

THE OFFERING

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #772 — *Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

Carry the cross  **and follow me.**
Luke 14:27, NRSV



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166

715.526.2017 • zion@shawanozion.org • www.shawanozion.org

A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



13th Sunday after Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 ~ 5 PM

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER COMMISSIONING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. **Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

HYMN #533 — *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And, also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING — *Deuteronomy 30:15–20*

[Moses said to the people:] See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in the LORD's ways, and by observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other deities and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying the LORD, and holding fast to your God; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

SECOND READING — *Philemon 1–21*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love — and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason Onesimus was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother — especially to me but

how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord .So if you consider me your partner, welcome Onesimus as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL — *Luke 14:25–33*

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether there is enough to complete it? Otherwise, when a foundation has been laid and the builder is not able to finish the building, all who see it will begin to ridicule the builder, saying, ‘This person began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & BACKPACK BLESSING

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #880 — *O God Beyond All Praising*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of grace. **Receive our prayer.**

Petitions conclude... name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**