



GOD FIRST.

*Stewardship of  
our HOME*

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
August 15 / 18, 2024

# Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

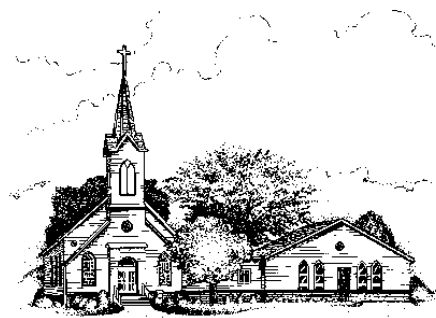
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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## Welcome to God's House

Stewardship is the lifelong management of all the resources God has given us. Another way to say it: God's people using God's gifts to God's glory. One of those gifts includes a finite, quickly-depleting gift called "time." So much in life competes for our time. Taking the time to manage the time we have left has huge implications on how we individually and as a church use it for Christ and each other.



Today we will draw attention to the precious time we have left in our lives and the call to put God first when it comes to prioritizing our time.

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## ORDER OF SERVICE

### Opening Hymn

Day by Day #803

1 Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I'll find eternal rest.

2 Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.

3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.

### **Invocation and Opening Responses**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If  
your gift is prophesying,  
**then prophesy in accordance with your faith;**

if it is serving, then serve;

**if it is teaching, then teach;**

if it is to encourage, then give encouragement;

**if it is giving, then give generously;**

if it is to lead, do it diligently;

**if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.**

## **Confession**

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

### **Song of Praise**

**EWING CW 1016**

♪ To God on high be glory  
and peace to all the earth,  
for God has shown his favor  
in Jesus' holy birth!  
Almighty God and Father,  
our humble thanks we bring;  
we worship you, we bless you,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 O Lamb of God exalted,  
you take all sin away;  
extend to us your mercy  
and hear us as we pray.  
With God the Holy Spirit,  
at God the Father's throne,  
you reign, O Christ, forever,  
for you are Lord alone!

## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, Creator of all things, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your gifts and your loving providence. Remembering the richness of your grace, may we be faithful stewards of all your good gifts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### First Reading

**Joshua 24:14-24**

<sup>14</sup>“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord drove

out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup>Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup>If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

<sup>21</sup>But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.”

<sup>22</sup>Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

<sup>23</sup>“Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup>And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

## LORD, I Must Praise You - Psalm 111A



1 LORD, I must praise you when I stand in won - der at your  
2 Noth - ing but good you give to those who fear you; ev - er  
3 You sent your peo - ple long - de - sired sal - va - tion, mak - ing



might - y works and splen - dor. There is no oth - er God, no  
near those who re - vere you. To you the hun - gry come for  
us a bless - ed na - tion. You are the rock: on you our



one a - bove you, yet so close to those who love you.  
dai - ly feed - ing, and the poor for jus - tice plead - ing.  
hopes are found - ed; safe we dwell, by love sur - round - ed.



O Lord, have mer - cy! All your works de - clare your maj - es - ty  
O Lord, have mer - cy! All your deeds are hon - est and sin - cere;  
O Lord, have mer - cy! Make us wise to fol - low in your ways,



in an end - less grand dox - ol - o - gy; e - ven more would I praise  
all your vows as true as they ap - pear. Per - fect love, rar - est kind,  
and re - ceive our sac - ri - fice of praise. We are yours, yours to use



your com - pas - sion, love, and grace. O Lord, have mer - cy!  
all I need in you I find. O Lord, have mer - cy!  
for your dream as you may choose. O Lord, have mer - cy!

## Second Reading

## Ephesians 5:15-20

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Matthew 6:33**

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,  
**and all these things will be given to you as well.**

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 6:25-34**

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

<sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## Hymn of the Day

## Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly #748

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly give to God our all, our best:  
service hearty, thorough, honest, with a living love impressed.  
All our duty, all our striving, all our time to him belong;  
praise him, then, with true devotion, come before him with a song.

By his mercy, by his bounty, by the gift of Christ, his Son,  
what great goodness he has shown us, what high marvels he has done!  
Let us to him promptly, freely, yield our bodies and our souls,  
thankful that his love protects us, that his wisdom all controls.

Gracious Lord, accept our service for the sake of Christ, your Son;  
lo, our hope abides now only in the righteousness he won.  
Bless and save us, help and guide us, watch to comfort and restore,  
till in heav'n we rest rejoicing, praising you forevermore.

## Sermon

Joshua 24:14-24

## The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## **Prayer of the Church**

Lord of our lives, by sending your Son to live and die as our perfect substitute, you provided forgiveness and salvation to a world of sinners.  
**We praise you for your generous, saving love.**

We thank you for reaching out to each of us with your Word and the water of Holy Baptism.

**You have set us apart as people who belong to you, people whose purpose in life is to receive your love and live to your glory.**

Gracious Father, remind us that you have called us to live for you and not for ourselves or according to the standards of this world.

**Help us prioritize our time, our talents, our energy, and whatever you have placed into our hands for those things that will be of eternal value.**

Help us to love you and others and to use things as you desire, instead of loving things and trying to use you and others for our own selfish desires.  
**May our hearts belong to you completely so that our lives can be devoted to things that really matter.**

Compassionate Lord, bless all who are suffering or in need. Be with the lonely and the grief-stricken. Move us to use the unique gifts you have given each of us to bring comfort and help to those who need it.

**Bless the government and your Church, and make us blessings to both.**

We ask you to hear our personal prayers....

*Silent prayers and special intercessions*

All these things we ask, not because we deserve them, but because your Son

has earned for us the right to approach you as your dear children. In His name we pray.

**Amen.**

## Offering

*Our members have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are visiting, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## Hymn

## Before You I Kneel #735



1 Be - fore you I kneel, my Mas - ter and Mak - er, to of - fer the  
2 Be - fore you I kneel and ask for your good - ness to cov - er the  
3 Be - fore you we kneel, our Mas - ter and Mak - er; es - tab - lish the



work of my hands. For this is the day you've giv - en your  
work of my hands, for pa - tience and peace to shape all my  
work of our hands, and or - der our steps to seek first your



ser - vant; I will re - jice and be glad  
la - bor; your grace for thorns in my path.  
king - dom in ev - 'ry small and great task.



for the strength I have to live and breathe, for each  
Flow with - in me like a liv - ing stream; wear a -  
May we live the gos - pel of your grace, serve your



skill your grace has giv - en me, for the needs and op - por -  
way the stones of pride and greed, till your ways are dwell - ing  
pur - pose in our fleet - ing days, then our lives will bring e -



tu - ni - ties that will glo - ri - fy your great name.  
deep in me and a har - vest of life is grown.  
ter - nal praise and all glo - ry to your great name.

## Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

## We Give Thee but Thine Own #750

We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive  
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.

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#### **111A LORD, I Must Praise You** Psalm 111A

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## **This Week at Zion**

<b>Today:</b>	7:30 / 9:00 a.m.	Worship
<b>Tue:</b>	6:30 p.m.	Ladies' Aid Meeting
<b>Thu:</b>	7:00 p.m.	Worship
<b>Fri:</b>	7:45 a.m.	KML Installation of new teachers / Pastors' Day at KML
<b>Sun:</b>	7:30 / 9:00 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion

**In Our Prayers** Janet Salzman, recovering at home from knee replacement surgery last week; Judy Etta, recovering at home from a broken leg.

**Stewardship** Today is the first of 3 stewardship – focused weekends in the next 3 months which will focus on how we use our time, talents and treasures to God's glory. After each of the services, one of the members of the Endowment / Stewardship committee will remind Zion members how they can put that particular gift into practice in our daily lives.

**Call Received** Last week Pastor Bode received a call to Grace Lutheran Church in Waukesha to serve as their pastor. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he considers that call as well as the call here to Zion. Any thoughts or feedback would be welcomed.

**We thank** Bea Pamperin who served as the organist for all our worship services this weekend.

**Thank you!** Many people gave of their time, talents and treasures to help make this year's Vacation Bible School another success. Thank you to the host of volunteers who spent all or part of the week here, the parents and grandparents who got the children here, and all who donated the many items needed. We appreciate all your help! If you want to get a taste of the week in pictures, check out our facebook page (search for Zion Lutheran,

Allenton).

**Sunday School** Three weeks from today (Sunday) we begin our Sunday School again. There is no need to officially register, simply bring your child(ren) at 8:30 a.m. on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Parents have the primary responsibility of teaching their children to know Jesus, and Sunday School serves to assist parents in that precious privilege. Bring your children to Sunday School this fall!

**Church Picnic** September 8<sup>th</sup> is the day! Only one service will be held that weekend – **9:45 a.m.** - outdoors under the tent, with picnic and fun to follow. Drinks, brats and hamburgers will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass, salad, dessert, etc...Please join your church family September 8<sup>th</sup>!

**Pick up a *Forward in Christ*** (August edition) from the cabinets in the entryway, an August calendar as well as the church newsletter. Copies of the *Meditations* devotionals are also out on the cabinets. In this month's *Forward*, among other excellent articles you'll find one that examines this often misunderstood and misused sentiment: God will never give us more than we can handle.

**Financial Statements** for the first half of the year are in your mailboxes. If you have any questions, please contact our financial secretary, Rick Meier (contact information for Council members is on the bulletin board).

**WELS Connection** The August WELS Connection video will be shown after the worship services this weekend. This edition tells the story of a man who learned about salvation through Jesus at our mission in Chattanooga, Tennessee. More information about our effort to establish 100 new home missions in 10 years, including more stories about other people who have been reached by one of our missions, is available at [www.wels100in10.net](http://www.wels100in10.net)

**WELS 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book** One of the major projects of the WELS 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary (coming up in 2025) is the publication of a pictorial



history book. This book will provide a narrative of the synod's history in seven chapters with various vignettes highlighting stories of interest. The book will be in color and contain over 600 images. Because of the unique nature of this book, there can be only one printing. In order to get an idea of the interest in this book and how many copies to print, there is a preorder sale. The nice thing about the preorder sale is that you can get 20% off the cover price if you order before September 30 (\$23.99 instead of \$29.99). Ordering by September 30 will guarantee your copy. You can do so at <https://online.nph.net/175annivbook>

**KML Installation Service** Join us in person at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School or via livestream on Friday, August 23, at 9:07 AM as we offer our praise to God for allowing KML to begin the 51<sup>st</sup> year of instructing our youth in the truth of God's Word. New faculty member, Pastor Nathan Berg, will be installed during the service.

**The Lutheran Chorale of Milwaukee**—a choir of WELS members from the Milwaukee area and beyond—is seeking qualified singers to join their ranks. The group prepares two concert programs each season, rehearsing Sunday evenings at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Auditions will be held at St. John's (Forest Home) on Thursday, Aug. 29 (4-7 p.m.), Wednesday, Sept. 4 (4-7 p.m.), and Saturday, Sept. 7 (9 a.m.-Noon). Candidates should visit [lutheranchorale.org/audition](http://lutheranchorale.org/audition) to see the member qualifications/requirements and to request an audition.

**Christian Life Resources 2024 Conference** Seeking hope amidst life's challenges? Enjoy a day of renewal at the Light in the Darkness Conference on September 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9 a.m. 4 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church (located at 2207 11th Ave SE, Rochester, MN). Topics include: caregiving, loss of a child, empowering youth, and more. Discover practical tools, biblical wisdom, and the unwavering love of God. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch. Don't miss this transformative event! You can find more information at [bit.ly/2024lightinthedarkness](https://bit.ly/2024lightinthedarkness), the poster on the bulletin board or you can call 800-729-9535 to register.