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



Pastor John Henry

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 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.

With warm hearts and hands, we welcome all who have come to worship the Lord. May this be a time of encouragement and inspiration for us all.

Opening Hymn *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* **545**

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.**
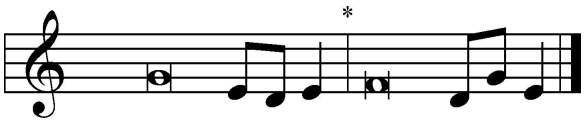
P O almighty God, merciful Father,

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 42:2*



[2]My soul thirsts for God,
for the | living God. *
When shall I come and appear be- | fore God?

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.*

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.

C ***Amen.***
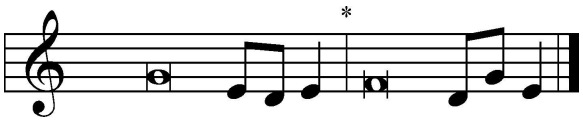
First Lesson *Haggai 1*

[1]In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, on the first day of
the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet to
Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of
Jehozadak, the high priest: [2]"Thus says the LORD of hosts: These people say
the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the LORD." [3]Then the word
of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, [4]"Is it a time for you
yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins?
[5]Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. [6]You have
sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you
drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is
warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.
[7]"Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. [8]Go up to the hills and
bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may
be glorified, says the LORD. [9]You looked for much, and behold, it came to
little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD
of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies
himself with his own house. [10]Therefore the heavens above you have withheld
the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. [11]And I have called for a
drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what
the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."
[12]Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the
high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD
their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had
sent him. And the people feared the LORD. [13]Then Haggai, the messenger of
the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD's message, "I am with you,
declares the LORD." [14]And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son
of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak,
the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came
and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, [15]on the twenty-
fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the
king.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 42:1–4, 11*



[1]*As a deer pants for | flowing streams,**
so pants my soul for you, | O God.
[2]*My soul thirsts for God,*
*for the | living God.**
When shall I come and appear be- | fore God?
[3]*My tears have been my food | day and night,**
while they say to me continually,
"Where | is your God?"
[4]*These things I remember,*
*as I pour | out my soul:**
how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the | house of God
*with glad shouts and | songs of praise,**
a multitude keeping | festival.

[11]*Why are you cast down, O my soul,*
*and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?**
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation | and my God.

Second Lesson *Ephesians 2:11–22*

[11]Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— [12]remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. [13]But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. [14]For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility [15]by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, [16]and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. [17]And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. [18]For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. [19]So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20]built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21]in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into

a holy temple in the Lord. [22]In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB pg. 190*

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

Holy Gospel *John 7:37–44*

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

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

[37]On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38]Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" [39]Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
[40]When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet." [41]Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? [42]Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" [43]So there was a division among the people over him. [44]Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn *Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing* **737**

Sermon

Apostles' Creed *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Prayers

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

Jerusalem the Golden	**672**
Behold a Host, Arrayed in White	**676**
For All the Saints	**677**

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 *Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us* **851**

Acknowledgments
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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.

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

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



St James
Baptism Birthdays: Jean Schultz, Jennifer Luhmann, Jordan Wiederhoeft
Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Allan Quinn, Jim Becker
Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion
Baptism Birthdays: Peggy Wille, Silas Henry, Amy Nelson, Andy Odegaard
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:
Everlasting God, You have ordained and constituted the service of angels and men in a wonderful order. Mercifully grant that, as Your holy angels always serve and worship You in heaven, so by Your appointment they may also help and defend us here on earth; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

On Thursday, read *Daniel 12:1-4*
On Friday, read *Revelation 12:7-12*
On Saturday, read *Luke 10:16-22*

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

Hymn: 522 Lord God, to Thee We Give All Praise

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.

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.

October newsletter deadline is Tuesday, September 22nd.

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.



LWML Fall Mission Gathering "Let the Children Hear" on Sunday, October 4th at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Truman. Registration begins at 1:30pm. David Stuckwisch, Principal of MLHS, will be the speaker. Gifts from the Heart collection will be for MLHS: Kleenex, Feminine Hygiene Products, Travel-sized personal care items, Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Midol, Band-Aids, or supplies to make posters.

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.

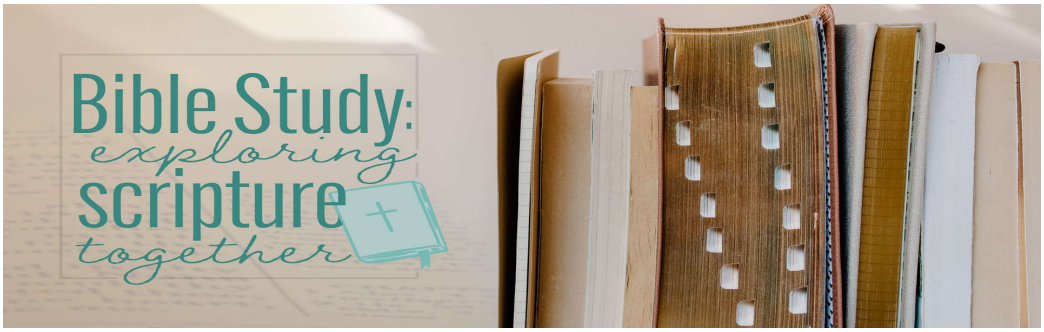
MARTIN LUTHER JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
SJL & Zion are full association members

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a **part-time resource room teacher** at Martin Lutheran High School in Northrop, 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 bible class uses topics from the Lutheran Witness magazine.
- SJL uses the "That the World May Know" video series. This year begins 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
"High Bar to Clay Jar" In Jesus, we don't need to compare ourselves to anyone else. Instead, we are free to better appreciate them.
Matthew 20:16



Greeters		
ZION	**9-20**	Dion & Teresa Montgomery
	9-27	Austin & Amanda Morris
SJL	**9-20**	Lois Lenz & Marlo Marschoff
	9-27	Jordan & Jennifer Luhmann

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

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: **Sept 20 - 27, 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	Divine Worship	**(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM**
	Sunday School/Bible Class	**(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM**
Tuesday	October Newsletter deadline	
Wednesday	Public School Confirmation (6th & 7th grades)	**(SJ) 4:00 PM**
	Public School Confirmation (8th grade)	**(SJ) 5:00 PM**
Thursday	Eve Circle	**(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**

Joyful Giving

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.

Online giving is an easy and reliable method to contribute to your church while you are out of town, or if you are interested in eliminating the need to remember your envelope on Sunday morning. You can make a one time donation or save time and schedule recurring contributions. This option is available for either congregation through the website; sjlnorthop.com or zionfraser.com, or through the tithe.ly church app.

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			**Sept 13, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	100 (76)	Memorial	$20.00
Home	$4,300.00	Tuition	$125.00
Loose Plate	$280.00	Zion Support	$4727.00
Online	$2,411.70	Bulletins	$140.00
Annual Operating Expense: $584,000.00 / Average Weekly Need: $11,231.00			
2026 Giving to date: 402,457.09 Projected Shortfall: ($18,384.63)			