

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

10:15 a.m.

(* Indicates: stand if you are able.)

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP *Surely the Presence*

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD

OPENING SENTENCES

L: Come and hear the good news: God seeks out the lost and rejoices when they are found.

P: **Once we were lost, but now we are found. Praise be to God!**

L: The Shepherd calls each of us by name and carries us home with joy.

P: **We will rejoice with the angels and give thanks for God's amazing grace.**

*HYMN *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

*PRAYER **Loving God, You search for us when we wander. You call us back when we stray. Gather us into Your presence this morning, remind us of Your mercy, and renew us in Your grace. As we worship, may we rejoice in Your saving love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MOMENTS

ANTHEM *Grace Alone*

GOD'S WORD FOR US

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:1-7

MESSAGE

Lost Sheep

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN *Amazing Grace*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE George, Bonnie, Lenkaitis Family, Shelly, Theresa Grove, Dixie, Annunciation Parish, Cliff and Stanley Smith, Debbie, Christian Ed., Lauren, Mack, Davis, Tom Kaszynski family, Sandy & Don, Geo & Marni, Melanie, Scott, Mary Opsal, Bill Ellena family, Rusty Thies Family, Rene, Pete Sampo, Kimberly, Kylin, Cora, Ted Davenport, Kevin Orval, Shirley Lopeman, The Fuplers, Terry Dean, Arnie & Jan Watkins, Jacob Bremann, Lexanne Jarosz & family, Elizabeth, Hugh Williams, Jack Hauser, Ray Kollar Family, Anthony, Dawn & Ron Narczewski, Jim Brown, Austin, Maxine, Shirley, Jackie, Brianna, Zimmer family, Tim P., Eric & Tina, Dale Jacobson, Paul Nave, Jeff Rietgraf, Jean Mikus, Deb Cooper, Ryan, Josie, Steve & Audrey, Jean Spayer, Cindy Harzheim, Paul Lewis, Marilyn Haslam, Bob & Holly Antkowiak.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)

PRAYER RESPONSE *Make Me a Servant*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*RESPONSE *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION **Loving God, You seek us when we are lost and bring us home with joy. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them to reach others with Your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*HYMN *Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Announcements

New Prayer Requests

-George, for health

-Aubrey's Great-Grandmother, Bonnie, for health

*If you would like to make an announcement during worship, please request a microphone. Thank you!

Please join us for fellowship refreshments after worship today. *If you would like to provide refreshments there is a sign-up sheet for October in fellowship hall!

If anyone has pictures from VBS, especially the picnic, doing crafts, and playing games that they are willing to share, please either email them to Pastor Kay at pklh@juno.com or send them to her cell phone at (309)238-8221. She would like to put together a pictorial record of the week.

If you attended the recent Sunday School Lock-In at Pilgrim Park and have pictures, please send them to Shelly.

Did you know? Copies of the hymns and large print bulletins are located in the Narthex.

Also, new copies of "These Days" daily devotions are available in fellowship hall.

The Church Council will meet tomorrow at 7:00pm.

Tune in to Pastor Alex every Sunday morning at 8:25 on 103.9 WLPO. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!

Join Us for Bible Study!

We're excited to announce that Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30 PM! Our study is based on the inspiring series *The Chosen* and is open to all adults.

This is a hybrid event, so you can join us in person at the church or via Zoom—whichever works best for you. We'll be picking up where we left off in Season 3, so come ready to share your thoughts, questions, and insights.

Let's continue to grow in faith and community together. See you Tuesday! All are welcome!

More news about The Chosen Bible Study to resume this

Tuesday at 6:30: We'll do a short review of seasons 1 and 2 and then begin discussing episode 1 of season of season three. There are good reviews of the first two seasons on YouTube. They are The Chosen RECAP: Season 1

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FtuFaPonTQ which is 12 min. long and The Chosen RECAP: Season 2

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOMOhuz7PT8 which is 8 min. long. Both are worth watching. If you were part of the study group last year they will refresh your memory and if you are new to the group they will give you a good sense of what has been discussed so you will feel "at home" joining now. You can participate in person at the church or online. The online sign in is available on the church website and detailed information about how to view the episodes is available in the September newsletter.

Choir practice will begin this Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm. If you like to sing and have fun please contact Jim Greening (815/223-1858) with questions, or come to practice when it begins.

Zion Diners will meet this Thursday, September 18th at 6:00pm. The dinner will be hosted by Jyll Janz who has chosen Angelo's in Spring Valley as the place. Let her know if you want to join the fun and fellowship.

September 28 – Illinois Valley CROP Hunger Walk

In just two weeks, we will join with others in our community to take steps against hunger here at home and around the world. We need walkers and sponsors for this year's Illinois Valley CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, September 28th. Walk starts at 1:00pm.

Please see Pastor Alex for more details and to sign up to walk, sponsor, or both. Last year was a great success, and with your help, we can do even better this year! Thank you for being part of the effort to feed the hungry in our community and beyond. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.

COOKIE SALE NEWS FLASH #2

WHY DO WE HAVE A COOKIE SALE?

The answer is simple. To raise funds to carry out our mission as a church. Some of the funds raised to help with projects to maintain our facilities. But a lot of them go to sharing the faith by sending kids to church camp, and helping with Vacation Bible School and to support service agencies in our area. The Illinois Valley CROP Walk, Starved Rock Regional Center for Child Development, Illinois Valley Food Pantry, United Way, Horizon House, The Red Cross, Lighted Way, Pilgrim Park, North Central Youth Services, Human Needs, Harvest Home, and PADS Homeless shelter have all received donations from the funds raised. A holiday cookie sale is just a tasty way to raise the funds.

Zion UCC is once again providing a delicious hot meal delivered to the **Peru PADS homeless shelter** each month. As the summer winds down, the shelter reopened earlier this year due to a greater need than ever. Every little bit helps us provide a nutritious meal each month through May. Write a check to the church and note "**PADS Meals.**" Or go online and donate through the Giving page on our website. Your donation helps provide a healthy, hearty meal to those who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and support in feeding the hungry!

The Illinois Valley Food Pantry is seeking donations to purchase their new facility. Your financial support can make a real difference! Contributions can be sent to:
Illinois Valley Food Pantry 122 Wright St. LaSalle, IL 61301

HELP WANTED! Ushers: We are building a new Ushers List. If you previously served as usher and would like to serve again, we would like to add you to the new ushers list. Previously ushers served for an entire month. Ushers now will serve when they are available to serve even for a single Sunday. You can let Larry Grosenbach know you will serve as usher or email ushers@zionperu.org to be added to the ushers list.

Evangelism: We are updating our visitor information about Zion church and will be creating a visitor packet that will contain our new updated information about Zion Church and a thank you gift or two for them visiting. If you would like to help the Evangelism

Team with the visitor project you can let Pastor Alex, Jerry Koehler or email evangelism@zionperu.org.

Live Life (Pre and Post Transplant Support Group) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm at Zion UCC.

The Compassionate Friends Group meets at Zion every fourth Thursday at 6:30pm. This meeting is open to any parent who has lost a child. Please contact the church office for information.

Weight Watchers is meeting every Saturday morning at 8:00 here at Zion. We're happy to provide space for this worthwhile service to our community.

Tonica Church is collecting personal hygiene products to give away. Items needed include: *Bar soap *Shower gel *Shampoo Razors *Deodorant *Toothbrushes *Toothpaste *Combs or Brushes *Contact Diane Gebhardt with any questions!

You can now donate to Zion by Text to (815)393-1954

Enter the amount you want to give to Zion in the Text box and send. If it the first time you are giving by text you will be prompted to set up your giving method (credit card or bank account).

Zion United Church of Christ
6th & Grant Streets, Peru, IL

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL
office@zionperu.org 1-815-223-2671 www.zionperu.org

Ministers	Members of the Congregation
Pastor	Pastor Alex Garncarz
Organist	Jim Greening
Secretary	Erin Lewis
Liturgist	Marcia Brown
Audio Technician	Jerry Koehler
Video Technician	Rhonda Essl
Song Leader	Dave Jacobson
Fellowship	Candie Zelenak and Karen Kradle

Attendance: September 7: In Person: 43 + 4 children
On YouTube: 7

This week:

Monday, September 15th

7:00pm Church Council meeting

Wednesday, September 17th

6:30pm Choir practice

Thursday, September 18th

6:00pm Zion Diners

Saturday, September 20th

8:00am Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, September 21st

8:25am Pastor Alex on WLPO

9:00am CREW

9:30am Choir practice

10:15am Worship in person, also available on You Tube

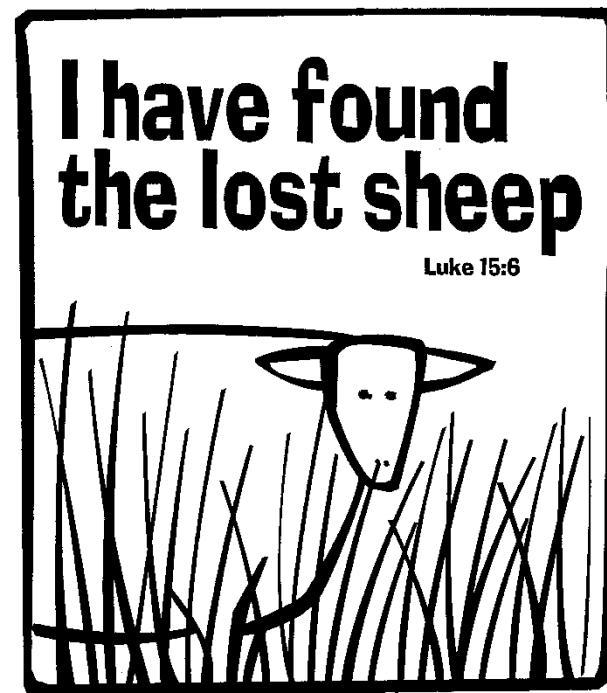
Followed by Fellowship Refreshments

Office Hours this week

Monday-Thursday: Closed

*Friday: 9:00am -5:00pm *

Zion
United Church of Christ



Handicapped Accessible

www.zionperu.org

Follow us on Facebook: Zion UCC, Peru, IL

815-223-2671

1521 6th Street, Peru, IL 61354

