

The Prairie Willow

A joint newsletter for Shepherd of the Hills and West Zion Lutheran Churches

SOTH September 2026

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (SOTH)

201 Falcon Avenue
Benson, MN 56215
320-843-3408

soth2008@live.com

www.shepherdofthehillslc.com

Facebook: 

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church ELCA



West Zion Lutheran Church (WZ)

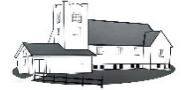
29190 357th Avenue
Hancock, MN 56244
320-239-4195

wzlutheranchurch@gmail.com

www.westzionlutheranchurch.com

Facebook: 

West Zion Lutheran Church



Information & Contacts

Pastor (Vacant)

Church President

Stephanie Smith

320-766-3945

sscdtsmith@yahoo.com

Office Secretaries

Betsy Anderson

320-444-2425

betsyanderson3@hotmail.com

Jim Ostlie

320-444-1113

jtostlie@yahoo.com

Custodians

Stephanie Smith – SOTH

320-766-3945

Gary & Connie Williams – WZ

320-843-4417

Monthly Message



Pastor Steve's last children's sermon on July 19

Our congregations are yet in another transition. We are saddened by Pastor Steve's retirement but feel blessed we were able to share these past years with him and wish him the best in his retirement. It will not be easy to fill the void left behind, but our congregation councils will do their best to progress towards the call process and hire a new pastor. Our goal is to continue collaborating with East & West Zion in calling a pastor. How that collaboration is organized may be the same as now or may look different as the three congregations meet and discuss the future.

Continued on next page...

Monthly Message Continued...

The synod has broken down the call process for churches into 7 steps.

- 1) **Say Goodbye Well** (we have completed this step with our July 19 recognition service).
- 2) **Interim and Discernment** – While we search for an Interim Pastor, we will use lay leaders, retired pastors and other pulpit supply resources to assist in leading worship services. Interim pastors are not in abundance, however when one is available, we will work with the synod to set up introductions and an interview. The Interim Pastor role is to fill the role of a called minister until one is hired. The Interim will assist us in navigating this “in between” time.
- 3) **Complete Congregation Mission Assessment and Profile** – This assessment and profile is completed by a transition team or call committee. The congregation may receive a survey about what they believe are our needs, what we want in a pastor and what we want our future to look like. **(THIS WILL BE HAPPENING SOON!)**
- 4) **Form a call committee** – When a pastoral vacancy occurs and SOTH is organized in a cooperative parish or similar, a Call Committee shall be formed of equal numbers of representatives from each of the calling congregations. The representatives shall be elected by the Congregation Council. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor. If SOTH is not participating in a cooperative parish or similar, the call committee will be formed of only members of SOTH, the number determined by council and term of office terminating upon installation of newly called pastor. The Call Committee is responsible for securing the call of a new pastor for the congregation and all duties as specified by the congregational council.
- 5) **Consider Candidates** - Synod staff present candidates to the call committee for consideration. Names may surface from the congregation, synod staff, or the candidate themselves. The call committee prepares interview questions and discusses strategy. The timeline once congregations have completed the mission assessment/profile and advertised the call is variable. Finding the right candidate may take months or years even.
- 6) **Extending the Call** – the call committee recommends a candidate to the council. If the candidate is approved by council, the chair contacts the candidate regarding a potential call and a congregation vote is scheduled.
- 7) **Welcome the New Pastor** – once a call is secured and all parties agree, the synod office is contacted to set up an installation date and we welcome our new pastor.
- 8) **Our three congregations did interview a potential Interim Pastor in August and made an offer, however the individual took another offer from another church.**

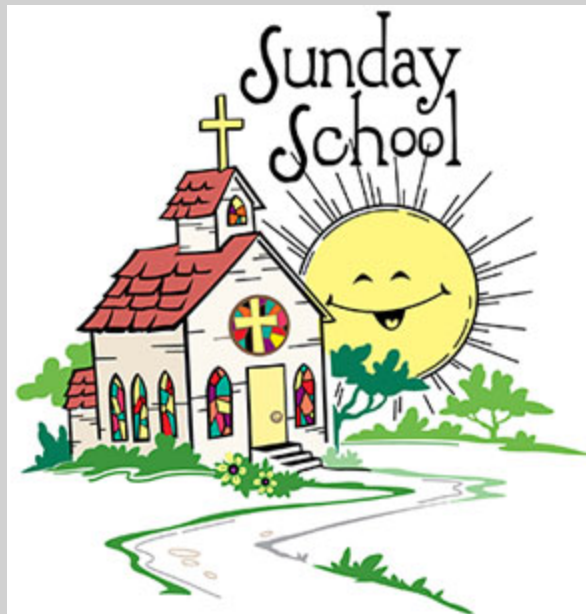


PLEASE BE PATIENT, THE PROCESS WILL TAKE TIME!

RALLY SUNDAY – 1st Day of SUNDAY SCHOOL **SEPTEMBER 13**

The new Sunday school year begins September 13, 2026 following worship service at 9AM! The Board of Education (Laura Larson, Erika Hughes and Ryan Davidson) are excited to start off the new year! Sunday school is open to youth pre-school through 6th grade. Sunday school meets downstairs in the alternative fellowship halls at the bottom of the first flight of stairs.

Let's fill the room!



Parish Calendar

SOTH

Wednesday, September 9 7PM – Council Meeting

Sunday, September 13	9am – Worship followed by fellowship & first day of Sunday school
Sunday, September 27	9am – Worship followed by fellowship & Sunday school
Sunday, October 11	9am – Worship followed by Harvest Meal & Sunday school
Sunday, October 25	9am – Worship followed by fellowship & Sunday school
Sunday, November 8	9am – Worship followed by fellowship & Sunday school

WEST ZION

Sunday, September 13	11am - Worship
Sunday, September 27	11am - Worship
Sunday, October 11	11am - Worship
Sunday, October 25	11am - Worship
Sunday, November 8	11am - Worship

EAST ZION

Sunday, September 6	11am - Worship
Sunday, September 20	11am - Worship
Sunday, October 4	11am - Worship
Sunday, October 18	11am - Worship
Sunday, November 1	11am - Worship



Worship services are live streamed on the Facebook page of each specific church. Search and follow East Zion Lutheran, West Zion Lutheran or Shepherd of the Hills ELCA.

Please note that with Pastor Steve's retirement, volunteers learning the live streaming process may not go according to plan!

Schedule Assignments

*Please note,
if you are unable to fulfill a scheduled duty,
please find someone to take your place!*

SOTH Computer Operators & Acolyte Schedule

	<u>Computer</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
Sunday, September 13	Logan Hight/Roxanne Nelson	Lily Wrobleski
Sunday, September 27	Aletta Larson/Trista Hess	Blake Larson
Sunday, October 11	Blake Larson/Betsy Anderson	Jayce Reich
Sunday, October 25	Jayce Reich/Roxanne Nelson	Aletta Larson
Sunday, November 8	Coy Kobbermann/Ryan Davidson	Kinsley Trump

SOTH Fellowship Schedule

Sunday, September 13 - TBD
 Sunday, September 27 - TBD
 Sunday, October 11 – Ray & Marge Anderson/Darlene Dergen
 Sunday, October 25 – Mike & Tammy Thompson/Lori & Larry Thompson
 Sunday, November 8 - Darrin & Shawna Nelson/Scott & Brenda Nelson
 Sunday, November 22 - Steve & Roxanne Nelson/Scott & Catie Lee

SOTH Altar Guild

September	Sheri Fahl/Brenda Nelson
October	Janine Ellingson/Laura Ostlie
November	Joyce Lagred/Tammy Thompson
December	Dee Baird/WELCA Officers
January	Jenny Trump/Carrie Anderson
February	Debbie Flatten/Ashley Skarsten
March	Betsy Anderson/Michelle Nelson
April	Trista Hess/Melissa Wrobleski
May	Gail Svor/Janet Mitteness
June	Marge Anderson/Roxanne Nelson
July	Linda Amlie/Jane Petrak



Prayer Requests



SARA & JON REICH, SUE CARSON & PHILIP SKARSTEN

Inga Urke notified the office that due to severe back pain, she has moved into the Minnewaska Community Health Services Community in Starbuck. Please keep her in your prayers as well.

Announcements

EAST ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH INFORMATION

28745 County Road 10

Starbuck, MN 56381

Phone: 320-239-4195

Email: office@eastzionlutheranchurch.org

Interim Administrative Assistant: Mary Jo Forbord

Custodian: Sandy Knutson, 320-843-4342

Website: eastzionlutheranchurch.org

Facebook: East Zion Lutheran Church

SOTH CHURCH RENTAL

Make sure to visit the website, speak with a church secretary or grab a facility use policy contract from the church office door to reserve the church, its tables and or chairs for your special events!

ON-LINE GIVING OPTIONS

To make it easier to give, SOTH and West Zion have partnered with Tith.le. Tith.le offers automatic withdrawals from an account of your choice or from a credit card. Visit the Shepherd of the Hills website under giving or the West Zion website under give to learn more and sign up! Tith.le is recommended by the Southwest Synod of the ELCA and is notably safe!

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Announcements for bulletins must be emailed to soth2008@live.com or call/text 320-444-1113 by noon Tuesday prior to church service.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Material for newsletters must be emailed to soth2008@live.com or call/text 320-444-1113 by the 20th of each month.

SAVE THE DATE!

HARVEST DINNER

Council will be holding a Harvest Dinner following worship on October 11. Meals can be eaten at church or delivered to fields!

GLACIAL RIDGE CONFERENCE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

FALL CONFERENCE

Bible verse is Isaiah 40:31 "Those who hope in the lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

The 2026 GRC WELCA Fall Gathering will take place on Monday, September 21, 2026 at Our Redeemers Lutheran Church in Benson, MN. Registration is at 430PM with a light meal at 5PM and program at 6PM. Meal is \$15, however program is free to the public.

The theme of this years program theme is "Hope and Comfort" and the theme hymn is "On Eagles Wings." Program by Lutheran Social Services on "Homeless Youth." Offering is 50% SWMN WELCA and 50% to LSS.

Announcements

GLENWOOD RETIREMENT VILLAGE FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Vikings v. Bears Watch Party! Begins at 1130AM, kickoff at 12 Noon, ends when game is over!

September 20, 2026 at the Minnewaska House in between Starbuck and Glenwood. Free will taco bar meal, music bingo during half time with prizes, silent auction throughout the game and other free will games.

All proceeds go to the GRV Foundation. Donations outside of fundraiser can be dropped off or mailed to Glenwood Retirement Village, 719 Second Street SE, Glenwood, MN 56334.



SALAD LUNCHEON BUFFET

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran in Benson from 11AM-1PM. Cost is \$10. Enjoy a variety of salads and deviled eggs. Take outs available. Come...enjoy good food and fellowship!

HABITAT HONKYTONK

Habitat for Humanity of West central Minnesota is seeking raffle item donations for the HonkyTonk Benefit scheduled for Friday, October 23 at The Wooden Silo near Murdock from 6-9PM. Live music by local band South 40. Raffle items are needed by September 30 and a scheduled pick up can be arranged if you cannot drop off in Willmar. Event tickets, rounds of golf, home services, themed baskets, memorabilia and or similar items (greater than \$50 in value) are suggested. Phone 320-231-2704 with questions.



PRAIRIE FIVE COMMUNITY ACTION 100 PEOPLE GIVE \$1000 CAMPAIGN

Prairie Five is experiencing a higher demand for home-delivered meals then we have in available funding. We may need to transition individuals to a waitlist. The waitlist may include current & new participants. We are seeking private donations that will allow older adults to continue to receive meals in Big Stone, Chippewa, La Qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine counties, rather than implement a waitlist.

If you are interested in donating to the Prairie Five Meals Program, please mail donations to: Prairie Five Meals Program, PO Box 159, Montevideo, MN 56265.

\$100 can provide 16 hot or frozen home delivered meals!



Church Council Reports

From the Secretary...

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church July 8, 2026 Congregational Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Stephanie Smith at 07:00 pm.

Members Present: Stephanie Smith, Ryan Davidson, Rick Davidson, Brenda Nelson, Jim Ostlie, Laura Ostlie, Laura Larson, Janine Ellingson

Secretary's Report by Janine Ellingson: The minutes from the June 2026 meeting were reviewed. Laura Ostlie made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Betsy Anderson. No further questions. Motions approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by Jim Ostlie: Jim presented the treasurer's report. Everything is current. There is \$1253.86 in checking, \$476.28 in savings, and \$25,039.84 in our money market account. BMO bank got bought out again. After Labor Day they will become Citizen's First. Not sure if we should stick with them or transfer funds somewhere else. Brenda Nelson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Ryan Davidson seconded. No further questions. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report by Steve Carmany: Pastor Steve's last service with us is July 19. There was no youth trip to Sioux Falls as there was no interest.

President's Report by Stephanie Smith:

- On June 30th, there was a joint council meeting at East Zion to discuss next steps after Pastor Steve's official last day with us. There wasn't anything new that was learned about the process. We feel like Pastor Steve has done such a good job preparing us. On July 6th, there was an interview with a potential interim pastor. She has experience with shared churches. There will be a decision made soon on whether or not we will acquire this interim pastor.
- Stephanie is gone August 16th and will find someone to fill in for her.

Trustee, Deacon, and Board of Education Reports:

- Trustee Report: Blake Larson sprayed round up around the church.
- Deacon Report: No Report.
- Board of Education Report: September 13th is Rally Sunday and Blessings of the Backpacks. Ryan, Laura and Erika will meet and sort out the Sunday School year.

Old Business:

- Emergency Response Plan: Locations of the Emergency Response Plan Binders which contain the plans will be in the SOTH Kitchen, Narthex area, Town Hall with the County Emergency Manager, and one up in the SOTH office. During the Emergency Response Plan assessment, it was identified that SOTH did not have any smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, flash lights, batteries, a defibrillator or First Aid Kits. These will be purchased and installed.

Secretaries report continued on next page...

Secretaries report continued...

Old.Business.Continued•

- Pastor Steve's last service with us is July 19th with a potluck following service. West Zion church will join us in this celebration. East Zion is doing their own celebration for Pastor Steve.
- Burger and Brat Fund raiser. We will be planning to do this again this Fall. More details to come.

New.Business;

- Joyce Nelson will carry out her duties as a historian through the rest of the year but she will resign in December 2026. Thank you Joyce for all your years of service. Starting January 1, 2027, we will be looking for someone to take over the responsibility as historian.
- Fund Raisers. We are looking at different options for fund raising opportunities. Please reach out if you have suggestions.

Announcements;None.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Motion to Adjourn by Stephanie Smith at 7:43 pm.

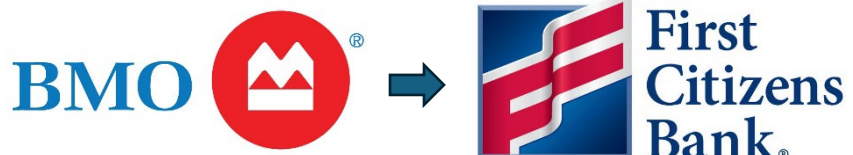
Next council meeting will be September 9, 2026 at 7 pm.

Church Council Reports

From the Treasurer...

Following the Labor Day holiday, the bank our church uses (BMO) in Benson will be changing names to First Citizens Bank. With that change we will be getting new account and routing numbers which means all of our auto payments and deposits will need to be updated. A new fee schedule has been mailed out and as treasurer, I believe this is a good time to look at other local banks and credit unions that may offer better small business banking. If other banking options are deemed in our best interest, it will be brought to council to decide. This change of banks will not affect Tithe.ly deposits since I will need to update account numbers in our churches account. Please reach out with questions. Please see the last few pages of the newsletter for account balances.

Sincerely, Jim Ostlie, Treasurer



RAISING FUNDS

WHILE HAVING

FUN!

A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER FOR A GREAT CAUSE!



SEPTEMBER 19



BIG BEND LUTHERAN CHURCH

8070 90th Avenue NW, Milan, MN

CARNIVAL ★ GAMES ★

★ NERF BALL
BLAST



★ PLINKO

★ RING TOSS



★ AND MORE!



CARNIVAL
★ TICKETS ★ **\$1**
EACH TICKET



CARNIVAL 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Come enjoy games, prizes,
and fun for all ages!



LUNCH 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Delicious food available
for the whole family!



QUILT RAFFLE 1:30 PM

Beautiful handmade quilt.
Need not be present to win!



SILENT AUCTION 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Great items. Great deals.
Great cause!

**FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY!**

BOUNCE HOUSES!

★ JUMP, PLAY
& HAVE FUN! ★

★ RAISE FUNDS. BUILD COMMUNITY. HAVE FUN! ★

FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

VIKINGS BEARS



Watch Party



@MINNEWASKA HOUSE

September 20, 2026



MEAL
FREE WILL
TACO BAR
MEAL



MUSIC BINGO
FREE WILL
@HALF-TIME
with prizes!



SILENT AUCTION
THROUGHOUT
THE GAME
*Don't need to be
present to win!*



GAMES
FREE WILL
THROUGHOUT
THE GAME

STARTS AT
11:30 AM

KICKOFF AT
12:00 PM

ENDS
GAME DONE

Donations can be dropped off at or sent to:

Glenwood Retirement Home Foundation
719 Second St. SE
Glenwood, MN 56334

*Thank you for
Your Support!*

Questions call:
320-634-5761

All proceeds benefits the Glenwood Retirement Village Foundation



MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY

*Your support can
change lives.*

100 people
give **\$1000**



\$100 can provide
16 hot or frozen
Home Delivered
Meals!

10000 people
give **\$100**

Prairie Five is experiencing a higher demand for home-delivered meals than we have in available funding. We may need to transition individuals to a waitlist. The waitlist may include current & new participants. We are seeking private donations that will allow older adults to continue to receive meals in Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift & Yellow Medicine counties, rather than implement a waitlist.

If you are interested in donating to the Prairie Five Meals Program, please scan the QR code or mail donations to: Prairie Five Meals, PO Box 159, Montevideo, MN 56265.



PO Box 159, Montevideo, MN 56265

PrairieFive.org/meals

Monday, Sept. 21, 2026



Fall Gathering

REGISTRATION
AT 4:30 PM \$15
LIGHT MEAL AT
5:00 PM.
PROGRAM AT
6:00 PM IS
FREE AND
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC.

- PROGRAM BY LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES ON "HOMELESS YOUTH"
- THEME IS "HOPE AND COMFORT"
- THEME HYMN IS "ON EAGLES WINGS"
- BIBLE VERSE IS ISAIAH 40:31 THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.
- OFFERING IS 50% SWMN WELCA AND 50% TO LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE.
- IN KIND TO LSS, INFO TO FOLLOW



Our Redeemers
Lutheran Church
10th St W Benson
MN



GLACIAL RIDGE CONFERENCE



WOMEN OF ELCA

July/Aug Financial Report

Checking Account

Line Item	Date	Check #	Description	Payment	Deposit	Balance
1404	6/17/2026	Debit	Amazon (card)	\$7.47		\$4,240.17
1407.4	6/18/26	14924	GPC (propane budget plan)	\$220.00		\$4,020.17
1201	6/18/2026	14925	Stephanie Smith (July Custodial)	\$505.50		\$3,514.67
1203	6/18/2026	14925	Stephanie Smith (July Organist 2X)	\$101.10		\$3,413.57
1202	6/18/2026	14926	Betsy Anderson (July Secretarial)	\$379.13		\$3,034.44
1202	6/18/2026	14927	Jim Ostlie (July Secretarial)	\$379.13		\$2,655.31
1205	6/18/2026	14928	Melissa Wroblewski (July Powerpoint)	\$91.91		\$2,563.40
1608	6/22/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$274.84	\$2,838.24
1404	6/22/2026	Debit	Amazon (First Aid Kits)	\$45.83		\$2,792.41
1407.1	6/22/2026	Auto	Agralite	\$250.00		\$2,542.41
1407.5	6/24/2026	Auto	Culligan	\$113.10		\$2,429.31
1304.1	6/26/2026	Auto	Great America Financial Services	\$211.89		\$2,217.42
1204.4	6/28/2026	14929	East West Zion Parish (February pastoral)	\$2,645.92		(\$428.50)
1204.1	6/28/2026	14929	East West Zion Parish (pastoral benefits)	\$869.64		(\$1,298.14)
1304.3	6/28/2026	14929	East West Zion Parish (Zoom)	\$6.90		(\$1,305.04)
	6/28/2026	Auto	From savings		\$4,000.00	\$2,694.96
1608	6/29/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$180.34	\$2,875.30
1207	7/1/2026	14930	United States Treasury (Q2 payroll taxes)	\$728.00		\$2,147.30
1304.1	7/2/2026	14931	Coordinated Business Systems	\$123.75		\$2,023.55
1405	7/2/2026	14932	Zosel's True Value	\$77.74		\$1,945.81
1407.3	7/5/2026	Auto	Federated Telephone	\$86.17		\$1,859.64
1608	7/6/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$224.84	\$2,084.48
1402	7/6/2026	Auto	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$415.31		\$1,669.17
1304.3	7/9/2026	14933	Stephanie Smith (reimb supper interim interview)	\$122.78		\$1,546.39
1403	7/9/2026	14934	Lye Mowing (4x)	\$220.00		\$1,326.39
1407.4	7/9/2026	14936	GPC (propane budget plan)	\$310.00		\$1,016.39
1305	7/9/2026	Debit	Amazon (Paper Plates)	\$30.96		\$985.43
1305	7/9/2026	Debit	Amazon (napkins)	\$23.46		\$961.97
1305	7/9/2026	Debit	Amazon (Napkins)	\$10.63		\$951.34
1305	7/9/2026	Debit	Amazon (cups)	\$20.30		\$931.04
	7/9/2026	Auto	From Money Market		\$4,000.00	\$4,931.04
1608	7/13/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$230.34	\$5,161.38
1612	7/15/2026	Auto	Thrivent		\$159.00	\$5,320.38
1204.5	7/17/2026	14937	Cash (Pastor Steve Retirement Gift)	\$1,000.00		\$4,320.38
1402	7/17/2026	14938	SFM Workers Comp Ins	\$543.00		\$3,777.38
1407.1	7/20/2026	Auto	Agralite	\$250.00		\$3,527.38
1204.5	7/20/2026	14939	Stephanie Smith (Pastor Retirement Cake)	\$116.98		\$3,410.40
1608	7/20/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$274.84	\$3,685.24
1201	7/24/2026	14940	Stephanie Smith (Aug Custodial)	\$505.50		\$3,179.74
1203	7/24/2026	14940	Stephanie Smith (Aug Organist 3X)	\$151.56		\$3,028.18
1202	7/24/2026	14941	Betsy Anderson (Aug Secretarial)	\$379.13		\$2,649.05
1202	7/24/2026	14942	Jim Ostlie (Aug Secretarial)	\$379.13		\$2,269.92
1205	7/24/2026	14943	Melissa Wroblewski (Aug Powerpoint)	\$91.91		\$2,178.01
1204.4	7/24/2026	14944	East West Zion Parish (February pastoral)	\$2,645.92		(\$467.91)
1204.1	7/24/2026	14944	East West Zion Parish (pastoral benefits)	\$869.64		(\$1,337.55)
1304.3	7/24/2026	14944	East West Zion Parish (Zoom)	\$6.90		(\$1,344.45)
1204.6	7/24/2026	14944	East West Zion Parish (Pastoral Workers Comp)	\$228.38		(\$1,572.83)
	7/24/2026		From Savings		\$4,200.00	\$2,627.17
1407.5	7/24/2026	Auto	Culligan	\$73.60		\$2,553.57
1304.1	7/26/2026	Auto	Great America Financial Services	\$211.89		\$2,341.68
1407.6	7/27/2026	Auto	West Central Sanitation	\$130.22		\$2,211.46
1608	7/27/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$180.34	\$2,391.80
1206	8/3/2026	14945	A Williams (Pulpit Supply 8/3/26)	\$175.00		\$2,216.80
1608	8/3/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$89.84	\$2,306.64
1402	8/4/2026	Auto	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$420.31		\$1,886.33
1407.3	8/5/2026	Auto	Federated Telephone	\$59.60		\$1,826.73
1407.4	8/9/2026	14946	GPC (propane budget plan)	\$310.00		\$1,516.73
1403	8/9/2026	14947	Lye Mowing (4x)	\$220.00		\$1,296.73
1405	8/9/2026	14948	Zosel's True Value	\$108.95		\$1,187.78
1608	8/10/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$365.64	\$1,553.42
1612	8/12/2026	Auto	Thrivent Funds		\$25.00	\$1,578.42
1208	8/14/2026	14949	Norma Jeitz (sub-organist 8/16/26)	\$75.00		\$1,503.42
1206	8/15/2026	14950	A Williams (Pulpit Supply 8/16/26)	\$175.00		\$1,328.42
	8/17/2026		From Savings		\$5,000.00	\$6,328.42
1608	8/17/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$189.84	\$6,518.26
1407.1	8/20/2026	Auto	Agralite	\$250.00		\$6,268.26
1204.4	8/24/2026	14951	East West Zion Parish (February pastoral)	\$2,645.92		\$3,622.34
1204.1	8/24/2026	14951	East West Zion Parish (pastoral benefits)	\$869.64		\$2,752.70
1608	8/24/2026	Auto	Tithe offering-regular		\$225.34	\$2,978.04
1304.1	8/26/2026	Auto	Great America Financial Services	\$211.89		\$2,766.15
1402	9/2/2026	Auto	North Star Mutual Insurance	\$420.31		\$2,345.84
1201	8/24/2026	14952	Stephanie Smith (Aug Custodial)	\$505.50		\$1,840.34
1203	8/24/2026	14952	Stephanie Smith (Aug Organist 3X)	\$50.55		\$1,789.79
1202	8/24/2026	14953	Betsy Anderson (Aug Secretarial)	\$379.13		\$1,410.66
1202	8/24/2026	14954	Jim Ostlie (Aug Secretarial)	\$379.13		\$1,031.53
1205	8/24/2026	14955	Melissa Wroblewski (Aug Powerpoint)	\$91.91		\$939.62
1304.1	8/26/2026	Auto	Great America Financial Services	\$211.89		\$727.73

Total Income to date 2026:

\$48,612.71

Total Income to date 2025:

\$50,674.68

July/Aug Financial Report

Savings Account

Line Item	Date	Description	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
	6/28/2026	To Checking	\$4,000.00		\$476.25
1604	6/30/2026	Interest		\$0.03	\$476.28
1608	7/9/2026	Offering-Regular (6/21/26)		\$2,195.00	\$2,671.28
1608	7/9/2026	Offering-Loose (6/21/26)		\$30.00	\$2,701.28
1607	7/9/2026	Offering-Mowing (6/21/26)		\$220.00	\$2,921.28
1608	7/9/2026	Offering-Regular (7/5/26)		\$1,390.00	\$4,311.28
1608	7/9/2026	Offering-Loose (7/5/26)		\$5.00	\$4,316.28
1601	7/9/2026	Offering-Bible School Seed		\$30.00	\$4,346.28
1607	7/9/2026	Offering-Mowing (7/5/26)		\$60.00	\$4,406.28
1614	7/9/2026	West Zion		\$435.00	\$4,841.28
	7/24/2026	To Checking	\$4,200.00		\$641.28
1604	7/31/2026	Interest		\$0.02	\$641.30
1608	8/10/2026	Offering-Regular (7/19/26)		\$3,535.00	\$4,176.30
1608	8/10/2026	Offering-Loose (7/19/26)		\$166.00	\$4,342.30
1608	8/11/2026	Offering-Regular (8/3/26)		\$1,135.00	\$5,477.30
	8/17/2026	To Checking	\$5,000.00		\$477.30

Money Market Account

Budget	Date	Description	Withdrawal	Deposit	Balance
	5/29/2026	Interest		\$9.54	\$25,030.60
	6/30/2026	Interest		9.24	\$25,039.84
	7/31/2026	Interest		8.53	\$25,048.37

Mission Investment Funds

6 Year Term Building Fund	\$79,213.82
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Demand Checking Building Fund	\$9,842.08
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Demand Checking Memorial Fund	\$128.50
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2026 Budget

				2026 Budget	Spent to date
1100 Missions/Donations/Memberships				\$910.00	\$0.00
1101	Benson Fire Department			\$50.00	\$0.00
1102	Glacial Ridge Conference			\$160.00	\$0.00
1103	Glenwood Retirement Village			\$200.00	\$0.00
1104	Luther Crest			\$100.00	\$0.00
1105	Lutheran Social Service			\$100.00	\$0.00
1106	Misc. Missions	Based on donations		\$0.00	\$0.00
1107	SW Minnesota Synod			\$300.00	\$0.00
1108	Love Fund	Based on donations		\$0.00	\$0.00
1109	Other			\$0.00	\$0.00

Note Love Fund budget is carryover from previous year plus any new money given in current year

1200 Staff and Ministry				\$66,377.50	\$43,669.21
1201	Church Custodial Salary			\$6,095.16	\$4,549.41
1202	Office Secretary Salary (incl. WZ portion)			\$9,142.68	\$6,826.16
1203	Organist Salary			\$1,700.00	\$1,264.18
1204	Pastoral Salary			\$44,511.46	\$27,961.53
1204.1	Pastoral Benefits			\$6,079.62	\$6,852.24
1204.2	Pastoral Mileage			\$1,800.00	\$0.00
1204.3	Pastoral Professional Development			\$525.00	\$66.50
1204.4	Pastoral Salary			\$36,106.84	\$21,042.79
1204.5	Other			\$0.00	\$1,116.98
1204.6	Workers Comp			\$0.00	\$228.38
1205	PowerPoint Creator Salary (incl. WZ portion)			\$1,108.20	\$828.51
1206	Pulpit Supply (sub Pastors)			\$300.00	\$525.00
1207	Employee Quarterly Taxes			\$3,200.00	\$1,514.42
1208	Sub organist fees			\$220.00	\$75.00
1209	Tax Prep			\$100.00	\$125.00
1210	MN Paid Leave			\$0.00	\$35.31

1300 Congregational Life				\$6,530.64	\$4,829.14
1301	Altar Supplies			\$500.00	\$262.20
1302	Church Worship Material			\$500.00	\$256.34
1303	Convention (Synod Assembly)			\$700.00	\$610.00
1304	Office Supplies/Rentals			\$3,930.64	\$3,059.30
1304.1	Copier Lease			\$2,805.64	\$2,278.26
1304.2	Copier staples/paper			\$400.00	\$58.19
1304.3	Other			\$250.00	\$722.85
1304.4	Postage			\$250.00	\$0.00
1304.5	Website Fee			\$225.00	\$0.00
1305	Other (Kitchen)			\$300.00	\$272.70
1306	Living Lutheran			\$0.00	\$0.00
1307	Transfer to Building Fund			\$0.00	\$0.00
1308	Transfer to Memorial Fund			\$0.00	\$0.00
1309	Youth Programs			\$600.00	\$368.60
1309.1	Sunday School			\$0.00	\$0.00

1309.2	Confirmation		\$0.00	\$85.10
1309.3	Graduation		\$0.00	\$0.00
1309.4	Other (VBS)		\$600.00	\$283.50
1309.5	Youth Mission Trip & Luther League expenses		\$0.00	\$0.00

1400 Church Building/Property **\$23,588.20** **\$16,177.72**

1401	Dept of Labor (Elevator Inspection)		\$100.00	\$145.00
1402	Insurance		\$5,500.00	\$5,013.48
1403	Mowing		\$700.00	\$660.00
1404	Repairs/Maintenance		\$1,500.00	\$635.83
1405	Supplies (custodial) *		\$500.00	\$373.89
1406	Utilities*		\$15,238.20	\$9,349.52
1407.1	Electricity		\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00
1407.2	Fuel		\$5,000.00	\$3,355.48
1407.3	Phone/Internet		\$1,150.00	\$667.55
1407.4	Propane		\$4,200.00	\$2,388.50
1407.5	Water		\$888.20	\$554.70
1407.6	Garbage Service		\$495.00	\$383.29
1408	Flowers		\$50.00	\$0.00

1500 Fundraiser Expenses **\$200.00** **\$0.00**

1501	Harvest Dinner		\$200.00	\$0.00
1502	Other		\$0.00	\$0.00

Proposed Operating Budget:

\$97,606.34 **\$64,676.07**

1600 Income **\$97,606.34** **\$48,612.71**

1601	Youth Programs (i.e. SS & VBS)		\$600.00	\$650.00
1602	Church Rentals		\$0.00	\$0.00
1603	Grants		\$0.00	\$0.00
1604	Interest		\$0.00	\$0.53
1605	Memorials		\$0.00	\$0.00
1605.1	Love Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00
1605.2	Other		\$0.00	\$0.00
1606	Missions		\$0.00	\$0.00
1607	Mowing		\$700.00	\$280.00
1608	Offering-Regular (includes loose offering & online)		\$85,286.34	\$43,040.20
1609	Offering-Lunch		\$500.00	\$328.00
1610	Other Income		\$3,000.00	\$222.98
1611	Harvest Lunch		\$1,300.00	\$0.00
1612	Thrivent Grant Funds		\$1,000.00	\$1,046.00
1613	Youth Mission Trip		\$0.00	\$0.00
1614	West Zion (shared costs)		\$5,220.00	\$3,045.00