

Zion Lutheran Church

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

July 12, 2020

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Check It Out

Be sure to check the Liturgy page (page 4) for daily as well as weekly opportunities to receive the Lord's gifts.

Zion opened with small-group daily Holy Communion in mid-May, and that practice will continue into the future (M—F, 12:15 PM).

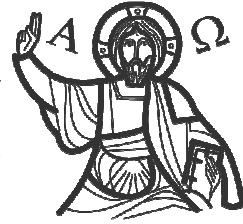
Online opportunities also continue in addition to our regular weekend schedule. Social distancing and extra care is observed at all public services.

Newsletter Sponsorship

This week, the newsletter is sponsored by Barb Ziebell, in loving memory of her parents, Walter and Shirley Riedl.

Pastoral Letter

“Praise is due to You, O God, in Zion, and to You shall vows be performed. O You who hear prayer, to You shall all flesh come. When iniquities prevail against me, You atone for our transgressions.



Blessed is the one You choose and bring near, to dwell in Your courts! We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, the holiness of Your temple” (Psalm 65: 1-4).

The Church—as the Augsburg Confession Article VII states—is “the assembly of all believers among whom the gospel is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.” This is what the Church does, and it is all of who she is, as presented in Holy Scripture when Peter says; “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Yes, the Church stands now and forever to give *you* the One God the Father chooses to bring near: His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him all believers are happy—*blessed*—to dwell in the courts of God. Here at Zion, this good news of Christ crucified for you, is preached. Not only that, it is also delivered up to be eaten and drunk in body and blood, that this happiness may then live in you!

Indeed praise is due to this God who hears prayers, forgives sins, and blesses you with the happiness of heaven! All these things are yours in this house.

What the Church pours out in her daily living is for so much more than our mere satisfaction. It is for a life lived in true abundance, where all hopes and desires made new and beautiful through the Spirit of Holiness, truth and light.

Why settle for just enough, when with the Triune God there is always more?!

Fides ex Auditu,

Pastor Joe Pinzl

Liturgy

receiving the gifts

Weekend Schedule

Saturday: Holy Communion, 5:15 PM

Sunday: Holy Communion, 9 & 11 AM

Live Radio Broadcast: 9 AM

WSAU 550 AM, 99.9 FM, 95.1 FM, www.wsau.com

Social distancing and extra care will be observed in keeping with the recommendations of the public health department.

Daily Holy Communion

Monday-Friday, 12:15 PM (about 20 minutes long; spoken service)

- These smaller services are open to the public.
- Social distancing and extra care will be observed.
- Calling ahead is not required, but it will help us prepare for you.

Facebook Live Stream

Morning Devotion: 8:30 AM, Monday-Friday

Compline: 8:30 PM, Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday

Vespers: 6:30 PM, Wednesday

Music at Midday: 12:00 Noon, Tuesday and Thursday

Most videos are mirrored on our YouTube channel and website

Bulletins

If you would like the Sunday bulletin for the 9 AM broadcast sent to you, please contact the church office (715-848-7286).

A Note on Singing

While early reports in the news focused on COVID-19 transmission through singing, subsequent scientific studies have brought that concern into question, neatly summarized in an open letter by the association of ***Canadian Professional Choir Directors***. First, the early incidents of transmission appear to have involved other interactions besides singing. Second, studies by both the **Institute of Fluid Mechanics and Aerodynamics** and the **Freiburg Institute** have both concluded that the risk from singing is insignificant, especially in larger enclosed spaces. These studies, as well as mounting evidence that COVID-19 spreads primarily through prolonged contact, helps assure us that singing remains a responsible practice in this time.

Catechumenate

learning the gifts

Facebook Live Streams

Sundays: Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Proverbs: Common Wisdom for Uncommon Times

Tuesdays: Table Talk, 9:00 AM.

Splendor: The Church in True Color

Join Zion's pastors as they unpack from the Bible and Lutheran Confession what the Church is and could be.

Live Streams are recorded and posted on our website (www.zionlutheranwausau.com) and YouTube.

Online Offering for Kids: Bedtime Story!

Zion is hosting a new online event for kids every Thursday evening. As you know, Zion hosts online compline every day, Monday-Friday at 8:30 PM. Compline is the Church's "bedtime prayer." Now, every Thursday at that same time, the compline service will feature a bedtime story, read by a pastor for the congregation's children and all others who may attend via Facebook live. Please gather the children in your home or invite those in your acquaintance for this weekly time together.

Remembering

examples of the faith in July

July 16: Saint Ruth

St. Ruth was the great-grandmother of St. David (Dec. 29), and thus a fore-mother of Jesus. Yet she was not a Jew, but a Moabitess, who married a son of St. Naomi. When that son died, Ruth promised to accompany Naomi wherever she would go, and to worship the God of Israel and married Naomi's relative, St. Boaz. Her inclusion into Jesus' lineage pointed ahead to His redemption of the whole world.



Outreach and Mercy

sharing and being the gifts

Monthly Mission Emphases:

- **Habitat for Humanity, Wausau, \$1,000**
- **Open Door, Wausau, \$2,000**

The Open Door of Marathon County Inc.

The Open Door is a safe destination for offenders released from jail at 5:00 a.m. They opened November 2010, offering a place out of the elements, coffee, clothing, and hygiene products. Open Door is located one-half block from the jail. There are a phone and computers to do job and housing searches and resume writing. Marathon County Community Resource lists are available. Clothing contributions are on-going and utilized to the max. Financially, they need cash for rent and operating supplies. Please help them continue this valuable outreach.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat is quite proud of their collaboration with local school districts, community businesses, and volunteers from many organizations and churches. The recycled building materials (RMB) is a resource using building materials that are to be discarded and they incorporate them into their building efforts.

Online Worship Attendance

Since the middle of March, Zion has tracked its weekly “online attendance.” Through May we averaged 5600 total weekly viewership. Since Memorial Day it has held strong, averaging 3600 total weekly viewership. The Gospel of Christ and His ministry through Zion is reaching many people, thanks be to God!

Praying

in our prayers this week

Persecuted Christians in: Indonesia; Niger; Columbia

Sister Congregation: Lehurutshe Parish, South Africa

Missionaries: Elliot & Serena Derricks, Lutheran Bible Translator

For health and recovery: Michael Huessmann and his wife

Those who need our on-going prayers: Hilmar Baumann, Karen Baumann, Dave Bevington, Max Breon, Les Broliar, Rich Cornell,

Praying (*continued from previous page*)

Ruth Draeger, Carol Edelburg, Barbara Ellen, Dennis Falk, Rita Falk, Ben Fiedler, Lydia Hauge, Ken Heinzen, Avery Kluck, Annette Lach, Olivia Lang, Jim Lewis, Debra Mertes, Grace Mueller, Maggie Otto, Tina Parker, Barb Ramker, Trandy Revie, Maureen Rouse, Krista Salas, David Skola, Jody Slack, Lynn Welles, Mark Wendorff, Nancy Ziebell, Nancy, Jim, Richard, Zion's homebound members

A “Note” from Kantor

The Hymn of the Day for July 19 is “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray,” *Lutheran Book of Worship* #443. The earliest appearance of this hymn in 1695 contained ten stanzas. However, the translation in Lutheran Book of Worship based on a version by Catherine Winkworth, contains four stanzas.

The text encourages the Christian to “watch and pray” so that the “evil day” will not overtake the Christian soul. The “devil, the world, and our flesh” are agents of the “evil day”. A portion of the explanation of the Sixth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer states: “that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice.” This hymn contains an appropriate reminder to not only watch but also to pray to the Lord unceasing. He is the one who will grant us “strength and faith increasing.” Thanks be to God for His loving protection!

Special note to children about Music at Mid-day:

July 21 and July 23.

When was the last time you sang “Jesus Loves Me,” “Jesus Name Above All Names” or even “The B-I-B-L-E?” At noon on these two days, Kantor’s program will feature Children’s Hymns and songs. Tune in at noon to Zion’s Facebook on Tuesday, July 21 and Thursday, July 23 for a “taste” of songs for children. God’s children of all ages are encouraged to be a part of this “noon-time sing-a-long!”

News & Events

Congratulations Graduates!

These individuals have graduated from high school:

Taylor Halverson, son of Robb and Diana Halverson, graduated May 29, 2020 from Wausau West High School. He is planning to attend Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota to study Mathematics and German.

Megan Johnson, daughter of Scott and Lisa Fenhaus-Johnson, graduated from Wausau East High School this spring. She will be attending UW-Madison in the fall, studying Pre-law with a major in History.



Enjoy the convenience of Electronic Giving

In addition to mail and in-person giving, Zion offers electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving offers convenience and provides ongoing donation consistency for our congregation. Call the church office if you are interested.

Strassenfest Not Held in 2020

The leadership of Strassenfest and the church council have chosen not to hold our annual fall festival this year (including Abendessen) due to our nation's health concerns. For a letter on the subject from council president, Mr. Steven Zeinemann, please see page 10.

News & Events

Portals of Prayer

Copies of the July - September *Portals of Prayer* are available from the church office. Large print copies are also available. If you cannot come to church to get a copy, please call us and we will mail one to you.

Open Door Family Support Group

This family support group will be for families who have a loved one who is incarcerated. The focus will be on the needs of the families, offering peer support and resources, with counselors for the children as well as professional speakers for the parents. The meetings are held on Thursdays, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Open Door, 319 Fourth St., Wausau. Child care provided, as well as age-appropriate activities for the children. Call Anne at 715-848-4044.

Homeless Mats Project

Due to the nature of this project, we would like donations of clean plastic bags from grocery stores, big box stores, and department stores. Dry-cleaning bags are not suitable for this project. Please bring your bags to the church office and/or the conference room. People are working at their homes to make the homeless mats. We would like people who will crochet the plastic yarn. Call Lori, 715-216-3441 for more information.

June 2020 Financial Summary

- General Offerings: \$40,769
- Mission Offerings: \$ 2,712
- Special Funds: \$ 4,497

*Thanks be to God for
your faithful giving!
Like His love, your
generosity overflows.*

Strassenfest Postponed in 2020

At our June Church Council meeting, we discussed in great details whether Strassenfest should be held in 2020 or not due to the COVID-19 virus. Our concern was definitely centered on the safety of our volunteers and those who normally attend this event. We initially deferred a final decision until our August Church Council meeting. This was done to give our medical community the chance to develop a solution to this difficult health situation which would allow us to still hold this event.

Recently, Pastor Gjerde and the Church Council received feedback from members of the Strassenfest leadership, that while everyone (co-chairs and booth chairs) wanted to hold the event, they were all concerned about safety. They were also concerned that congregational members are busily working on items for this year's event, and didn't want them to be spending money or their time if the event was not going to be held.

After speaking with Lori Torkko, co-chair, we agreed that it is in everyone's best interest to not hold Strassenfest, the Swiss steak luncheon, or Abendessen this year. It is our full intent to once again offer all three popular venues in 2021.

I wish to thank Dave and Lori Torkko for their years of service as co-chairs, and their continued efforts to keep Strassenfest successful. Lee Anderton has stepped up to be one of the co-chairs going forward. Lee will be working with Dave and Lori to learn the duties of the co-chair in 2021 before he takes over. We are looking for one more volunteer to work with Lee as a co-chair. If you are interested, please contact Dave or Lori Torkko to find out what the position entails.

I also wish to thank all of Zion's members who have diligently worked at, created products for, or attended Strassenfest over the years. Zion has benefited from your willingness to participate and the fellowship that has been generated.

Steve Zeinemann
Church Council President

Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • July 19 (*Pentecost 7*)

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|----------|--|
| 9:00 AM | Holy Communion; Live Radio Broadcast,
WSAU 550 AM |
| 10:15 AM | Bible Study, Facebook |
| 11:00 AM | Holy Communion |

Monday • July 20 (*St. Elijah*)

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|----------|--------------------|
| 8:30 AM | Devotion, Facebook |
| 12:15 PM | Holy Communion |
| 8:30 PM | Compline, Facebook |

Tuesday • July 21

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|----------|----------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM | Devotion, Facebook |
| 9:00 AM | Table Talk Bible Study, Facebook |
| 12:00 PM | Music at Midday |
| 12:15 PM | Holy Communion |
| 6:00 PM | Elders |
| 7:00 PM | Church Council |
| 8:30 PM | Compline, Facebook |

Wednesday • July 22 (*St. Mary Magdalene*)

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|----------|-------------------|
| 12:15 PM | Holy Communion |
| 6:30 PM | Vespers, Facebook |

Thursday • July 23

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|----------|--------------------|
| 8:30 AM | Devotion, Facebook |
| 12:00 PM | Music at Midday |
| 12:15 PM | Holy Communion |
| 8:30 PM | Compline, Facebook |

Friday • July 24

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|----------|--------------------|
| 8:30 AM | Devotion, Facebook |
| 12:15 PM | Holy Communion |
| 8:30 PM | Compline, Facebook |

Saturday • July 25 (*St. James*)

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| 5:15 PM | Holy Communion |
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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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