



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
210 North Wayne
Street
Saint Marys, OH
45885

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025
6:30 p.m.

PRELUDE

Pianist: Doris Cook

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG *"Take My Life, That I May Be" (vs. 1-3)* #685

CONFESSION / ASSURANCE

L: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son (+),
and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Hear us O God.

C: We confess to you Almighty God, before the whole company
of heaven, that we have sinned by our own fault, in thought,
word and deed; we pray you have mercy on us, forgive us all
our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

L: May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you
from all of your sins and give you time to amend your life.

GOD'S WORD TO US Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26 Insert

SERMON

Lay Leader Heidi Yahl

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

L: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace, now and forever.
C: Amen.

SONG *"Take My Life, That I May Be"* (vs. 3-6) #685

POSTLUDE Pianist: Doris Cook

Usher: Dora McAfee

Memory Verse: Colossians 3:3
 "Your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost – August 3, 2025

¹⁵ When ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

- Luke 12:16-21 -

In the rhetorical technique of hyperbole, one exaggerates to prove a point. To this end, one might use a contrived example that is ludicrous and comical in its extreme as an exaggerated version of the problem one is seeking to expose. The purpose of doing this is to show how bad something truly is. This is precisely what Jesus does in the parable of the rich fool. He uses a contrived and exaggerated example to expose the stupidity of covetousness.

In the parable this stupidity is evident in the behavior of the rich fool. He is so blinded by greed that he tears down his existing barns and builds new ones just to hold more of his stuff. But we might well ask, "Wouldn't it be cheaper to share one's excess than to tear down one's barns and replace them with new ones? And even assuming that one needed more storage space, wouldn't it be cheaper to build additional barns than to replace the existing ones?" But this is just the point that Jesus is making. The rich fool is so blinded by his covetousness that he can't think straight. As a result, he does comically stupid things.

According to the Apostle Paul, covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). And the blinding nature of idolatry is evident in the parable. The rich fool forgot that he was God's creature and that God had given him all his stuff. He therefore forgot that God owned him and all his stuff. Instead, he worshipped himself and his stuff rather than God. As a result, he laid up treasure for himself and forgot to be rich toward God. And since he and his entire estate belonged to God in the first place, he actually defrauded God in his lack of generosity.

Sadly, the rich fool is a picture of us. In the rich fool, we see the bondage of our will in sin. In the rich fool, we see that we are truly curved in on ourselves in idolatry and self-worship. But there is some good news in the midst of this picture. If we are concerned about these tendencies of ourselves, this is a sign that God has already freed us from our bondage to sin by his powerful grace. By contrast, the rich fool went headlong into his idolatry, oblivious and unconcerned, until it was too late.

ATTENDANCE Wednesday: 12
 Sunday: 8 a.m.: 31 & 10:30 a.m.: 34
 Total for the Day: 65
 Total for Week: 77
 Organist Merilee Miller
 Pianist Miriam Johns
 OFFICE MANAGER Kathy Bishir, kbishir@hotmail.com
 OFFICE ASSISTANT Samantha Franklin, sbishir@hotmail.com
 LAY LEADER Heidi Yahl, heidiyahl@yahoo.com
 LAY LEADER ASSISTANT Ruth Hoenie
 PASTOR Vice-Pastor Paul Gruetter
 MINISTERS All Members of Zion
 CHURCH WEBSITE www.zionstmarys.org
 CHURCH OFFICE 419-394-3115

Calendar for August 6th – August 20th

W/6	1:00 p.m.	Book Club
	6:30 p.m.	Worship Service*
S/10	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service*
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service*
T/12	8:00 a.m.	Men's Workshop
	9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
	12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
	6:00 p.m.	OCC Team Meeting
W/13	6:30 p.m.	Worship Service*
F/15	3:30 p.m.	Newsletter Information Deadline
S/17	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	9:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:45 a.m.	Sunday School Teachers Meeting
	1:15 p.m.	Creative Crafters
T/19	8:00 a.m.	Men's Workshop

9:00 a.m.	Dorcas Quilting
12:30 p.m.	Bulletin Information Deadline
W/20 6:30 p.m.	Worship Service
7:00 p.m.	Confirmation Information Meeting

**Holy Communion*

**Livestreamed on www.zionstmarys.org & on WCSM 96.7 Radio*



We invite you to include the following people in your daily prayers: Janet Dicke, Brent Paulus, Michael Moore, Tom Kaster, Vicki Bishir, Warren Hoenie, Carolyn Slemmons, Vicki Homan, Eileen Zimmerman, Paul Leasor, Amy Berner, Kurt Deitsch, Loretta Scott, Peggy Fowler, Victoria Hoenie, Ray Timmerman, Karen Rodgers, Ray & Becky Adams, the needs of two young adults, Tony Hardeman, Donna Maynard, Arie, Bethany, and Kenzie, and The Family of Richard Klinger, Sympathy to the Family of Christopher Brown and the Family of Eva Oxenreider.

Please pray for Sean Lawler, Andrew Johnson, Michael Carroll, Nathan Adams, Jacob Yahl, Daniel C. Lukac IV, Michael Franklin and Wyatt Duncan, who are in the service. Please pray for them, their family and their safe return home.

Pastor Paul Gruetter, serving as Zion's vice-pastor, can be reached at 567-201-3455 or paulgruetter@gmail.com. On the Wednesdays when Pastor Paul is leading our Wednesday evening worship service, he plans to arrive in St. Marys early and be available for visits and pastoral consultation, so feel free to contact him. August 13th, is the next Wednesday that Pastor Paul will be here, by 3:30 p.m.

We are collecting new or good used Bibles, to be given to the NALC warehouse. The NALC warehouse distributes the Bibles to those who have experienced a natural disaster and no longer have a Bible. Bibles can be placed in the container on the cart by the elevator.

Our loose offering for the month of **August** is earmarked to support the mission of the church, in supporting the college scholarship program

for our youth. The scholarship money assists our college students with tuition fees, through an application process set up by the church at the St. Marys Community Foundation website.

The Women of Zion are collecting bars of soap for Personal Care Kits. The soap may be placed in the blue tub by the elevator.

Church Picnic The rain did not dampen the friendship and fellowship at the annual church picnic. A heartfelt thanks to Hunter Coldiron for helping with the setup of tables and chairs, to those who brought delicious dishes to share, and to everyone who assisted with tear-down. Your contributions made for a truly blessed day!

Donations Needed: We have a family of five who is in need of groceries in our congregation. If you find it in your heart to donate boxed or canned goods, please place your donations earmarked "Five" by the elevator.

The Trustees wish to thank everyone who helped with the landscaping around the church last Saturday. Thank you for all of your hard work pulling the weeds, trimming and mowing, etc. We are truly grateful for the time you took to make the exterior of our church look great!

Congratulations to Debbie Green, who was the highest bidder on the quilt which was on display in July. Proceeds will go to local charities, designated by the Dorcas Quilters.

The 2025 Flower Chart is on the bulletin board by the alley entrance. We invite you to select the date you wish to provide flowers. On the **Tuesday** before the date you selected, order your arrangement from your favorite florist, and *contact the church office, 419-394-3115*, by 12:30 p.m., to let us know what information you would like included in the bulletin. The first six months of 2025 flower chart has been posted by the elevator. **Sign up early. Next available date is August 31st; September 7th & 28th.**

Zion's 2025 pulpit supply schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday, August 6th, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl*
- Sunday, August 10th, Pastor Paul Gruetter*
- Wednesday, August 13th, Pastor Paul Gruetter*
- Sunday, August 17th, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl
- Wednesday, August 20th, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl
- Sunday, August 24th, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl
- Wednesday, August 27th, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl
- Sunday, August 31st, Pastor Paul Gruetter*
- Wednesday, September 3rd, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl*
- Sunday, September 7th, Pastor Paul Gruetter*
- Wednesday, September 10th, Pastor Paul Gruetter*
- Sunday, September 14th, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl
- Wednesday, September 17, Lay Leader Heidi Yahl

**Holy Communion Service*

Summerfest weekend is **August 8-10**. A community worship service, sponsored by the St. Marys Ministerial Association, will be held on August 10, at 10 a.m., in the pavilion. Zion will be having our regular worship services that day at 8 & 10:30 a.m. We recognize that this service may impact some and the council decision is to continue to provide worship for those who wish to worship here that day.

Kingdom Harvest News It's almost time for the annual Jericho Prayer Walk at Memorial High School. This year's dates will be **Monday August 11th through Sunday August 17th**. We will gather each evening at 6:30 behind the school at the entrance to the Commons. After a short devotional you can either sit and pray or walk around the school and pray. Please join us as many nights as you are able. Each night will last 30 - 40 minutes. Children and teens are especially encouraged to join us! This is sponsored by Kingdom Harvest Ministries. Please join us!

The Creative Crafters meet on 17th: The August Craft includes a lanyard, perfect for back to school. The lanyard is something simple to make, and you can say "I made it myself". The date we will assemble the lanyards will be **Sunday, August 17th, at 1:15**

p.m., in the church lounge! Our 8-week study for the fall will be, The Augsburg Confession. For those who wish to participate in this study, please contact the church office by **8/25/25** to sign up so that a study guide can be ordered for you. You may also sign up on the "I Worship Today" bulletin insert. The cost of the study guide will be determined after the order is placed (typically around \$12-15). In addition to the study guide, you will need to purchase for yourself (if you don't already have, or can't find a copy to borrow), the book, Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions. The Concordia will be used along with the study guide and the Bible. Add to Pam's Monday night Bible study announcement: The church office will have 2 copies of the Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions to purchase for the Monday night Bible study. \$20 each. Let the office know if you are interested in this paperback book to go along with your Bible study. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Fledderjohann, 419-953-2334.

Members of Zion Lutheran are invited to our sister congregation First English Lutheran in Wapakoneta for a gathering of our Mission District on Saturday, September 6 from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event will include worship, lunch, and many opportunities to learn more about our common mission - and to meet people from the 11 congregations in our Mission District. More information, including a full schedule for the day, is available in the church office. (First English is located at 107 West Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta.)

The Board of Parish Education is announcing our **Sunday School Kick Off**, September 7th, at 9:15 a.m., in the auditorium. The theme will be "Wonder Junction. Marvel at Jesus, Live for His glory". Children ages 3 through 8th grade are invited to attend. We encourage parents and grandparents to bring their children and grandchildren to Sunday School. Please join us for a year of learning, crafts, games and snacks. The following weeks will meet in their classrooms.

The women of Zion will be starting back up in September on **Wednesday, September 10th** (7 p.m.) and **Thursday, September 11th**, (2 p.m.) with a Bible study "The Wise & The Foolish." Study books are \$10

p.m., in the craft room (second floor of the education building). The fee will be \$5 for fabric and materials. Sign up in the binder on display table in Narthex. This craft is for all ages.

The Board of Parish Education will be holding a short Sunday School Teachers meeting on **August 17th, at 11:45 a.m.**, in the lounge. All teachers please try to attend. Materials and information will be passed out at that time.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN It's time for Confirmation! Confirmation is a special ministry with and for 7th and 8th graders. It's a two year program to teach the basic beliefs of the Lutheran church and to help strengthen relationships with Jesus and each other.

There will be an information meeting about Confirmation on **Wednesday, August 20, at 7 p.m.**, in Zion's auditorium. You'll learn the schedule for the year, as well as expectations of the students for service and worship.

A letter is being sent to the prospective students that we know about. The congregation can help to make sure we don't miss anybody! If you know of someone in this age group who could be in Confirmation, invite them. Or pass their name and info along to the church office.

We're excited about this new year of teaching and learning. If you'd like more information, you can contact lay leader Heidi Yahl (heidiyahl@yahoo.com) or Pastor Paul Gruetter (paulgruetter@gmail.com).

We will have a blessing of the Backpacks at both services on Sunday, August 17th. All youth and college students are invited to bring your backpacks to worship. As our students carry their backpacks, may they be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

Women's Fellowship will resume on **Monday, September 8, 2025**. Everyone is welcomed to join our group on **Monday evenings at 7**

Weekly Budget	31 Week Budget	31 Week Income	Received 8/3/2025
\$7,038--Current	218,178	150,509	5,529
\$290--NALC Offering	8,890	3,855	20

Council Organization 2025

ORGANIZATION:

President *Neal Brady*
Vice-President..... *William D. Kellermeyer, Jr.*
Secretary *Sandy Wierwille*
Assistant *Melanie Rose*
Treasurer..... *Stanley Brown*
Assistant *Amy Hesse*

- **COUNCIL AT LARGE:** Thelma Kellermeyer, Melanie Rose, Dwight Schramm, Linda Yahl, Amy Hesse & Stanley Brown
- **BOARD OF DEACONS:** Dianne Uhlenhake, John Hesse, Ryan Yahl, Deb Henning, Cheryl Macklem, Jeanne Wurster, Rhonda Weaver, Judy Schultz & Dwayne Hoenie*
- **BOARD ELDERS:** Kathy Miller, Darl Bishir* & Mark Torsell
- **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Eric Langsdon, Jeremie Houser, Bill Kellermeyer* & Scott Cisco
- **BOARD OF PARISH EDUCATION:** Sandy Wierwille*, Kerri Masonbrink, Alexa Coldiron & Stephanie Ross
- **YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE:** Jake Ackroyd
- **MEMBERS TO THE TRUST FUND:** Doris Cook, Darl Bishir, Marion Slater, Rick Green*, & Bill Kellermeyer
- **CALL COMMITTEE:** Ryan Yahl*, Merilee Miller, Bill Kellermeyer, Allison Ackroyd, Pete Ackroyd, & Bob Hinschlager.

**Chairperson of the Board*

each. Please register on the "I Worshiped Today" by **Wednesday, August 27th**.

Agape Ministries will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary on **October 18, 2025**. 50th Anniversary t-shirts are on sale at Agape. Plans are to have an open house and tour for their anniversary activities. Agape is also accepting financial gifts to purchase school supplies.

Craft Crop We are taking registrations for our crop to be held at Zion Lutheran Church on **Friday, Nov. 14 at 9 a.m.-9 p.m.**, and **Saturday, Nov. 15, at 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

If you have a change in the Acolyte, Communion Assistant, Crucifer, Deacon/Usher, Fellowship Table, Greeter or Reader schedule, please contact the church office, 419-394-3115. We invite you to leave a message, let the phone ring **5 times**, then leave your message.

Just a Reminder if you have a meeting to be held here at the church, please contact the church office to get it on the calendar. This makes sure the building and rooms are open and available for you to meet.

Please contact the church office when you or your family member experiences a death in the family, hospitalization, baptism, marriage or if you wish to speak to a pastor. The church office will assist you in getting you the proper care you and your family need. Call 419-394-3115.

We have installed equipment for livestreaming of our worship services. The worship services can be found on our Facebook page. Volunteers are needed to help with recording each of the services. Please contact the church office, 419/394-3115, about this ministry.