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



Pastor John Henry

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
MLHS Sunday
November 15, 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.

The author of Psalm 42 remembers going with the crowd to the house of God "with the voice of joy and praise" (Psalm 42:4). May we share that same spirit of gladness today as we gather to worship our Creator and approach his throne of grace. A warm welcome to all!

Opening Hymn *Sing to the Lord of Harvest* **893**

Invocation, Confession & Absolution

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

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P ...I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Entrance Psalm *Psalm 95:6–7*



*Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;**
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!
*For he | is our God,**
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep | of his hand.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Kyrie *LSB pgs. 152-153*

Repeated 4 times:

P *...pray to the Lord.*

C ***Lord, have mercy.***

P *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

C ***Amen.***

This is the Feast *LSB pg. 154*

C **(Refrain):** ***This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. **(Refrain)**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **(Refrain)**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **(Refrain)**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. **(Refrain)**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And also with you.***

P *Let us pray.*

O Lord, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of the end of all things and the day of Your just judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You forever hereafter; 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 *Joel 2:28—3:2*

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.
29 Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.
30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire
and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to
blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 32 And it shall
come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the
LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.
1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of
Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the
Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on
behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them
among the nations and have divided up my land,

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 82*



*1 God has taken his place in the divine | council;**
in the midst of the gods he holds | judgment:
*2 "How long will you judge un- | justly**
and show partiality to the | wicked?
*3 Give justice to the weak and the | fatherless;**
maintain the right of the afflicted and the | destitute.

*[4]Rescue the weak and the | needy;**
deliver them from the hand of the | wicked."
[5]They have neither knowledge nor understanding,
*they walk about in | darkness;**
all the foundations of the earth are | shaken.
*[6]I said, | "You are gods,**
sons of the Most High, | all of you;
*[7]nevertheless, like men | you shall die,**
and fall like | any prince."
*[8]Arise, O God, | judge the earth;**
for you shall inherit all the | nations!

Second Lesson *2 Corinthians 5:1–10*

[1]We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. [2]For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, [3]if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. [4]For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. [5]He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

[6]So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, [7]for we walk by faith, not by sight. [8]Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. [9]So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. [10]For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia & Verse *LSB pg. 156*

C ***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.***

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:31–46*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C ***Glory to You, O Lord.***

[31][Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32]Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd

separates the sheep from the goats. [33]And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34]Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35]For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36]I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37]Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38]And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39]And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40]And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

[41]"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42]For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43]I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44]Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45]Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46]And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C ***Praise to You, O Christ.***

Sermon Hymn *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* **395**

Sermon

Nicene Creed *inside the back cover of the hymnal*

The Prayers

Offering

Announcements

Offertory *LSB pgs. 159-160*

C ***What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?***
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

The Preface *LSB pg. 160*

P *The Lord be with you.*

C ***And also with you.***

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C ***We lift them to the Lord.***

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C ***It is right to give Him thanks and praise.***

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

Sanctus *LSB pg. 161*

C ***Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:***
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
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. 163*

C ***Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.***
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

The Lamb	**547**
Christ, the Life of All the Living	**420**
Crown Him with Many Crowns	**525**

Thanksgiving & Benediction *LSB pgs. 164 & 166*

C ***Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.***
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

P *Let us pray... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C ***Amen.***

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.***

Closing Hymn *Abide, O Dearest Jesus* **919**

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Lon & Marilyn Oelke are sponsoring the bulletins for the month of November in thanksgiving and praise to God as they both celebrate their birthdays and baptisms during the month of November. May God continue to bless you both.

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.

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.

Portals of Prayer for Oct-Dec are in your bulletin box. Digest (larger) size is available in the office.

KISS THE PIG committee is looking for contact information (phone, physical or email) of SJL Alumni. Please call the office with your family/friends information. (507-436-5289)

SJL Sunday morning coffee hour collections during November will be used to buy toys for the Martin County Toys for Tots program.

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



St James
Baptism Birthdays: Connie Kakeldy, Max Luther
Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Allan Quinn, Jim Becker, Bonnie Baarts
Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion
Baptism Birthdays: Ashlee Oberdieck, Alisa Moeller, Tania Wallace, Jakob Wirth, Lon Oelke
Student: Anna Crismore
Serving our Country: Kory Brown, Jesse Peterson, Lili Bulfer
Sick & In Distress: Greg Wallace, Marsha Peterson, Duane Behrens, 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:

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

On Thursday, read *Malachi 3:1-6*
On Friday, read *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
On Saturday, read *Matthew 25:1-13*

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

Hymn: 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

A great big thank you to everyone who helped with the pie sales and all who ordered pies. It was a very successful fundraiser with proceeds being donated to the KISS the Pig event in January. Remember to pick up pies on Saturday, November 21 from 2-4 in the church fellowship hall.

MLHS Advent Devotions are in your bulletin box.

In preparation for Christmas, Dee's Floral & Designs is taking orders for red or white Poinsettias. Deadline to order is **Monday, November 16th.** (507-235-9856).



6" pot/1 plant: $17
7" pot /2 plants $30
10" pot/3 plants:$50

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairmont Chili & Oyster Stew Dinner will be held Friday, November 20th, 4:30-8pm in the church basement. Join us before or after the "Glows Parade". Menu: Chili, Oyster Stew, Crackers, Breadsticks, Assorted Bars, Hot Chocolate, Milk, Coffee. Cost: Adult-$10, Child (6-12) -$5, Under 5-Free. Take-outs available starting at 4pm. Hosted by Immanuel's Men's Club. Proceeds go to support Immanuel's ministries. Everyone is welcome!

St John's Willow Creek Youth invite you to a **Pancake Dinner** on Sunday, November 22nd. Pancakes, sausages, applesauce, and beverages will be served from 11am-1pm. Gluten-Free pancakes and syrup will be available. Free-will offering.

The SJL Ladies Eve Circle would like to thank all who helped to make our Harvest Dinner a success last Sunday. Special thanks to our Youth who bused tables and helped with the clean-up. Everyone's help was greatly appreciated. Donations received will be used to fund various projects in our church and community in the upcoming year.

Zion LWML & SJL Eve Circle will be decorating the churches and trees for the Advent Season on Saturday, Nov 28th both starting at 9:00a.m. We welcome all who would like to help us with this joyful task. Coffee and treats be served after the decorating.

Let us remember those in need this Advent Season with donations of non-perishable food and personal care items for Heaven's Table Food Shelf. If you would like to contribute items there will be a table in the narthex to place your donation now through December 13th. Thank you.



SAVE THE DATE: A new church directory is being planned for both churches. Pictures will be taken April 1-3, 2027 at SJL and April 5-6, 2027, at Zion. Watch for more information as the date gets closer.

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

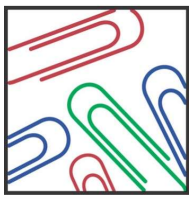
Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School is excited for our **Faith, Fire & Fellowship Dinner** on **Saturday, November 21st**! This special friend-raising event will celebrate and affirm the blessings and impact of the MLHS ministry. Guests will enjoy an evening of fellowship, inspiration, and gratitude as we highlight the value of Christian education and the work God is accomplishing through Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School. **There is no cost to attend.** If you would like to sponsor the event, volunteer, or reserve your place for this exciting evening, please contact the school office (507-436-5249). **Join us for an evening of faith, fire, fellowship, and thanksgiving as we celebrate the ministry of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School!**

This is Most Certainly Brew Coffee is available in the MLHS office and at www.thisismostcertainlybrew.com. It is an ongoing enterprise of Martin Luther Jr/Sr High School.

Donate your used electronics to support the Martin Luther School Music program. Cell phones, smart phones, inkjet cartridges, Ipads can be dropped off at MLHS or in the box under the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Hy-vee and Kwik Trip gift cards are available year round in the school office. Call ahead or stop during regular school hours 507-436-5249.

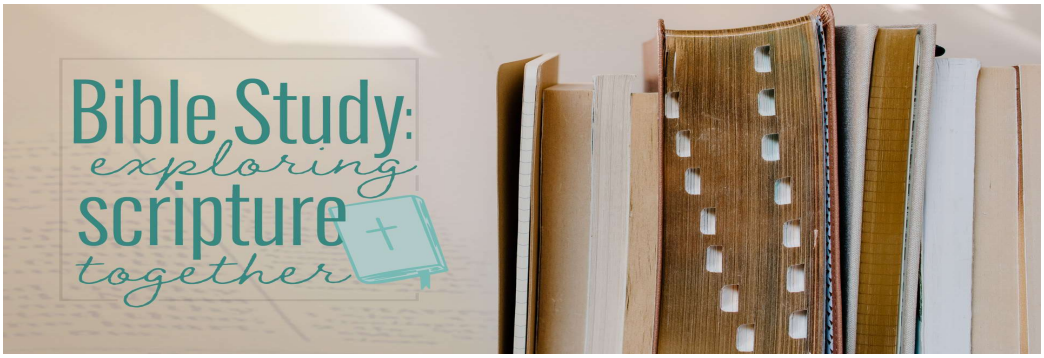
FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE



- **2027 Offering envelopes** will be here soon. **Please contact the church office by Dec 1st if you have been receiving a box but DO NOT want one.** Contributions will still be recorded for members, even without an envelope.
- **Have you moved? Changed your phone number? Canceled your landline?** Please contact the office with updated contact information.
- **December Newsletter Deadline** - Tuesday 11/24

Join us for the **Annual Cookie Walk** on Saturday, December 12th, 9-11am, at SJL. Goodies available to purchase by the pound. Containers will be provided, or bring your own if you wish. Please contact Linda Becker (236-1316) to sign up to help with donations of goodies or to help at the sale.

St. James Eve Circle presents Bibles each year to all of the children entering 3rd grade who are members of SJL or attend our school. After a long delay, the Bibles finally arrived! We congratulate Tatum Garlick, Hudson Howe, Nora Mortenson, Leo Morris, Aurora Zender, and Corban Shoemaker. May God bless you as you continue to learn and grow in His Word.



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. "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: Rev. Dr. Glenn Nielsen
"Fruitful Trees" The tree of Christ's cross bore life-giving fruit.
Genesis 1:11-12; 1 Peter 2:24

SERVING THIS WEEK

		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	**11-15**	Webb & Dar Quade	David Gonzalez
	11-22	Doug & Laurie Quinn	Tanner Howe
ZION	**11-15**	Lucas & Nicole Nelson	Brian Steuber
	11-22	Brent & Jennie Oberdieck	Brooklyn Pittman
SJL Ushers: Lee Baarts, Paul Kosbab, Rick Uttech, Jayden Garlick			
Elders: Gary (Z), Daryl (SJ)		**SJL AG:** Cindy Wolter, Abby Wolter	

THIS WEEK WITH OUR LORD: Nov 15 - 22, 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	**MLHS Sunday**	
	Divine Worship	**(SJ) 8:30 AM, (Z) 10:00 AM**
	Sunday School/Bible Class	**(Z) 8:45 AM, (SJ) 9:45 AM**
Wednesday	Public School Confirmation (6th & 7th grades)	**(SJ) 4:00 PM**
	Public School Confirmation (8th grade)	**(SJ) 5:00 PM**
	SJL Council Meeting	**(SJ) 7:00 PM**
Friday	Joint Morning Bible Study	**(SJ) 8:00 AM**
Saturday	Rustic Inn Pie Pickup	**(SJ) 2:00-4:00 PM**
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**

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			**Nov 8, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	102 (79)	SJL School	$300.00
Home	$4,255.00	Loose Plate	$140.00

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			**Nov 8, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	78 (61)	Missions	$3,000.00
Home	$4,145.00	Online	$625.00
Loose Plate	$128.50	Memorial	$30.00
Tuition	$2,000.00	Tuition Angel	$300.00
Zion Support	$1,400.00		
Annual Operating Expense: $584,000.00 / Average Weekly Need: $11,231.00			
2026 Giving to date: 487,308.08 Projected Shortfall: ($20,888.44)			