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



Pastor John Henry

Twenty-fourth day after Pentecost
November 8, 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.***

A friendly welcome to each worshiper! We are pleased to have each of you here to glorify God and sing praises to the Almighty.

Opening Hymn *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* **892**

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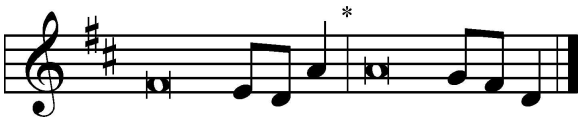
P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

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 *Jeremiah 29:11-12*



*I know the plans I have for you, de- | clares the LORD,**
plans for wholeness and not for | evil.
*Then you will call upon me and come and | pray to me,**
and I will | hear you.

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

℗ *The Lord be with you.*

ℂ ***And also with you.***

℗ *Let us pray.*

Almighty God, we implore You, show Your mercy to Your humble servants that we, who put no trust in our own merits, may not be dealt with after the severity of Your judgment but according to Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ℂ ***Amen.***
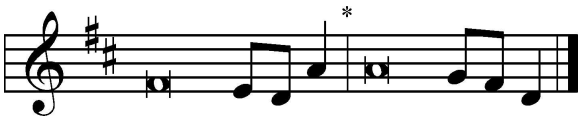
First Lesson *Ezekiel 34:25–31*

25 "I will make with them a covenant of peace and banish wild beasts from the
land, so that they may dwell securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.
26 And I will make them and the places all around my hill a blessing, and I will
send down the showers in their season; they shall be showers of blessing.
27 And the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield its
increase, and they shall be secure in their land. And they shall know that I am
the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them from the hand
of those who enslaved them. 28 They shall no more be a prey to the nations, nor
shall the beasts of the land devour them. They shall dwell securely, and none
shall make them afraid. 29 And I will provide for them renowned plantations so
that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer
suffer the reproach of the nations. 30 And they shall know that I am the LORD
their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people,
declares the Lord GOD. 31 And you are my sheep, human sheep of my pasture,
and I am your God, declares the Lord GOD."

℗ This is the Word of the Lord.

ℂ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 111:6–10*



6 He has shown his people the power | of his works, *
in giving them the inheritance of the | nations.
7 The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just; *
all his precepts are | trustworthy;
8 they are established forever and | ever, *
to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.

[9]He sent redemption to his people;
*he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.**
Holy and awesome | is his name!
[10]The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
*all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.**
His praise endures for- | ever!

Second Lesson *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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 25:14–30*

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

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

[14][Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had

received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ [21]His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ [22]And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ [23]His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ [24]He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26]But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon Hymn *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide* **585**

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

Be Still, My Soul	**752**
God Loved the World So That He Gave	**571**
Beautiful Savior	**537**

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 with Me* **878**

Acknowledgments
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

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.

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.

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)

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



St James
Baptism Birthdays: Jody Uttech, Carol Kosbab
Sick & In Distress: Rochelle Franzen, Allan Quinn, Jim Becker, Bonnie Baarts
Homebound: Carl Luhmann

Zion
Baptism Birthdays: Linkin Pittman
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: 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.

On Thursday, read *Joel 2:28-3:2*
On Friday, read *2 Corinthians 5:1-10*
On Saturday, read *Matthew 25*

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

Hymn: 395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

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

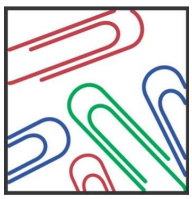
St Paul Lutheran Gala Event is being held November 13, 2026, at the Fairmont Event Center (Torge's) and is only weeks away! The 50's Theme, food, games, fabulous desserts and the live and silent auctions will guarantee a fun-filled night beginning at 5:00pm. The menu will be sliced roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, sliced candied carrots, family style house salad and dinner rolls. And special soft drinks at bar of Cherry Cola & Root Beer. Tickets ($50 each) will be on sale in the church office, Dee's Floral located in Downtown Plaza, or by contacting Nancy Ritter (507-236-0373).

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.

United Hospital District, Light Up a Life, Tree Lighting Ceremony in Blue Earth on November 13th, 5pm. Hospice is a program of support & care for families who are experiencing life's last journey here on earth.

St. Paul Lutheran School in Fairmont is looking for part time aides for the preschool rooms. You will be working with kids ages 3-5. Mostly morning hours, but some possible afternoons or until 5:30. Experience working with kids would be helpful but not required. Some training required upon hire. Contact Erin Simpson if you're interested! esimpson@splfairmont.org or 507-236-0175

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**

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.

The **MLHS Sophomore Class** will be working for tips at the Fairmont Pizza Ranch on Tuesday, November 17 from 5-9 p.m. Please come and support them.

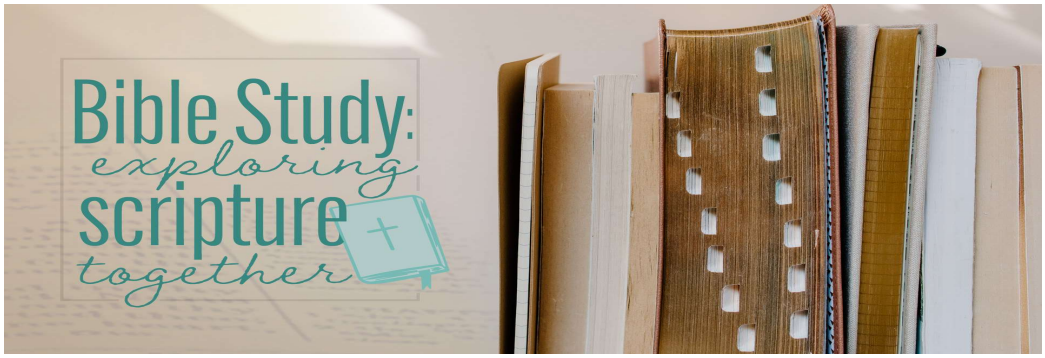
Donate your used electronics to support the Martin Luther School Music program. Cell phones, smart phones, inkjet cartridges, Ipads can be dropped off at MLHS or in the box under the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

Hy-vee and Kwik Trip gift cards are available year round in the school office. Call ahead or stop during regular school hours 507-436-529.



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.





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

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

"The Survivor Tree" Trees play a prominent role in the Bible. Hear how the tree of Christ's cross leads us back to the Tree of Life. Luke 13:6

SERVING THIS WEEK

		Greeters	Acolyte
SJL	**11-8**	Ken & Rhonda Petrowiak	Lincoln Pavich
	11-15	Webb & Dar Quade	David Gonzalez
ZION	**11-8**	Joe & Amy Nelson	Braxton Roberts
	11-15	Lucas & Nicole Nelson	Brian Steuber
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 8 - 15, 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**
Wednesday	LWML @ Graffiti Corner	**11:30 AM**
	Public School Confirmation (6th & 7th grades)	**(SJ) 4:00 PM**
	Public School Confirmation (8th grade)	**(SJ) 5:00 PM**
	Zion Trustees' Meeting	**(Z) 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

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 1, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	102 (76)	SJL School	$400.00
Home	$3,545.00	MLHS	$900.00
Loose Plate	$116.50		

Reflecting our Stewardship – St James			**Nov 1, 2026**
Attendance (HC)	120 (107)	Missions	$200.00
Home	$3,845.00	Online	$575.00
Loose Plate	$225.00	Memorial	$505.00
Tuition	$1,420.83	Bulletins/Broadcast	$50.00
Building Fund	$25.00	MLHS	$300.00
SJL School	$350.00	Zion Support	$6,789.52
Annual Operating Expense: $584,000.00 / Average Weekly Need: $11,231.00			
2026 Giving to date: 479,009.58 Projected Shortfall: ($17,897.77)			