

BASIC INFORMATION FOR FIRST-TIME VISITORS TO ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

First things first ... Where does the name “Zion” come from?

“Zion” (pronounced “Zī’-uhn”) is a Biblical name for Jerusalem. More specifically, it is the hill upon which the Holy City is built (this is why some churches are called “Mount Zion”). It also reminds us of the New Jerusalem to come (see Revelation 21), the perfection of heaven for which we long.

Where should I park and enter the church for Sunday services?

Although you can park anywhere on the Zion property and get in from any of the church/school entrances, you probably want to come in the main Church entrance at the far western end (by the flagpole and memorial garden). There are four “visitor” parking spots near this door; also, “handicap only” spots are marked and are nearby. For most evening services (*Thursdays most of the year; Wednesdays during Advent and Lent*) only the church entrance is usually unlocked. On Sundays the Childcare entrance (at the far East end) is locked.



What should I expect the service to be like?

Pastor does a good job of keeping Sunday morning services at about one hour (or a little less) in length. After the bells ring to call us to worship, he will welcome everyone, make any needed announcements and then set the theme for the day. The service will consist of hymns (songs we sing), a variety of Scripture readings, confession and absolution (forgiveness) of our sins, the sermon (where pastor helps apply God’s Word to our lives), prayers, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Benediction. Holy Communion is offered on an alternating-service schedule. An offering is taken – these are gifts we freely give in thanksgiving to all God has given us (visitors are under NO obligation to give!). A service folder (bulletin) will guide you through the service; you will also receive the announcements in printed form

What should I wear to worship?

Really, it doesn’t matter as long as you dress in a way that isn’t distracting. But since you probably want more information than that, we can say that most people wear “business casual” – though some will be in suits and dresses, while others will wear nice jeans and collared shirts or blouses. What you wear is not as important to the Lord as you actually being present for worship.

This is a little personal, but where are the restrooms?

Good question ... and don’t be embarrassed to ask! There are three sets of Men’s and Women’s restrooms ... by the church, just before you get to the lunchroom (gym area), and in the hallway leading to the Childcare from the school. All are marked. The ones at the church end have baby-changing stations for your convenience.



I have little kids; are they welcome, too?

Absolutely! Zion's membership tends to be a little younger since our main ministries (Childcare and School) are geared for the kids ... and so we are used to having squirming (and sometimes noisy!) little bundles of joy making their presence known. In fact, we WANT kids here; how else will they learn about Jesus?



Don't worry if your child makes some noise, but if he or she needs a little time to calm down feel free to take them out of the sanctuary for a few minutes, and then bring him or her back in. We've all been there ourselves, so everyone will understand; no one will look down on you.

We do have activity bags (filled with stickers, coloring books, and other quiet things to keep the children occupied) on racks in the Narthex (entry area to the church); just ask an elder where they are.

One suggestion, though: Many parents are tempted to sit in back with their toddlers, but we recommend you sit near the front (perhaps on one of the sides) so your child can see what is happening. After all, how exciting is it for a child when all they can see are the backs of adults in front of them?

What goes on between the Services?

Most weeks we have refreshments (what we call the "coffee hour") right after the first service and before Sunday School (kids) and Bible Class (adults) start at 9:30. Usually held in the school lunchroom (down the hall from the church ... by the school gym), we generally have baked goods, cheese and sausage, or something other that's good to snack on. Since these are usually hosted by one of the Zion groups as a fundraiser, a free-will offering is taken. During the summer months (when we only have one service, at 9:00 AM) it is often held outside the main church door. This is a great time for fellowship and getting to know each other, so we invite you to join us!



Am I allowed to take Holy Communion?

Members in good standing of Zion and her sister LCMS congregations are welcome to partake of the sacrament. We rejoice in this celebration of the Lord's Supper, believing that our Lord Jesus indeed comes to us in a very intimate and physical manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood "in, with and under" the form of the bread and wine in this sacred meal.



Having said that, we take this gift very seriously here at Zion and we DO practice what is called "Close" or "Closed" Communion. St. Paul writes:

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Cor.11:28-29

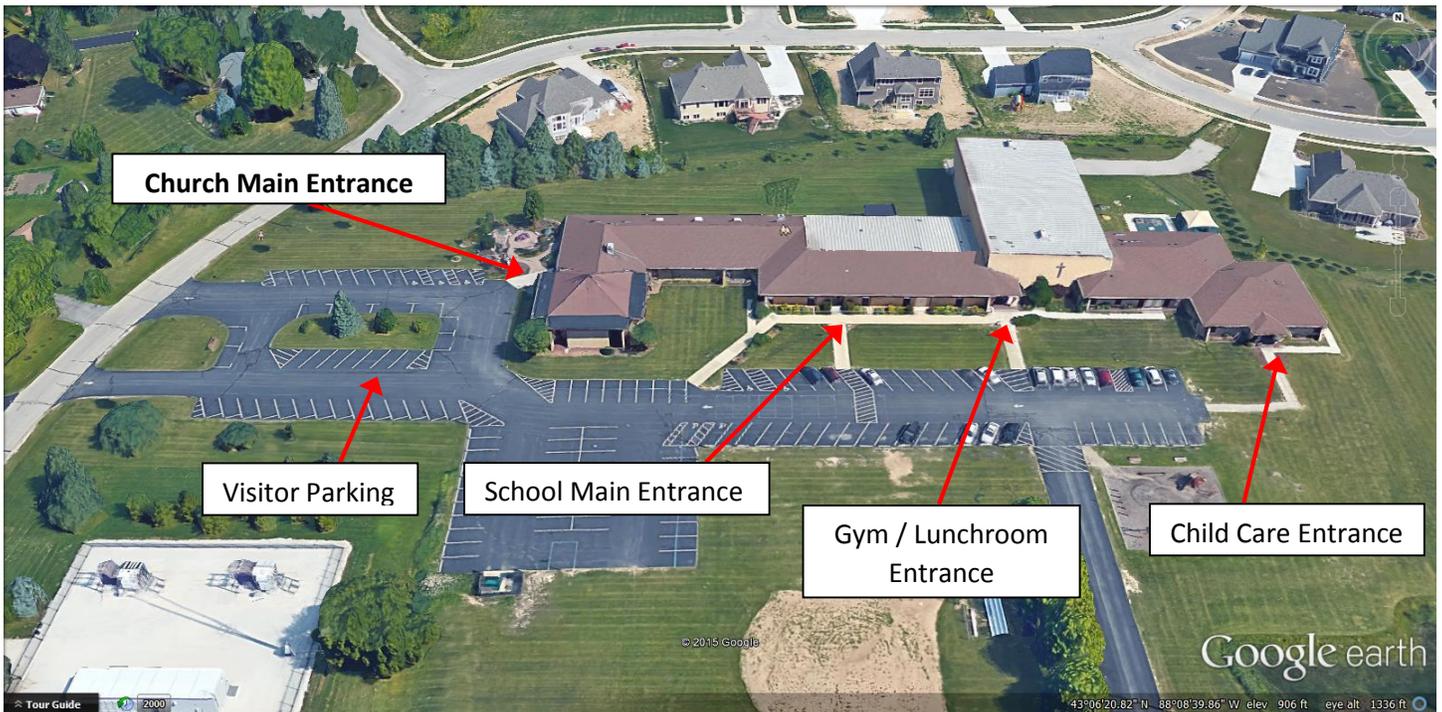
With this in mind, it is love and care for every individual that leads us to ask those who are not instructed in the faith; who doubt the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in this Sacrament; or hold a belief differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, to speak to Pastor or an Elder before communing here. Please respect our position of love in this matter of pastoral care and understand if we need to say "not yet" to your request.

Specific instructions on HOW to receive the sacrament are printed in the Communion Distribution section of each communion service folder.

Say I just moved to the area and want to join Zion ... how does that happen?

Really, it depends on your church background. Members in good standing of other congregations of our denomination (the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod www.lcms.org) merely have to request a Letter of Transfer from their home church. Members of other church bodies will need to have some sessions with Pastor where together you will explore what the Lutheran Church believes and why. The number of sessions will depend on your background and the questions you may have; the date and time for these meetings is individualized according to your (and Pastor’s) schedules. Either way, just talk to Pastor!

**Do you have any other questions? Give us a call at [262-781-8133](tel:262-781-8133)
or email Pastor at Pastor@ZionInTheFalls.org**



Zion Lutheran is located on the North-East corner of the intersection of Lisbon Road and N. Brookfield Road (*Brookfield Road becomes Emerald Hills road on the north side of Lisbon*).

You can enter the parking lot from either Lisbon or Emerald Hills roads.

The main church entrance is at the western end of the building (by the flagpole and memorial garden). The Child Care entrance is closed and locked on Sunday mornings.

