

**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

God our Father, when Your Son was born of the Virgin Mary He became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in Him be free from our sinful ways. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen
~ *For All the Saints, III*



The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2017 + 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. A rich man decides to pay the same wage to all his workers, even though they're doing different amounts of work. When the first group complains, his response is simple: "Can't I do what I want with what is my own? Do you begrudge my generosity?" Here is God's free grace pictured clearly for us. As we begin a six-part series on the Lutheran Church (what is it *really?*), that free grace serves as our starting point – really, our base point, as it is the foundation of all that we hold dear.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Maureen Rouse for blessings received! Praise be to God!
- The flowers at the altar are sponsored by Maureen Rouse in thanksgiving for the love, prayers, and kindness of the wonderful members of Zion.
- The flowers at the lectern and pulpit are sponsored by the Women of Zion in thanksgiving to God for the devoted service of Zion's office manager, Pamela Gabriel, and secretary, Anna Mae Zeinemann.
- The sponsor charts for 2017 for Broadcasts and Flowers are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

Celebrating 500 Years of the Reformation

On October 31, 1517, blessed Martin Luther posted the 95 Theses that would spark a church-wide reformation. As we approach that event's anniversary, each Sunday bulletin will contain brief reflections on the history of the Lutheran Church.

Luther's "Ninety-Five Theses" were in direct response to the selling of "plenary indulgences," a process by which the Roman church granted full forgiveness of all sins in exchange for cash. Luther hated this practice. Originally, however, he wrote his theses in Latin and only intended them for academic debate. Yet the topic was just too hot to ignore, and printers in the region sought to capitalize on it. They translated, printed and dispersed Luther's document, and when it was read by some within the Dominican order of the Roman church, a firestorm erupted.

The ensuing years would see schism and warfare, and with the threat of bodily death always breathing down his neck, Luther would preach the gospel that would regenerate Christ's Church. Through it all, Luther remained bound to the Word of God, proclaiming boldly that it is in scripture alone (*Sola Scriptura*) that the promise of forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with God can be found through faith in Christ Jesus.

Announcements

Parish announcements may be found in the weekly newsletter, *For You*, provided by the ushers.



PRELUDE

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” ... Wayne L. Wold

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

Evil cannot be gotten out of the world by reward and punishment: that just points up the shortage of sheep and turns God into one more score-evening goat. The only way to solve the problem of evil is for God to do what in fact he did: to take it out of the world by taking it into himself – down into the forgettery of Jesus' dead human mind – and to close the books on it forever

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church, and by the authority of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Please stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” green hymnal #408

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

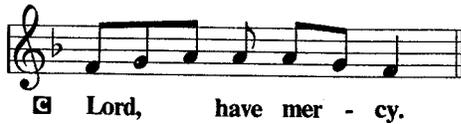
KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



☩ Lord, have mer - cy.

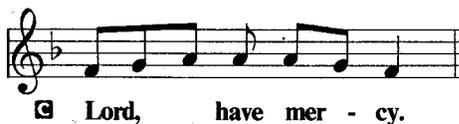
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

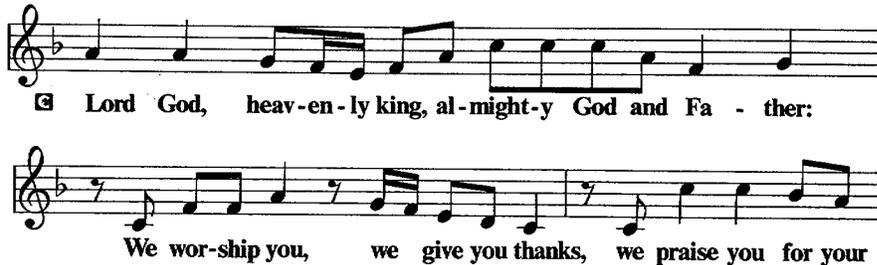


P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



HYMN OF PRAISE

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



... That way, the kingdom of heaven is for everybody; hell is reserved only for the idiots who insist on keeping non-existent records in their heads.

~ Robert Farrar Capon, Kingdom, Grace, Judgment, 2002 A.D.

As long as the old self lives, it tries to make it seem that God is your enemy – some kind of far-away judge you can ignore completely or have to appease by doing good things. When you hear Christ's word, that changes

glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God: You take a - way the sin of the world;
 have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before you relying on anything we have done, help us trust in your abiding grace and live according to your Word; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27:1-12

Choir/ The LORD is my light and my salvation; |

L: whom then 'shall I fear?*

The LORD is the strength of my life; | of whom then shall I 'be afraid?

C: **When evildoers came upon me to eat 'up my flesh,*
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stum'bled
and fell.**

Choir/ Though an army should en'camp against me,*

L: yet my heart shall not 'be afraid;

*. . . . For then
you know that
God is not
your enemy,
but your true
Father – the
one who in
Christ has
given himself
completely for
you, withhold-
ing nothing.
As you hear
this, the old
sinner in you
dies and you
can say,
“That’s it. I
don’t want to
be my own god
anymore. I
want you to be
my God and to
keep your
promises to
me.”*

*~ J. Nestingen
and Gerhard
Forde,
Free to Be,
1975 A.D.*

*If any oppressive sorrow
has come
upon you ...
pray with
psalms to the
Lord lest the
sadness of the
world which
is death swallow
you up;
drive the destructive
sickness of grief
from your
heart by the
frequent
sweetness of
the psalms.
~ Bede the
Venerable,
672-735
A.D.*

**C: and though war should rise 'up against me,*
yet will I put my 'trust in him.**

Choir/ One thing have I asked of the LORD; | one 'thing I seek;*
L: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days 'of
my life;

**C: to behold the fair beauty 'of the LORD*
and to seek him 'in his temple.**

Choir/ For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe 'in his
L: shelter;*
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me
high up'on a rock.

**C: Even now he lifts 'up my head*
above my enemies 'round about me.**

Choir/ Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with
L: sounds 'of great gladness;*
I will sing and make music 'to the LORD.

**C: Harken to my voice, O LORD, 'when I call;*
have mercy on me and 'answer me.**

Choir/ You speak in my heart and say, " 'Seek my face.'"*
L: Your face, LORD, 'will I seek.

**C: Hide not your 'face from me,*
nor turn away your servant 'in displeasure.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and 'to the Son,*
and to the 'Holy Spirit;
as it was in 'the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen**

EPISTLE Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. ²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: The Word of the Lord.

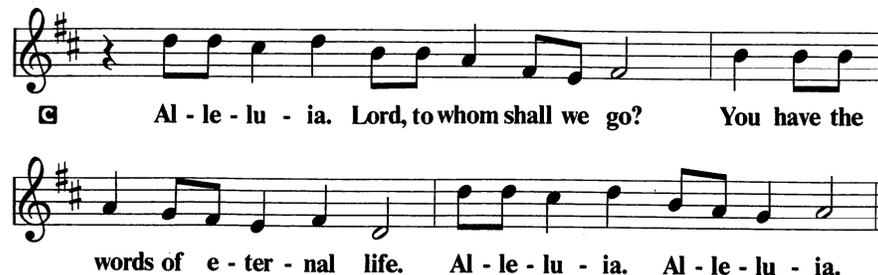
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

*All I can say
about my love
of God, is,
Lord help me
in my lack of
it.*

*~ Flannery
O'Connor,
20th Cen-
tury A.D.*

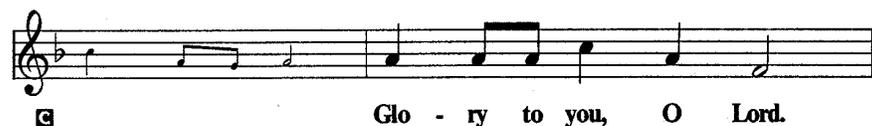
VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said,] "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a

denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the ✠ resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00 a.m.)

During the singing of the hymn, children of preschool age through grade 4 may leave for Sunday School classes downstairs in the church hall. Please reclaim your children at 10:25 a.m. after their music time in the balcony.

Lutheranism, by its very nature, is a part of the Western Catholic stream of Christianity. It shares the same belief in the triune God; in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; and in the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth. It confesses its faith in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church which gathered and transmitted to later generations the canonical writings of the Old and New Testaments

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Salvation unto Us Has Come” green hymnal #297
(9:00 a.m.: Choir sings stanza 3)

SERMON

What is the Lutheran Church *Really*?
Part One: “Do You Begrudge My Generosity?”

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

P: . . . 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

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the **Friendship Register**, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

VOLUNTARY

“Salvation Unto Us Has Come” . . . Walter L. Pelz

Please stand.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

. . . Western Catholics share the same ecumenical creeds and sacred liturgies; the same sacraments of baptism and holy communion; the same dominically instituted office of the holy ministry; and the same genealogies of apostles, martyrs, missionaries, saints, hymn writers, and doctors of the church.
~ Pr. Carl Braaten, Mother Church, 1998 A.D.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ("Holy")



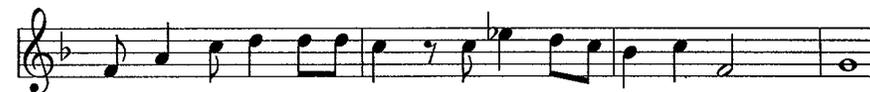
☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 the 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 of it, in remembrance of me."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

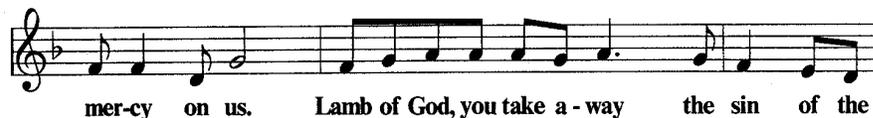
C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is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

ACCLAMATION

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

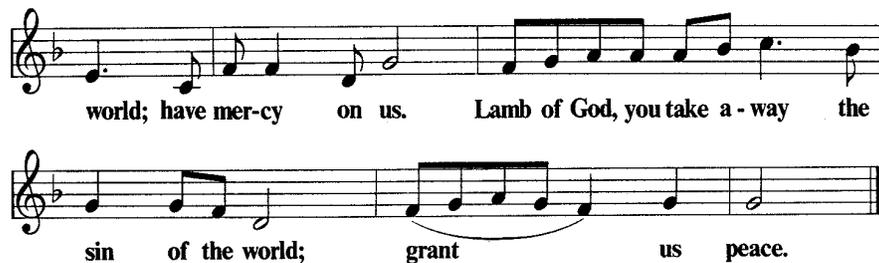
AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



What defines the church is the living presence incarnate in the Eucharist, where Christ and his community are bodily one. The church is Christ as his bodily presence in the world, prefiguring the future of the world in the kingdom of God.
~ Pr. Carl Braaten, Mother Church, 1998 A.D.

Luther wanted Bible stories painted on the church walls He celebrated Holy Communion every Sunday, and when he spilled the wine from the chalice, he licked it up with his tongue because it was for him, as it is for us, the very blood of Christ.

~ Pr. David Scaer, Reformation sermon, 1992 A.D.



Please be seated.

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives ours sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

(9:00 a.m. only: sung by choir) "Thee We Adore"

"Now We Join in Celebration" green hymnal #203

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☐ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



☐ A - men

SILENT PRAYER

A Prayer
As You Go
Grant, we be-
seech thee,
merciful God,
that we who
worship thee
in thy church
may be wit-
nesses unto
thee in the
world; through
the might of
Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Amen
~ A. Campbell
Fraser,
A Book of
Prayer,
1932 A.D.

POSTLUDE

“Salvation Unto Us Has Come”

... David Cherwien

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Choir: (9:00) Zion Lutheran Kantorei

Lector: (9:00) Robert Hochberger

(11:00) Carl Boettcher

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Scott Schubring

Acolyte: (9:00) Ashtyn Fernstaedt

(11:00) Mitchell Steinke

Elder: (9:00) Scott Schubring

(11:00) Karla Westcott

Ushers: (9:00) Sally Christoffersen; Gary Habeck;

Steve and Marlene Kroening

(11:00) Al Lippert; Herbert Zahrt

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Sally Christoffersen; Joe Pinzl; Vicky Radunz

(11:00) Donna Nuernberg; Joe Pinzl; Cheryl Plautz

Altar Guild: Kay Krall; Vicky Radunz

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde

Visitation Pastor Theodore B. Gulhaugen

Pastoral Assistant Joseph C. Pinzl

Kantor Irene Beethe

Parish Nurse Lenore Grosinske

Office Manager Pam Gabriel

Secretary Anna Mae Zeinemann

Custodian Michael Renken

To contact us by email:

zion@dwave.net

To visit our webpage:

www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour

Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

Member Congregation of Lutheran Core

www.lutherancore.org