God's Blessing Keeps Moving

October is a spectacular time of the year. The days are becoming shorter and the days are cooler. Combines are rolling through the fields, harvesting their crops and bringing the harvest home. Children and teachers have settled into the rhythms of a new school year. Even the church settles in to its routine.
A Scripture comes to mind:

"God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him."
(Psalm 67:7)

A thought comes to mind: God's blessings are never meant to stop with us.

Zion recently welcomed Hiram & Karen Grimm into membership. The Grimms transferred their membership from Trinity Lutheran Church in Carver, where they had faithfully worshiped and served for many years. The Grimms have farmed in the Cologne area and raised their family in the Christian faith. They also are are connected to Zion by way of their grandson, Joshua Way and his wife, Jessie, and great-grandchildren, Grace, Elliott, and Annelise.

In September, we also welcomed the Kordus family: Alex and Lilly and their three-month-old daughter, **Clementine,** who was baptized into Christ, receiving the forgiveness of sins and the gift of new life through God's promises. Alex, Lilly, and Clementine live in West Union, south of the Lutheran church. Alex has a business in small engine repair. Alex and Lilly appreciate the ministry of Zion, which is faith-driven and which includes a Christian school.

God's blessing keeps moving. It moves from parents to children, from grandparents to grandchildren, from one generation to the next. It moves through faithful pastors and teachers who share God's Word. It moves through congregations that proclaim Christ crucified and risen. It moves through Baptism, preaching, teaching, and Christian witness.

The faith we have today came to us because someone shared it with us. A parent or grandparent. A Sunday School teacher. A pastor. A Lutheran school teacher. Someone took the time to point us to Jesus. Now it is our turn.

Jesus reminds us that "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." As harvest season unfolds around us, we give thanks not only for the crops gathered from our fields, but also for those who labor in Christ's harvest field. We pray that the Lord would continue to raise up pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other church workers who will faithfully pass the Gospel to future generations.

The Reformation itself reminds us of this. Martin Luther's greatest desire was not to point people to himself, but to point them to Christ and the saving Gospel. The blessing of God's grace was proclaimed anew so that many more could hear and believe.

As we celebrate another harvest season, our work continues, we thank God for all His gifts and for the opportunity to serve in this ministry which proclaims our salvation through Jesus Christ–a blessing too precious to keep to ourselves.

By God's grace, that blessing has reached us. God's blessing keeps moving.
In Christ,
Pastor Eric Zacharias

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
COLOGNE, MN

14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

www.zion-cologne.org

October 2026

Rev. Eric Zacharias
Pastor
Home: 952-466-2123
Cell: 952-843-3678

Kateryna McCloskey
Principal

Anne Traver
Administrative Assistant

Church/School Office
Phone: 952-466-3379
Fax: 952-466-2703
E-mail:
office@zion-cologne.org

Mission Statement
Zion Lutheran Church, Cologne, MN is a branch of Christ's family saved by grace alone, rooted in God's love, and growing in faith through worship, teaching, fellowship, and service as we reach out to others with the good news of Jesus.

LADIES AID/LWML

LWML AND LADIES AID MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Ten members and two guests were present at our September 10th meeting. Roxanne served delicious muffins, turnovers and fruits and we had a lively discussion regarding past practices in sausage-making and other things from the farm.

Our Bible Study was "Humble Service" (by Deaconess Bonnie Beversdorf, published in the Lutheran Women's Quarterly), led by Pastor Zacharias. We explored the many ways Christians can serve the Lord by serving others.

Our meeting was called to order by Martha Molnau. We recited the LWML Pledge and reviewed the minutes and Financial Report from the July meeting. A motion was M/S/C to accept these reports as presented: the Financial Report was filed for audit.

Correspondence received included thank-you's from Lutherans for Life and Trinity First. (We have an updated address for Trinity First which we will add to our booklets for next year.) Mary read a letter from Mary Lou Baerlin, who explained how things are going for her now in Michigan. A motion was seconded and carried to give our September Mission offering to the Zion Lunch Fund. We then dedicated our mites offerings with prayer #7 from our booklet.

Committee Reports: Roxanne gave a summary from t**he Carver Zone Delegate Board meeting.** The LWML **Carver Zone** Fall Mission Gathering will be held October 3rd at St. Mark's, New Germany with Pastor Paul Biebighauser as guest speaker. **The Funeral Committee** reported on the three funerals held this past summer. We decided to dispense with the recording of items used after a funeral.

Unfinished Business *The Confirmation Pictorial Display has received many positive comments. Currently, the area is lit by LED lights that have to be recharged; an electrician noted that it would be very easy to wire this area, given the proximate switch that provides power to the area. Kelly Lemke is going to measure for the cabinet we hope to have built underneath the display. There are monies totaling $750 to put toward this part of the project: if more is needed, we might need to approach the congregation for donations. We wish to reimburse Roxanne for added expenses she's incurred putting together this directory. **Serving beverages during the fellowship** hour was discussed. Martha has purchased coffee and lemonade with funds from a Thrivent card supplied by Betty Klaustermeier. Finally, Mary Zacharias received a reimbursement of $134 for her expenses at the LWML convention this summer.

New Business *LWML Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday, Oct. 4th. The group will ask Lisa Menke to bake two cakes for the fellowship hour. (We will request the same flavors that we ordered last year.) We will also serve coffee and lemonade that Sunday. Mary will order **children's mite boxes** to give to the children at Zion to collect mites along with us. We will check to see if we need forks and plates for serving and all will help that day. Soup and Pie Planning Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 20 during the fellowship hour. **December's Christmas Party Theme** was announced by Julienne Klaustermeier: "Old Home-made Christmas." All are invited to bring and display crafts/items made to go with that theme. More will be discussed in the coming months.

We sang a birthday hymn for Darlene Leistiko. Our next meeting will be held Oct. 8th at 9:30am, with Bev Rolf serving as hostess. We gave a booklet, quarterly and other materials to our guest, Lilly Kordus. We hope she and daughter Clementine will be able to join us for future meetings. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Zacharias, Secretary

WHAT'S NEW AT ZION LUTHERAN SCHOOL

by, Kateryna McCloskey

The school year is well underway at Zion Lutheran School, and our classrooms and hallways are once again filled with learning, laughter, activity, and opportunities to grow in faith. This year, we are blessed to serve 59 students, and we are grateful for each child and family God has placed in our school community.

September has already brought several meaningful moments. During the September 13 Sunday service, Zion's teachers, together with the staff and faculty of Mayer Lutheran High School, were rededicated in service to God for the new school year. Our third-grade students also received their first Bibles, while our seventh graders received their Catechisms. We pray that God's Word will continue to guide and strengthen these students as they grow in their faith.

Our seventh- and eighth-grade students recently traveled to Mayer Lutheran High School to hear Marcus McFolling share his powerful story of overcoming adversity, finding purpose, and discovering hope through faith in Jesus Christ. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to hear how faith can shape and sustain us through life's challenges.

We also celebrate a special blessing within our Zion family! On September 10, Mr. Verkuilen and his wife, Izzy, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Solvi. We rejoice with their family and pray for God's richest blessings on them as they enter this exciting new chapter.

Our students have been busy outside the classroom as well. Zion's fifth- and sixth-grade volleyball team is competing again this year, and our cross-country runners have been representing Zion at meets under the guidance of Coach Anne Traver. We are thankful for the coaches, families, and volunteers who make these opportunities possible for our students.

The first quarter ends on October 30th, with Parent/Teacher Conferences on November 2. Plans are also beginning for our summer 2027 Washington, D.C. trip, an exciting opportunity for our students to experience our nation's history firsthand.

Fall also means Trunk or Treat! Plans are underway for this year's event, and we are looking for members of the congregation and school community who would be willing to provide decorated trunks. More information will be coming as we prepare for another fun evening together.

The ZEL Salt Sale has been another success. We are grateful for the continued support of our families, congregation, and community. Whether through fundraisers, athletics, special events, volunteering, or simply keeping our students and staff in prayer, your support makes a difference.

As another school year moves forward, we are reminded again of how faithfully God continues to love and bless Zion Lutheran School. We give thanks for His provision and look forward to all He has in store for our students, families, and staff in the months ahead.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Friday Night, October 23rd from 6:30 to 7:30
(Trunks arrive at 6 for set-up)

There will be concessions from 6-8pm organized by the seventh and eighth grade students and families. Proceeds go to help fund their trip to Washington, D.C. If you would like to participate by decorating your own truck, sign-up by Wednesday, October 21st on the bulletin board in the lobby, call the office at 952-466-3379, or email the office at office@zion-cologne.org.

SOUP & PIE SUPPER DONATIONS NEEDED

Soup and Pie Supper will be Monday, November 2nd . The following donations are needed by October 26th - 29th to help make this a success. Also, we kindly request that each church family donate either 2 pies or 1 dessert. Questions? Contact the office at 952-466-3379 or Bev Rolf at 952-649-1187.

100 lbs. of Ground Beef (any amount can be donated).
12 lbs. of sliced thicked cut bacon
40 lbs. of carrots
75 lbs. of flour
2 large cans of lemonade
2 large cans of decaf coffee

USHER SCHEDULE

October 4th	Madalyn Sons Libby Hoen
October 11th	Alex Johnson Henry Johnson
October 18th	Brooke Moen Jacob Hoen
October 25th	Owen Sons Zander Hoen

GERTEN'S CHRISTMAS GREENERY

The 7th and 8th grade students are selling Christmas Greenery from Gertens to help fund their Washington, D.C trip in 2027.

If you would like to order, visit gertensfundraisingonline.com If you know a student who is selling that you would like the credit to go to you can select their name, if not you can select church as the seller. Those who select church will have to pickup their orders at church. Orders are due 10/29.

FINANCES

Salary:	
Beginning Balance (1/1/2026)	$42,429.99
YTD Income	$327,154.17
YTD Expenses	$377,130.11
Current Balance (9/24/2026)	**-$7,545.95**
Missions:	
YTD Total (8/2/2026)	$4,165.00
Budgeted	$0.00
Non-budgeted	$0.00
2026 Pledge	$5,500.00
2026 Goal	$15,000.00
LHS:	
YTD Total (8/2/2026)	$7,242.66
2026 Commitment	$22,000.00
Per communicant member	$55.00
Maintenance Fund:	
Beginning Balance (1/1/2026)	$19,771.14
YTD Income	$97,919.60
YTD Expenses	$112,441.10
Current Balance (9/24/2026)	**$5,249.64**
Suggested household contribution	$750.00

THANK YOUS

Thank you to everyone who donated food or money to Zion's lunch program! It is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use.
Jill Stieve (School Cook)

Thank you to those who gave to Zion Lutheran Church and School in memory of their loved ones.

Zion Lutheran School in Memory of:
Ilene Dietzel $210.00
LuAnn Traver $175.00

School Lunch Program in Memory of:
LuAnn Traver $100.00

The Salary Fund in Memory of:
Ilene Dietzel $2,110.00
LuAnn Traver $50.00

The Perpetual Cemetary Fund in Memory of:
Ilene Dietzel $35.00

Maintenance Fund in Memory of:
Ilene Dietzel $20.00
LuAnn Traver $100.00

Membership Notes

BIRTHDAY LIST

5 Terri Hardel
Vlad Spector
6 Sharon Buehler
Aubrey Thuening
8 Bryce Kroells
Patricia Lenzen
Dorothy Miller
Cassandra Thuening
Jeff Ulrich
10 Theresa Richardson
12 Benjamin McCloskey
16 Evelyn Boltmann
18 Carley Buetow
Alexander Lenzen
20 John Bones
Todd Mesenbring
Owen Sons
Aurelia Koepp
21 Ruth Vinkemeier
23 Chaneen Haler
Mary Kroells
25 Ranee Bingham
28 Betty Klaustermeier
Eric Sauter
29 Terry Bruesehoff
Taylor Coder
Robert Ische
Martha Molnau
30 Madelyn Sons
Henry Johnson

REMEMBERING OUR SOLDIERS

Eben Karnitz
Edward "Eddie" Karnitz

ANNIVERSARY LIST

2 Ronnie & Tiffany Olson
3 Darren & Julie Schlueter
6 Craig & Kristi Pexa
Megan & Brandon Hoen
8 Kyle & Mary Nielsen
10 Charles & Patti Dietzel
11 Darel & Krista Radde
14 Todd & Vicky Mesenbring
Alex & Katie Klaustermeier
Carley & Trev Schroyer
16 Larry & Karen Hodgin
Alex & Katie Klaustermeier
17 Andrew & Kindra Ghostley
19 Dennis & Sharon Buehler
23 Gerald & Denise Buetow
26 Steven & Hollie Brueggemeier
Lydene Vinkemeier & Rich Lundberg

Transfered In

Hiram & Karen Grimm from Trinity Lutheran Church - Carver
Alex & Lilly and Clementine Kordus from Living Hope Lutheran Church - Bloomington

Baptism

Clementine Nannette Kordus, born 6/23/2026, bapt. 9/27/2026; Sponsors: Wyatt Anklam, Bri Anklam, and Randy Kordus

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	01	02	03
2026-2027 Hours 7:45 AM - 1:00 PM Monday-Friday				Chapel at The Harbor 10:30 AM		
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Church Service 9:30 AM LWML Sunday	Council Meeting 7:00 PM		Confirmation 6:00 PM	LWML Meeting 9:30 AM		Seeman Wedding
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Church Service - Communion 9: 30 AM K-8 Choir Kindergarten Bible Presentation Voters' Meeting			Confirmation 6:00 PM	No School - Office Closed		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Church Service 9:30 AM	Fall Pastors' Conference	Evangelism Meeting 7:30 PM	Confirmation 6:00 PM			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Church Service - Communion 9: 30 AM Reformation Day Gideons Sunday			Confirmation 6:00 PM		No School - Office Closed Trunk or Treat 6:30-7:30 *Concessions 6:00-8:00*	

VISITATION LIST

Cologne
Ralph Buetow

Norwood
Ellen Arndt
Dixie Brueggemeier
Lorraine Dose

Waconia
JoAnn Herrmann
Carol Buetow

Belle Plaine
Jackie Dose

Glencoe
Bob Boltmann

Minneapolis
Joycelyn Rolf

Zion Lutheran Church
14745 Co. Rd. 153
Cologne, MN 55322

Return Service Requested

Zion's Soup & Pie Supper
November 2nd
3:30 – 7:30pm

Get your rolling pins and pie recipes ready!!
The soup & pie supper is coming
November 2nd
3:30 PM - 7:30 PM
We Kindly request that each family donate either 2 pies or 1 dessert
Volunteers Needed!

TRUNK OR TREAT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD
6:30 – 7:30 PM
(TRUNK SET-UP AT 6 PM)
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE 6-8 PM