in the school during the Bible hour beginning at 10:15AM. Pastor Hemme is leading the 7-to-8-week class and will cover the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism. This is an opportunity for prospective members to learn more about what we believe and why. There is no commitment to join Zion after the completion of the class. Furthermore, all are welcome to attend. It can be a good

refresher for current members as well. Feel free to reach out to Pastor Hemme with any questions or to let him know of your interest.

Women's Small Group Bible Study: Emily Menz is hosting “Renewal: Connecting with Christ when you're running on empty.” All materials for discussion are provided. We meet a couple more Sunday evenings on **October 18 and 25**, from 7:00PM to 8:30PM in the cafeteria. Childcare can be available if needed. Please contact Emily Menz (269-313-2490).

October is Mite collection month for Lutheran Women in Mission League (LWML). Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites"—offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program. You can find a full list of supported grants at <https://www.lwml.org/mission-grants>. Please take a mite box from the narthex next to the wooden Mite box, fill it, and then return it. Thank you for your support.

Ladies Bible Study and Quilting is on Wednesday mornings starting with a 9:00AM Bible study. All ladies are welcome to the church basement for Bible Study and quilting.

Thank You to those that helped load quilts last Sunday. And many thanks to those who donate materials for quilting and items for the baby care kits. Sincere thanks from the quilting ladies.

Reformation Sunday is coming: Please join us in the school cafeteria for a big brunch and light entertainment as we celebrate the **Reformation next Sunday, October 25th** immediately following the worship service. Bring the whole family! Everything will be provided for this occasion thanks to a Thrivent Action Grant and the Fellowship Team. Come and enjoy some fellowship and food!

Youth Group: The Youth Group will meet next **Sunday, October 25th** from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will be playing 9-square, doing devotions, eating snacks, and having fun. As a reminder, the youth group is open to students in grades 6-12. See you there!

A HUGE Thank You to everyone who helped with another successful Apple Pie Fundraiser. Together, church and school, we made 2869 apple pies. We are incredibly blessed to have such a wonderful congregation that is willing and able to join school families with one goal. Also, apple pies would not be possible without the generous donations and discounts provided by our local business partners: Leaman's Green Apple Barn, Michigan Sugar, Star of the West Milling Company, Beson's Supermarket, Meijer, Fruitland Market, and Thrivent Financial. As we reflect on this year's fundraiser, we are reminded of Galatians 6:9-10: “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.” What a wonderful example of this witnessed during apple pie week!

Seeking Apple Pie Committee Leaders for the 2027/28 School Year: T.E.A.M. is looking for one or more volunteers to help coordinate our Apple Pie Fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the school year. This does not have to be a one-person job. A few people could work together to share the planning and responsibilities. If you might be interested or would simply like to learn more about what is involved, please reach out to Kristina Sieg at 989-482-2063.

Grave Blanket Sales: Grave Blankets will be for sale starting **November 1st through December 6th**. Prices are small - \$30; medium - \$50; Large \$75 (available only upon request). We accept cash or check. If check, please make payment: to Zion Lutheran Church, Auburn. In the memo, please note "Santa Store". We sell from our home at 2255 Nine Mile Road, Kawkawlin. If interested in helping create grave blankets or if you have any questions overall, please contact Diana Hebel at 989-280-3185.

Valley Vision: Celebrating VL Homecoming, NHS Induction, 700 volleyball wins for Coach Frank, and more in this month's **Valley Vision!** Read it online today at www.vlhs.com/vvooct2026.

Take a Peek! Planning to attend Monday's (October 26th) **Peek at Valley?** Be sure to let us know and pick your arrival time at www.vlhs.com/takeapeek.

VLHS Booster Club Fruit Sale continues through November 6th. Fruit can be ordered from a Valley student or online at www.vlhs.com/fruitsale. Orders can be picked up at Valley on Saturday, December 5th.

VL Drama Department presents "Peter and the Starcatcher" on **November 6th-8th**. Showtimes are 7:00pm on November 6th-7th and 2:00pm on November 8th at VLHS. Ticketing information will be available next week! *Show synopsis: A young orphan and his mates are shipped off from Victorian England to a distant island. They know nothing of the mysterious trunk in the captain's cabin, which contains a precious, otherworldly cargo. At sea, the boys are discovered by a precocious young girl named Molly, a Starcatcher-in-training who realizes that the trunk's precious cargo is starstuff, a celestial substance so powerful that it must never fall into the wrong hands. When the ship is taken over by pirates – led by the fearsome Black Stache, a villain determined to claim the trunk and its treasure for his own – the journey quickly becomes a thrilling adventure. This play is well suited for 10-year-olds through adults!*

VL Fall Craft Bazaar: The season for Holiday Bazaars is rapidly approaching! Be sure to include the **VL Fall Craft Bazaar** in your plans. **Saturday, November 14th** from 9:00am – 3:00pm at Valley Lutheran, 3560 McCarty Rd., Saginaw.

Commitment Weekend: This weekend, October 17th & 18th, is Commitment Weekend at Zion. Prayerfully consider and decide what you will set aside for God's work at Zion in 2027 and bring in your commitment form, knowing that God will provide. If you need a form, they can be found on the table in the narthex.

Trinity Lutheran Harvest Dinner & Bake Sale: Trinity Lutheran Church (20 E. Salzburg Rd, Bay City) will be hosting its annual Harvest Dinner & Bake Sale on **Sunday, October 25th** from 11:30am-1:30pm. Meals are \$20 for dine-in or take-out and include pork sausage, roast beef, squash, mashed potatoes & gravy, sauerkraut, glazed carrots, roll & dessert.

Zion's Harvest Party-Trunk or Treat! Our Harvest Party is coming up on **October 30th**, and we'd love for our congregation members to join in the fun! You are all invited to decorate your car trunks and participate in our Trunk or Treat for the school kids! Please arrive by 8:00am and we will show you where to park.

Lutheran Young Adult Fall Meet Ups: St. John Lutheran is hosting another casual event for young adults in their mid-20's to mid-30's on **Sunday, November 8th** at 1:00pm at Nord Social for a Lions watch party. For more information or to RSVP, email Anna at akruger@sjlmidland.org.

Surviving the Holidays Nov. 8 at Grace Lutheran Church: Are you dreading the approaching holidays because of the death of a loved one? You're not alone. Come to Grace Lutheran Church (303 Ruth St, Auburn) on Sunday, November 8th at 2:00pm to be comforted and encouraged. We'll meet in Grace's library to explore *Surviving the Holidays*—a resource program from GriefShare—together to help guide you through this season. The materials are free, and all are welcome to attend; no registration is needed. Questions? Call Grace's church office at [989-662-6161](tel:989-662-6161).

Versiti Blood Drive at Zion, Wednesday, November 4th, 2:30pm-7:00pm: All blood donors can receive a Nirvana t-shirt as thanks for donating and Versiti has added an incentive. Anyone that donates can get their favorite Big 10 T-SHIRT by following just a few steps explained on the Abott flyer in the narthex! You can call 866-642-5663 to schedule a slot or visit https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11648396. There is also a QR code on the flyer on the bulletin board in the narthex you can scan. Thank you for supporting the need for blood.



Honoring Those Who Served: Veterans Day gives us a wonderful opportunity to teach our children gratitude, service, sacrifice, and the people who have helped protect our freedoms. Please join us Friday, November 6th, 9:30-11:00am in the school for coffee and pastries, view our Wall of Honor, and enjoy a special parade in honor of our Veterans! RSVP to the office or by email: office@zionauburn.com. We would also love to have our Wall of Honor full of our Veterans. Please send in a photograph and a few details about your service. Include the veteran's name, if related to a student, branch of service, years served, rank/occupation, and anything else you would like to share. These can be dropped off or emailed to the office.

Welcome Thrivent Representative Rod Grigg: For just a few minutes after service Thrivent Representative Rod Grigg will be sharing with us some easy ways Thrivent members can support Zion. Thanks Rod!

Next week's readings: Revelation 14:6-7, Romans 3:19-28, & John 8:31-36

Calendar of Events

Sat 17 Worship 5:30 PM (*Commitment Weekend*)
Sun 18 Worship 9:00 AM (*Commitment Weekend*)
Family Bible Hour 10:15 AM
Confirmation and New Member Class 10:15 AM
Wed 21 Ladies Bible Study & Quilting 9:00 AM
Sat 24 Worship w/communion 5:30 PM
Sun 25 Worship w/communion 9:00 AM
Reformation Brunch 10:15 AM
Confirmation 10:15 AM
Youth Group 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Pastors

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The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 17 & 18, 2026

Divine Service Setting One

Page 151 in Lutheran Service Book

Greeting Time

Those in attendance are invited to greet those seated near them. As the bell rings, please return to your seat for the opening hymn.

Ring of the Bell

♪ "Evening and Morning"

LSB #726

- 1 Evening and morning,
Sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace, and gladness,
Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number,
Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us,
From danger preserves us,
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.
- 2 Father, O hear me,
Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors,
Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
Order my goings,
Direct all my doings;
As it may please Thee,
Retain or release me;
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.
- 3 Ills that still grieve me
Soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower,
And winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing
And peace never ceasing:
These shall I treasure
And share in full measure
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

4 To God in heaven
All praise be given!
Come, let us offer
And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
He well receiveth
A heart that believeth;
Hymns that adore Him
Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; (sts. 1–2): tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.; (sts. 3–4): tr. Hermann H. M. Brueckner, 1866–1942, alt.
Text: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C 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

Introit

Psalm 121:1–4, 7–8; antiphon: v. 5

P The LORD is your keeper;

C the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

P I lift up my eyes to the hills.

C From where does my help come?

P My help comes from the LORD,
C who made heaven and earth.
P He will not let your foot be moved;
C he who keeps you will not slumber.
P Behold, he who keeps Israel
C will neither slumber nor sleep.
P The LORD will keep you from all evil;
C he will keep your life.
P The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
C from this time forth and forevermore.
C 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.
P The LORD is your keeper;
C the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
♪C Lord, have mercy.
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
♪C Lord, have mercy.
P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the
 unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
♪C Lord, have mercy.
P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the
 Lord.
♪C Lord, have mercy.
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
♪C Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

P Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.
♪C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
 We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glory.
 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:
 You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
 For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
 You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

✠C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

✠C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 45:1–7

¹Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:

²"I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not know me,
⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these things."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers,
³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers loved by God, that he
has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in
the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among
you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the
word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all
the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded
forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere,
so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of
reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and
true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who
delivers us from the wrath to come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And they sent
their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true
and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are
not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to
Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you

hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Children's Message

♪ "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

LSB #819

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good,
The author of creation,
The God of love who understood
Our need for His salvation.
With healing balm our souls He fills
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills:
To God all praise and glory!
- 2 What God's almighty pow'r has made,
In mercy He is keeping.
By morning glow or evening shade
His eye is never sleeping.
Within the kingdom of His might
All things are just and good and right:
To God all praise and glory!
- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress;
O God, in mercy hear us.
Our Savior saw our helplessness
And came with peace to cheer us.
For this we thank and praise the Lord,
Who is by one and all adored:
To God all praise and glory!

- 4 He never shall forsake His flock,
His chosen generation;
He is their refuge and their rock,
Their peace and their salvation.
As with a mother's tender hand,
He leads His own, His chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!
- 5 All who confess Christ's holy name,
Give God the praise and glory.
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim
Aloud the wondrous story.
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne,
For God is God, and He alone:
To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He

descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✝ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Offering- To give online, go to zionauburn.com and click on the "Donate" tab.

(At this time, we ask that members as well as guests sign the pew book.)

Stewardship Verse

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 "We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

♪ "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

LSB #781

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.</p> <p>2 May we Thy bounties thus
As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us,
To Thee our firstfruits give!</p> <p>3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead,
And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled
Are straying from the fold.</p> | <p>4 To comfort and to bless,
To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless
Is angels' work below.</p> <p>5 The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.</p> <p>6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.</p> |
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Text: William W. How, 1823–97

Text: Public domain

Stand

Prayers of the Church

- For Sally Goodsell (sister of Esther Gerzeski), Roxanne and Sergii Boilore (daughter and grandson of Esther Gerzeski), Lee Davis, Valerie Walter, Diana Mansfield (daughter of Augusta Etelamaki), Ron Murphy, Diana Hebel, Herb Leinberger, Wheston Behmlander (nephew of Deb Shufelt), Tom Kowalkowski, Valerie Satkowiak, June DuRussel, Catherine Riker, Sarah Olker (niece of Susan Klauer), Marian & Roger Brattin (neighbors of Augusta Etelamaki), Carol Westphal, Donna Kiley (sister of Eileen Rosenbrock), Roberta Swinson (cousin of Eileen Rosenbrock), Alvin Rosenbrock, Janet Weber-King, and Glenn Kohn (brother of Dean Kohn),
- For those that mourn, especially the family of Mary Lou Jammer.

- For the staff and students at Zion.
- For all who serve this country, here and beyond our borders.
- For those suffering with mental illness and for their loved ones.
- For peace in all war-torn countries.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

LSB 166

P 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.

♪ **C** Amen.

Sit

♪ "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

LSB #918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's
destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91
Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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