

Zion Lutheran Church of Amor
36051 Co. Hwy. 74
Battle Lake, MN 56515
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Permit #43
Battle Lake, MN 56515

August

2026

Summer Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship 1st & 4th Sunday
Contemporary Worship with Praise Team
2nd & 3rd Sunday
***Communion August 2nd & 9th ***
Outdoor Worship August 16
ALL are welcome at Zion! We hope to see you soon!

ZION'S MISSION STATEMENT:
We are claimed, gathered, and sent forth to serve and witness in Jesus' name.

ZION'S VISION STATEMENT:
Zion is a welcoming church where all people will experience a vibrant lifelong journey in faith and fellowship through worship, education, mission and service.

Pastor Chris Mathiason
Church 218-495-2563
office@zionamor.org
Website: www.zionamor.org

AUGUST

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR
36051 CO. HWY 74
BATTLE LAKE, MN 56515

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00am Traditional Worship with Communion 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Adult Forum- Shegitu Kebede- Discovering Christianity	3	4 Free Foot Care Clinic 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Chair Yoga 1:30pm Staff Meeting	5 9:30am God's Acres meeting 1:00pm Bridge 4:00pm Praise Team	6 1:00pm Chair Yoga 1:30pm Book Study	7	8
9 9:00am Contemporary Worship with Communion and Praise Team 10:00am Fellowship 10:15am Adult Forum- Celine Brudvik- Faith Story 6:30pm Faith & Films	10	11 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Chair Yoga	12 9:00am Dorcas Circle 1:00pm Bridge 1:30pm Mary Circle 4:00pm Praise Team	13 1:00pm Chair Yoga 2:00pm Ruth Circle	14	15
16 9:00am Outdoor Contemporary Worship with Praise Team 10:00am Zion 1st Round Up Faith/ Food Family- God's Acres	17 *Tidings articles due*	18 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Chair Yoga	19 1:00 p.m. WELCA General Meeting No Bridge 6:30pm Council Meeting	20 1:00pm Chair Yoga	21	22
23 9:00am Traditional Worship 10:00am Fellowship 3:00pm Greg Hager Concert God's Acres	24	25 10:00am Bible Study No Chair Yoga ***Limited church office hours this week.***	26 1:00pm Bridge	27 No Chair Yoga	28	29 2:00-4:00pm Baby shower at Church
30 9:00am LBW Service of the Word 10:15am Taters for Tanzania	31			**AUGUST DUTIES** **Action Group:** Paul & Beth Bruce **Council Member**: Alice Johnson **Communion**: Sarah Circle		

Pastor: Chris Mathiason- 717-829-5237
Email: pastorchris@zionamor.org
Church office: 218-495-2563

Office Manager: Mitzi Parker - office@zionamor.org
Congregational Life Director: Marlene Halvorson- cld@zionamor.org
Contemporary Music Director: Carol Brimhall- cmd@zionamor.org

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMOR TIDINGS

IN THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER

1. Cover
2. Calendar
3. Announcements
4. Note from Pastor/ Council Corner/Annual Meeting
5. Adult Forums/ WELCA/ Bible Study/ Chair Yoga
6-7. God's Acres/ Donkey Naming
8. Round Up Opportunity/ Library News/ Foot Clinic
9. Action Group/ Birthdays & Anniversaries
10. Financials/ Attendance /Pastoral Visits

1st Zion Round Up August 16th Food, Fun and Faith

Mark your calendar for the 1st Zion "Round Up"-a day of food, faith and fun in God's Acres! Outdoor service will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by lunch (brats, chips and beans), a variety of outdoor activities and games, a bake walk, fish pond, tours and some history of the area.

"Round Up" your entire family to join our Church family for this day of celebration!

We are looking for volunteers to bake (or buy) for the bake walk, and help with clean up afterwards. Also, how many people are in your group (so we know how much food to prepare). The next time you are at church, check out the sign up sheets in the narthex!!!

Thank you in advance!



Book Club in August

Our next gathering will be Thursday, August 6th @ 1:30 p.m.

We will be discussing Miss Buncle's Book by D.E. Stevenson.

Two copies are available in the Zion Library for anyone who would like to borrow a copy before the meeting.

Happy reading, and we look forward to seeing you in August! 📚

— Library Team

BRIDGE IS BACK WITH CINDY DEAN

Wednesdays in August @ 1:00 p.m. Are you a beginner or need a refresher? This is for you! Come along and play!

IT'S A FUN TIME!



'TATERS FOR TANZANIA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30th

10:15 -11:30 a.m.

Join us for a potato bar with all the toppings. Free will donation will fund a new well for a community in Tanzania.







Please note communion will be August 2nd & 9th due to outdoor worship August 16th.

Note from the Pastor's Desk

More than twenty years ago, while I was attending Luther Seminary, I went on a trip to Tanzania with a group of fellow Seminary students. Tanzania is a country in East Africa. It is south of Kenya and Uganda. We visited because Tanzania has a growing Lutheran Church.

During our visit, we visited many churches, preaching points and were warmly welcomed everywhere we went. Perhaps I will share a few pictures some time. Ask me about receiving the gift of a live chicken! While we were there, I met Pastor George Pindua, a Tanzanian pastor who was studying at Tumaini (Hope) University.

Over the years, I have stayed in contact with Pastor George. Congregations I have served have learned about Pastor George's ministry and have financially supported special projects. Members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Mifflintown, PA went with me to visit Pastor George and St. Stephen's invited Pastor George to the USA for a visit.

Last year Pastor Geoge was elected Bishop of the Morogoro Diocese, in other words he was elected what we would consider a Synod Bishop. A few years ago, while I was serving Faith Lutheran in Staples, Pastor George talked about the need to dig a well in a community. The members of Faith Lutheran supported this project and a well was dug and the water flowed! This Spring Pastor George reached out to me and said he knew of a community in need a well. He asked if I knew of anyone who could help.

After talking to Zion's Mission Committee and the Zion Church Council, we are starting a fundraiser to fund a well. Our goal is to raise $7,000. The Mission Committee has decided to dedicate the profits from "Taters for Tanzania" which is on August 30th to this mission. I would like to invite you to give as you are able. Checks can be made to Zion Lutheran, please note that your gift is for Tanzania Well. During the month of August, I will be lifting up this special giving challenge to the people of Zion during Sunday Worship.

We all know how important and precious clean and accessible drinking water is. Thank you for considering making a gift.

Yours In Christ,
Pastor Chris Mathiason

LOOKING AHEAD:
Sunday, September 20th- Annual Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting, Committee reports are due to the church office by Monday, August 17.

Please include details of any activities, events, or projects your committee has sponsored or carried out during the past year.
Thank you for submitting your report on time.

COUNCIL CORNER

Dear Church Family,

As we welcome the month of August, we thank God for His faithfulness, grace, and countless blessings throughout this season. May this new month bring renewed strength, deeper faith, and greater unity amoung us as we continue to grow together in Christ. Let us encourage one another in love, serve with joyful hearts, and trust in the Lord's guidance for the days ahead.
Wishing each of you a peaceful, blessed, and fruitful August.

Saying/ Prayer:
If you at first don't suceed, keep praying, "GOD IS" listening!

Alice Johnson- Council member

AUGUST ADULT FORUMS- *by Marlene Halvorson*

Sunday, August 2 • 10:15 a.m.

A chance meeting in God's Acres.

You may come to the garden alone but you may leave with a new friendship.

I've heard stories of people meeting in God's Acres. The latest meeting I heard about was intriguing. For the past few months Barb Zetocha has been telling me about a friendship that has been developing between her and Shegitu Kebede who she met at the garden plot in God's Acres. Barb introduced me to Shegitu who has come from Ethiopia. Her pleasant demeanor and thankfulness would belie the difficulties Shegitu has gone through. She was orphaned at five and had spent years in a refugee camp and fled her country at age 17 due to the difficulties of living under a communist regime. Shegitu's story of discovering Christianity and her faith journey is amazing.

Sunday, August 9 • 10:15 a.m.

Join us as Celine Brudvik shares her experiences serving during Operation Desert Storm and reflects on her faith journey. Her inspiring story of service, resilience, and faith is one you won't want to miss.

After worship, grab your coffee and treat and join us in the gathering room! Everyone is welcome!

BIBLE STUDY

We invite you to join us for Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m.

We will continue our study of the book of Genesis. This is a great time to join this welcoming group. We start with food and fellowship, pray for the needs of our community and the world and then together wrestle with the words of Scripture. All are welcome—bring a friend and come ready to learn and share! There is a place for you here!



WELCA CIRCLE DATES

Dorcas Circle- Wednesday, August 12 @ 9:00 a.m.

Mary Circle – Wednesday, August 12 @ 1:30 p.m.

Ruth Circle- Thursday, August 13 @ 2:00 p.m.

Sarah Circle- Communion August 2nd & 9th

Mark your calendars for the August General Meeting on Wednesday, August 19th!

We will gather at Zion at 1:00 p.m. for a brief meeting and fellowship. Then, at 2:00 p.m., we will travel to Lori Charest's home for a special pottery demonstration!

The Dorcas Circle is hosting.

CHAIR YOGA

Chair Yoga continues in August.

Tuesdays @ 12:00 p.m. and Thursdays @ 1:00 p.m.

Any Body Can Yoga! No experience required.

Chair Yoga is accessible, and welcoming for all.

If you are curious or have any questions, please contact Mitzi Parker 218-535-1082 withatzi20@yahoo.com.

Wear something comfortable.

Cost: Zion Members: $5 with punch card or $8 per class.

Non-Members: $8 with punch card or $10 per class.

FAITH & FILMS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th

@ 6:30 P.M.

Come watch a film followed by a brief discussion.

POPCORN IS SERVED!

God's Acres
Community wellness for the body, mind and soul

God's Acres weekly work day is Thursday morning 9am to 12pm. If you would like to help just show up!! Please note the park including the pickleball court is closed during this time. Same also applies during outdoor worship.

The next God's Acres Committee meeting will be Wednesday, August 5 @ 9:30 a.m. Please join us if you would like to be involved!

There is always music amongst the trees in the garden but our hearts must be very quiet to hear it.
Minnie Aumonier

We welcome and appreciate all volunteers and donors to God's Acres.
There is always ongoing maintenance to do in God's Acres. Work days will be scheduled to remove more of the bark beetle infested trees. The additional maintenance shed has been completed in the Veteran's / Prayer Garden area. The Master's Mile pergola has an addition of benches.
Don't forget to vote on the name for the donkey. The winner will be announced on August 16.
It is just so much fun seeing how many people are using the park and to hear the children laughing and playing. God's Acres is a great outreach to the community.
We truly appreciate all the time and talents of the dedicated volunteers and donors. With the help of volunteers and donors, God's Acres is a truly special place for children and adults to enjoy.

August upcoming events to be held in God's Acres:

- · August 16 - Outdoor Worship Service
- · August 16 – First Zion Round up to start after the church service
- · August 23 – Free concert - Greg Hager

Donkey Naming Update

By the time you read this article, the voting for a name for God's Acres' donkey may be over. Here is how the committee selected the names. There were 62 different names submitted with the 88 submissions. Because of the closeness of the number, instead of five on the ballot, it was determined to select six with NO write-ins to be added.

A couple of other unique name suggestions were Mary's Uber and Keg (the body is made from a keg). I was surprised Ed and Mr. Ed (from the TV show) was a winner. Amazingly, Francis (the talking mule) did not receive one suggestion. I hope Pastor Chris does not feel slighted about receiving only one suggestion!

Thank you for all the participation! ***Chuck Erickson***

Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who placed a bid at the Quilters' Silent Auction. Thanks to your generosity, $885 was raised through bidding and other donations to support the Barbara House. The Zion Quilters sincerely appreciate everyone who participated and helped make the auction a success!

God's Acres Land

Zion Lutheran Church of Amor sits on a southwest corner of a 40-acre site. As the congregation and summer attendance grew, a parking lot expansion was needed. The owner of the rest of the 40 acres would sell, but only the full acreage. In 1979 the transaction was completed and farmers chipped in raising crops, calling it God's Acres with the gross income going to the church.

Due to fewer farmers, the Council put it into the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in 1988 and planted trees (red pine, white spruce, and some black hills spruce). About one-third of the area remains wooded. The County started taxing the property as there was CRP income. In 1994 Amor Township acquired approximately three acres of the northwest corner of the property for township use by eminent domain due to the CRP contract. The 26.63 acres of land on the east side was transferred to the Foundation in 1999. Due to current rules, the land was not eligible for CRP renewal so the land sat idle from 2003-2007. During this time it took two years to be removed from land taxes for religious property with no income.

In 2007 Chuck Erickson organized a committee to take better care of "God's Acres" and look at the land as a positive potential for Zion and not the burden that it seemed to become. The Council approved a governing committee in 2008. They were: President Robert Bjorgaard, Vice President Galen Youngsma, Secretary & Treasurer Mick Baumann, Council Herb Putnam, Foundation Dick Gyllstrom and members at large Chuck Erickson and Gary Harrington.

Jay and Diane Johnson sold approximately three acres to Zion in 2010. This property located east of the church's south entrance has been planted with wildflowers.

The last land transaction was made in 2019 when the Foundation transferred the property back to the church.

This property is managed and maintained by an all-volunteer committee consisting of church and community members. The church provides no direct funding except insurance coverage through their policy.

Submitted by Chuck and Yvonne Erickson







Round Up Day Opportunity

Sunday, August 16th Zion will gather in God's Acres for Faith, Fellowship, Food and Fun.
Worship will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Round Up.
One of the events that may be of interest is the "open house" of the log cabin in which Amor was named in 1879. This naming story is on a history display panel by the cabin. This site is on location of the Amor Town Hall and can also be accessed by the Master Mile trail. The township supervisors are also displaying the old road equipment plus the new equipment used to build and maintain the township roads.
The Round Up Day Committee has worked diligently in preparing this event to make it fun and filling for the body and soul with lots of good fellowship. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Chuck Erickson

The final Round Up planning meeting will be Sunday, August 9 after worship. Everyone is welcome to attend.

LIBRARY NEWS

Have you missed the Sunday night Faith & Films for some reason or other?
Well you can now enjoy them in the comfort of your own home with your own popcorn!

The following is a list of the videos now available in the library for your use.

- THE BLIND SIDE is about a family. Journey with Michael as he finds a family and a future in the NFL. Rated PG 13
- HIDDEN FIGURES is the inspiring story about three women's incredible contributions to NASA and the space race. Rated PG
- MUSIC OF THE HEART is the story of one musically talented lady who is determined to make a difference. Rated PG
- RUDY " is without a doubt, one of the finest sports movies ever made." N.Y. Post. Rated PG
- THE SECRET: DARE TO DREAM relates the timeless message of hope, compassion, and gratitude. It shows how having positive thoughts can transform lives. Rated PG

****There is a need for help in the library for about two hours a month.****

If you are interested, please contact Betty or the church office.

Betty Johansen- Library Committee

FREE FOOT CARE CLINIC at ZION

Tuesday, August 4 Morning Appointments
Call Marlys Baumann for an appointment at 218-371-1866.
What to bring: A basin; two towels; your own clippers and lotion if you prefer. Call Marlys for more information.
Thank you!

Habitat For Humanity

Habitat will be building another home in Ottertail beginning this August and they are looking for volunteers to assist. Don't have construction experience? That's OK, they will provide the tools and knowledge to assist in completing the tasks at hand. Can't commit to be there more than one or two times? That's OK, any time you can give is greatly appreciated. All are welcome to participate! If you are interested contact Jim Wherley at 218-535-1733 and he will make sure you receive the dates/times and location once they are made available.



AUGUST ACTION GROUP

Paul & Beth Bruce
Bob & Crystal Asche
Rob & Kathy Bope
Le & Barb Boyer
Eldon & Adair Craig
Val & Paula Dietz
Kathy Gruenewald
Peter & Louann Jacobson
Lyle & Anda Johnson
Steve Klemm
Jeff & Becky LeDeux
Dick & Jane Zeaske

SEPTEMBER ACTION GROUP- Lucy Roberts

Dan & Denise Bladow
Arivd & LaVonne Carlson
Ben & Kristin Draeger
Ryan & Alicia Draeger
Carol Gealow
Doug & Sue Hudson
Jay Johnson
Jeff & Roxanne Johnson
Wyman & Jacqueline Jorgenson
Millie Mitzel
Eric & Tamara Roberts



ZION-AMOR CHURCH STAFF & COUNCIL OFFICERS

Pastor……Chris Mathiason
Office Manager…Mitzi Parker
Cont. Worship...Carol Brimhall
Cong. Life……..Marlene Halvorson
Custodian ……..Steph Whipps
Council Pres…..Jim Wherley
Council VP……..Gary Stone
Council Secy. ….Cindy Stafford
Council Treas…..Chris Maudal



2 Peggy Bladow
5 Pam Hedstrom
6 Jeff Johnson
7 Shirley Johnson
7 Lucy Roberts
10 Irene Hoff
13 Larry Berget
16 Jan Thiele
19 Ronette Miller
19 Steve Klemm
21 Marlene Falconer
22 Keith Fleischauer
23 Nancy Johnson
24 Cindy Allen
29 Lyle Hovde
29 Paula Dietz



1 Clif & Cindy Allen
3 Erwin & Marilyn Wahlgren
3 Tom & Sandy Leuthner
7 Steve & Pam Hedstrom
15 Terry & Barbara Krumwiede
16 Jim & Rhonda Tweeter
16 Bob & Connie Hanyzewski
24 Bob & Crystal Asche
24 Floyd & Nellda Lehne
25 Val & Paula Dietz
25 Mike & Cindy Holstrom
25 Tim & Susan Schonhardt
26 Byron & Tanya Hensch
29 Lee & Diane Sherman
30 Warren Ketterling & Deborah Carlsrud

Accept forgiveness from God and put your sin behind you. It is not our business to remember what God has forgotten.

Warming Hearts Soup

You are invited to take a quart of soup to someone you think may need it- someone living alone, someone recovering from an illness or surgery, someone experiencing loss or grief, or anyone in need or who might benefit from some warm soup (made with love) to warm a heart. The soup is located in the freezer in the church kitchen mechanical room. Please note the type of soup and date on the clipboard.

Thank you to the WELCA ladies for making the soup!

Word Search Loaves and Fishes

J	L	O	A	V	E	S	N
E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
S	T	E	K	S	A	B	W
H	S	I	F	T	A	R	E
A	E	S	N	R	U	E	R
R	B	U	L	S	D	A	D
E	O	E	F	O	O	D	N
M	Y	R	G	N	U	H	A

Andrew, Barley, Baskets, Boy, Bread, Disciple, Fish, Food, God, Hungry, Loaves, Mountain, Share

The nominating committee will begin reaching out to identify volunteers for various leadership roles in the church. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents!
Thank you in advance!

JUNE FINANCIALS

TREASURER'S REPORT

	June	YTD	BUDGET
INCOME	**16,317**	**150,576**	**328,600**
EXPENSE			
Benevolence	1,250	6,775	17,500.00
Missions	0	3,676,	13,100
Pastor Compensation	9,816	58,878	120,435
Pastor Expense	192	588	2,600
New Member	109	408	2,400
Youth & Family	122	460	1600
Library	26	83	200
Music & Worship	35	1,522	2,750
Altar	97	248	900
Staff	7,649	48,279	101,151
Office Expenses	2,571	9,800	19,200
Planning	0	50	0
Property Management	1,077	22,533	34,070
Maintenance & Repair	737	892	5,150
TOTAL EXPENSE	**23,681**	**154,192**	**321,057**
NET INCOME	**-7,364**	**-3,616**	**7,543**

DEDICATED ACCOUNTS

Funeral	4,093
Flowers	69
Improvement Fund	2,026
Desg. Mis. Giving	17,857
Food Shelf	300
Sunday School	3,322
World Hunger	200
WELCA Pass Thru	2,099
Cemetery Fund	6,570
Library Fund	1,622
Memorials & Gift	7,048
Music Fund	1,041
Youth Group	1,470
IFTK	213
Foundation Pass Thru	1,172
Stephen Ministry	757
God's Acres	0
Men's Group	110
Miss. Jamaica Pass Thru.	1,500
Helping Hands	7,392
Missions	1,104
Quilters Pass Thru	250
Parking lot	30
Jamaica House	7,510
Technology	607
Total	**71,494**

ATTENDANCE

JUNE 2025	
Date	Attendance
5 SUNDAYS	9:00 AM
1 JUN	117
8 JUN	119
15 JUN	113
22 JUN	78
29 JUN	138
TOTAL	565

JUNE 2026	
Date	Attendance
4 SUNDAYS	9:00 A.M.
7 JUN	118
14 JUN	120
21 JUN	134
28 JUN	123
TOTAL	495



In Every Season, Turn to God

Are you enjoying a happy time? *Praise God.*
Is life becoming difficult? *Seek God.*
Are you experiencing a quiet moment? *Worship God.*
Are you suffering great pain? *Trust God.*
Are you unsure what to do? *Ask God.*
Are you overwhelmed with joy? *Thank God.*

Pastoral Visits

Please call the church office and let us know if you desire a pastoral visit, especially if you are going to be hospitalized.

Please note that hospitals do not automatically notify churches or pastors when someone is admitted to the hospital due to HIPPA Privacy regulations.

If it is an emergency feel free to call: Church Office 218-495-2563 or Pastor Chris 717-829-5237