



*Zion*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# NEWS

August 2025

## From the Vicar's Desk...



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## A Year in Review

I have been honored to serve as your third vicar this past year! When I was placed here at Zion, one of the first things I heard about this church is that it's a great vicarage placement. I also heard a lot about the Corn Palace and that I had to go check it out! Since then, I have found that this truly is a great place to serve as a vicar, and we got to see the Corn Palace many times. My kids love sitting on the red tractor there!

Pastor Grimmer has been a great pastor to have as a supervisor. He has taught me many things that I will take with me in my own ministry as a pastor. Whether it was preaching, teaching, or visiting with members, I learned something new. When I had my interview with the vicarage placement director, I asked that I would get a lot of preaching and teaching experience. Zion sure delivered on that request, and I'm very thankful for it. I had the opportunity to do both things very frequently. Preaching every other week and for the Advent/Lent midweek services gave me a lot of exposure in the pulpit and gave me the chance to grow my skills in that area. I also appreciated all the times I got to teach on various things, whether it was Bible studies in the morning during the week, Sunday morning bible study between services, or confirmation/new member classes. With these experiences, I learned how to apply the Bible and Christian theology to everyday life and in a variety of circumstances. And learning to do that kind of application is what vicarage is all about.

I especially appreciated heading some of my own things. My Sunday Bible studies and the Lenten sermon series were a chance for me to choose and craft my own lesson plans/sermon plans. There I was able to figure out how to communicate the information while teaching and apply the text of the Bible for people in the sermons.

*(continued on page 2)*

# Congregational News

Sanctuary Care  
August  
Karen Lunn

Altar Guild  
August  
Karen Lunn



## A Year in Review

(continued from page 1)

It's one thing to learn a bunch of stuff from reading textbooks and things like that in class, but it's entirely another thing to apply the information in the parish context to give spiritual care and adapt when needed. That is why I appreciate the system we have in the LCMS—that the third year of seminary is to expose the student to a real-life experience in a church so that he can learn to use his knowledge for practical purposes. Now, I hope to go back and use what I've learned here “in the field” to finish my schooling at CTSFW.

I am truly grateful to have served you all here at Zion for this past year. Thank you for all the support and prayers, allowing me to use this time to grow, and for your feedback this year! It seems to have gone by so fast and I am sad to leave. I hope that my time here has been a benefit to you, and I ask that you pray for me and my family as I finish my last year at seminary.

In Christ,  
Vicar Christensen

## Confirmation Retreat

Gregory, SD

Friday, August 8  
to Saturday,  
August 9

Theme:  
You Are the Man!

Contact Pastor  
Grimmer if you  
are interested.

## Thank You From Vicar Christensen

Thank you to everyone who gave us a great send off as I end my vicarage at Zion! I am very grateful for all of you and I thank those of you who gave gifts and cards. It was my pleasure to serve all of you and I will always be appreciative of your care for my family and I as I finish this step in my seminary education. I will keep you all in my prayers and I ask that you pray for me and my family as I finish my education and, by God's will, receive a call as a pastor in the LCMS.

In Christ,  
Vicar Christensen

## Mark your calendar!

Faith Foundations — Sunday morning education hour for all ages — begins September 7. Please visit the website to register your family at [zionmitchell.org](http://zionmitchell.org).



# What Will Happen to Me If I Don't Attend Church?

Written by [Lutheran Spokesman](#) | July, 2015 used by permission  
James Albrecht is pastor of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church in Okabena, Minnesota.

## Short answer: Nothing!

No lightning bolt will fall from the sky warning you about spiritual danger. No one will return from the dead to plead with you about using your time of grace wisely. Nothing visibly upsetting may happen at all. In time, your conscience problems will go away, as well. Soon, there will be enough of a callus that you won't feel a thing.

Jesus shared the account of the Rich Man and Lazarus in order to bring focus to this very issue. The man who *"fared sumptuously every day"* failed to realize that while he felt alive and well satisfied, he was severely malnourished and dead. His soul and conscience had flat-lined, evidenced by an obvious lack of concern for his neighbor in need. Nothing happened to him, of course. Until he died. Then oh, how he wished that God would send Abraham back from the dead to warn his brothers! "Nothing doing," to paraphrase the response. *"They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them"* (Luke 16:29).

The apostle Paul testified before Felix and Drusilla at Caesarea. They had front-row seats in an opportunity of a lifetime, but brushed aside the invitation and call to repentance. *"Go away for now; when I have a convenient time, I will call for you"* (Acts 24:25). As far as we know, nothing happened: no further discussion, no repentance, and no faith. Nothing.

As they passed through Samaria, James and John earned their nickname, "Sons of Thunder," for wanting to call down fire from heaven. The target was a village of Samaritans who did not care to welcome Jesus to their town. "If that's how they feel," the two surmised, "then allow us to give them the judgment they deserve." But no fire flashed from the sky. No plague ravaged that community. Instead, nothing happened at all. Jesus simply by-passed the town. No miracles were performed. No Gospel was preached. No sinners were saved (Luke 9:54-56).

**Where nothing happens, there is no spiritual growth. Where there is no spiritual growth, there is spiritual atrophy.** Some will remember the days when having a baby landed the mother in the hospital for two weeks. Total bed rest seemed like the best treatment after the rigors of labor. Today we know that it was the worst thing to do. When the new mom finally got out of the hospital, she was so weakened by the days of doing nothing that she could barely handle the duties of motherhood.

**Faith grows through the Gospel. Where Christ is preached, hearers are blessed and made stronger. It works that way, not because the preacher is so dynamic or the music so uplifting, but because God operates through His Word and Sacraments. These are the tools He supplies for our spiritual good. If you knew that Jesus would be in your church on Sunday to bless your children, to put His hand on your shoulder, to personally assure you of His forgiveness and love, would you be there? He is there, and He does that through the Gospel.**

**What if you can't make it on a Sunday? What if your ox falls in a pit and you need to get it out? (Luke 14:5) Then get it out. But, as the old joke goes, "If it falls in the pit every Sunday, you'd better either fill in the pit or get a new ox."**

If you can't come to church, ask your pastor about ways the church might come to you: video recordings, printed sermons, online services and so forth. But do it before nothing happens.



# Vacation Bible School

## STELLAR VBS

21 volunteers (music, games, crafts, lunch, crew leaders, Bible Lessons & more)

19 kids (ages K-6th)

8 hours

5 Bible Lessons

4 Rotations of crafts, games, and music

3 Breaks for food

2 wonderful (and worn out) Clergy (Pastor Grimmer and Vicar Christensen)

1 Amazing day learning about our **Stellar** Lord



Zion hosted a one-day, all-day VBS in our new Ministry Center on Wednesday, July 16. Our theme, Stellar VBS, which was a Space theme, had the kids learning 5 Bible Lessons, led by Pastor Grimmer and Vicar Christensen.

- Jesus Comes as a baby to be king (Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-2:12)
- Jesus accepts Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9)
- Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king (Luke 19:28-40)
- Jesus cares for his mother during his crucifixion (John 19:20)
- Philip helps the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39)

**Thank you** to all of our volunteers who helped make this VBS a success.





# VBS (continued)





# The Lutheran Difference Bible Study

## The Lutheran Difference

### Angels and Demons



When you hear the word *angel*, what image comes to mind? Clarence from the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*? Harp-carrying spirits lounging on white tufts of cloud? Cupid from your Valentine?

On the other hand, what comes to mind when you hear the words *demon* or *devil*? Hellboy from the movie or comic book? Various creatures from *The Lord of the Rings*? Or when you think about angels and demons, do you think of those comical creatures sitting on someone's shoulders—a winged angel in white on one shoulder and a demon with a pitchfork and pointy tail sitting on the other?



Our new topic in *The Lutheran Difference* Bible study will share the truth about angels and demons using God's errorless Word. What the *Bible* says about angels, demons, and other related topics is vitally important to Lutherans because what God says about these matters can be trusted. As God's people, we want to grow in our understanding of what God has revealed in the Scriptures, so that we believe in what God teaches us about angels and demons and can share His knowledge with others.

Lutherans believe in angels! Good angels are spiritual beings that serve primarily as messengers and as ministering spirits both to God and to believers. Lutherans also believe in evil angels or demons! Both Jesus and the apostles encountered angels and demons in their respective ministries. Our lessons will include: Angels and Their Beginning; Who and What Are Angels; Ranks and Numbers of Angels; Good and Evil Angels; What Do Evil Angels Do? What Do Good Angels Do?

We meet Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8 pm at the Ministry Center, beginning August 19. Join us, won't you? Remember, our class is open to all ages, and you may come for the entire topic or pick and choose your lessons. Watch your bulletins for any updates. You may read Psalm 148:1-5 in preparation for lesson 1.

### Thank You From Pastor Grimmer

Thank you for all of the cards and gifts for the 10th anniversary of my ordination! It is a joy to serve as your pastor, and I'm grateful for all of you. Thank you to everyone who attended the party and a special thank you to Russ Whaley for organizing it.

# Congregational News

## Our Annual October Voters' Meeting is Approaching

If you have business to bring before the congregation, please submit it to the Church Council at the August or September meeting. This allows time for review, a preliminary recommendation, and advance notice to the congregation—ensuring members have the opportunity to ask questions and offer input ahead of the meeting.

This year, the Council will also propose bylaw revisions concerning voter registration and quorum requirements. Currently, voters must attend at least one regular meeting in the past two years to retain voting status. The proposed change would grant all members age 18 and older full voting privileges, regardless of meeting attendance, to encourage broader participation in congregational decisions.

Look for more details in the September and October newsletters.

## Thank you from Heart & Sole

To our incredible supporters,

Thank you for your invaluable support of the Heart & Sole Cancer Walk/Run. This event is more than a race—it's a beacon of hope for cancer patients in Mitchell and the surrounding area. Your generosity enables us to alleviate the financial burdens of cancer, allowing families to focus on healing and recovery. Whether you participated by walking, running, cheering, volunteering, or donating, your actions have profoundly impacted our community. Together, we are proving that unity and compassion can overcome even the toughest challenges. Your dedication inspires us, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you in the future.

With heartfelt gratitude, Heart & Sole Cancer Walk/Run Committee

*\*\$500 was donated to Heart & Sole by Zion's Thrivent Choice.*

## Zion Family Pool Night!

Join us for Zion Family Pool Night on Sunday, August 10th, from 6 PM to 8 PM at the Mitchell Outdoor Aquatic Center! We want everyone to be able to participate, so if you don't have a pool pass, don't worry! Just sign up at the door, and K+F+C will happily cover your admission fees. Just a friendly reminder: this is a supervised family event, so please ensure an adult is present with your group throughout the evening. We're looking forward to a wonderful night with you all!



## Zion's Annual Golf Outing!

Get ready for some fun on the green! Zion's annual Golf Outing is set for Sunday, August 10, at 1:00 PM at Lakeview Municipal Golf Course.

How to Sign Up:

- Register easily online at [www.zionmitchell.org/event](http://www.zionmitchell.org/event).
- Prefer paper? Grab a registration form in the narthex.

We're looking for friendly faces to join our USHER team! Ushers play a vital role in making everyone feel welcome and ensuring our services run smoothly. If you're willing to help, please contact Larry Titze. Your service makes a difference!

# Church Council Minutes—July 16, 2025

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

- I. Call to Order & Devotion-Vicar Christensen opened the meeting with prayer. Members present: Shannon Bartscher, Julie Harnisch, Brian Schuldt, Mark E. Nagel, Russell Whaley, Pastor Grimmer, Vicar Christensen, Loren Wegehaupt, Gary Worth, Douglas Schley, Jason Von Eye, Diane Sullivan
- II. Congregation Member Comments - none
- III. Adoption of the Agenda – A motion to accept the adoption of the agenda with the addition of a request to have our blood drives in the Ministry Center was made by Loren, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug, motion carried.
- IV. Reports
  - A. Secretary's Report – Shannon made a motion to accept the secretary's report. Brian 2<sup>nd</sup> the meeting, motion carried.
  - B. Financial Report – Shannon reported inflow \$296,000 and outflows \$358,000 year to date. Loren reported a total of \$562,765 in Vanguard accounts. Brian made a motion to accept the financial report. Travis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried.
  - C. Pastor Grimmer's Report – Pastor Grimmer reported talking to Jen re: clarifying her cleaning duties and the schedule. The freezer is working now after being repaired.
  - D. Board Reports
    1. Youth & Parish Education – Julie reported that VBS was held today with a total of 19 kids in kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> grade and many volunteers. The curriculum is being worked on for 2025-2026 Faith Foundations. The senior high youth are leaving Friday morning for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. There is a total of 15 attending including kids and chaperones. Family night at the city pool will be on August 10th.
    2. Elders
      - a. Official Acts being reported – Audrey Doty passed on 6-17-25 with her funeral on 6-23-25.
      - b. Issues brought to Elders by members to report to council - none
      - c. On Sunday, July 20th there will be a thank you for the Christensen's with donuts between services. The kids will sing at 9:15.
      - d. Vicar Christensen will be moving out on July 23rd. Move in day for the Moore's is on July 30th. On August 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a meal welcoming Vicar Moore and family.
      - e. There will be a new member brunch between services on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
      - f. Plans for a new picture church directory are being working on.
    3. Trustees
      4. a. Gary presented a contract for discussion to have the fire system serviced annually. Travis made a motion to accept the annual service contract for the fire system for \$565 yearly. Shannon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried.
      - b. A washer/dryer combo for the vicarage and one for the ministry center is discussed. Gary got a bid for \$1,999 each. The regular price is \$2,400 each. Discussion for the need at the Ministry Center included the need to clean the pads for the floor scrubber and kitchen dish towels and



# Church Council Minutes continued

rag. Doug made motion to purchase 2 washer/dryer combos. Gary 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried.

## E. Committee Reports

1. Stewardship Committee – no report
2. Building Committee - disbanded

## V. Business

### A. Unfinished Business

1. Rental House – the previous renter will be contacted to be inform him that the electricity will be turned off soon to give him time to remove any remaining belongings.
2. Furnishing the Vicarage – There have been many items donated. Donated items will be moved into the vicarage on July 26th starting at 8 am.

### B. New Business

1. Annual Nonprofit Corporation Report needs to be filed. Russ will sign.
2. Establish Nomination Committee to prepare for the leadership election at the October voter meeting. Appointed was Russell Whaley, Randall Holmquist, Mark Nagel and Pastor Grimmer.
3. 3. Establish Budget Committee to look at the current year's expenses and propose a budget for the coming year to be presented at the October voter meeting. Appointed was Eric Schramm, Shannon Bartscher, Loren Wegehaupt, Gary Worth, and Pastor Grimmer.
4. Review all officer/council job descriptions/responsibilities, update as needed and forward to church office. These will be e-mailed to the council members.
5. Constitution bi-laws regarding voter registration & quorum – Options of possible changes were discussed. Will discuss further at next meeting.
6. Voter meetings – Options for possible changes will be discussed at the August meeting.
7. A request by LifeServe to have future blood drives at the Ministry Center was discussed. Doug made a motion to allow LifeServe to use the Ministry Center for our blood drives. Brian 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried.

VI. Next Council meeting – Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 7:30pm

VII. Adjournment & Prayer – Shannon made a motion to adjourn. Doug 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, motion carried.  
The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Sullivan, Council Secretary

# The Family Altar

Readings and prayers for Lutheran families.

Try the online edition!

[www.zionmitchell.org/the-family-altar](http://www.zionmitchell.org/the-family-altar)



THE FAMILY ALTAR

## Aug 3-9: Trinity 7

*The Sanctification of the Body*

**Psalm** Psalm 47

**Hymn** "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good" LSB 819

**Scripture Memory** "Present your members as slaves to righteousness." Romans 6:19

**Catechism Memory** None (Summer break)

	First Reading	Second Reading
Sun	Mark 8:1-9	Rom. 6:19-23
Mon	Mark 8:13-21	Romans 6:12-18
Tues	James 3:1-10	Romans 6:12-18
Wed	1 Cor. 6:19-20	Luke 11:34-36
Thurs	Mark 9:43-50	Gal. 4:12-20
Fri	Rom. 12:1-2	Matt. 10:26-33
Sat	1 Cor. 9:24-27	1 Cor. 15:35-45

## Aug 10-16: Trinity 8

*Fruits of the Spirit*

**Psalm** Psalm 48

**Hymn** "In God, My Faithful God" LSB 745

**Scripture Memory** "Walk as children of the light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true." Eph. 5:8-9

**Catechism Memory** None (Summer break)

	First Reading	Second Reading
Sun	Matt 7:15-21	Rom. 8:12-17
Mon	Matt. 5:13-16	John 8:31-36
Tues	Gal. 6:7-10	Matt. 12:33-37
Wed	Jas. 2:14-17	Col. 1:3-11
Thurs	1 Cor. 12:12-26	1 Cor. 12:27-13:3
Fri	Phil. 1:6-11	Phil. 2:12-18
Sat	Matt. 21:18-22	Rev. 14:14-20

## Aug 17-23: Trinity 9

*The Wise Steward*

**Psalm** Psalm 54

**Hymn** "How Firm a Foundation" LSB 728

**Scripture Memory** "Look carefully how you walk, not as unwise but as wise." Eph. 5:15

**Catechism Memory** None (Summer break)

	First Reading	Second Reading
Sun	Luke 16:1-9	1 Cor. 10:1-13
Mon	Eccles. 9:13-18	Prv. 8:11-21
Tues	Luke 16:10-13	Prov. 16:1-9
Wed	Jas. 3:13-18	1 Pet. 3:1-6
Thurs	1 Tim. 4:12-16	1 Kings 3:16-28
Fri	Matt. 10:16-23	Matt. 13:44-46
Sat	Luke 12:54-59	Luke 12:42-48

## Aug 24-30: Trinity 10

*God and His People*

**Psalm** Psalm 33

**Hymn** "Spread the Reign of God the Lord" LSB 830


**Scripture Memory** "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34

**Catechism Memory** None (Summer break)

	First Reading	Second Reading
Sun	Luke 19:41-47	1 Cor. 12:1-11
Mon	1 Tim. 2:1-7	Deut. 7:6-11
Tues	Neh. 4:1-15	Exod. 17:8-15
Wed	1 Pet. 2:13-16	1 Kings 21:1-21
Thurs	Rom. 13:1-7	Jer. 29:4-9
Fri	Jer. 18:1-6	Deut. 32:3-12
Sat	Rom. 9:1-5	Rom. 11:25-32



## Those Serving in August

	August 3 - 8:00am	August 3-10:30am
	Head Usher Randy Holmquist Ushers Kobi Lutjens Chris Fischer Alan Rickel	Travis Schnabel Noah Schnabel Larry Weigandt Carl Bode
Acolytes	Easton Hohn	Henry Patzer
	August 10 - 8:00am	August 10-10:30am
Head Usher Bryan Flanagan Ushers Zach Flanagan Nathan Flanagan Larry Stolz		Loren Brech Dave Buchmann Chris Foster Christian Foster
Acolytes	Elijah Fischer	Hudson Meylor
	August 17 - 8:00am	August 17-10:30am
Head Usher Larry Titze Ushers Adam Schulz Chris Wehrmann Larry Stolz		Chad Popp Dave Schmidt Rob Mayer Ben Kostal
Acolytes	Levi Iburg	Evelyn Keenan
	August 24- 8:00am	August 24-10:30am
Head Usher Doug Schley Ushers Jeff Schuldt Frank Luczak Larry Titze		Travis Schnabel Rod Neugebauer Noah Schnabel John Fink
Acolytes	Jase Guthmiller	Celia Henrickson
	August 31- 8:00am	August 31-10:30am
Head Usher Randy Holmquist Ushers Adam Schulz Chris Wehrmann Frank Luczak		Loren Brech Mark Nagel Luke Nagel Shawn Nagel
Acolytes	Easton Hohn	Samuel Dunn

*If you are not able to serve when scheduled, please find a replacement. Thank you!*

# August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Offices Closed - Pastor/Vicar's Day Off	2
3 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service Welcome BBQ for Vicar Moore	4 9:30am Staff Meeting 1pm Quilting 6:30pm Trail Life Meeting	5	6 1pm COFFEE Bible Study 6:30pm Board of Education	7	8 Offices Closed - Pastor/Vicar's Day Off	9
					Confirmation Retreat @ Gregory, SD	
10 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service 1pm Zion Golf Tournament 6pm Zion Night at the Pool	11 9:30am Staff Meeting 10:30am Service @ Countryside	12	13 1pm COFFEE Bible Study 5:30pm Elder Meeting	14	15 Offices Closed - Pastor/Vicar's Day Off	16
17 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service	18 9:30am Staff Meeting 11am Service @ Edgewood 1pm Quilting 6:30pm Trail Life Meeting	19 6:30 The Lutheran Difference Bible Study	20 1pm COFFEE Bible Study 7:30pm Council Meeting	21 Newsletter Articles Due	22 Offices Closed - Pastor/Vicar's Day Off	23
24 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service	25 9:30am Staff Meeting 4pm Service @ Wesley Acres	26 8:45am Newsletter Assembly 6:30 The Lutheran Difference Bible Study	27 1pm COFFEE Bible Study	28	29 Offices Closed - Pastor/Vicar's Day Off	30
31 8am Divine Service 10:30am Divine Service						