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 **ZION** Lutheran Church

July Newsletter | Vol. 26, Issue 7



Each spring, I look forward to things slowing down in the summer and they never do! I ask for your continued prayer and support as I manage the many responsibilities I have as your pastor. What a joy it is to do ministry together!

This summer, we have many opportunities to get involved in the community through our outreach ministries:

- Free ice cream Wednesdays
- Community meal on July 12
- National Night Out on August 4
- Providing donations for our upcoming God's Work Our Hands event on September 20
- Helping in our orchard as we anticipate Applefest on October 4

We are also working this summer on preparing for more faith formation programming starting back up in the fall including:

- Confirmation (beginning a new cohort for students approximately 7th-9th grade - let me know if you're interested!)
- Second Sunday Surprise: Intergenerational Sunday school
- Adult Study and Discussion: Faith and Civic Life
- Usher Training

I hope you will find the many ways to get involved at Zion in our outreach ministries and faith formation programming in the coming months!

Your Pastor,
Christina

FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS



ICE CREAM EVENINGS

Wednesdays | 6-7:30p

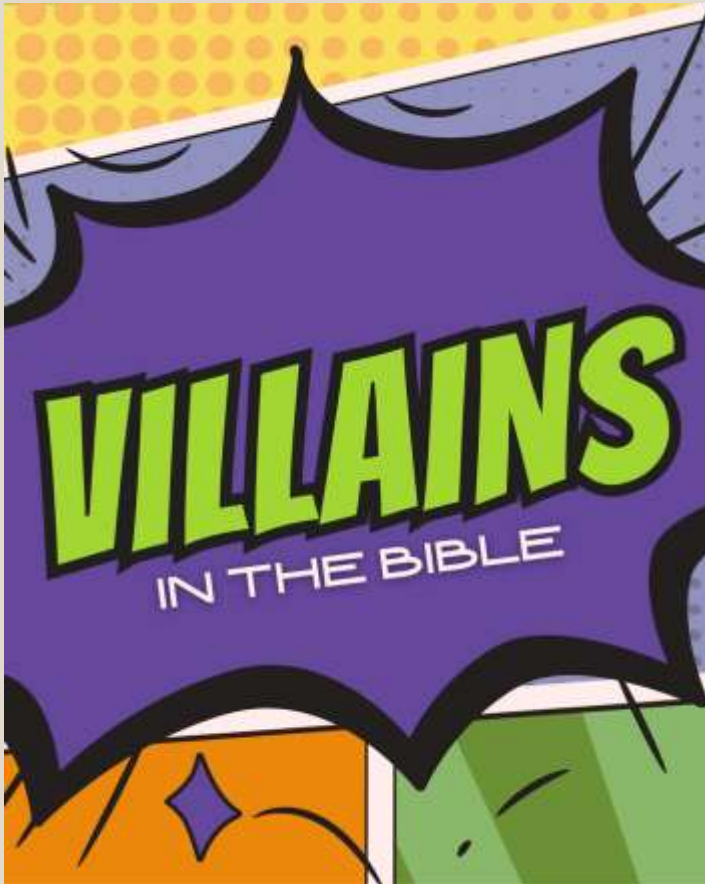
June 24

July 1 + 8 + 15 + 22+29

August 5 + 12

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1000 WASHINGTON AVE | CLOQUET**

Summer Series: Villains in the Bible



July 12 | The Serpent

July 19 | The Pharaoh

July 26 | The Fallen Hero

August 2 | The Crown

August 9 | The Devil

August 16 | The Crowd

This summer, we will be doing a summer series during Sunday worship called *Villains in the Bible*.

This series comes to us from a MN based ministry group called *Church Anew* and we are joined in this series with other ELCA Carlton County congregations.

From the creators of *Villains in the Bible*:

Every great story needs a great villain. Imagine Star Wars without Darth Vader, The Lion King without Scar, or Batman without the Joker. The Bible is no exception.

When we explore the villain, an uncomfortable truth arises. They become a mirror held up to us that exposes where we've missed the mark. These villains reveal the familiar shapes and patterns of sin and brokenness. They

confirm the deep tragedy of the human condition. And once we learn to recognize those shapes and patterns in Scripture, we begin to recognize them in the world around us - and in ourselves.

And while this all sounds really heavy, this is also where the good news of the Gospel comes in. Whenever that uncomfortable mirror is held up, God's grace surely follows. Like the prophet Nathan did for King David - calling sin a sin allows it to be forgiven. Brokenness called brokenness can be restored. Evil called evil can be redeemed.

This sermon series invites us into the stories of the villain. It holds up that mirror. And it reminds us that more often than not, we have more in common with the villain of the story than we'd care to admit.

But, ultimately, the God who sees all of this clearly is the same God who runs toward us, anyway.



July EcoFaith Action: Composting as Creation Care Ministry

Composting has gained a lot of popularity recently—so what's the big deal about piles of smelly, soily sludge? Why should people of faith care about it?

If food scraps and yardwork scraps are going to break down anyway, why does it matter where it happens?

Composting is what we call a 'closed-loop' system. Rather than creating waste and excess, composting takes something 'useless' (smelly, soily sludge) and creates something wonderfully 'useful.' Organic scraps such as trimmed grass, potato peels, coffee grounds, moldy strawberries, leaves—you name it—will naturally decompose. When we compost, rather than having decomposition release greenhouse gases (CO₂ and methane) in a landfill or yard waste drop-off site, we harness the decomposition.

Greenhouse gases don't only add up from car tailpipes—excess tilling of soil, the millions of food scraps we throw away every year in the US alone—these contribute a lot to the overheating of God's Earth, too. As people of faith, we're called to walk gently and honor present and future generations. Through attention and care, decomposition through composting creates nutrient rich organic material to be spread on gardens and enriches soil. Here's a two minute video explaining the coolness of compost with a bit more depth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFlsjRXbnSk>

Starting to compost is easy! Simply grab a container from the recycling bin with a lid (big ice cream tubs work well but just about anything will do to start) or see if your town has containers available for pickup. Scrape leftover foodstuffs, choppings from the cutting board, and old food into the bin. Note that if you will be composting in your backyard, dairy and meat cannot be added because the bacteria they form while decomposing can be harmful to

people. If your town has an industrial (site where temperatures get much higher than in a backyard site) drop-off site, you can compost meat and dairy there - just be sure to follow their specific regulations. Good luck and God bless you and your community!

Ongoing Help Needed!



Daily stockers of the Little Free Pantry are needed to help keep our pantry a consistent source of food for our community. Commit to one (or more) scheduled days per week to load the Pantry. Training and Building Key provided.

Pairs of counters are needed to help record & deposit monetary tithes and offerings. One Sunday every 2-3 months. Training provided.

Zion Lutheran Church, Cloquet



Free Little
Pantry

Curated by the
Hunger & Justice
Committee



Donations are always
gratefully received.
Suggestions include:

- Snack foods including cookies, granola bars, graham crackers, goldfish, pretzels, Jell-O/pudding cups, fruit cups, applesauce • Raisins, nuts, trail mix • Dried fruits •
- Peanut butter, jelly • Oats, oatmeal, cereal •
- Grains (rice, quinoa, couscous) •
- Canned fruit, vegetables, soup, broth •
- Pasta, pasta sauce, ramen, Mac & Cheese •
- Instant potatoes • Canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef, sausages, Spam, ham) •
- Add water mixes (muffins, pancakes, cornbread, biscuits, Jell-O) • Baking needs (sugar, flour, baking powder, vinegar, spices, condensed milk • Olive oil, canola oil •
- Drinks (juice boxes/pouches, drink packets for water, coffee grounds) • Sauces, dressing, syrup •





God's work. Our hands.



Join us for a day of service!

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,300 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." day of service. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

Zion Lutheran Church
September 20, 2026
1000 Washington Avenue
Cloquet, MN 55720

www.zioncloquet.org



God's work, Our hands will be September 20th. Each month until then we will be collecting items for the kits we put together that day.

Items for July:

- Jackets and sweaters with or without hoods (sizes 6 to 24 months)
 - Full size toothpaste
 - Black or blue ball point pens (no gel ink)
-



Zion Choir Practice | 1st Wednesdays



Regular Choir practices have resumed! Join a fun group of singers and lend your voice to our (typically) once a month musical offering during liturgy! All are welcome! 🎵🎹

Practice is held at the Presbyterian Church of Cloquet [47 4th Street] at 6:30p, on the 1st Wednesdays.

Practices will be scheduled once monthly with potential extra times for Advent & Lent/Easter. Contact Jim Sheetz for more information!

Hello from the Community Garden Gardeners



We rent plots in this space to grow our own food. If we have food to share, you will find it in the vegetable stand just north of this garden on Washington Ave. Help yourself to that food.



Food assistance is also
available at these locations:



Zion Lutheran Little Free Pantry

Open 24 hours. Located at the west entry to
the church on this site.

Salvation Army: 316 Carlton Avenue
218-8791693

Hours: Monday 4:30 to 6 pm

Tuesday 8:30 to 12:30

Grace Church: 601 14th Street
218-879-5749

Hours : Fridays : 10:30 to 12:00



August 11 | Primary Elections



Research Candidates Before You Vote!

Trusted, Nonpartisan Resources



VOTE 411

By the League of Women Voters

- See personalized ballots for your area
- Compare candidates side-by-side, learn about the office
- Read candidate statements in their own words, watch available forums
- Get details on where, when, and how to vote



My Ballot Finder

By the Minnesota Secretary of State

- Find out which races and questions will appear on your ballot
- Identify which candidates you need to research

Congress.gov

- Follow what current U.S. Senators and Representatives have done
- Track their voting records and the bills they've sponsored
- See committee assignments and official statements

OpenSecrets.org

- See where candidates get their money
- Look up top donors and industries by name
- Covers both federal and many state-level candidates

VoteSmart.org

- Check how incumbents voted on specific issues
- See speeches, public statements, and campaign promises
- Learn about a candidate's work history, education, and affiliations
- Review ratings by advocacy groups

Ballotpedia.org

- Learn about candidates at local, state, and national levels
- Read biographies, past election results, endorsements
- Explore key policy positions and campaign contributions
- Includes info on judges, ballot measures, and more

Notes from the Pastor's Office

Pastor Christina works Sunday-Thursday and this summer is typically in the office during the following times:

Sunday 8am-12pm

Monday 8am-2pm

Tuesday 11am-3pm

Wednesday 11am-2pm

Thursday 11am-3pm

A more detailed monthly schedule is posted on Pastor's Office door.

As always, the best way to get in touch with Pastor Christina is via email.

Please call and text for pastoral emergencies, such as imminent death, death, funeral scheduling, etc.

Notes from the Office

Kristy's summer schedule is
Monday-Thursday, 8am-2pm.

Kristy can be contacted at
office@zioncloquet.org about
prepping worship materials,
printing, scheduling,
announcements and general
questions.



Elise continues to support Zion's worship life through liturgy preparation and offsite graphic design support.

Contact Elise at media@zioncloquet.org for support with bulletins, website, posters and social media.



ELISE AMES

LITURGICAL ASSISTANT
& OFFSITE GRAPHIC DESIGN SUPPORT

IF YOU NEED
HELP WITH THE:

- Bulletin
- Website
- eNewsletter
- Posters
- Social Media

EMAIL ELISE:
media@zioncloquet.org



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion Lutheran Church in Cloquet Minnesota is committed to expressing the holy hospitality of God and welcomes all people into the community of this congregation and to the celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Christ's death and resurrection is for all people, therefore we affirm the sacredness of all people: all sexual orientations; gender identities and gender expressions (LGBTQIA2S+); races and ethnicities including Black, Brown, Indigenous, & Persons of Color (BIPOC); ages and abilities; those who struggle with addiction, physical or mental illness; socioeconomic or citizenship statuses. We stand together in Christ, striving to reflect the expansive diversity of God's image and creative work, through our commitment to racial equity, diversity, inclusivity; to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8)

ELCA

ALL ARE WELCOME HERE.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST



Zion Lutheran Church

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Cloquet, MN 55720

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 **ZION** Lutheran Church

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Cloquet, MN 55720

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