SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

~Luke 15:3–7

From Pastor Kleppe:

According to Hartford Institute for Religion Research, Life. Church in Edmond, OK averages 85,000 weekly in worship at its multiple campuses. Last night at our Wednesday service we had 10.

Zion could show up at Life. Church and we wouldn't even be noticed. But God notices.

Although God is the God of everyone, He comes to us and ministers to us individually. Through Baptism, He claims and names us one at a time. When I speak God's Word of forgiveness over the congregation, God is saying to each one, "I forgive YOU YOUR sins." When we celebrate the Lord's Supper, we hear the words from Scripture, "This is the body of Christ, given for YOU. This is the blood of Christ, shed for YOU."

If you wander away from God, He seeks YOU. And when He finds you and brings you back the angels rejoice in heaven. You are that valuable to Him.

Sometimes in church we spend too much time thinking about numbers, and who's there, and unfortunately who's not there. The most important thing is that you are there. And God is there. He comes in His Word and Sacrament. He proclaims the forgiveness of all of your sins and gives you His promise of eternal life.

See you in worship. You need to be there. God wants **YOU** there.

Pastor Kleppe

Zion Lutheran Church
410 Main Street South
Pine City, MN 55063

***September 6th**
New Worship Time
10:00am

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Bible Study **9:00am**	**2** Worship **7:00pm**	**3**	**4**	**5** Women's Group **8:30am-11:00am**
6 Worship/Communion **10:00am** *Jastram D.O.*	**7 LABOR DAY** Endowment Meeting **7:00pm**	**8** Bible Study **9:00am**	**9** Worship/Comm **7:00pm**	**10** Sewing Group **9:00am** LWML Meeting **1:00pm** Bible Study *"Heaven"* **7:00pm**	**11** 	**12**
13 Education Hour **8:45am** Worship/Communion **10:00am** *Food Shelf D.O.*	**14** Elder Meeting **6:00pm** Council Meeting **7:00pm**	**15** Bible Study **9:00am**	**16** Worship **7:00pm**	**17** Bible Study *"Heaven"* **7:00pm**	**18**	**19** ***ZION PRAISE PARTY*** ***9am-11am***
20 Education Hour **8:45am** Worship/Communion **10:00am**	**21**	**22** Bible Study **9:00am**	**23** Worship/Comm **7:00pm**	**24** Bible Study *"Heaven"* **7:00pm**	**25**	**26**
27 Education Hour **8:45am** Worship/Communion **10:00am**	**28**	**29** Bible Study **9:00am**	**30** Worship **7:00pm**			

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 10th, 2026

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Jerry Lotz.

Council Members Present: Pastor Kleppe, Karen Althoff, Keith Strehlo, Chad Fedder, Tom Martini & Jerry Lotz
Member Present: Dallas Carpenter
Council Members Absent: Jeremiah Slama, Scott Ovick, Steve Corey & Larry Anderson.

Pastor Kleppe opened with a devotion from Acts 6:1-7 and shared this talks about the Church Council and the challenges facing two groups the Hellenists and the Hebrews and who would get the handouts. The Church gives out to who needs it and the 12 Apostles would help with it. 7 were chosen to do this work. Reminded that the Council takes care of the work of the Church and that it falls on us.
-Devotion was followed by Prayer.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report was shared electronically prior to the meeting. There were no questions or corrections, Motion by Chad, seconded by Keith to accept the report, Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen shared printed copies of the report and shared with us that income for the month was $19,491.97, expenses were $17,281.01 showing a total profit of $2,210. Checking Account balance is at $18,320.27. It was noted that this includes the money raised at Art in the Park by the Men's Group. That money is to be paid out to three different organizations. Motion was made by Chad, seconded by Tom to approve the 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 sermon series based on the Lord's Prayer finished yesterday.
*I attended the National Convention of the LCMS July 18th-23rd. I will put together a report of what we accomplished.
*I'm in the process of figuring out Sunday School for the Fall.
*I would really appreciate an Elder to lead the Adult Study:
--5 Things You Can Do to Witness Christ
--How to Share Christ Confidently

Upcoming Dates:
August 22nd- Cornfeed
September 19th- Praise Party with Michelle Diercks
Motion by Tom, seconded by Keith to accept the report, Motion passed.

Committee Reports:
Endowment- Exploring options for reinvesting the CD. Meeting with Jeremiah from Thrivent on 8/11 to discuss options. $9430.79 remains to be paid out from approved grants from last year.
LWML- Sewing and continuing meetings. Karen Meyer & Lynda Dahl attended Lutheran Island Camp Retreat.
Preschool- 2 openings remain. We will meet on Tuesday 8/11.
Men's Group- Art in the Park raised over $2000 that will be dispersed to 3 different organizations.
Dual Parish- Had our Dual Parish Service on 8/9. Will be monitoring attendance at both churches the month of August and September for budget adjusting for 2027.
Personnel- Will need to consider salaries for next year in September.
Trustee Report- Nothing new to report. Down payment made to Scott Jahnz for work to be completed in the Fall.
Motion by Chad, seconded by Keith to accept Committee Reports, Motion passed.

Old Business:
Constitution- will work on this in the next month.
Church Audit- Keith requested needed financial items and Karen is working to gather those. Jerry will work to schedule a meeting of those that handle finances and reimbursements to go over procedures.
Sanctuary Light Project- Down payment has been made, work will be completed in the Fall.
Copier in basement- Received another bill for $80 which was paid. Directed not to pay any further bills as we no longer use their service.
Endowment By-Law Revisions were approved by the Voter's.

New Business:
Dallas Carpenter- Dallas asked to address the Council concerning a letter he sent to the Council members. Dallas stressed that we need to support Pastor and not be putting more work on him. Stressed that the Pastor is working for two churches and needs help to do the work, that he can not do it himself and should not have to take on things such as phone calls about copiers or other tasks that members of the Council can be doing. Suggested that we need to find ways to be more welcoming and work to improve areas of the Church such as how we greet and welcome visitors, projects around church such as lighting in the Fellowship and devices to aid with hearing...etc.
---Noted that members of the Council are working to help with the work of the Church. We as a Church need to have all members invested in helping with the work of the Church.
---Suggestion to look at some events to do such as a Twins Game. Need to consider some events to draw interest from members and community members to draw attention to Zion.
--Next Council Meeting- Monday, *September 14th, 2026 @ 7 p.m.*
--Next Voter's Meeting- Monday, *October 19th, 2026 @ 7 p.m.*
Motion to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded and motion passed.
Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer
Minutes Typed and Submitted Respectfully by Jerry Lotz

SEPTEMBER

SERVANTS OF ZION

ALTAR GUILD
Karen Althoff & Heidi Pogones

ELDERS

Jerry Lotz	9/6
Tom Martini	9/13
Chad Fedder	9/20
Keith Strehlo	9/27

USHERS
Keith Strehlo
Karl Strehlo
Josh Strehlo
Larry Anderson

OFFERING COUNTERS

Janet Sundermeyer	9/8
Verna Carpenter	9/14
Barbara Carlson	9/21
Jeanne Casby	9/28

ANNIVERSARIES & BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Andy & Lisa Westeren	9/30

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Tom Martini	9/17
Dennis Sundermeyer	9/17
Janet Corey	9/19
Steve Ovick	9/23

On September 6th we will go to a 10am worship time!
Our sister church Living Branch will be changing to **8:00am!** This will continue until the fall of **2027!**

##

You're invited to be our guest at

Zion's Praise Party

Saturday, September 19th

9-11am

Light Brunch will be served
**Please sign-up downstairs!*

Featuring guest Christian author & speaker:

Michelle Diercks

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.

The Many Wonders of Heaven

What is heaven like?
What is there?
What isn't there?
What will I do there?

Pastor Kleppe will present a Biblical study of heaven starting September 10, 7:00 p.m.
All materials will be provided. No one is asked to read in class. Bring a friend, and your questions!

Join us for *Education Hour* on Sundays!

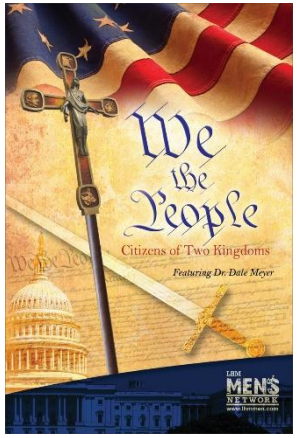
Starting on September 13th at 8:45am

ENDURING FAITH™
Sunday School • Midweek
Bible Curriculum

Sunday School will be continuing with Enduring Faith Curriculum. In Enduring Faith Bible Curriculum: Elementary, students learn the context of each Bible passage and how it fits into the story of God's salvation. They learn how to identify God's law and forgiveness to see how each account points to Jesus.

In Adult Bible Study will be studying

WE THE PEOPLE



Politics and politicians -- there's seemingly no way to escape them. Though government and those who govern are often criticized by press and citizen alike, it is through government that God works His designs in this world. Join host Dr. Dale Meyer as he surveys government in history, the character of the United States as a nation, and the Christian's role as a citizen of any country.

In We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms, Concordia Seminary President Meyer surveys the emergence of the United States' governmental system by considering the religious and philosophic thinking that shaped its early development. Along the way concepts like "ceremonial deism," "democracy," "theocracy," "republic," Martin Luther's "Two Kingdoms" and more will be explored.

Growing in Grace PRESCHOOL

A Ministry of Zion Lutheran Church

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

Enroll Now for the 2026-2027 School Year!

- Openings for 3-5 Year Olds
- Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
- 8:15-11:15 a.m.
- Faith-Based Learning

410 Main Street South
Pine City, MN 55063

Jenine Preston - Director & Teacher
320-674-0937
jeninepreston@hotmail.com

Contact Now for More Information or a Tour!

Zion Lutheran Church

New Time for Fall Worship Schedule

Sunday August 23rd, 2026- 8am

Sunday August 30th, 2026- 8am

Sunday September 6th, 2026- 10am

IT WILL REMAIN AT 10AM ON SUNDAY MORNING UNTIL FALL OF 2027

WEDNESDAY SERVICE WILL STAY AT 7PM