Happy Birthday, USA!

July 4 is kind of a big deal for our nation. It marks 250 years since our forefathers declared their independence from England. It was a relatively small group of colonists saying to the most powerful nation in the world, "No, thank you. We want to be free of you."

That's a scary thing. Leaving a place of relative security leaves many questions and plenty of possibilities for fear. But they weren't thinking about their fear but were following their faith. They believed, "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

They believed that the Will of God was stronger than any nation and that if they followed God they would not only be successful, but that they would revolutionize how nations work. They set their mind to defend the rights that God had given to them.

250 years later we are still a nation that is struggling to do the Will of God. When I read Psalm 33, I wonder if we are a nation whose God is the Lord. But we as the people of God, whether or not we are His nation, can look to Him for everything that is good, freely worship Him, and spread His Word to the rest of the world.

As you celebrate our birthday, and I hope that you do, remember His goodness and know that it never ends.

See you in worship.

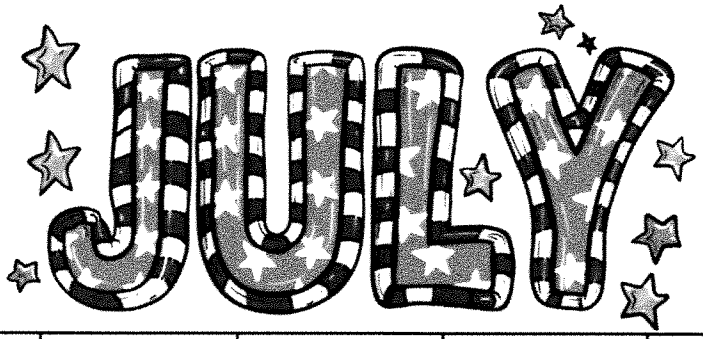
Pastor Klepp

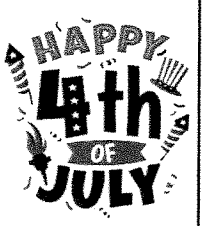
Zion Lutheran Church

410 Main Street South
Pine City, MN 55063

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Worship **7:00pm**	2	3	4 
5 Worship/ Communion **8:00am** *Jastram D.O.*	6 Endowment **6:00pm**	7 Bible Study **9:00am**	8 Worship & Communion **7:00pm**	9 LWML Meeting **1:00pm**	10	11 Women's Group **8:30am-10am**
12 Worship/ Communion **8:00am** *Food Shelf D.O.* CornFeed Meeting **9:30am**	13 Elders **6:00pm** Council **7:00pm**	14 Bible Study **9:00am**	15 Worship **7:00pm**	16	17	18
19 Worship/ Communion **8:00am**	20	21 Bible Study **9:00am**	22 Worship **7:00pm**	23	24 Men's Group Serving at Art in the Park **4:00pm-Set-Up**	25
26 Worship/ Communion **8:00am**	27 Voters' Meeting **7:00pm**	28 Bible Study **9:00am**	29 Worship **7:00pm**	30	31	

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8th, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Jerry Lotz.

Council Members in Attendance:
Pastor Kleppe, Karen Althoff, Keith Strehlo, Chad Fedder, Larry Anderson, Steve Corey, Jerry Lotz.
Members in Attendance: Financial Secretary Joann Gunderson
Council Members Absent: Scott Ovick, Tom Martini & Jeremiah Slama.

Pastor Kleppe opened the meeting with a devotion from Matthew 26:40-41 where he shared that God expects a lot from us. He expects to not fall asleep. Places his expectation that we get God's work done.

Devotion was followed by Prayer.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the May 11th, 2026 Council meeting were read by Jerry. Being there were no corrections or questions a motion was made by Chad Fedder and seconded by Steve Corey to accept the Secretary's Report, Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen shared printed copies of the Treasurer's Report. We reviewed the Financial Statements. Income for the month was $15,414.97, Expenses were $18,127.56 showing a net loss of $2,712.59 for the month. The checking account balance is $15,559.80.
*There was some question regarding the Script account showing a negative balance. Karen believes something was entered incorrectly and will be corrected on next month's Financial Reports.
*Seeing no other questions or corrections a motion was made by Chad Fedder and seconded by Keith Strehlo to accept the Treasurer's Report, Motion Passed.

Pastor's Report:
*Our YouTube channel is Glen Kleppe. We continue to put services on the channel every week. It is accessible directly or through our church website, zionpinecity.org or through our Facebook page. We have also added announcements to the YouTube channel. We show them on Sunday morning or you can look at them online.
*My midweek Bible Study, "I'm a Lutheran, So What?", is done. It was reasonably well attended.
*VBS will be held June 15-18. There will be a supper served at 5:30 and VBS will be 6:00 to 8:00.
Please contact Marsha Olson if you can help.
*My sermon series based on the Lord's Prayer began on June 7th.
*I will be attending the National Convention of the LCMS July 18-23.
*Linda and I will be attending family camp at Lutheran Island Camp July 26-31. It's a family camp so it would be fun if some other families from Zion came. There is some money available from the Endowment fund.

Upcoming Dates:
-June 7th- Summer Sermon Series begins.
-June 15-18- Vacation Bible School.
-July 24th- Men's Club serving at Art in the Park.
-August 22nd- Corn Feed.
*Motion was made by Steve Corey, seconded by Keith Strehlo to accept Pastors report, Motion Passed.

Committee Reports:
Evangelism- Currently the Committee is no longer meeting.
Endowment-No updates to balances. The committee has worked through By-Laws and will present them at the July Voter's Meeting.
LWML-Continue to work on Pillow Case Dresses.
Preschool-Enrollment for next year stands at 13. Jenine will continue meeting with any interested families throughout the Summer.
Men's Group-They will be serving Hamburgers at Art in the Park on Friday, July 24th. We need volunteers to help with this and will also be asking for donations of bars/cookies to serve with the meal.
Dual Parish-We still need to work to get a meeting together soon to plan for the Summer Dual Parish Service/Picnic/Activity day.
Personnel-Nothing new to report.

Trustee Report-Update on the lights in Sanctuary- Larry received a bid from Scott Jahnz of about $5100. It would require $3600 down payment and the rest paid at completion of the work. Larry will follow up to see if we could schedule this work for the Fall and retain the same quote at that time. Parsonage Basement- there are water pipes that have been getting pin hole leaks in them. We have reviewed this item in years past and the recommendation is that we will have to eventually replace the pipes. Larry will follow up with a plumber for an estimate on what this work will cost.
*Motion was made by Chad Fedder, seconded by Steve Corey to approve the Committee Reports, Motion Passed.

Old Business:
*Church Audit- This still needs to be completed. Jerry Lotz & Steve Corey were going to work on this. Jerry has requested that someone work with Steve on completing this. Keith Strehlo agreed to work with Steve to complete this Audit.
*Constitution- work in progress, need to contact the District for guidance on this for us to complete the work.

New Business:
*Member concern over Financial Statements showing an overall loss to date.
*There was open discussion on why it shows up this way. One factor is that we do accrual accounting.
A second factor is our budget compared to income.
*Reimbursement Procedures- Concerns over how reimbursements are handled were discussed. Discussion centered around what is the correct way to handle reimbursements. They do not belong in the offering plate. They can be deposited in our safe for the Financial Secretary to then include those deposits weekly as they come in with the weekly offering deposit.
*We will plan a meeting with those that have roles that require reimbursement or other financial transactions to further address these concerns and have better procedures moving forward.
*Ray Ovick- Ray is going on a Mission Trip with the Frontline Group. He is asking for prayers for his trip and service work. A motion was made by Jerry Lotz and seconded by Chad Fedder to approve a donation of $100 from the Youth/Family Ministry account to Ray for this trip. Motion Passed. Jerry will contact Denise Linder to have her write the check out for Ray.
*Subscription- Karen presented information regarding a Subscription of some magazines that she received a bill for. This Subscription was a renewal and came from an Endowment grant last year. Karen asked how to proceed with this. Pastor Kleppe said he would contact the company with the Subscription and cancel it and ask about the bill we received. Moving forward it's important to let those applying for Endowment Grants know that the grants can't be used towards Subscriptions.
*Pastor Kleppe addressed meetings after church on Sundays. These meetings should not be scheduled right after church on Sundays. If a Sunday meeting is needed it needs to be scheduled for later in the day. It is important to keep Sundays as a day of worship and that we have the time to have Fellowship as well as that is a vital part of our worship time.

The Next Council Meeting is Monday, July 13th, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Voter's Meeting is Monday, July 20th, 2026 at 7 p.m.

*Motion made by Chad Fedder and seconded by Keith Strehlo to adjourn the meeting, Motion Passed.
The Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. Minutes Typed and Submitted Respectfully by Jerry Lotz

SUMMER SERMON *Series*

The Lord's Prayer

Join us this summer for our new sermon series "The Lord's Prayer"

June 7th– August 2nd

As the head of the family should teach *The Lord's prayer* in a simple way to his household. Come and hear what Luther meant, how we can understand it better, and how we should be using it in our daily lives.

Mark your calendar for Zion's

featuring guest Christian author and speaker
Michelle Diercks

Saturday, September 19, 2026
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

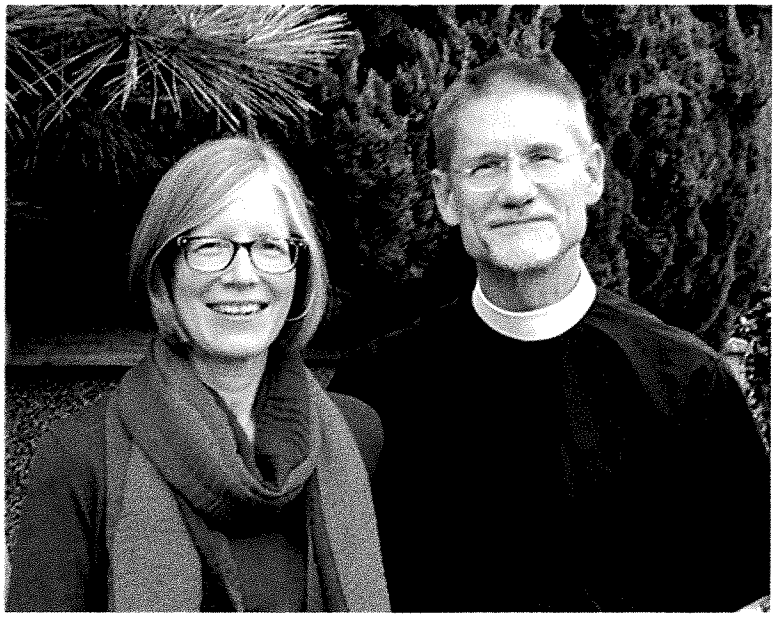
Michelle Dierks is a master certified Christian life coach, speaker, podcast host, author, and Bible teacher. Michelle specializes in helping women find peace in God's promises, even through the uncertainties of life. She lives on a farm in eastern Iowa with her husband Troy, and they have two sons. Michelle loves the outdoors, reading, and savoring deep and meaningful conversations with friends and family.

Michelle is the author of:
Promised Rest: Finding Peace in God's Presence and Promised Hope: Finding Peace in God's Faithfulness.
Michelle is also the host of the Peace in His Presence podcast.

Event will be at:
Zion Lutheran Church
410 Main St. South;
Pine City MN 55063

DOOR OFFERINGS AT ZION LUTHERAN

Zion Lutheran Church has dedicated the first Sunday of every month to support the Jastrams. This door offering is taken the first Sunday of every month please consider helping him out!



MISSION WORK IN LCMS

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram serves as a missionary on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Asia, where he lives with his wife in Tokyo, Japan. In this role, Dr. Jastram coordinates efforts to make Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in all of Japan. He provides regular services at worship sites, plans for and manages translation work of theological resources, and nurtures relations with local Lutheran pastors facing individual challenges to the faith.

Daniel was born in Shibata, Japan, and was raised overseas in an LCMS missionary family. His childhood congregation was Shibata Lutheran Church. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Later, he earned both a master's degree and a doctorate in classical languages from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Before serving in Asia, he was a professor of theology at Concordia University, St. Paul, St. Paul, Minn., and Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis. He also served as sole pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Forest Lake, Minn. In his free time, Daniel enjoys reading, hiking and bookbinding.

Joan was born in Mitchell, S.D., where her childhood congregation was Zion Lutheran Church. She received her Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Twin Cities, Minn. Currently Joan works as a clinical psychologist in private practice in Tokyo. In her free time, she enjoys reading and hiking.

Pray for Daniel and Joan as they serve in Asia. Thank our heavenly Father for the blessing of His Word and Sacraments wherever in the world they are proclaimed and administered. Thank our Savior, Jesus Christ, for the truth of His salvation as witnessed in our catechetical, theological and worship materials. Thank the Holy Spirit for concord in doctrine and practice as we work with each other and with various partner church bodies. Give thanks to the Lord for the Jastrams,
who serve His children in this part of the world.

BIRTHDAYS: Daniel – Nov. 26, Joan – March 4
ANNIVERSARY: August 20 H

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Our mission statement is to ***Joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.***

As a mission to help many, we are renewing the collection of pop tabs to support the **Ronald McDonald House,** which meets the needs of families with children experiencing severe injury or illness. You will find a collection container on the "free" table downstairs. Thanks for your support and contributions!

A pop tab is the flip top on aluminum cans. You can collect them from soda cans, sparkling water cans and various other beverage cans. We also take tabs from soup, fruit, vegetable and pet food cans that have tabs.

Starting July 1st grant applications will be accepted for the Zion Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

In 2025 we funded over $28,000 worth of projects, mission work, educational opportunities and concerts at both Zion Lutheran and Living Branch Churches. The Endowment committee is excited to see what projects or educational opportunities members will request funding for.

Zion- Applications are available from any committee member and on the table in the fellowship area.

The funding for consideration must fall into one of these categories: Youth Activities; Youth Education; Missions; Scholarships; Community Outreach; Zion Lutheran Facility Improvement

Please submit applications to any committee member or to the Endowment box inside Zion Lutheran's Church office by August 31st.
Committee members: Tom Martini, Keith Strehlo, Lisa Westeren, Jerry Lotz, Chad Fedder

SERVANTS OF ZION

ALTAR GUILD
Dave & Terri Wagner

ELDERS
Jerry Lotz 7/5
Chad Fedder 7/12
All Elders 7/19
Keith Strehlo 7/26

USHERS
Bill Dahl
Jerry Lotz
Josh Lotz
Chad Fedder

OFFERING COUNTERS
Karen Meyer 7/6
Janet Sundermeyer 7/13
Stepheny Lotz 7/20
Jeanne Casby 7/27

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES
Ryan & Katy Ovick 7/1
Jerry & Steph Lotz 7/17
Jeremiah & Ashley Slama 7/24
Doug & Tye Heitman 7/26
Keith & Jennifer Strehlo 7/29

JULY BIRTHDAYS
Bailee Slama 7/4
Clinton Teich 7/10
Joann Breska 7/15
Cordia Swenson 7/18
Steve Corey 7/19
Rick Waxberg 7/20
Ron Smetana 7/27
Doug Heitman 7/30
Ray Ovick 7/31

*If any information is incorrect or missing please let the office know. Thank you!

Lutheran Women in Mission

LWML MN North District – LWML Retreat

Lutheran Island Camp - Henning, MN

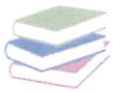
August 7-9, 2026

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full (John 15:11).

"Strength for the Journey: Finding Joy in God's Faithfulness"

Our retreat speaker will be **Christina Walther**, from Northern Minnesota. She is deeply passionate about guiding individuals to connect with Christ at every stage and walk of life. Her goal is that her faith and resilience inspire those around her as she embraces life's journey with hope and gratitude. She utilizes a blend of speaking and sharing of her original music – inspired by scripture, and resonates with the message she shares. The heart of her story revolves around her journey and her endurance through grief. She refers to her journey as "Turning my Why into Wonder". She quickly has moved beyond asking "why" and instead embraced a sense of wonder about what God had in store for us. His ways are truly amazing.

BOOK EXCHANGE:



There will be a book exchange taking place. We encourage you to bring your Christian books to share with others.

JOIN US – as we gather together as sisters in Christ to learn more about Christ our Savior and how to share His love for us with others. All women of LCMS congregations are invited to attend. So bring your daughters and bring your friends.

Online Registration Information

Online Registration will be through Lutheran Island Camp.

Registration Closes July 25, 2026

http://cwngui.campwise.com/Customer/islandcamp/browser-check-reg.html

	Before July 7/25	After 7/25
Friday-Sunday	$180	$190
Saturday-Sunday	$130	$140
Saturday Only	$110	$120

Participants will have a choice of cabin or Retreat Center lodging and may choose their roommates upon arrival date.

For More Information

Contact Valerie Johnson at: vwjohnso@runestone.net or 320-760-9540

Tentative Schedule

Friday

4:00	Registration (Cafeteria)
5:00	Supper
7:30	Campfire Bible Devotion
8:30	Fellowship/Snacks (Fireside Room)

Saturday

8:00	Registration & Breakfast
9:15	Bible Study - (Rec Hall)
10:15	Speaker - Christina Walther
11:30	Group Photos
12-1:00	Lunch
1:15	Speaker: Christina Walther - (Rec Hall)
2:15	Announcements & Canteen
5:00	Super
7:00	Activity Night

Sunday

8:00	Breakfast
9:30	Closing Service (Chapel) led by the Christian Life Committee

What to bring?

Bible, clothes for August weather, insect repellant, towels and toiletries, pillow and bedding, flashlight, snacks to share at evening fellowship.

More information may be found on the district website lwmlmnn.org and on the district Facebook page.