



May 2026

GRACELINES

Zion Lutheran Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Worship 9:00am In-Person
&
Live-streamed on
YouTube
Posted to Facebook
after Worship.**

**Church Office Hours:
Mon - Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm**

**Contact Zion:
Church Office: 235-7045**

**Please leave a message
and we'll get back to you.**

Email Address:

**Church Office:
office.zionluthwaterloo
@gmail.com**

Web Page:

www.zionluthwaterloo.com

Facebook Page:

**[https://www.facebook.com/
zionluthwaterloo](https://www.facebook.com/zionluthwaterloo)**

YouTube:

**[https://www.youtube.com/
@zionlutheranchurchwater-
loo5011](https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranchurchwaterloo5011)**

**Zion Lutheran Church
810 Kimball Ave
Waterloo, IA 50702**

Happy Spring to all!

It's May! The merry month of May. A month of many celebrations, from graduations and weddings to Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, and Pentecost. Many of us know Pentecost as "something" that we honor at church, that happens after Easter.... oh, and we wear red.

Pentecost (by other names) is an ancient celebration, which pre-dates Christianity. In Jewish history, it is named Shavuot and occurs 50 days after Passover. Shavuot commemorates the date when God gave the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai over 3,000 years ago. Like many of our Christian holy days, we borrowed the tradition of existing celebrations and piggy-backed our Christian celebrations to those dates and times. In our biblical world, we are very familiar with events happening after forty days, but Pentecost, as its name hints, is fifty days after Easter. Pente (five) like a pentagon is a five-sided figure. In our Church we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the Apostles who gave them the gifts necessary to go out and preach the Gospel to all nations. It is the beginning of the Church.

One of the Pentecost traditions we have in our Christian churches, is the use of peonies to decorate our altars. Originally, the peony was a Chinese flower, but it spread from China to Europe and the Mediterranean, to the British Isles, to North America and beyond. The peony has almost as many myths, interpretations and stories associated with it as the number of countries where peonies can be grown. It has been valued for its medicinal qualities especially in ancient China and Greece, helping to ease the pain of childbirth, epilepsy, blood flow, inflammation, gout, etc. to the extent that people kept the root and threw away the flower. But the flower is also a symbol of as many things as the number of varieties and colors: romance, prosperity, good fortune, bashfulness and on and on.

Con't on Next Page

Study

May 3

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

May 10

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

May 17

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

May 24 (Pentecost)

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-35, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

May 31

Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

But why is it associated with Pentecost? First and foremost, it bloomed around the time of Pentecost. Additionally, its lush, large blossoms were said to symbolize the expansive power of the Holy Spirit. Its tight buds bursting open like a tiny flame into the limitless strength, light and impact of the Holy Spirit. Peony in German is Pfingst Rosa (Pfingst-Rosa), which means Pentecost rose. The flower has been in Europe almost as long as Christianity. German folklore includes a story of a woman so troubled by the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ that she went to her rose garden and wept such tears, that the thorns were washed away from the roses, and thus began the peony.

When you look at the altar at Pentecost, or at your own or your neighbor's yard and see the peony, remember its long and important history. But most of all, think of the power and the worldwide reach of the Holy Spirit and the healing power of Jesus. The beauty of the blossom is not visible to us all year, but the root is with us every hour of every day.

Enjoy Spring and all its beauty!
Joann Mackin



Join us in wearing Red on
Sunday, May 24th,
to celebrate Pentecost.

Pray

O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Happy Mother's Day
to all of
our Mothers.
-Sunday, May 10th-



Deadline for newsletter items
will be **May 11th.**

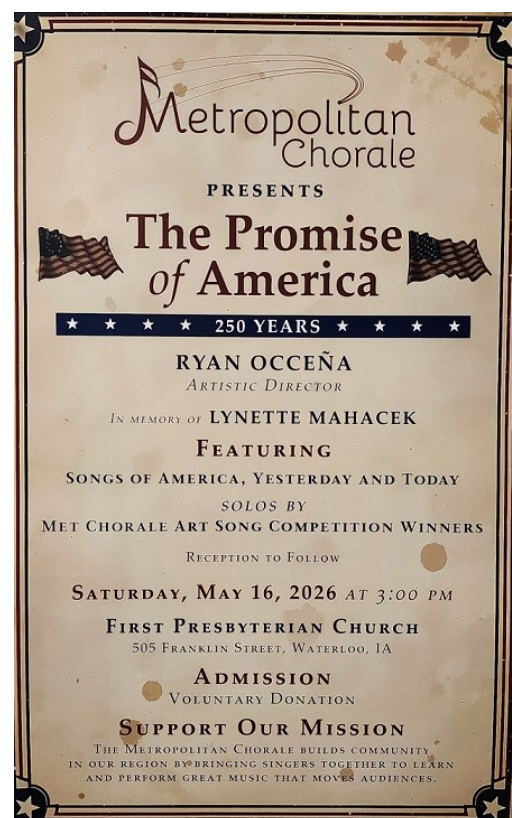
Celebrating our Church Community

May Birthdays

1	Kellen Tieskoetter
2	Mike Kindschi Madison Martin
3	Sharon Droste
4	Hailee Budke Helen McClain Debra Williamson
6	Julie Rogge
7	Nick Graves Nolan Tieskoetter
9	Emerson Elefsrud Chris Uhland
11	Riley Orr
15	Jean Camarata
18	Sommer Budke
19	Seth Orr
20	Roberta Madland Addilyn Guetzlaff
21	Kaylene Orr
26	Phillip Campbell
30	Charles Watson
31	Maddox Elefsrud

Wedding Anniversaries this Month

2	Steve & Sandy Mahlstedt
6	Garry & Sheila Gardiner
17	Steve & Gloria Clough
23	Steve & Carol Pierce
23	Jerry & Jean Camarata
26	Steve & Marcia Cutsforth



Congratulations to our 2026 High School Seniors!



Colin Lesyshen
Ellyn Whittemore
Jasmyn Breddin

Come & celebrate with
them on Sunday, May 17!

Cake, punch, and coffee following Worship.

The Met Chorale will be performing
in May. More information on the
bulletin board in the Coffee Area.

Being the Church

Our Mission Ministry this month is:

The Salvation Army - Women's Shelter

Their mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.



Donations Needed:

Towels, Bars of Soap,
Washcloths,
Pillow Cases,
XL Twin Sheets,
and Hygiene Products.

Thank you for your
Donations and Support!

You are important to our church family!

If you need prayer, or have suffered a family loss, please contact the church office at (319) 235-7045. All requests will be treated with confidentiality, and information will be forwarded appropriately.



The PRAYER TREE contacts are:

Sheila Gardiner - gardinergarry28@gmail.com (319) 291-8404,
Deb Grimson - hrgbear@mchsi.com (319) 269-6153,
Kathy Jones - kltjones@mchsi.com (319) 231-4278,
and Jen Wedeking (church office) - (319) 235-7045
office.zionluthwaterloo@gmail.com.

Volunteer to host Coffee or bring Snacks/Treats for Fellowship following Worship on Sundays. You can find the sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Area on the bulletin board.



Host
Coffee
Hour

Please call the
office, if you have
any questions.



Please place items in the
SHOPPING CART by the
Mission Cross in the sanctuary.

We will be collecting for the
NEIA Food Bank
for the month of:

May
Cereal



Zion Book Club

Next meeting May 20th @ 9:30am.

All are welcome!

Upcoming Dates & Books:

May 20th - "Boat Baby: A Memoir"
by Vicky Nguyen

June 17th - "The Correspondent"
by Virginia Evans



Brown Baggers - Wednesdays at Noon

Bring your own lunch or snack (if you want) and join us for an hour or so of conversation and study of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. Discussions are held in the Fireside Room.



Caffeinated Conversations

Every Thursday morning from 9-11am
Fat Cup Coffee (37 Fletcher Ave.).

This is a time of open discussion
about the church, faith, life,
whatever you want.



Being the Church

*In observance,
Zion's Office will be
Closed on
Monday, May 25th.*



Karl & Bonnie are getting rid of their Home Phone and have provided their Cell #'s below so you are able to reach them.

Here is the updated
Phone Number
for Karl Guetzlaff:

Cell Phone: (319) 269-0400.

Here is the updated
Phone Number
for Bonnie Guetzlaff:

Cell Phone: (319) 239-1343.



There will be an informal meeting on Sunday, May 17th, after service, to gather

people together who would be interested in planning a Fundraising event for Zion. It will be a short meeting, meant to begin the process of choosing an event (or two!) to raise funds for the church while having FUN!

A prayer chain is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways a church community can stay spiritually connected. We are in the process of updating and adding people that would be interested in being a part of Zion's Prayer Chain.



We have a few ways you can join the prayer tree groups. The Prayer Tree Branches are: email, phone call, and group text.

If you would like to join Zion's Prayer Tree Chain or if you have any questions, please call Diana Hawker at (319) 269-7229.

Supporting the Church

FINANCIAL UPDATE (as of April 30, 2026)

TOTAL OFFERING TO GENERAL FUND	MISSION PLAN YEAR-TO-DATE \$44,605.00	ACTUAL YEAR-TO-DATE \$50,073.00
Total General Fund Expenses	Mission Plan Year-to-Date \$39,019.00	Actual Year-to-Date \$36,591.00

Support the Church

You may provide financial support to Zion:

- In-person Giving
- By Mail
- Online: - Tithe.ly OR - VANCO

Offering Contributions for April

April 5

Total General Fund: \$2,680.00

April 12

Total General Fund: \$2,775.00

April 19

Total General Fund: \$1,961.59

April 26

Total General Fund: \$1,258.70

TOTAL OF ALL GIVING: \$8,675.29

Council Minutes and complete Treasurer reports are available on the bulletin board in the Coffee Area and in the Church Office upon request.

**Serving in
May**

Sundays	3	10	17	24 - Pentecost	31 - The Holy Trinity
<u>ALTAR GUILD</u>	Deb Grimson				
<u>VAN DRIVERS</u>	Mike Grimson	Craig Hawker	Mike Simbric	Tim Davis	Dave Hamilton
<u>LECTORS</u>	Deb Grimson	Eleanor Meyerhoff	Joann Mackin	Sharon Droste	Brad Shatzer