

# Zion Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

**April 2019**

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# The Great and Holy Week

April 14-21

- April 14:**            **Palm Sunday**, 9 and 11 AM  
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading
- April 15-17:**        **Holy Monday thru Wednesday**  
Daily Prayer, 12:15 PM
- April 18:**            **Maundy Thursday**,  
Communion, 10 AM, 6:30 PM  
Stripping of the Altar
- April 19:**            **Good Friday**  
TreOre Service, Noon to 3 PM
- April 20:**            **Holy Saturday**  
The Great Vigil, 6:30 PM
- April 21:**            **The Resurrection of Our Lord**  
Holy Communion, 9 & 11 AM



## Pastoral Letter

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Dear Zion,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus. Amen

Did you know that, when our Lord Jesus rose from the dead, He never spoke about life after death?

He spoke about it plenty of times during His ministry— “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies” (John 11:25)—and it remains a hallmark promise that you have from God. But in the forty days following His resurrection, when Jesus met with His disciples to explain the new life won by His victory over the grave, He never spoke about life after death.

Instead, the risen Lord spoke about mission:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations . . .” (Luke 24:45-47)

As the Father has sent me, even so am I sending you. (John 20:21)

There is our mission, Zion: to make disciples by baptizing and teaching in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. That mission and the risen Lord go hand-in-hand.

He has called you to His life, marking you for resurrection. Therefore, you are part of His mission—and what a blessed part you are ! Thanks be to God, and may He grant us His Spirit to follow His call, sharing the good Word of life. Peace!

Pastor Gjerde

## **In the Liturgy**

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### **Scripture Readings in Worship this April**

Below are the Bible readings that you will hear at weekend worship during April. Read them before worship, and then return to them throughout the following week.

**Sunday, April 7:** Isaiah 43:16-21, Philippians 3:8-14, Luke 20:9-20

**Sunday, April 14:** Luke 19:28-40, Passion Narrative

**Sunday, April 21:** Isaiah 65:17-25, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, Luke 24:1-12

**Sunday, April 28:** Acts 5:12-20, Revelation 1:4-18, John 20:19-31

### ***What and Why?***

*~ a Q & A column on the liturgy ~*

**Are we supposed to attend both Easter Vigil and Easter services on Sunday?** It depends what you mean by “supposed to.” There is no divine law regarding worship in this regard, as though some days are more important than others. However, there is blessing and benefit to attending all the worship services of the “Triduum” (the “Three Days:” Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil), followed by worship on Easter morning. Those services tell again the great events of our Lord’s passion, and they not only tell them, but they also apply to us the promise of salvation wrapped up in each of those events. Most importantly, our Lord Jesus Himself is present at each of those services, handing out His gifts and promises as He works in the Holy Spirit to shape us after the pattern of His own suffering, death, and resurrection, teaching us to live and die and rise again with Him in the power of faith, hope, and love.

### **Holy Week**

#### *A Brief Overview*

Lent culminates in Holy Week, April 14-21. This week celebrates not only the sacred events of Christ’s death and resurrection, but also our union with Him through baptism and faith.

**Purpose:** to proclaim the saving acts of Jesus and the world’s redemption through them.

**Color:** scarlet, the color of dried blood (from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday).

**Symbols:** a cross of rough-hewn wood; the crucifix; bowl and towel (washing of the feet); crown of thorns; slain lamb; empty tomb; lilies and palms, evoking the shape of trumpets and arms raised in victory; the “new fire” (fire kindled at the start of Easter Vigil); candles (symbolizing the light of Christ we share).

## From the Associate Pastor

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Job 41:11 – *“Then came to [Job] all his brothers and sisters and all who had known him before and ate bread with him in his house. And they showed him sympathy and comforted him for all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him.”*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of Zion,

This year the month of April cradles both Lent and Easter meaning we are cradling two of our focus points in our teaching and preaching: Catechumenate (“learning”) and Mercy. Both are tied to one another. To be merciful one must learn what mercy means, what mercy entails, and from Whom mercy streams – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In acts of mercy we not only learn more about ourselves and the lengths to which our mercy may extend, but even more we learn about the Lord who activates and is in action through our acts of mercy. Mercy, in other words, does not come naturally to us. It must be received, learned, and given.

Consider this hypothetical situation: Imagine taking a toy from any child and what will happen next? They will try and take it right back and perhaps give you a good swat with their little hands to “thank you” for taking their stuff. This isn’t mercy; this is what we may call retributive justice. This is the type of justice most people, like Job’s friends and family, understand. Throughout the book of Job, his “friends” (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar) are convinced Job made the Lord angry which is why Job lost everything. They are convinced God only operates by retributive justice.

What we see by the end of the book of Job is how unsettling God’s ways are (Job himself is never given an answer by God to the “why” of losing everything) and also how merciful God is. The Lord would have been perfectly justified in not giving anything back to Job. As Job himself confessed earlier, “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (1:21). But the good LORD does. He gives twice as much in fact. Job’s friends and family are blown away by this mercy. Instead of Job getting what he deserves (according to their way of understanding God’s ways), Job gets a double portion of all he lost. Because of this they saw mercy in action, they began to have “sympathy” instead of pious ridicule. They were learning about mercy.

We’ll touch more on mercy and our Lord’s merciful ways during the season of Easter. As for now, we’ve much to learn through the remainder of Lent!

In Christ,

Pastor Chris Johnson

## **Weekly Bible Studies**

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**Sundays: “Practicing Forgiveness.”** How did forgiveness come to us? How do we rest in this gift daily? How do we share it in hard situations?

**Tuesdays: “The Gospel By Heart.”** If someone were to ask you for a brief outline of Christ’s life, what would you say? How do the four gospels in the Bible help us?

### **Key Doctrines of the Faith in Romans**

This Lent we continue delving into the riches of St. Paul’s longest and deepest letter, Romans, exploring and relearning key doctrines of the faith found within its pages inspired by the Holy Spirit.

## **Children’s and Youth Education**

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### **First Communion**

Baptized children aged 10 years old or older may participate in the spring class for First Communion starting on Wednesday, May 1, at 6:30 PM in the chapel. This class prepares children to receive the holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ with faith and thanksgiving. The course runs through Wednesday, May 29. *Please call the church office to register your child.*



### **Sunday School**

On Palm Sunday, April 14, the children will participate in the 9 AM worship service. They will be part of the processional and recessional and sing with the Kantorei as well. Please have your child in the church hall by 8:30 AM. There will be no Sunday school classes that day or on Easter Sunday, April 21.

The students will be singing for the final time this year on Mothers Day, May 12. The final day for Sunday school classes is May 19.

## From the Vicar

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*“Make me know your ways, O Lord; Teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth and teach me, For you are the God of my salvation;  
For you I wait all the day long.”* ~ Psalm 24:4-5

Do you remember learning to ride a bike? The moment the decision was made to take those wheels off, everything changed. You could have been cruising around the driveway safe and secure, but now on two wheels your adrenaline was up.

Learning can always push us to the end of what we think is possible. At some point in each of our lives we stood still contemplating the next step, which seemed almost insurmountable. “I just can’t do it!” We’d think to ourselves. “I’ve come this far...but no further shall I go.” Fear of failure, of falling, pain and—in extreme situations—even death can make you freeze, preventing you from putting one pedal over the other and just rollin’ with it.

We all take licks learning to ride a bike. We go a few yards and fall. We scrap ourselves up on the pavement a bit; get up; dust off; and get back on the bike. Personally, I probably would have sat down after the first few falls and called it a day. But my Father, brothers and sisters were there to encourage me. They ran along side me; helped me dust off, get up, and get back on the bike. Eventually, I was cruisin’.

This Lent, your heavenly Father is here for you. As you endeavor to be one who is taught by God, learning His ways which lead to eternal salvation, do so with faith, supported by Christ, your elder brother. He will teach you in the way you should go, because he’s been there. He’s taken his licks. He’s fallen down a few times. He’s even died, with you...for you!

Learning new things can stretch us. It can make us feel as if we simply can go no further for fear of failure, pain and—in the case of faith—death. But as St. Paul says; “you *have* died...” Past tense. The life you now live is hidden in Christ Jesus. And we all know what happened to that bruised, beaten and mangled body after three days in the barren darkness of the tomb: it is Risen.

The catechumenate is not simply about learning to die. It’s about learning to live a radically new life of faith in the Risen One: Christ Jesus. He shows us the way, and through the long journey of Lent, know that he—and all your brothers and sisters in faith—are with you.

*Fides ex Auditu*  
Vicar Joe

## **Maundy Thursday Mens' Breakfast**

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Coy Sawyer of the Christian radio station, 89Q (“Hope is Here!”), will speak about the passion of Jesus Christ at this year’s Men’s Breakfast on Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 6:30 a.m. in the church hall. A full, catered breakfast will be served; cost is \$10 per person. Tickets are available in the church office—bring a friend!

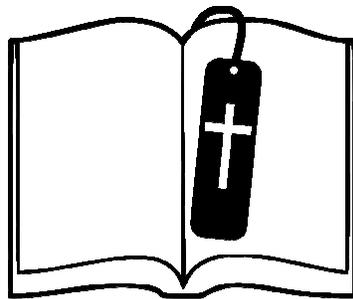
## **Bethany Proposal**

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The church council revisited the proposed cooperation between Zion and Bethany-Aniwa at its March meeting. It discussed congregational feedback, which centered on concern for the senior and associate pastors’ increased workload and the effects that this increase may have on Zion’s ministry.

At the same time, it reflected on Bethany’s desire for Gospel-centered, Christ-filled preaching and pastoral care. Council members recalled Zion’s history of supporting Gospel outreach in Marathon County. Finally, in view of mission opportunities at both Bethany and Zion, it began exploring new ways to keep Vicar Pinzl as a future part of Zion’s ministry.

The council is still in a fact-gathering mode as it considers Bethany’s contribution to the arrangement and the possibilities for growth and Zion’s witness to the Gospel. Once it has assembled that further information to share, it will pass it on to the congregation through written communication and meetings. Many thanks to God for your continued feedback, prayers, and hope-filled support.



## A “Note” From the Kantor

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### “Catechumenate: Learning the Gifts”

Last month I shared some observations from Richard C. Resch and how “hymns are teachers of the faith.” The themes on the Sundays in Lent address the question: *How do the gifts of Jesus shape our lives?* Some answers are found in the hymn, “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus.”

Stanzas one and two guide us through “the YES” and “NO” of “learning the Gifts.” - “NO” to the deception of the world and “YES” enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit, to following where He guides. The reference to “*all discomforts that annoy*”, takes us back to those nagging sins of which we need to repent. Through repentance, we receive the joy of forgiveness, “*shall give way to mirth hereafter.*” Stanza three continues the instruction in the way of repentance “*let us mortify all passion*” and saying NO. The text of stanza three continues with Jesus’ dying, and since He died, we too will die. However, stanza four doesn’t leave us in the grave. “*Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead....life eternal grant to me.*” We are bound to Him and He to us in baptism. We live in the constant hope of His life, death, and resurrection—“*We are Your own living members, where You live, there we shall be in Your presence constantly, living there with you forever!*”

- 1 Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure,  
Through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.  
Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above,  
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father’s bidding.  
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.
- 2 Let us suffer here with Jesus and with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow all our sadness; where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy;  
All discomforts that annoy shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe; help me there Your joy to know.
- 3 Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,  
He will free us from destruction, give to us immortal breath.  
Let us mortify all passion that would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die, there to live with You on high.
- 4 Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members; where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly, living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me.

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Joy in Jesus,

Kantor Irene Beethe

## **American Guild of Organists (AGO) Lenten Organ Meditations**

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Two organ meditations remain in the Wisconsin River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists series of *Lenten Organ Meditations*. These thirty-minute organ recitals are presented during the lunch hour on Fridays during Lent. The host church this year is First Presbyterian Church, 406 Grant Street in Wausau.

The programs begin at 12:15 pm. The organists for these final meditations is:

**April 5—Kartika Putri  
April 12— Patrick Burkhart**

## **Organ Concert Series**

**May 5, 2019 - 3:00 pm  
Organ Concert by Craig Cramer**



- **Professor of Organ and Artist in Residence: University of Notre Dame in Indiana**
- **Has performed in 45 of the United States**
- **His performances are often heard on American Public Media's Program, "Pipe dreams"**
- **Has recorded the works of Buxtehude**

## Mission and Outreach

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### Monthly Mission Emphasis:

#### Greater Wausau Christian Services — Goal: \$4,000

Since 1981 (38 years ago!), Greater Wausau Christian Services has provided a pastoral presence and various programs of support to residents of our community's institutions. There are 14 churches who are members and who support GWCS.



Specifically, the efforts of GWCS has centered on local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the county jail.

The GWCS worship program has 14 local pastors who are scheduled to lead worship services for the nursing homes on a weekly, rotation basis. Pastor Gjerde, Pastor Johnson and Vicar Pinzl take their turns in the rotation. Residents have come to appreciate the variety of pastoral leadership types, as each week a different pastor shows up to lead the service. The service consists of singing, Bible reading, a message and prayer, concluding by saying together “The Lord’s Prayer.” In addition, church services are held each Sunday afternoon at the county jail. Four different pastors lead these jail services on a rotation basis. Some of Zion members are also involved in an “every-other-week” ministry to women inmates of the jail.

Zion has been a part of GWCS since its inception. Your special gift of support is greatly appreciated. Our mission goal for Greater Wausau Christian Services for the month of April is \$4,000.

**Greater Wausau Christian Services' [Mission Statement](#):**

*Greater Wausau Christian [Services](#), is a community of congregations that brings Christian compassion and hope to individuals and families in elder care facilities, the Marathon County Jail, and the Marathon County Juvenile Facility.*

## Strassenfest 2019 — We Need YOU!

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With an annual event that is as far outreaching, multifaceted, anticipated and volunteer-reliant as Zion's annual Strassenfest, we like to keep it in your thoughts throughout the entire year. One of the main reasons this event is so successful is the generosity of our congregation. Your talents, donations, ideas, support, volunteer assistance and attendance help grow the event year after year.



We encourage you to reach out to the Strassenfest committee and ask what is needed to make this year's Strassenfest a success. Do you have a talent, are good at crafts, enjoy baking/gardening/canning? Do you have antiques or collectibles you'd like to donate? Do you have free time or are looking for a committee to join in order to assist the planning, coordination and execution of this amazing event? We'd love to hear from you. Our Strassenfest chairs, Dave and Lori Torkko can be reached at 715-551-0566 or [dtorkko@pcpros.net](mailto:dtorkko@pcpros.net).

This year's Strassenfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th. It's part of our Fall Festival weekend that includes an Abendessen and Swiss Steak Luncheon. More details will follow on those events in future newsletters.

## Spring Rummage and Plant Sale

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Zion's Spring Rummage and Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Setup will be on Friday, April 26th, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Items to be sold should be brought before 4:00 p.m. Friday. Lunch will be served for the workers on Friday. Help is needed both days for setup and the sale. If you have questions, call the church office, 715-848-7286. Help make this a successful sale!

## Women of Zion

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*“This organization will serve our Lord Jesus Christ by promoting charity, fellowship and devotion among women of Zion Lutheran Church.”*

### **DATES IN 2019 TO REMEMBER:**

**April 3** — Women of Zion meeting at 1:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Gloria Brauer, “A Journey Through the Archives; Where Can I Go, What Will I See?” We will also have nominations of our Executive Committee. Hostesses are Norma Curtis and Judy Radloff.

**April 27** — **Spring Rummage Sale** at 9:00 a.m. with setup being on April 26 in the school gym. If you have items to donate or would like to work at the sale, call the church office.

**May 1** — Women of Zion meeting at 1:30 p.m. Election of Executive Committee. Hostesses are Sheryl Morris and Grace Mueller.

**May 5** — Organ Concert at 3:00 p.m. Setup for the reception will be at 11:00 a.m.

**May 14** — Come enjoy a fun-filled evening of fellowship and delicious salads at the **Spring Salad Buffet**, 6:00 p.m. “Going Native - Plants that Grow Despite the Gardener” will be presented by Diane Drinsinger. Limited seating. Advance sale tickets will be sold in the church office during the week and after services Saturday night and Sunday morning beginning April 6/7. The price of a ticket is \$12.00.

All Women of Zion are welcome to attend our monthly meetings. If you’d like to be notified in advance when the next meeting will be, call the church office and leave your email address with either Anna Mae or Pam.

## **News and Events**

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### **80+ Birthdays in April**

- April 3        Sondra Christianson, 940 S. 25th St., Apt. 3, Wausau 54403  
April 9        Jack Hochberger, 6311 Kirk St., Weston 54476  
April 10       Duane Peterson, 1061 Cecelia Dr., Apt. 103, Pewaukee 53072  
April 17       Pauline Chinnock, Island Place, 400 River Dr., Apt. 392, Wausau 54403  
April 21       Norma Curtis, 909 Nina Ave., Wausau 54403  
April 23       Dorothy Flees, Mountain Terrace Sr. Living, 3402 Terrace Ct., Wausau 54401  
April 24       Elaine Hoff, 115 Erdman St., Schofield 54476  
April 25       Ruth Uecke, 3819 Crystal Dr., Wausau 54401

### **Voter's Meeting**

Zion's quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall.

### **Bread and Pie Baking**

Phyllis baked 77 loaves of bread and 40 pies. Profit was \$423; missions received \$63 and the church roof \$360. Thanks to helpers Steve, Jeff and Bill. And special thanks to our faithful shoppers!

**Young at Heart** Members of the Young at Heart will meet on Wednesday, April 24, 1:00 p.m. in the church hall.

### **Book Signing**

Come and meet bestselling author Beverly Lewis on Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. at ChristianFaith Life Resources, 3707 Schofield Ave., Weston. Beverly is a New York Times bestselling author of the book, "The Tinderbox." Everyone is welcome.

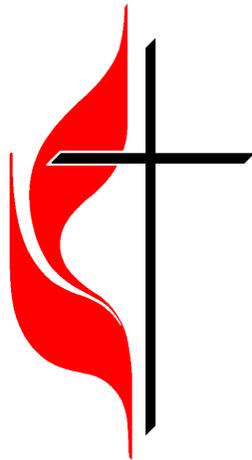
### **Pancake Breakfast**

Easton, Hewitt and the Wausau Lions Club will have their 10th annual spring Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 7th. All you can eat potato and regular pancakes with sausage patties, cheese and applesauce. Choice of milk, orange juice or coffee. Dessert. Serving from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Tickets can be bought at the door: adults \$8, kids 5-12 \$3, under 5 free. Serving at the Homestead Inn, 162765 Highway 52, Nutterville.

## Memorials and Other Gifts Received

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- **In honor of the late Lawrence and Margaret Trittine**, a gift was given to Undesignated Special Funds from their son-in-law, Gerald Kluetz.
- **In memory of Lydia Ahrens, a friend**, Gerald and Shirley Kieckhaefer gave a gift to the Hansen Property Improvement Fund.
- **In memory of G. H. Brister**, Hugh and Norma Curtis gave a gift to the Hansen Property Improvement Fund.



You are invited to a powerful musical Easter drama, **BOW THE KNEE**, at St. Mary's Catholic Church (Corpus Christi Center), 320 E. Washington Ave., Tomahawk on Saturday, April 6 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 7 at 2:30 p.m. and Palm Sunday weekend at Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 Stewart Ave., Wausau, Saturday, April 13 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 14 at 2:30 p.m. Come follow Anthony, a Roman centurion, whose life is changed when he encounters Jesus. Free admission. For more information, refer to either church's websites:

[www.stmaryschurchtomahawk.com](http://www.stmaryschurchtomahawk.com);  
[www.trinityonstewart.org](http://www.trinityonstewart.org), or check out "Bow the Knee" on Facebook.



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**709 SIXTH STREET**  
**WAUSAU WI 54403-4791**

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Come—Worship the Lord!*

- Sundays 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
- Saturdays 5:15 p.m.
- Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. (*during Lent*)

*Where you can reach us:*

**Church — 715-848-7286**

**Fax — 715-848-7286**

**Email — [zion@zionlutheranwausau.com](mailto:zion@zionlutheranwausau.com)**

**Web: [zionlutheranwausau.com](http://zionlutheranwausau.com)**

**A member of Lutheran CORE**