

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 31, 2025 10:15 a.m.
(* Indicates: all who are able please stand.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP *Sanctuary*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: O God, who calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship

P: **Accept our worship this day.**

L: O Christ, our redeemer, during this time, teach us, touch us, heal us,

P: **And set us free from all that keeps us from following you.**

L: Holy Spirit, through whose power our lives bear the fruits of faith,

P: **Revive us again and strengthen us to serve as grace filled people of God.**

*HYMN *We Have Come to Join in Worship*

*OPENING PRAYER

**Holy God, we have come this day, not simply into your church, but to be your Church:
a people gathered to offer You thanksgiving and praise;**

**a people seeking to know your love and will more fully;
a people who share each other's joys and sorrows;
a people who can carry your Good News to the world in word and deed.**

Fill us with your Spirit during this time that we might grow more able to do all these things, and more, In Christ's name. Amen.

GOD'S WORD FOR US

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

SCRIPTURE Luke 14:1, 7-14

MESSAGE *Re-thinking Our Mission*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *All Are Welcome*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Theresa Grove, George, Dixie, members of Annunciation Parish in Minneapolis, Cliff and Stanley Smith, Debbie, Pilgrim Park Lock-In & Christian Ed., Lauren, Mack, Davis, Tom Kaszynski family, Sandy & Don, Geo & Marni, Melanie, Disaster victims, Pastor Alex, Scott, Mary Opsal, Bill Ellena family, Rusty Thies Family, Rene, Pete Sampo, Shelly, Kimberly, Kylin, Cora, Ted Davenport, Kevin Orval, Shirley Lopeman, The Fuplers, Terry Dean, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Jacob Bremann, Lexanne Jarosz & family, Elizabeth, Hugh Williams, Jack Hauser, Ray Kollar Family, Anthony, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Jim Brown, Austin, Maxine, Shirley, Jackie, Brianna, Zimmer family, Tim P., Eric & Tina, Dale Jacobson, Paul Nave, Jeff Rietgraf, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Josie, Steve & Audrey, Jean Spayer, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Lord Listen to Your Children Praying*

OFFERING

*OFFERING RESPONSE

Give Thanks

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer you these gifts, O God, praying that your will be done with and through them. May the act of giving strengthen our commitment to the causes for which Christ gave his life, and involve us in the same kind of compassionate acts by which he lived. May all we do and say be according to your will and give you glory. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN *Just A Closer Walk With Thee*

*BENEDICTION

L: As we prepare to go let us remember that God has called us into His church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be His servants in the service of others, to proclaim the Gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

P: And that God promises to all who trust Him forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, His presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in His kingdom which has no end.

All: Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

- Theresa Grove who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- George Garncarz who is recovering from foot surgery.
- Dixie Tonozzi who is undergoing a new chemotherapy treatment.
- The members of Annunciation Parish in Minneapolis where there was a school shooting this week. Two students were killed and 14 students and 4 adults were injured, some very seriously.

The Altar Flowers today are in celebration of Candie Zelenak's birthday. Happy Birthday, Candie! From Karen, Kim, and Jim.

*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Please note: We will not be having fellowship refreshments today.

*If you would like to provide refreshments there is a sign-up sheet for September and October in fellowship hall!

Thank you to Rev. Kay Harding for overseeing the bulletin each week while Pastor Alex was on Sabbatical, as well as being available for emergencies, preaching and administering Holy Communion on the first Sunday during the summer months. Your ministry and time spent are greatly appreciated!

If anyone has pictures from VBS, especially the picnic, doing crafts, and playing games that they are willing to share, please either email them to Pastor Kay at pklh@juno.com or send them to her cell phone at (309)238-8221. She would like to put together a pictorial record of the week.

If you are the last person to leave the church on Sunday, please check that all the doors are locked and the lights & coffee maker are shut off.

The Women's Guild will meet this Thursday, September 4th at 1:00pm in fellowship hall. All Ladies are welcome to attend.

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

CREW KIDS LOCK-IN at Pilgrim Park

This year, we are kicking off Sunday School Rally Day with a Lock-in at Pilgrim Park on September 5th- 6th. Parents are welcome as well! There is a sign-up sheet circulating. Please contact Shelly Garncarz or the Church office for more information. We hope you can attend!

Mark your calendars...

-Please plan on attending worship next Sunday, September 7th to welcome back Pastor Alex from his sabbatical.

-**CREW** will resume classes on September 14th at 9:00am. We can't wait to see you!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will be back in the fall! We will be starting with Season 3 of "The Chosen" and invite you to join us. Don't worry that you haven't been with us as we discussed seasons 1 and 2. You can catch up by watching those seasons at your leisure: Go to BTUtv (<https://www.byutv.org>) you can set up a free account. Details to come!

Illinois Valley CROP Walk Against Hunger

Mark your calendars! The Illinois Valley CROP Walk Against Hunger will be held Sunday, September 28 at Rotary Park in La Salle. The walk begins at 1:00 p.m. Join us as we walk together to raise awareness and funds to help fight hunger locally and around the world. Whether you choose to walk, sponsor a walker, or make a donation, your participation will make a difference. Donation envelopes and sign up sheet are in the church office.

Zion UCC is once again providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. As the summer winds down, the shelter reopened earlier this year due to a greater need than ever. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note "**PADS Meals.**" Or go online and donate through the Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is seeking donations to purchase their new facility. Your financial support can make a real difference! Contributions can be sent to:

Illinois Valley Food Pantry 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301

HELP WANTED! Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email ushers@zionperu.org to be added to the ushers list.

Evangelism: We are updating our visitor information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting. If you would like to help the Evangelism Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email evangelism@zionperu.org.

Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

The Compassionate Friends Group meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

Weight Watchers is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: *Bar soap *Shower gel *Shampoo Razors *Deodorant *Toothbrushes *Toothpaste *Combs or Brushes *Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

New copies of "These Days" daily devotions are available in fellowship hall.

Zion United Church of Christ 6 th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org	
Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Speaker	Larry Grosenbach
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Erin Lewis
Liturgist	Shelly Garncarz
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson

Attendance: August 24: In Person: 29 + 6 children
On YouTube: 9

This week:

Monday, September 1st

Labor Day

Tuesday, September 2nd

Pastor Alex returns

Thursday, September 4th

1:00pm Zion Women's Guild

Saturday, September 6th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, September 7th

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

10:15am Worship in person, also available on You Tube

Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 9:00am -5:00pm *

Zion

United Church of Christ



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

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