

Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal, MN

211 E. Robinson St (PO Box 236), Lake Crystal, MN 56055

www.zionluthlakecrystal.org

507-726-2849

Mission: To Make Jesus Known To All In Our Words and Actions

Day of Pentecost

May 31, 2020

In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship in our sanctuaries. We will gather as an online community for prayer and worship at 9:00 a.m., when our service is livestreamed on Zion's Facebook page.

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new!

Pentecost derives its name from the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest and the giving of the law on Mount Sinai fifty days after Passover. Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as God's presence within and among us. In Acts the Spirit arrives in rushing wind and flame, bringing God's presence to all people. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on his disciples, empowering them to forgive sin. We celebrate that we too are given the breath of the Holy Spirit and sent out to proclaim God's redeeming love to all the world.

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism/Confession & Forgiveness

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

P: In the waters of baptism God builds reconciliation
between the creation and the Creator,
and invites us to share in the dream of a world
that gives life to all people and creatures.
In the waters of baptism, God bids us
to die to our selfishness and be born again,
free to serve and love our neighbors.

So, come to the waters,
to confess your sin and put your selfish ways to death.
Come to the waters,
to hear you are forgiven and accept God's invitation to new life again.

Time of silence for self-reflection

P: Most merciful God, the whole world is groaning.
The earth is groaning beneath the relentless pursuit of more and more.
Daily we benefit from its destruction and do nothing.
Patients are groaning in pain and loneliness
as they suffer and die from Covid-19 and many other illnesses and diseases.
Daily we have reduced them to mere numbers
and treated them as if they are disposable for the sake of our own comfort.
Inmates, refugees, and the institutionalized
are groaning for humane treatment, to not be forgotten.
Daily we find ways not to see them,
to ignore their plight and provide no relief.
Black and brown bodies in this country are groaning for dignity and freedom.

We breathe too easily while they gasp for air.
Daily we perpetuate systemic racism
and fail our siblings who need us to speak out, to care, and to work for change.

**C: Forgive us for living comfortably, deaf to the groans of this broken world
and blind to the ways we keep it broken.
Forgive us for our misplaced outrage about insignificant things
while we allow suffering to persist right before our eyes.
Forgive us for idle words, feigning helplessness, and our empty sorries.
Forgive us for not trusting the Holy Spirit to help us do what is right and good.
In the muck of our sin we don't know how to pray as we ought.
We beg your Holy Spirit to intercede for us.
With sighs deeper than words, cleanse our hearts,
forgive our sins and strengthen us
for resurrection that overcomes all evil, in ourselves, our church, and in our world.
Amen.**

P: Beloved, in the waters of baptism God welcomes us into the beloved community
where all are seen, the truth is told, and sins are confessed and forgiven.
Before you poured out your confession
God was ready with outstretched arms of costly forgiveness.
The truth is nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.
Daily, may God's forgiveness empower you to live
as the ones who are baptized of water and the Spirit,
forgiven and freed to love one another
and work for justice and peace in all the earth.
In Christ, + you are forgiven and freed to work for justice and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn - "Spirit of Gentleness" (performed by Sheldon Meyer)

*Refrain: Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.*

*You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." **Refrain***

*You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **Refrain***

"Spirit of Gentleness" Text and Music by James K. Manley © 1978 James K. Manley, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-723841.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together.

C: O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God

From Pentecost until September 1, we join fellow Christians in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Episcopal Church USA in this prayer.

**C: God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Reading: Acts 1:1-21 (Read by Linda Isebrand)

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'"

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (Read by Mackenzie Jones)

²⁴How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵**Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too many to number,
living things both small and great.**
²⁶There go the ships to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the sport of it.
²⁷**All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.**
²⁸You give it to them; they gather it;
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.
²⁹**When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.**
³⁰You send forth your Spirit, and they are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.
³¹**May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
O LORD, rejoice in all your works.**
³²You look at the earth and it trembles;
you touch the mountains and they smoke.
³³**I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my being.**
³⁴May these words of mine please God.
I will rejoice in the LORD.
^{35b}**Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Hallelujah!**

Gospel: John 20:19-23

P: The holy gospel according to St. John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week [when Jesus had appeared to Mary], and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the [religious authorities], Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Music Offering: "O Day Full of Grace"

(performed by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians' Virtual Choir)

*O day full of grace that now we see
appearing on earth's horizon,
bring light from our God that we may be
abundant in his joy this season.
God, shine for us now in this dark place;
your name on our hearts emblazon.*

*O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
for Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.*

*For Christ bore our sins, and not his own,
when he on the cross was hanging;
and then he arose and moved the stone,
that we, unto him belonging,
might join with angelic hosts to raise
our voices in endless singing.*

*God came to us then at Pentecost,
the Spirit new life revealing,
that we might no more in death be lost,
its power over us dispelling.
This flame will the mark of sin efface
and bring to us all true healing.*

*When we on that final journey go
that Christ is for us preparing,
we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow,
all joy of the heavens sharing,
and there we will join God's endless praise,
with angels and saints adoring.*

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Prayers of Intercession

P: On this day of Pentecost we unite in prayer, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

You are invited to respond:

P: For ... we pray:

C: Come, Holy Spirit!

P: With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal

care; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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 and Sending

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Dismissal**

P: Christ is risen, just as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

You are invited to join us at 10:00 am for our Virtual Coffee Hour! We will meet via Zoom, and you can join us by clicking this link: [Virtual Coffee Hour](#). (Note: If you will be connecting from a smartphone or tablet, you will need to download the Zoom Client app from www.zoom.us/downloads)

+Prayer Requests +

- For those who mourn: Family and friends of Norma Ellanson (mother of Scott and Nancy Ellanson and Kristi & Gary Grindstaff).
- For those in need of help and/or healing: Al Hutchens, Janet Atkinson, Dee Firchau (mother of Kelly Karels), Warner Beckmann, Barry Jacques, Tim Anderson, Taylor Antony, Sadie and Elsie Sorensen, Tiana Iverson, John Greenough, Jan Barnick (daughter-in-law of Dorothy Barnick), Lonnie Honstad, Jeff Dunker, Cole Barden, Erin Visker, Donald Schmidt, Maddie Teigen, and Jed Visker.
- For those who are deployed: Evan Masters (brother of Chelsea Copeland).
- For all those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, especially those who are sick or recovering, for the dying and those who grieve, and for leaders of communities, businesses, and churches tasked with developing policies and plans as they re-gather in new ways. For nurses, physicians, and other healthcare workers, that God will grant them respite. For those who are struggling to pay for rent or other basic expenses due to a change of income, that God would provide a safety net and new opportunities. For global health organizations, that they will cooperate to share resources and research and minimize loss of life to a common threat. For students and families preparing for a summer that will be missing the usual activities and trips, that they will discover new ways to find relaxation and renewal. For communities everywhere, that we will demonstrate care for our neighbor as we continue to navigate the present crisis.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, May 31	Service of the Word (Facebook)	9:00 am
	Music from Sheldon Meyer (Facebook)	9:30 am
	Virtual Coffee Hour (Click this Zoom Link)	10:00 am
Monday, June 1	Bible Study (Zoom Link)	11:00 am
Sunday, June 7	Service of the Word (Facebook)	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Send Zion your mask photos!** One of the ways our community is loving and serving our neighbors is with masks - wearing them, making them, donating for them, delivering them. Please send Zion your mask pictures so they can be included in a future worship service! Email to photos@zionluthlakecrystal.org or text to Pastor Andrea: 507-402-1114.
- **Sign up today for the new Zion News email list** and receive periodic updates about worship and life at Zion Lutheran! A signup form is located on the church website. Email will allow us to share more frequent updates with our church family, which is especially important as the present health crisis continues to impact our ministry.

- **Invitation to Ecumenical Prayer:** From Pentecost Sunday through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and her Episcopal counterpart Presiding Bishop Michael Curry welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray “A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit Among the People of God.” This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – will connect us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.
- **Please give us your input regarding Online Worship and Fellowship.** The Worship, Music, and Adult Education Team invites you to complete a brief online survey to help us gather feedback and suggestions regarding our current online offerings for worship and fellowship. Your participation will help our efforts to meet members where they are, and keep them engaged in congregational life during the present disruptions. **The survey will be open until June 1** and can be found at: <https://forms.gle/5ratSt22aDLMWNsX6>
- **Caring Coins donations** will be received through today and will be divided between *Partners for Affordable Housing* (April’s designee for which gifts were not collected) and *Committee Against Domestic Abuse* (May’s designee). Gifts can be given by check, cash or through regular eGiving options (online or the Give+ app). If paying by check or with cash, be sure to indicate that your gift is for Caring Coins so our weekly counters are aware. Thank you for your kindness and generosity during these challenging times!
- **ECHO Food Shelf Food Drive!** Zion Lutheran Church of Lake Crystal and Cornerstone United Methodist Church of Lake Crystal are joining together to set up a food drive for the ECHO Food Shelf in Mankato. The collection date to pick up food is Saturday, June 6th. All items should be in plastic bags and set out on the curb by 10:00 am. We are looking for volunteers to pick up and deliver food as well as food donations. Contact Rod Isebrand: 507-380-3351 or randli@mchsi.com. Volunteers will meet at 10:00 at Zion Lutheran Church on that morning. **Items needed include toilet paper, soap, shampoo, tooth paste, deodorant, and tooth brushes.** Food needs include canned chicken, canned tuna, peanut butter, flour, sugar, canned vegetables and cooking oil. Please check expiration dates. Cash Donations are also accepted. Checks should be made out to ECHO Food Shelf. Thank you for your help supporting community needs!
- **Thank you for your faithful financial support of Zion’s ministries** during this challenging time. It’s been wonderful to see how many of you have continued to share your offerings as you’d planned for 2020. Offering can be mailed to the Church Office (PO Box 236, Lake Crystal) or dropped off at the church. Please consider our eGiving options for making one-time or recurring donations electronically. Details available at: <https://www.zionluthlakecrystal.org/giving>.
- **Church Office Update:** If you are picking up or dropping off materials for the Church Office, please use the table in the Narthex provided for that purpose, in order to limit traffic in the Church Office and protect our staff. Visitors in the church building are expected to wear masks or other face coverings. **New summer office hours begin Monday: 8-2:30 pm Mon, Wed and Thursday, 8-noon Tuesday, and closed on Fridays.**
- **In-Person worship services continue to be suspended until further notice.** Worship services are being streamed via Facebook so that we can gather as a virtual community for prayer, reflection, and praise.

Plans are being developed for the time when we are able to resume in-person worship services. We will need to plan for sufficient physical distancing as well as mitigate the risks of virus spread through the aerosols that are an inevitable part of breathing, speaking, and singing as we usually do in worship. One possibility under consideration is to hold smaller, possibly outdoor services while continuing to gather online on Sunday mornings.

As future plans come together, Zion leaders will be guided by public health recommendations from our synod, the ELCA, and our state officials. If you have questions or concerns, please contact a member of our Worship, Music, & Adult Education team (Mackenzie Jones, Mary Goodrich, and Jan Becker), our current Zion president (Dan Lewis), or Pastor Andrea.

- **In-Person Zion activities for small groups may now resume**, and the Congregation Council has approved the following guidelines so that these groups can meet safely.
 - No more than 10 people, including leaders, will meet in the building at any time.
 - Only certain places of the building should be occupied (for cleaning purposes): Narthex, Fellowship Hall, New Bathrooms.
 - Groups should contact the church office (507-276-2849) to reserve the building.
 - Visitors will register at the front door with sign in and sign out.
 - Social distancing must be observed (6+ feet).
 - Wearing masked is expected.
 - No singing or unison speaking/praying (Lord's Prayer).
 - No communal food or beverages, and no use of the kitchen (may bring your own, but no sharing).

Zion groups should observe these guidelines whether they're meeting in the building or elsewhere. Phone or video conferencing options should continue to be used when appropriate, particularly for individuals over 65 and those with underlying health conditions (such as heart or lung disease or diabetes) who are at greater risk of severe illness or death from Covid-19. If your group would like assistance with setting up a Zoom video conference, please reach out to Pastor Andrea.

- **News and updates** are being shared primarily through the church website and Facebook and, when appropriate, by mail. The May newsletter was mailed May 27.
- **Pastor Andrea is available for conversation and prayer!** Please reach out to her by phone or text at 507-402-1114. She's also happy to schedule one-on-one pastoral visits via Zoom video conferencing.
- **The Monday "Dwelling on the Word" study is now meeting online via Zoom.** Newcomers are always welcome to join in this time of prayer, reflection and conversation centered around the gospel reading for the upcoming Sunday. To join us on Monday at 11:00, please go to: <https://zoom.us/j/322134420>.

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Thanksgiving for Baptism/Confession adapted from a resource by Pastor Libby Howe, La Crosse Area Synod, based on Romans 8:18-39 © 2020 Used by permission. Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com. © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS47401. Hymns and songs reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-723841 and CCLI License #2388250. Scripture readings from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.