



*Do nothing from rivalry
or conceit, but in humility
count others more
significant than
yourselves. Let each of
you look not only to his
own interests, but also to
the interests of others.*

Philippians 2:3–4

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2026 THEME FOR BEREIA & ZION **“LIVING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."
Galatians 5:22-23*

The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His work in our lives, shown by how we serve Christ by serving others. Because of the salvation Jesus bought for us, we are now free. But what SHOULD we do? Paul says he (and we) are "slaves" ("servants") to Christ.

By being servants and in gratitude to Jesus for His saving work, we are empowered by the Spirit working in and through us to do what He wants. We praise Him with lives well lived, and bring the message of salvation to everyone around us, bringing Him glory by our actions.

Throughout the year, we will explore the meaning of all nine fruit. Watch for these explorations on the announcement page. We hope you will revisit your understanding of God's gifts, seeing where the Holy Spirit's fruit shine through. You are a work in progress, a work of art that God has not yet finished.

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ.
Talk to Pastor John today.*



Invitation to Holy Communion

Holy Communion is a special gift that Jesus has given to His church. This gift is a Sacrament through which Jesus forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, and helps us to remember His death and resurrection for our forgiveness.

Berea and Zion Lutheran Church confesses in unity the Biblical teaching that this gift is intended for those who:

- *Have been baptized and believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.*
- *Recognize and believe that we are receiving, not just the bread and wine, but also the true Body and Blood of Jesus in, with, and under the consecrated bread and wine.*
- *Are desiring to turn away from their sins by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
- *Are willing to forgive others as Jesus has forgiven you.*

If after personal reflection, you determine that...

- *Your beliefs **are not consistent** with these points...*
or
- *You are **knowingly and intentionally** living in a state of unrepentant sin...*
or
- *You have **not received instruction** regarding Holy Communion from a Lutheran Church-Canada congregation or a church body in altar and pulpit fellowship with us...*

... we ask that, for the your own spiritual well-being, you would please **refrain** from receiving Holy Communion at Berea and Zion until you have talked with the Pastor or one of our Elders due to the caution that the Bible has given to us:

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 11:27)

Pastor John or one of our Elders would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone who is seeking guidance about the Christian faith or who would like to receive Holy Communion at Berea and Zion in the future.

If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing during communion, we welcome you to do so by coming forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

18th Sunday after Pentecost ~ September 27, 2026

As We Gather

From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command "Be fruitful and multiply" to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, "I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them" (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, "the soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God's design is for life-eternal life. He declares, "I have no pleasure in the death of anyone" (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take

away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, "we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:23-24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father's declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: "My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

WELCOME AND SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

Berea Opening Hymn 908 Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

Zion Opening – Rite of Baptism (see insert)

Harrison Donald Skinner

Invocation and Opening Sentences Psalm 43:4; 124:8; Isaiah 25:9

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

P: I will go to the altar of God,

C: to God my exceeding joy.

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

C: This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

Confession and Absolution

P: God invites His whole creation to boldly enter into His gates of mercy, therefore we lift up our confession of sins.

C: Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess all our sins of thought, word and deed. Our times of waywardness, our neglect of Your call, as well as our failure to be of help to our neighbour. We humbly pray, forgive us, have mercy on us, renew and cleanse our hearts and minds, and give us deliverance.

P: Receive the Lord's abiding forgiveness, faith, strength, and help to live in the hope of eternal life with Him: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Hymn of Praise

This Is the Feast (LSB 155)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

2 Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honour, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

3 Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

4 Blessing, honour, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

5 For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *We pray*, Almighty God, enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth.

C: AMEN

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

("I have no pleasure in the death of anyone.")

The word of the Lord came to me: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel?

For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 2:1-4,14-18

(Christ’s example of humility)

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–27

(The authority of Jesus is challenged)

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among

themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

Profession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. AMEN

Hymn of the Day 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

***We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.***

***May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!***

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord, You have promised to hear Your people when they call, and answer us according to Your mercy. For that we give you are thanks and praise and are bold to lift up our prayers. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayers.

P: Almighty Father, You take no pleasure in the death of anyone. As John the Baptist once called people to repentance and faith, so raise up voices within Your Church today to call the world to turn from their sins and live through faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, continue to bless us with faithful pastors who preach Jesus and His life, suffering, death, and resurrection so that all who would repent and believe in Him would have salvation now and eternally. Give us faithful church workers who will serve and share in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, grant us grace to fulfill our baptismal calling to be God's children where You have placed us and according to the vocations given to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Father, Your power continues to uphold all things. Give Your blessings to our leaders, and the leaders of the world. Guide all who lead to seek Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Jesus, You have brought healing, comfort, and peace, especially in times of illness, affliction, depression, and sorrow. Hear us on behalf of all who suffer any need. We especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Grant them strength and comfort in their hour of trouble. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Unite us, Lord, that we may be of one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service. Bless us as we come to receive the body and blood of Your Son at His table. Grant that what we receive in this Holy Communion we may keep in holy hearts and holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: AMEN

+ CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +

(The communion candles are lit at this time)

Luther's Admonition to the Communicants

P: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and

pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament. LW p. 197-198

Sanctus

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns Of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise you, with the saints and angels
Holy, blessed through all eternity.***

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

Words of Institution

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;

Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Peace of the Lord

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: AMEN

Agnus Dei

*O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away --
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all, Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.*

Distribution of Communion

Distribution Hymn 617 O Lord, We Praise Thee

Post-Communion Prayer

P: *Let us pray.* We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn

809 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA	Organist:	Bill Irwin
	Altar Guild:	Kevin & Heather Ball
	Elders:	Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
	For Prayer:	Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622
ZION	Organist:	Joanne Maguire
	Altar Guild:	P. Restemayer / K. Keller
	Elders:	Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter, Randy Bowers, Jeff Miller
	For Prayer:	Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789

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