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



Pastor John Henry

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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.***
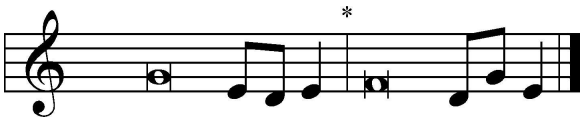
As we gather for worship today, may we bring our prayers before the Lord and draw closer to Him and to one another. Welcome, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Opening Hymn *Lord of Our Life* **659**

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 105:1*



*[1]Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;**
make known his deeds among the | peoples!

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.*

Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ***Amen.***
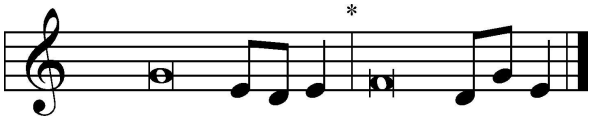
First Lesson *Malachi 3:16–18*

16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid
attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him
of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. 17 "They shall be mine,
says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession,
and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once
more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked,
between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 105:1–6*



1 *Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on his name;**
make known his deeds among the | peoples!
2 *Sing to him, sing prais- | es to him;**
tell of all his | wondrous works!
3 *Glory in his | holy name;**
let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!
4 *Seek the LORD | and his strength;**
seek his presence con- | tinually!
5 *Remember the wondrous works that | he has done,**
his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,
6 *O offspring of Abraham, his | servant,**
children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!

Second Lesson *Ephesians 4:11–16*

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and
teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the
body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the
knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the
stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed
to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by
human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the
truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into
Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint
with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the
body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *LSB pg. 190*

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

Holy Gospel *Matthew 20:1–16*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter

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

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2]After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3]And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, [4]and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' [5]So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. [6]And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' [7]They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' [8]And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' [9]And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. [10]Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. [11]And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, [12]saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' [13]But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14]Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. [15]Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' [16]So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn *Entrust Your Days and Burdens* **754**

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

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart	**708**
Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me	**683**
Jesus, Priceless Treasure	**743**

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 *Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing* **691**

Acknowledgments
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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.

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



St James

Baptism Birthdays: Ava Egeness, Josh Wolter, Micah Gonzalez, Jordan Luhmann, Jeff Crissinger, Larissa Hagen
Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Allan Quinn, Jim Becker
Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion

Baptism Birthdays: Isaiah Wallace
Student: Anna Crismore
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:
Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and deliver us in times of temptation, defend us against all enemies, and grant to Your Church Your saving peace; 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 *Nehemiah 8:1-12*
On Friday, read *Ephesians 2:1-10*
On Saturday, read *John 8:31-36*

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

Hymn: 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



The Eve Circle and Stewardship Committee will once again have a Rustic Inn Cafe pie fundraiser. Orders will be taken during the month of October. Order sheets will be available after services in the Narthex. Frozen pies will then be delivered November 21st. Plan now for your holiday desserts.10 popular pies available - Contact Linda Becker 507-236-1316 or Leslie Crissinger 507-236-1354 if you have any questions.

The annual **Harvest Dinner** will be on Sunday, November 1st, 10:30-1:00. We invite you to join us for turkey commercials, assorted salads, and homemade pie and desserts. The meal is offered free-will with a suggested donation of $12 for adults and $6 for children under 12. Take-outs available upon request.

MLHS Faith, Fire & Fellowship dinner is on Saturday, November 21st. Please sign up before November 1st, to help them plan for the meal. RSVP sheets are available in the office and at the back table at both churches. There is NO COST to attend. More information is available on the flyer and in the MLHS announcement box on pg 10.

The **Gala Event** is being held November 13, 2026, at the Fairmont Event Center (Torge's) and is only weeks away! The 50's Theme, food, games, fabulous desserts and the live and silent auctions will guarantee a fun-filled night beginning at 5:00pm. The menu will be sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, sliced candied carrots, family style house salad and dinner rolls. And special soft drinks at bar of Cherry Cola & Root Beer. There have already been wonderful items donated for the Gala and will continue accepting donations until October 30th. Tickets ($50 each) will be on sale in the church/school hallway before and after church services on Saturday night and Sunday morning, in the church office, Dee's Floral located in Downtown Plaza, Fairmont or by contacting Nancy Ritter (507-236-0373). There is an option to buy a whole table (seating for 8) for $350 (would be a savings of $50. For more general information, contact Nancy Ritter.

The installation service for Rev. John Bennett to serve as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Truman, MN will be on Sunday afternoon, November 8th at 3:00pm. Rev. Bennett has accepted this second call to St. Paul's as the result of the newly formed Dual Parish Agreement between his present congregation, St. John's Lutheran-Willow Creek and St. Paul's Lutheran-Truman.

Upcoming Voter's Meetings



Become a Church Voter. All adults (age 18+) can be voters and help make decisions for your church. Members from all generations are needed to ensure the future of our congregations continue forward in faith. Contact an elder if you have questions.

SJL: October 21st, 7:00pm

On the ballot: Secretary: Marilyn Carrigan; **Treasurer:** Jennifer Luhmann; **Finance:** Paul Luther, Lynn J Becker; **Elder:** Bart Johnson; **Board of Ed:** Joni Howe; **Trustees:** Jordan Luhmann**; Stewardship:** Drusilla Egeness, Carol Kosbab

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.

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.



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.

German Dinner at Immanuel Lutheran Church (1200 N. North Ave, Fairmont) Sunday, Oct. 25th 11:45 am -1 pm. Serving: Homemade Schweine Schnitzel (breaded pork cutlet), German Potato Salad, Sweet & Sour Cabbage/Cole Slaw, Rolls, German Chocolate/Chocolate Cake, and Beverages. Cost: Adults $10, kids 6-12 $5, and 5 and under are free. Takeouts available! All proceeds go to Parochial Education Ministries.

Fall Festival Luncheon and Bake Sale will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church basement, 1200 N. North Ave., Fairmont, on Saturday, November 7th, from 11am-1pm. Chicken and Stuffing Squares, Cranberry Relish, Glazed Carrots, Dinner Rolls, Assorted Pies, and Coffee will be served. Cost: $10. Takeouts available. Come for the bake sale too! This event is sponsored by the Women of Immanuel-LWML. Everyone is invited.

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

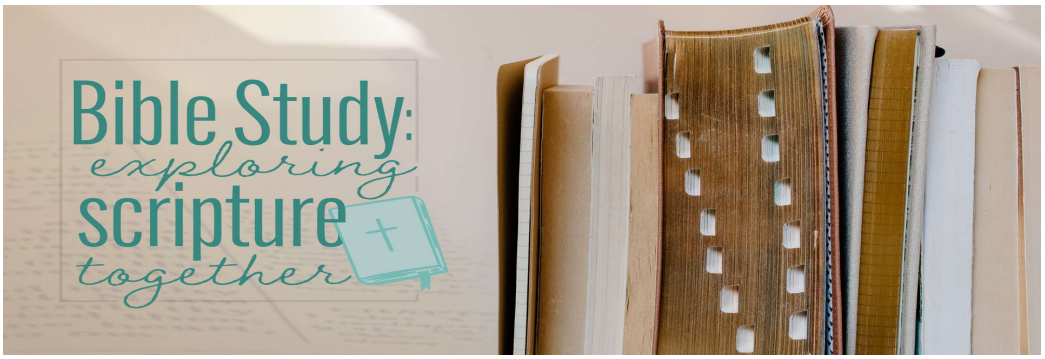
The Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School **October Delegate Meeting** will be held on Sunday, October 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the Music Room. All delegates, pastors and interested persons are welcome to attend.

Thank you to the LWML ladies who gave "Gifts from the Heart" to Martin Luther at the Fall Rally in St. Paul's Lutheran, Truman. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is sincerely appreciated.

The MLHS National Honor Society students are hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, October 19 from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Help us reach 100 donors so the students qualify for scholarships. Call 1-800-RED-CROSS and enter MLHSMN to schedule an appointment. You can help save a life and help NHS students earn scholarships.

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!**

The Martin Luther Drama students are presenting two plays on Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. A matinee will be presented on Friday at 12:15 p.m. also. **"Macbeth Mixed Up"** is a one-act spoof on Macbeth. **"The Money in Uncle George's Suitcase"** is a is a hilarious farce of pettiness, slander, and greed that is sure to entertain. Tickets are $12 for adults and $8 for students and may be purchased at the door.



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. Our next video is "Shaped in the Desert: Discover how God teaches the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves Him and the lessons we can begin to live out in our lives today."

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

Guest Speaker: Pastor Ryan Tinetti

"The Heart of the Matter" How do you respond to tough questions about God and faith? Hear how Jesus delivers us from the tightest of tight spots and keeps us from falling into a trap. Matthew 22:15-22

SERVING THIS WEEK

		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	**10-18**	Jacob & Brooke Mortenson	Trent Luhmann
	10-25	Diana Mosloski	Oakley Manzke
ZION	**10-18**	Linnette Mundfrom	Viktoria Marroquin-Balderas
	10-25	Russ & Kelsey Wood	Addison Meyeraan
SJL Ushers: Garrett Schock, Mark Grefe, Doug Quinn, Cam Dressen			
Elders: Lon (Z), Larry (SJ)		**SJL AG:** Sherri Roforth, Cindi Tomlinson	

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Oct 18 - 25, 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**
	NFL	**(SJ) 7:00 PM**
Tuesday	November Newsletter deadline	
Wednesday	Public School Confirmation (6th & 7th grades)	**(SJ) 4:00 PM**
	Public School Confirmation (8th grade)	**(SJ) 5:00 PM**
	SJL Voter's 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**
	MLHS Delegate Meeting	**(ML) 1:00 PM**



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 – Zion			**Oct 11, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	91 (58)	SJL School	$200.00
Home	$3,770.00	MLHS	$200.00
Loose Plate	$84.00		

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			**Oct 11, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	174 (119)	SJL School	$350.00
Home	$4,990.00	Online	$2,461.70
Loose Plate	$364.00	Tuition Angel	$300.00
Zion Support	$1,725.00	Memorial	$10.00
MLHS	$300.00		
Annual Operating Expense: $584,000.00 / Average Weekly Need: $11,231.00			
2026 Giving to date: 451,553.89 Projected Shortfall: ($11,297.49)			