Zion & St. James Lutheran Churches of Martin County, Minnesota



Pastor John Henry

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2026



Regarding Membership and the Holy Communion:

We believe that, in the Holy Communion, the bread is truly Christ's Body and the wine is truly His Blood, given to us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. As we receive this gift individually, we profess that we are truly one body in Christ—that we are united in one faith and teaching (doctrine). Ordinarily, full participation in this Holy Communion is reserved for those who are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Any visitors or guests who desire to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ are asked to please speak with the Pastor or an Elder before the service.

Welcome all who have come to praise our Lord!

Processional Hymn *Lift High the Cross* **837**

Dedication of Sunday School Teachers and Students

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

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

C **Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**
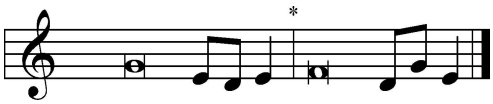
P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P ... in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Entrance Psalm *Psalm 98:2*



[2]The LORD has made known his sal- | vation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.*

Gloria Patri *LSB pg. 186*

C ***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;***
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

Kyrie *LSB pg. 186*

C ***Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.***

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB pgs. 186-189*

P *Glory be to God on high:*

C ***and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.***
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And with thy spirit.***

P *Let us pray.*

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ***Amen.***

Recognition of New Members
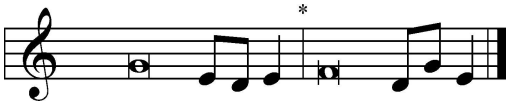
First Lesson *Ezekiel 9:3–5*

3 Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it
rested to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed in linen,
who had the writing case at his waist. 4 And the LORD said to him, "Pass
through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the
men who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it."
5 And to the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and
strike. Your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 98:1–3*



1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
*for he has done | marvelous things!**
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salva- | tion for him.
*2 The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;**
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
*to the house of | Israel.**
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation | of our God.

Second Lesson *1 Corinthians 1:18–25*

18 The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are
being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of
this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in
the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased
God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews
demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a

stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, [24]but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. [25]For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB pg. 190*

C ***Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

Holy Gospel *John 3:11–21*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter

C ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

[11]Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. [12]If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? [13]No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14]And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15]that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

[16]"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17]For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. [18]Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. [19]And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. [20]For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. [21]But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

Sermon Hymn *Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle* **454**

Sermon

Nicene Creed *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Prayers

Rededication of MLHS Staff *Zion*

Offering

Announcements

Offertory *LSB pgs. 192-193*

C ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

The Preface

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And with thy spirit.***

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

P *Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.*

C ***It is good and right so to do.***

P *It is truly good, right, and salutary [...] evermore praising You and saying:*

Sanctus *LSB pg. 195*

C ***Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;***
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Consecration

Pax Domini

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C ***Amen.***

Agnus Dei *LSB pg. 198*

C ***O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.***
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Communion Hymns

Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed	**560**
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain	**435**
Go to Dark Gethsemane	**436**

Nunc Dimittis *LSB pgs. 199-200*

C ***Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,***
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving & Benediction

P *O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good.*
C ***And his mercy endureth forever.***
P *Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
C ***Amen.***
P *The Lord be with you.*
C ***And with thy spirit.***
P *Bless we the Lord.*
C ***Thanks be to God.***
P *The Lord bless you and keep you.*
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give ✢ you peace.
C ***Amen, amen, amen.***

Closing Hymn *Onward, Christian Soldiers* **662**

Lutheran Schools in Martin County
St James Lutheran School, Martin Luther High School
All Schools and places of learning



St James

Baptism Birthdays: Cedar Bohlsen, Jason Schuder, Jethro Maidl, Sandra Luhmann, Paxton Gravlin, Levi Becker, Laurie Quinn
Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Allan Quinn, Jim Becker
Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Brooklyn Pittman, Kristi Prafke, Max Wirth, Juan Marroquin, Samuel Marroquin-Balderas, Santiago Marroquin-Balderas, Viktoria Marroquin-Balderas
Deaconess Student: Qian Su (Suzie)
Serving our Country: Kory Brown, Jesse Peterson, Lili Bulfer
Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Marsha Peterson, Duane Behrens, Chuck Dobson, Bob Traetow
Homebound: Norma Patsche, Yonsey Karasek, David Hinz

A Guide for Daily Devotions

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, use this bulletin for daily devotions. One these days, pray the Collect of the Day each day, and reread the Lessons as follows: Monday, First Lesson; Tuesday, Second Lesson; Wednesday, Gospel Lesson. You may also want to pray or sing one of the hymns from the previous Sunday.

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, follow this plan to prepare for the coming Sunday.

Each day, pray:
Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

On Thursday, read *Haggai 1*
On Friday, read *Ephesians 2:11-22*
On Saturday, read *John 7:37-44*

You may also want to pray or sing the Hymn of the Day for the coming Sunday:

Hymn: 737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

Daryl & Sonia Hoewisch are sponsoring the bulletins at SJL and the broadcast for the month of September in thanksgiving for their 25th wedding anniversary on September 22nd.

You can sponsor the bulletins ($10 per congregation) or online broadcast ($25) anytime throughout the year, in honor of a special event or giving thanks to God. Call the church office with your request.

If you wish to use the basement at Zion, please: 1. Contact one of the elders for permission, and 2. Contact the office to make sure the day and time you want are free. Both of these steps need to be done to complete a reservation. Thank you.

If you wish to use the fellowship hall or gym at SJL, please contact the office for availability and complete the rental form. Thank you.



St James Lutheran Sunday School is looking for helpers and substitute teachers for the Preschool-1st grade class. Please contact Jody Uttech for more information 507-236-6456.

Silent Auction at St. Paul Lutheran School, Truman on September 13th, 10:30-1pm. All proceeds will go to HVAC repairs. In addition to the auction, the day will also include games, a freewill donation meal, and raffle tickets. For more information, please contact the school office at 507-776-280



Classes begin Wednesday, Sept 16th at St James Lutheran in Northrop. 6th & 7th graders will meet from 4-4:45pm for a "Bible History & Teaching" class. 8th graders will meet from 5-5:45pm for "Christian Faith & Life". If you have a 6th-8th grader attending public school and Pastor Henry has NOT contacted you, please call the office, 507-436-5289.

Large Print Hymnals are available at SJL on the right side of the bulletin boxes, and at ZION on the back table by the communion cards.

Donovan Bremer is participating in the **Great Cycle Challenge**, benefiting the Children's Cancer Research Fund. He is committing to raising funds and riding 100 miles this September. To donate you can call him 507-236-5179.

Zion helpers needed to mow at Martin Luther, September 16-30th.



New Member Recognition and Sunday School Rally Day Sunday September 13th



Everyone is invited to stay after church today for a congregational meal as we welcome our new members and celebrate the start of our Sunday school year. SJL will enjoy an Eggbake brunch and Zion will have their annual burger/hotdog picnic with AJ's Onion Rings and O'Scoops ice cream.

SJL: **Erin Maidl & Ryann**

Zion: **Ethan & Abby Scheffler**
Russ Wood & Mariah
Sarah Becker, Ethan Odegaard & Danica Wegner
Andy Odegaard
Heidi Breitbarth
Chad Thate



Thank you to our Sunday School teachers

SJL: Jody Uttech
Sonya Hoewisch
Daryl Hoewisch

ZION: Nicole Nelson
Sarah Wirth
Amy Nelson
Amanda Steuber
Marilyn Oelke (music)

Eve Circle and Stewardship Committee will once again have a **Rustic Inn Cafe pie fundraiser** for the KISS the Pig Benefit. Orders will be taken during the month of October. Frozen pies will then be delivered November 21st. Plan now for your holiday desserts.

Holy Hotdish Organ Fundraiser on Sunday, October 4th from 11am-1pm at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Truman, serving in the Church Basement. Assorted hot dishes to choose from. Bread, beverages and cookies provided. Take-outs will also be available. Free-will donation.

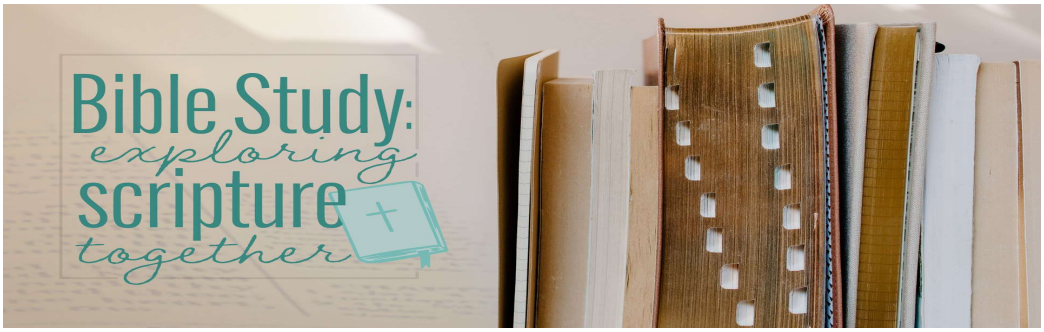
MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
SJL & Zion are full association members

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a **part-time resource room teacher** at Martin Lutheran High School in Northrup, MN. Applicants must hold a current Minnesota Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

The Fall Rummage and Bake Sale will be held at Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School in Northrop on October 15-16-17. Set-up starts Saturday, Oct 10th. Volunteer help is welcome and very much appreciated. Accepting fall & winter items beginning October 10th.

Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School is excited to announce our **Faith, Fire & Fellowship Dinner** on **Saturday, November 21st**! This special friend-raising event will celebrate and affirm the blessings and impact of the MLHS ministry. Guests will enjoy an evening of fellowship, inspiration, and gratitude as we highlight the value of Christian education and the work God is accomplishing through Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School. We are currently seeking **corporate sponsors** to help offset event expenses. We are grateful to **Profinium**, which has already committed as a **$1,000 sponsor**. We are also looking for volunteers willing to **smoke specialty meats** and assist with meal preparation. If you enjoy cooking, serving, or helping behind the scenes, we would love to have you involved. All MLHS families, alumni, supporters, and friends are warmly invited to attend. **There is no cost to attend**, but **RSVPs are required by November 1st** to help us plan for the meal. If you would like to sponsor the event, volunteer, or reserve your place for this exciting evening, please contact the school office. **Join us for an evening of faith, fire, fellowship, and thanksgiving as we celebrate the ministry of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School!**





Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday morning Adult Bible Class: Zion resumes today, and SJL on 9/20. SJL will continue in the video series with "God Heard Their Cry: Discover how God answers the cry of his persecuted people and proclaims himself LORD to them and their oppressors"

Friday Morning Bible Study: 8am in the Fellowship Hall at SJL. All are welcome to join in studying the Gospel of John.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR TODAY
Sundays on KSUM AM 1370 or FM 97.1 @ 11 am
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
"Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable" In God's family, forgiveness is non-negotiable. It's not up for debate because forgiveness is what makes us who we are. Matthew 6:12



Greeters		
ZION	**9-13**	Matthew & Jayden Moeller
	9-20	Dion & Teresa Montgomery
SJL	**9-13**	Kelly & Kathy Lenz
	9-20	Lois Lenz & Marlo Marschoff

Portals of Prayer for Oct-Dec are in your bulletin box. If you would prefer the digest size, please contact the office.

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: **Sept 13 - 20, 2026**
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: **Mon - Fri, 8:15 AM - Noon**
Office phone: 436-5289 **Pastor phone:** 219-713-1604
Email: sjlnorthrop@gmail.com **Website:** sjlnorthrop.com or zionfraser.com

Sunday **New Member/Sunday School Rally/MLHS Teacher Dedication**



	Divine Worship	**(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM**
	Sunday School/(Z)Bible Class	**(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM**
	Congregational Breakfast	**(SJ) 9:45 AM**
	Congregational Picnic	**(Z) 11:00 AM**
	NFL	**(SJ) 7:00 PM**
Wednesday	Public School Confirmation (6th & 7th grades)	**(SJ) 4:00 PM**
	Public School Confirmation (8th grade)	**(SJ) 5:00 PM**
	SJ Council Meeting	**(SJ) 7:00 PM**
Friday	Joint Morning Bible Study	**(SJ) 8:00 AM**
Sunday	Divine Worship	**(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM**
	Sunday School/Bible Class	**(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM**





Zion has voted to include SJL School in their mission offerings. The MN South goal for this year is $5,000. **This amount has been reached,** additional mission giving will automatically be sent to SJL School, unless designated on the check or envelope for MN South. Thank you.

Reflecting our Stewardship – Zion			**Sept 6, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	44 (35)	SJL School	$750.00
Home	$3,030.00	MLHS	$1,000.00
Loose Plate	$8.00		
MN South Mission giving to date: $5,819.75			

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			**Sept 6, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	94 (65)	Missions	$250.00
Home	$5,460.00	Tuition	$2,075.00
Loose Plate	$320.00	Tuition Angel	$300.00
Online	$525.00	Building Fund	$50.00
Zion Support	$6,789.52		
Annual Operating Expense: $584,000.00 / Average Weekly Need: $11,231.00			
2026 Giving to date: 390,473.39 Projected Shortfall: ($19,982.88)			