



**Zion Lutheran**  
**Church**

**October 2023**

# **Worship Schedule**

**Sunday, October 1**

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

**Sunday, October 8**

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Sunday, October 15**

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

**Sunday, October 22**

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

**Sunday, October 29**

Reformation Sunday/Communion

## Pastor's Corner



One of my mother's favorite meals was sauerkraut with hotdogs cooked in it. She'd get out the can of Frank's Kraut, put it in a large saucepan, add some caraway seed and a little water, then put hotdogs into the entire mess and heat it all up. It was a meal she only made for herself when everyone was gone, as the smell made the rest of us wrinkle our noses in distaste and complain loudly. Not being a sauerkraut fan myself, I couldn't understand what my mother thought was so yummy about that meal. Then I met new friends through my then-boyfriend Mark, and I was introduced to real homemade-in-a-stone-crock-and-placed-in-a-stone-cellar-to-ferment sauerkraut. "This sauerkraut is really different from the commercial kind. Just taste it and see what you think," I was told.

Oh my! Was that ever a different flavor from Mom's favorite meal. The smell and taste were richer somehow—more complex. It was something I thought I would never, ever enjoy, yet here I was going back for seconds on sauerkraut. I still love sauerkraut, and I even eat Frank's Kraut in a can after I doctor it up a bit!

If we open our bibles and read the same old stories about the same old people without also opening our minds, we can end up in much the same place as I did with sauerkraut. Why bother continuing when I already know what it's going to taste like? When we are exposed to new interpretations through classes, bible study, articles and blogs, listening to a variety of readers and differing translations, and prayer, we may discover that there is so much more to scripture than we imagined. We

are invited into a new kind of experience, and our lives are so much richer because of it. Scripture once again becomes delicious and sought after because it enriches our existence to keep discovering new things about God and how God wants to interact with us. That, in turn, makes us want to tell others to “taste it and see.” So, I invite you to taste scripture again in a new way. Try out our Tuesday morning bible study, read and re-read the Sunday scriptures, binge-watch *The Chosen* with us for a new perspective, share your feelings, questions, and insights with others, read scripture out loud or have someone read it to you, pray for new discoveries in familiar passages, or come up with your own way of interacting with God’s Word.

And don’t forget to eat lots of homemade sauerkraut at Germanfest this month!

*Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.*

*Psalm 34:8*

## ***Council Corner***

A look into what the council teams are working on.

- *Carpet Replacement in Sanctuary – Early October*
- *Upgrading Media in Sanctuary – October/November*

## Christ in Our Home

The devotional *Christ in Our Home* for the months of October, November, and December is now available in the Narthex or the information table in the church lobby.

# October's Faith Journey

## Tuesday morning Bible Study

Bible study will be each Tuesday morning. We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study Schedule 2023-2024 (10 am)

Date	Topic & Scripture Notes
October 3, 2023	Hagar & Ishmael Genesis 16
October 10, 2023	No bible study
October 17, 2023	Call of Moses Exodus 3
October 24, 2023	Red Sea & Ten Commandments Exodus 14 Exodus 20:1-21.
October 31, 2023	A King 1 Samuel 8, 10:17-26.

## First Communion Class

**October 15th** following worship a First Communion class will be offered. If there is anyone interested in participating in the class contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org). First Communion service will be on **October 29th**.

## **Healing Service**

The Worship Committee is bringing back healing services on the fifth Sunday of any given month. During worship that day, we will have prayer stations available during Communion distribution where you may ask for prayer, a personal blessing, or anointing. There will be another healing service during worship on **October 29**.

## **The Chosen**

The watching of The Chosen will be postponed to November due to scheduling conflicts. Watch the Monday emails and announcements for the time and date in November to continue watching The Chosen.

## **All Saints Sunday**

All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who had died for the faith, and it has since become a day when we honor and remember those who, in death, have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint, sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus. On Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be reading the names and lighting candles for each name we receive. We will remember those in our congregation who died during the past year and those whose names are submitted by the congregation. Names can be submitted by contacting the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org). Forms are also available in the church.

## Choir



Choir practice will begin on September 10 at 8:00 a.m. in the balcony. The future schedule will be posted in the bulletins and on the announcements slides. All are welcome to join.

## Meditation Garden

Sending out a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the meditation garden beautiful throughout the summer. Please take a moment out of your busy life and step into the garden to enjoy God's palette of beauty.



## Cemetery Flowers and Decorations

The Cemetery Committee would like to remind you that any flowers, ornaments, etc. that are on the cemetery plots will need to be removed by October 15. Anything left after that will be removed by the committee. Thank you.



Bible Sunday, **September 10th and 17**. Zion presented 21 children of our congregation with Bibles.



# Christian Youth Education Programs.



**Continue to pray for all the children and leaders as they begin a new year of their faith journey.**

**Little Lutherans/J-Team**

**October 11, 2023**

*Ten Commandments*

**October 25, 2023**

*Despair & Comfort*

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on the Bible this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from **3:15-5:15 p.m.**

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>

**Disciples For Christ**

**Sunday, October 15th at 5:30 p.m.**

*Evening with the Elderly.*

The schedule and more information can be found at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation10th-12th-grade/>.



## **Confirmation**

***October 11, 2023 /CORE***

*Old Testament: History/Wisdom*

***October 25, 2023 / Elective***

*Crazy Bible Stuff*

**Class runs from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Confirmation students are required to participate in all CORE classes. Elective classes are selected by the student. Sermon notes and activity verification are required throughout the year and should be returned to the office or dropped in the basket in the narthex or on the information table in the lobby. Confirmation registration forms, class schedules, and more information available at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

## **How 'Bout Dem Packers?**



**Packers**

Want to get together for fellowship and football? Zion's Evangelism committee is exploring the possibility of hosting a Packer game watch party/potluck on November 12. The Packers play the Steelers at noon, and we thought it'd be fun to get together after worship for a football-themed party and some game-watching sign-up sheet will be available beginning mid-October to assess interest. If a minimum of fifteen people sign up, we'll plan the party.\*

## **Trunk R Treat**

Zion Lutheran will be participating again this year downtown on the street in front of Klemme Park! Join us on Tuesday, **October 31** during trick or treating hours of 5:30-7:30 pm. If you would like to join in on the fun, please be there prior to 5:00 p.m. to get set up. If you have any questions, please contact Dan and Deb Thompson.

## **Supporting Ministries**



### **Simply Giving**

Your congregation works hard to support your faith journey, respond to your pastoral needs, and plan for educational and worship opportunities all year long.

Make it easy for yourself (and for us) by signing up for Simply Giving. Through Simply Giving, you can “set it and forget it” when it comes to donating to Zion’s ministry. Your donation will automatically come out of your account in whatever amount and on whatever schedule is best for you.

Forms are available just outside the worship space and can be completed and returned to the office. Or just give Kathy a quick call in the office and she will be happy to help you out.

## Treasurer's Report

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being good stewards (managers) of God's gracious provision to fuel Jesus' ministry.

January 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023:

- General Offering Received \$110,664.70
- Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) \$120,037.16

• **Giving vs. Expense Deficit** **\$ 9,372.46**

- Undesignated Cash Balance (8/31/23) \$ 5,294.48  
(This is like a reserve fund when expenses are greater than Income. It is quickly being depleted because our actual income has not been matching our expenses.)

**Note: Our ministry teams are well below their budgeted expenses through this part of the year.**

Benevolence Goals through August 31, 2023: (These are additional goals, not included in annual budget.)

Crossways Camping Ministries	\$ 2.00	0.1% of goal
Lutheran Social Services	\$ 650.00	36.1% of goal
Missionary	\$ 1,348.00	38.5% of goal
ELCA World Hunger Appeal	\$ 2,436.00	75.0% of goal

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion's ministry in Jesus' name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

### **Building Update 2023**

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 9,943.65
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 906.35</u>
Balance of loan as of <b>08/25/2023</b>	\$ 80,234.34

Partners Bank

Building checking acct balance as of **09/15/2023** \$ 6,993.06

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
06/02 & 06/30	\$90,177.99	\$3,100.00	\$269.65	\$2,830.35	\$87,347.64
06/30	\$87,347.64	\$3,100.00	\$131.62	\$1,418.38	\$85,929.26
07/14 & 07/28	\$85,929.26	\$3,100.00	\$256.83	\$2,843.17	\$83,086.09
08/11 & 08/25	\$83,086.09	\$3,100.00	\$248.25	\$2,851.75	\$80,234.34

**Thank you to all who continue to give generously toward the Debt Reduction (Building) Fund.**

## ***Germanfest 2023***

Save the date: **October 22, 2023**

We have Germanfest annually at the end of October of every year. All proceeds from the dinner go to our Community Crisis Fund. Each Zion member household will receive 4 tickets in September that you can purchase, sell, or return them unsold. Each Sunday, beginning the last week of September, someone will be in the narthex after each service. You may pick up more tickets to sell, turn in any money from sold tickets, or turn in your unsold tickets. Tickets will also be available in the church office from 8:00 am-1:30 pm, Monday-Thursday. Tickets this year for dine-in will be \$15.00 per adult and \$10.00 for children and all carryout tickets are \$15.00.

Our Germanfest dinner consists of Pork Hocks, Pork Roast, Sauerkraut, Potato Dumplings, Rye Bread, Applesauce and Cheesecake.

Please consider helping volunteer at this great fundraiser and sign up sheets for various duties and donation board for items that will be at the back of the church in the near future!

### ***Applesauce for Germanfest***

We are looking for people to make applesauce needed for Germanfest. We need 12 ice cream pails. If anyone is interested in making some, please let the office or Cory Wiesman know! Thank you!

### ***Paper Bags for Germanfest***

Please drop off any paper bags you are willing to get rid of in the Narthex by the Germanfest table.

## ***Time and Talent Surveys***

The Evangelism Team is seeking responses to the Time and Talent Survey. These surveys will be used to ensure that congregation members can be included in the areas they are interested in.

You will see a QR code and paper forms in the narthex. A link will be included in the newsletter and weekly emails. We will close the survey link on November 1.

We also will be running a challenge, form that is entered online or returned in person by Sept. 24 will be entered to win one of five prizes. Two prizes will be Germanfest tickets and three prizes will be local \$15 gift cards.

***Please use this link to complete survey:***

<https://shorturl.at/fmHT8>



## **Calling All Yarnies**

Do you like to knit or crochet? Maybe you enjoy sorting and distributing? Or making tassles? Maybe you have unwanted yarn sitting around your house?

Then have we got a project for you!

We are calling for hats, mittens, scarves, lap blankets (3'x 4' max), headbands/ear warmers in all sizes to distribute during the Trunk or Treat event and the Christmas in the Park event. These items will be free for whomever needs them.

We also need that yarn you don't know what to do with, or that you were planning to throw out.

Drop off bins for completed items and for yarn donations will be located in the entrance near the offices. Please note if an item is made of wool or a wool blend, and please wash all items before dropping them off.

We will begin collecting items **September 1.**

If you have questions, or want to help in some way, please contact Marsha Sipple, Pastor Amy, or the church office.

## **Fellowship**

Join us each Sunday following worship for coffee, tea and hot cocoa fellowship. It is a wonderful time to catch up with friends, family and other members of your congregation. Often, there are tasty treats to enjoy as well. Consider hosting fellowship for your fellow members, it is as easy as signing up.



If you have never hosted a fellowship, no worries! There are several people willing to help you out with making coffee and setting up. Let the office know and those arrangements will be made.

## **Worship Duty Signup via Signup Genius**

Please take a moment to sign up to participate in our worship service as usher, reader, acolyte, media, communion assistant (server), or assisting minister. The fall signups are now available. Sign up by October 17 for November 2023. I really appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up!

Here is the link for November:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-november1#/>



## Homebound Visits

There are several members of Zion that are homebound. This makes it difficult for them to come to church and receive communion. Pastor Amy makes frequent visits to these members and encourages other members of Zion to visit their fellow members and serve communion. Pastor Amy will walk you through how to serve home communion. Consider taking a few hours a month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day.

## Evangelism

The Evangelism team would like to send cards to individual or families that are hospitalized or have experienced a loss in their family. If you have someone that you wish for the church to reach out to you can contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## Scrip Shopping Supports Ministry

Looking to buy your college student supper? Got a special birthday coming up? Already thinking about Christmas? Zion Scrip is the answer for quick, easy gift card giving! We have many



retail card options on hand but can also special order from thousands of retailers. Each purchase supports Faith Formation Youth Programs such as Camp Scholarships, National Gatherings and more.

It's easy! Simply download the RaiseRight app and shop right from your couch or contact

Janet Schoenherr or Wendy Spaeth or contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) and they will help you get started.



You will need a one-time enrollment code for Zion; for security reasons, please contact Janet, Wendy, or the church office for the code. If you are curious as to what Scrip has to offer, visit [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com).

Janet or Wendy will be in the Narthex selling Scrip before and after church service on the following dates:

October 1

October 22

October 29

November 5

November 12

November 26

December 3

December 10 Christmas Order Deadline

### **Scrip Holiday Bonus!!**

For every \$50.00 of Scrip purchased between October 1st and December 10th, you will be entered into a BONUS drawing for a free \$25.00 Scrip card of your choice!

### **Stratford Food Pantry Drive**

Stratford Food Pantry would like to extend a thank you to individuals who have generously given to the Food Pantry during the summer months. There continues to be a need in the Stratford community for support from the Food Pantry. Please prayerfully consider donating supplies to the Food Pantry. You can drop off donations in the lobby of the church or in the Narthex here at Zion.

The Stratford Area Food Pantry provides food to individuals and families within the Stratford School District. If you are in need of food, we are here for you! Hours are Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or by appointment. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan Wieland at [wieland.dandeb@gmail.com](mailto:wieland.dandeb@gmail.com) or at 715-506-0020 and he will help you get connected.

## **Technology Ministry**

### **Council Minutes**

Council minutes are available on the church website at [zionstratford.org/publications](http://zionstratford.org/publications). You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.

### **Prayer Requests**

Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the ZionStratford.org website? You can also let people know that people are praying for them too. Check it out at <https://zionstratford.org/prayer>



### **Sermons by Phone or Podcast App**

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

Zion Lutheran Church  
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Stratford, WI 54484-5908

**[www.zionstratford.org](http://www.zionstratford.org)**

**We're on the web!**

Phone: 715-687-4110

Fax: 715-687-3541

Email: [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org)

Return Service Requested

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>9am Worship/ Communion</i>	2 <i>6pm Worship Team Meeting</i>	3 <i>10 am Bible Study</i>	4 <i>6:30 pm Yoga 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting</i>	5	6 <i>Pastor Amy on vacation</i>	7 <i>Pastor Amy on vacation</i>
8 <i>9am Worship Pastor Amy on vacation</i>	9 <i>Pastor Amy on vacation</i>	10 <i>Pastor Amy on vacation</i>	11 <i>3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Yoga</i>	12	13	14
15 <i>9am Worship/ Communion First Communion Class following worship. 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ</i>	16 <i>6pm Executive Team Meeting</i>	17 <i>6 pm Evangelism Team Meeting</i>	18 <i>6:30 pm Yoga</i>	19	20	21
22 <i>9am Worship/ Communion 11am Germanfest</i>	23 <i>6pm Council Meeting</i>	24	25 <i>3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Yoga</i>	26	27 <i>12pm—3pm High School event in Family Center</i>	28
29 <i>Reformation 9am Worship/ Communion Healing Service First Communion</i>	30	31 <i>Trunk or Treat</i>				

Date	10/1/2023 Pent 18 9:00 AM	10/8/2023 Pent 19 9:00 AM	10/15/2023 Pent 20 9:00 AM	10/22/2023 Pent 21 9:00 AM	10/29/2023 Reformation Sunday 9:00 AM	11/5/2023 All Saints Sunday 9:00 AM	
Assisting Minister	Riley Spindler	Brenda Huther	Dan Thompson	Connor Kreft	Carmella Moon	Darla Leick	
Reader	Riley Spindler	Brenda Huther	Terry Schoenherr	Connor Kreft	June Krueger	Darla Leick	
Acolytes	Jackson & Jevin Spindler	Ella Schultz Avery White	Brynn & Cooper Wiesman	Emmercyn Schiller Sierra Kreft	Charlotte & Nolan Peirce	Emmercyn Schiller Lily Cournoyer	
Ushers	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Frank & Angie Guralski	Tadd & Janet Schoenherr	Ryan & Trenton Cournoyer	
communion assistants	Riley Spindler Tadd Schoenherr Brenda Garrigan	.....	Lois Miller Dan & Rhonda Thompson	Connor Kreft Brenda Castellano Terry Schoenherr	Carmella Moon Pastor Amy	Brian & Darla Leick Casey Dasler	
communion steward	Sandy Andersen	.....	Rhonda Thompson	Patti Casperson	Sandy Andersen	Amy Grell	
Fellowship	Pat Emon, Angie Guralski, Amy Reno	Barb Wrench	Bryce & Angela Ford	Germanfest	Eddy & Ann Peterson	Sharla Dreikosen	
Host	Evangelism Brandon Aschenbrenner	Property Robin Curtis	Stewardship Amy Cournoyer	Worship Brian Stroetz	Faith Formation Ray White	FFYouth Casey Dasler	
Bell Ringer	Tom Schoenherr	Phil Schultz	Mark Andersen	Frank Guralski	Tadd Schoenherr	Trenton Cournoyer	
Media	Ted Dasler	Garrett Smazal	Rod Huther	Kevin Miller	Marge Kollmansberger	Rod Huther	
		No Communion		Germanfest?	HEALING		
					First Communion		