



For You

Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau + Advent 3 + December 14 and 15, 2019

PRAYING

In Our Prayers This Week

Persecuted Christians in:

Mali

Mauritania

Turkey

Sister Congregation

Lehurutshe Parish, South Africa

Missionaries

~ **Elliot and Serena Derricks,**
Lutheran Bible Translators

Wedding Anniversary

~ **John and Ruth Hochberger**
(64 years)

Those who need our on-going prayers:

~ **Hilmar Baumann**

~ **Karen Baumann**

~ **Les Broliar**

~ **Rich Cornell**

~ **Carol Edelburg**

~ **Barbara Ellen**

~ **Dennis Falk**

~ **Rita Falk**

~ **Ben Fiedler**

~ **Barry Gilbert**

~ **Ken Heinzen**

~ **Avery Kluck**

~ **Marlene Kroening**

~ **Debra Mertes**

~ **Grace Mueller**

~ **June Mueller**

~ **Maggie Otto**

~ **Tina Parker**

~ **Eunice Parsch**

~ **Barb Ramker**

~ **Krista Salas**

~ **Larry Schubring**

~ **David Skola**

~ **Jody Slack**

~ **Elroy Tapper**

~ **Nancy and Jim and Delores**

~ **Zion's homebound members**

Please submit your prayer requests to the church office (715-848-7286). We can print prayer requests that you make for yourself or immediate family members.

LITURGY

Receiving the Gifts

Midweek Advent:

“Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh”

Wednesdays, 10 AM & 6:30 PM

What do the gifts that the Magi brought the Christ Child teach us about Him and our faith in Him? Come and learn at midweek Advent worship on Wednesdays (December 4, 11, and 18).

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24:

Lessons and Carols: 5:00 PM

Holy Communion: 8:00 PM (WSAU)

December 25:

Holy Communion: 10:00 AM (WSAU)

In the Liturgy

On the Third Sunday in Advent (and the Fourth Sunday in Lent) the altar cloths change from blue (or violet) to rose. This change signifies our joy at having passed the “half-way mark” towards the coming feast (Christmas or, in Lent, Easter) as well as the joy that Christians always have as they contemplate the victory and ultimate return of Christ.

Next Sunday:

Advent 4: *Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7;*

Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 24

Heroes of the Faith in December

Saint Daniel and the Three Young Men

December 17

Saint Daniel the prophet and the three young men (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) were among the Jews whom Babylon took into exile. Even in that foreign land, their own country devastated, Daniel and the young men kept faith in the Lord of Israel. Attempts were made to kill them: Daniel survived a lion’s den, and the young men survived a fiery furnace, all by God’s providence and grace (Daniel 6 and 3). They remain an example of steadfast faithfulness and worship.

Saints Adam and Eve

December 19

Remembering Adam and Eve as saints may seem odd, yet they also were given the promise of a Savior and looked forward to His coming. As our “first parents,” they fell into sin, and through them, sin has passed to us all. “In Adam, all die,” says St. Paul (1 Corinthians 15:22). Yet in Christ, the New Adam, and His bride, the Church (the new Eve!), humanity is restored to life, and the children of Adam and Eve may look forward to the future of resurrection.

CATECHUMENATE

Learning the Gifts

Sundays at 10:15 AM:

First Corinthians.

Jealousy, scandal, the Lord's Supper, your resurrection — all these subjects we find addressed in this book, written by the apostle Paul. *Continuing at 1 Corinthians 11:17. (Church Hall)*

Tuesdays at 9AM: Zechariah

The prophet Zechariah prophesies so vividly about the coming Christ and His kingdom that our imaginations would be captivated by the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness. Very fitting for Advent, the prophet points us to Lord who has come at Bethlehem and will return at the end of this passing age. *Starting at Zechariah 3:1 (Church Hall.)*

Thursday Men's Breakfast at 7AM: Revelation

Our Lord Jesus once comforted the apostle John with visions of His return at the end of history and defeat of sin, death, and the devil. St. John recorded these visions in the book of Revelation, and now they comfort the whole Church! Come learn how the promised victory of Christ strengthens you for faith, hope, and love today. *Continuing at Revelation 12:1. (Church Hall)*

Online Study:

Dispelling Lutheran Myths

Zion will post a video every Wednesday to its Facebook page featuring a pastor

leading a brief reflection on a Bible passage, piece of Church history, or other subject significant to the day. Our current series is *Dispelling Lutheran Myths*. This series separates fact from fiction about the Lutheran church and explain its beliefs. Share them with friends who might benefit from knowing the truth about the Lutheran church.

Second All-Age Prayer Immersion: "Rise"

By final count, Zion's first all-age prayer immersion, "Scatter the Darkness," gathered almost 30 people! Come join the second one on January 5th, "Rise."

We will learn how Psalm 141, used in every liturgy of evening prayer at church, guides our prayer at home, too!

Date: Sunday, January 5

Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m. (dinner at 5:00!)

Like a traditional Vacation Bible School, this home-grown event will include lessons for all ages, crafts for the kids, and music to learn. Sign-up at the church office!

OUTREACH *and* MERCY

Sharing and Being the Gifts

Zion's Mission Goal This Month:

- **Greater Wausau Christian Services:
Goal – \$4,000**

Since 1981, GWCS (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 is centered on local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the county jail.

The GWCS worship program has local pastors who are scheduled to lead worship services for the nursing homes on a weekly basis. Pr. Johnson and Pr. Pinzl take their turn in the rotation. Residents have come to appreciate the variety of pastoral leadership types, as each week a different pastor shows up. In addition, church services are held each Sunday afternoon at the county jail. Four different pastors lead these services on a rotation basis. The service consists of singing, bible reading, a message and prayer, concluding by saying together "The Lord's Prayer."

Zion has been a part of GWCS since its inception. Your special gift of support is greatly appreciated.

Veterans Booklet

The Seventh Edition of Zion's Veteran booklet has been composed and is available for you to pick up at one of the entrances. It recognizes all military service members of Zion past and present. Alterations or additions may be forwarded to the church office.

Pizza with the Pastor

All high school youth and their friends are invited to come for pizza and fellowship with Pr. Johnson. This monthly event is traveling to Wausau's different "pizza joints" for food, fellowship, and discussion of the faith.

Quilt Raffle at Zion

The queen-size quilt "crown of thorns" raffle drawing will be held at Zion this Sunday, December 15 around 10:00 a.m. This raffle is a fundraiser for Zion's Strasenfest.

Young at Heart Christmas Potluck

...will be held this Wednesday, December 18 at 11:00 a.m. in the church hall. Please sign up in the church office and indicate what you will be bringing; chicken will be provided. Or call 715-551-0566.

Zion T-Shirts

T-shirts are still available for purchase, should anyone like to represent Zion in our town, or simply to enjoy as you walk around your neighborhood. Contact Pr.

Johnson for more information.

The University of South Dakota Chamber Singers are coming to Zion!

On Thursday, March 5, 2020, the **University of South Dakota Chamber Singers from Vermillion** will arrive at Zion Lutheran Church as part of their Midwest Tour. They are one of the 18 choirs who will be performing at the North Central Division of the American Choral Directors Association conference in Milwaukee on Friday. (Many choirs auditioned for the opportunity to perform for this conference!) We have the privilege of supplying housing for them that evening. Your responsibilities as a host would be to meet them after the 7:00 p.m. concert on March 5; provide a place for them to sleep for the night with breakfast in the morning, and return them to Zion on Friday. The choir is made up of 37 students and is housed in pairs or trios. If you have any further questions, please contact Kantor Irene Beethe at 715-848-7286. Thank you in advance for opening your home to these students! I look forward to hearing from you! Joy in Jesus, Kantor Beethe.

Curious Facts from Zion Organ's History

In 1529, Queen Elizabeth of England, seeking trade favors, sent a self-playing organ as a gift to the Sultan of Turkey. During Elizabeth's reign, keyboard music flourished; she encouraged notable composers such as Byrd, Bull and Gibbons. However, fearing Puritan persecution, members of the

famed Dallam and Harris organ building families fled England for Brittany In 1642. Oliver Cromwell's Puritan movement, in power as of 1649, was responsible for destroying many organs and other works of art in English Churches. For the Puritans, the organ and its music represented anything but the piety and religiosity with which we often associate it. <https://westfield.org/programs/curious-facts/>

Custodial Needs

Something new! A box for submitting any custodial needs is located in the window alcove by the office of Pam Gabriel, Zion's office manager. If you notice anything either in the church building or outside the building that needs custodial attention, please place your concern in the box. It will be checked daily to address the concerns you may have.

Strassenfest and Cookie Sale Reports

Refer to upcoming issue of the announcements, where we will provide a detailed report of each of these recent Zion events.

Christmas Decorating Fund

Refer to the insert page in today's announcements. Your response is due by Monday, December 16.

Homeless Mats Project

We need more plastic bags for this project. Due to the nature of this project, we would like donations of clean plastic bags, from department stores, big box stores, and grocery stores. Bring your donations to the conference room by the

church office. We meet each Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the church hall, so please come and join us. We would like people who will crochet the plastic yarn. Crocheting can be done at church or at home. Call Lori, 715-551-0566 for more information.

Ideas for Action Teams

Refer to the bulletin board posting at the northwest entrance of Zion for the many ideas from Thrivent Financial's action teams across the country that have accomplished service projects. You can strengthen Zion by organizing a team. You will receive up to \$250 in "seed money." To get started on your Action Team, Thrivent members may call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Events around Central Wisconsin

Warm the Community

Donations of coats, warm hats, warm gloves, scarves, and blankets are being accepted now through December 16 at Our House Memory Care, 220 W. Campus Dr. and Our House Assisted Care, 210 W. Campus Dr. Our House and Senior Living, and Young's Pharmacy, will be donating/delivering these donated items throughout our community to warm the homeless.

Faith in Action

Faith in Action of Marathon County, Inc. (FIAMC) is a non-profit organization that provides supportive services, at NO

CHARGE, to Marathon County seniors (age 60 and over), regardless of income, religious belief, or ethnic background. Services are provided by trained volunteers to help seniors improve their quality of life and remain independent in their homes for as long as safely possible. Their phone number is 715-848-8783. Brochures are available in the reception area at Zion, explaining Faith in Action of Marathon County and who they serve. They are also seeking volunteers who enjoy helping seniors.

2020 Calendars Available

We have copies of 2020 calendars provided by Steve Zeinemann from Thrivent Financial, and also calendars from Helke Funeral Home. You may take a copy from the tables in the narthex, and the reception area at the northwest entry of Zion.

Living River Christmas Concert

... Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's UCC, 426 Washington St., Wausau.

51st Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Greater Wausau area residents who will be alone on Christmas Day are invited to share in this annual dinner at noon on Wednesday, December 25 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 426 Washington St., Wausau. The Community Christmas Dinner is sponsored by area churches and community volunteers and is served free of charge. A free-will offering is welcomed. Many volunteers

are needed. Call Dawn at 715-551-4166 or 715-845-2200.

**Hand-Crafted Creations
(formerly Talent Shop)**

Located at 319 4th St., Wausau, their hours are Monday thru Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The 319 Gallery, Inc. has five gallery rooms of all local artists including the Hand-Crafted Creations area, formerly Talent Shop. Any local artists interested in joining, please call June Zentner, 715-297-7993.

American Guild of Organists Members' Recital

...Sunday, January 26 at 3:00 pm at St. Peter - Wausau Campus (formerly Salem), 2822 N. 6th Street.

**DATES
TO REMEMBER**

Upcoming events at Zion

- **December 18 (Wednesday, 10 and 6:30)** – Midweek Advent Service: Myrrh
- **December 18 (Wednesday) – 11:00 am:** Young at Heart Christmas Potluck & Christmas Carol Singing in church hall
- **December 21 (Saturday) – 10:00 am to 11:30 am:** Sunday School practice in sanctuary
- **December 21 (Saturday) – 5:15 pm:** Sunday School Pageant
- **December 24 (Tuesday) – 5:00 pm:** Lessons and Carols Service

- **December 24 (Tuesday) – 8:00 pm:** Holy Communion Service / WSAU Radio
- **December 25 (Wednesday) – 10:00 am:** Christmas Day / Holy Communion Service / WSAU Radio
- **January 5, 2020, February 2, and March 1 (Sundays) – 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm:** All-Generation Bible School: "Scatter the Darkness" in the church hall
- **February 8 (Saturday) – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm:** Winter Tea in church hall
- **February 14 (Friday) – 7:00 pm:** Organ Recital by Dr. Charles W. Ore
- **February 15 (Saturday) – 9:30 am:** Workshop on Organ Improvisation (you don't have to be an organist to attend!) in south balcony
- **February 16 (Sunday) – 3:00 pm:** Organ Recital by Kantor Irene Beethe
- **March 5 (Thursday) - 7:00 pm:** The University of South Dakota Chamber Singers concert in the nave

Attendance: Dec. 4, 7 and 8:

<u>Wednesday:</u>	
10:00 am	19
6:30 pm	37
<u>Saturday:</u>	
5:15 pm	44
<u>Sunday:</u>	
9:00 am	161
11:00 am	39
Total:	300

Zion's Financial News

Income last week:	\$ 29,424
Year-to-date income:	\$616,614
Year-to-date expenses:	\$642,598

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday • December 15

ADVENT 3

- 9:00 am Holy Communion;
WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Pre-Confirmation
- 10:15 am Bible Study / Fellowship
- 11:00 am Holy Communion

Tuesday • December 17

- 9:00 am Bible Class
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 1:00 pm Homeless Mats in
church hall
- 6:00 pm Elders Team
- 7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday • December 18

- 10:00 am Matins
- 11:00 am Young at Heart Christmas
Party in church hall
- 6:30 pm Vespers
- 6:30 pm Confirmation

Thursday • December 19

- 7:00 am Men's Bible Class
- 10:00 am Pastors Text Study
- 6:30 pm Kantorei Rehearsal

Friday • December 20

- 10:00 am Lorraine Zilisch – Visitation
- 11:00 am Lorraine Zilisch – Funeral

Saturday • December 21

- 10:00 am to 11:30 am: Sunday School
Pageant Rehearsal in
chancel
- 5:15 pm Sunday School Pageant

Sunday • December 22

ADVENT 4

- 9:00 am Holy Communion;
WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Pre-Confirmation
- 10:15 am Bible Study / Fellowship
- 11:00 am Holy Communion

Next Sunday:

Advent 4: *Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Psalm 24*

Craig Cramer Organ Concert – May 5, 2019 – Zion Concert Organ Series

... is telecast on **Channel 980 on Charter**, Sunday at 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Monday at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and Friday at 7:00 p.m.; on **VieBit**: <https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?hash=wUYVAWQgzROV>; on **YouTube**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBhc4Gg1wBk>

Isabelle Demers Organ Concert – October 6, 2019 – Zion Concert Organ Series

... is telecast on **Channel 980 on Charter**, Sunday at 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.; Monday at 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and Friday at 7:00 p.m.; on **YouTube**: <https://youtu.be/zOFnhy6tOjg>; on **VieBit**: <https://waam.viebit.com/player.php?hash=n6sIJx6ZObpQ>