

Zion Lutheran Church

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

August 2, 2020

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Pastoral Letter

I resolved to know nothing among you but Christ and Him crucified. ~ 1 Corinthians 2:2



Dear Zion,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

Recently, a congregation in Lincoln County invited me to meet with its council and advise how it may move forward in its mission. Having lacked a pastor for two years, the leaders were seeking both practical ways to continue the congregation's ministry and a word of hope as they did so.

We discussed many things at that meeting, but the most important message I shared was this: the Church exists for one reason, to publish the saving benefits and mercies of Christ crucified, and the more a congregation centers on this mission and knows itself to be engaged in it, the more of a blessing that church is to its neighbors.

What a blessing to share that word with our brethren in Lincoln County, and what a blessing for me and my brother pastors to serve here, Zion, where you welcome that mission! Yet it's not only a congregation's mission, is it? It's also a personal call for each of us.

What have you resolved to know this week? Is your mind awash with statistics, fear, disgust, and complaint inspired by the 24-hour news cycle? Or has the Word of Christ crucified warmed your soul and secured His throne in your heart?

Imagine a flower that blooms in the dead of night and fills the summer air with spice and glowing light: that's Jesus, blooming in the night of despair when we see Him on His cross, poured out for us. I pray daily for His sweet aroma and brilliant light to fill your homes, and I trust that our God's answer to that prayer is, "Yes!"

Peace!
Pastor Gjerde

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

Readings for next Sunday, August 9:

Job 38:4-18; Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33

Procession of Thanksgiving *Sunday + September 13 + 12 Noon*

It's time to give thanks! Christians give thanks in every circumstance, even times of suffering or doubt (1 Thess. 5:18). We receive more blessings daily than we could ever number. So come away from your cares, worries, and distractions, and either join or watch Zion's outdoor process of thanksgiving to our Good Shepherd for His many gifts on Sunday, 9/13, at noon. We will begin in front of the church (Grant Street) and circle through the neighborhood back to the parking lot. Our only purpose: to give God our thanks, praise, and adoration.

Catechumenate

learning the gifts

Facebook Live Streams

Sundays: Bible Study, 10:15 AM

Proverbs: Common Wisdom in Uncommon Times

Tuesdays: Table Talk, 9:00 AM.

All of August: “The Creed”

A four-week overview of the sometimes-unnoticed wisdom and beauty of the Apostles Creed

Wednesdays: Word at the Middle of the Week

Current Topic: 1 John

This offering has no set time, but is live-streamed on Wednesdays when the pastors’ schedule allows and then shared as a video on Zion’s Facebook page for viewing at any time.

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

Weekly: **“The Shepherd’s Voice”**

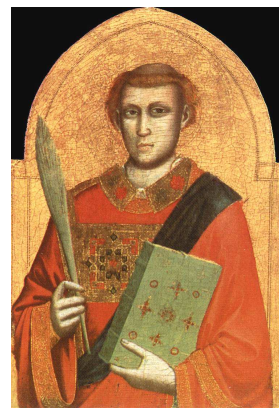
Included with this mailing, The Shepherd’s Voice is a weekly print resource with guidance and helps for daily home and personal devotion.

Remembering

examples of the faith in August

August 10: Saint Lawrence

Most likely a native of Spain, St. Lawrence served the Roman churches as a deacon and treasurer. Yet during the rule of Emperor Valerian, the Christian church came under persecution, and it was during this time that authorities ordered Lawrence to turn over the church’s wealth. In response, Lawrence distributed the wealth to the poor, then gathered the poor, sick, and lame and presented them to the authorities, saying that they were the “true riches” of Christ. For this he was killed, burned on a gridiron.



Outreach and Mercy

sharing and being the gifts

Monthly Mission Emphases:

- **Bishop's Resource Fund, \$1,000**
- **The Neighbors' Place, Wausau, \$1,000**

The Bishops Resource Fund

The Bishops Resource Fund helps pastors, associates in ministry, and diaconal ministers and their families when they are faced with emergencies, unusual needs, or requests that the bishop deems worthy and important to supporting the health, wholeness, and spiritual well-being of our leaders. The Bishop's Resource Fund has provided support to many leaders, and this help has been critical to them. Your dollars are precious, administered in confidence and make a big difference in times of need to our church family.

The Neighbors' Place

(TNP) is located at 745 Scott Street, Wausau. TNP is a unique, locally-supported nonprofit organization with a strong multi-cultural and multi-faith heritage. Their slogan is a simple one: "People Helping People". In order to meet their mission, they provide a number of programs and services to members of the Marathon County community. These include: a food bank, furniture & basic needs bank, community learning center, youth education, community gardens, and Christmas assistance. They are able to provide support to people in need with the help of businesses, organizations, and individuals who donate their time, money, and other resources.

Praying

in our prayers this week

Persecuted Christians in: Sudan, Yemen, Iran

Sister Congregation: Lehurutshe Parish, South Africa

Missionaries: Elliot & Serena Derricks, Lutheran Bible Translators

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

Praying *(continued from previous page)*

Maggie Otto, Tina Parker, Barb Ramker, Trandy Revie, Maureen Rouse, Krista Salas, David Skola, Jody Slack, Richie Thiemer, Bonnie Waack, Lynn Welles, Mark Wendorff, Nancy Ziebell, Nancy, Jim, Richard, Lenette, Mike, Zion's homebound members.

A "Note" from Kantor



Eternal Father, Strong to Save, known throughout the world as the “sailors’ hymn,” appears as the hymn of the day for August 9. You may wonder, “why.” For an answer, look at Matthew 14:22-33 which takes us to the water. The disciples were in a boat, buffeted by waves for most of the night. Jesus was on a mountain far from them. However, during the fourth watch (between 3 am and 6 am), Jesus came to them, walking on the water. The disciples thought it was a ghost and were terrified. However when Jesus identified himself and said “do not be afraid,” the disciples believed and realized he was the Son of God.

Job 38, the Old Testament lesson for the day, also speaks of the “seas” and the “foundation of the earth.” God answers Job with questions about who made the earth including the seas. It’s fascinating to see the connections between the Hymn of the Day and the assigned scripture readings of the day. The hymn, *Eternal Father*, includes the story of Jesus walking on the water and answers the question about who made all things.

The last phrase is a prayer to our Eternal Father - “Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.” Although the hymn seems to speak specifically to travelers on “land and sea,” our perils may not always be “on the water” or “the earth.” Our traveling through life encompasses a variety of storms, those that may afflict our body, mind, soul, or spirit. In any of the storms, we know, FOR CERTAIN, who will guide us and tell us, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

News & Events

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.

Library News

We are currently in the process of getting our library better organized here at Zion. We have limited space and have reached that capacity. We are offering for FREE hard copies of books such as US history, biographies, etc. You may look at what we have to offer in the conference room on the shelf by the phone. Take whatever books you wish to have. And, when done with the book, please keep it or pass it on to family or friends. Thank you.

Congregational Q&A Session on Zion and the ELCA

Zion will host a congregational question-and-answer session on the subject of the ELCA's recent action to remove Zion's pastors from the ELCA roster on Sunday, August 16, at 10:10 AM (between the 9 AM and 11 AM services), led by the church council. Please feel free also to contact Pr. Gjerde with questions prior to the meeting.

Sponsors Needed for Radio Broadcasts and Flowers

Through the end of 2020, these are the dates that sponsors are needed for broadcasts and flowers:

- Flowers: August 9; September 27; October 11, 18 and 25; November 8, 15, and 22.
- Radio Broadcasts: August 16; September 27; December 27.

Please sign up on the charts by the stairs by the northwest entry by the church office. Or, call the church office, 715-848-7286 if you would like to sponsor any of these dates. The cost to sponsor flowers is \$60 and the cost to sponsor radio broadcasts is \$200.

News & Events

July 2020 Financial Summary

- General Offerings: \$57,545
- Mission Offerings: \$ 2,812
- Special Funds: \$ 6,889

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

Looking for a Missing Bible

A white leather-covered Bible was brought to Zion and now is misplaced. The Bible is 8" x 10", has gold-edge pages, and many colored pictures. Written in the Bible are many family names, including Alvin and Lucille Kasten, so it would be easily identified. If you have this Bible, please return it to Zion. Thank you.





Compete for the crown



The apostle Paul compares the Christian life to running a race for an imperishable crown.



Directions: From the starting line through the finish line, circle every third letter. Then place the circled letters in order in the blanks below to complete 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, NIV.

START

ctrejasuephei n pom rxkibvztaejargiusonyccw

iqsatexympsakogmzsjeeubt nyehapidm rfo

tegrbu anpicdno fihmneygjoc s x r d p o e t w k i n

FINISH

“Do you not know that in a _____ all the runners run, but only one gets the _____? _____ in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who _____ in the _____ goes into strict _____ . They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a _____ that will last forever.”

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-25, NIV

Answer: race, prize, run, competes, games, training, crown

Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • August 9 (*Pentecost 10*)

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

Monday • August 10

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
7:00 PM Mission Team
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Tuesday • August 11

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
9:00 AM Table Talk Bible Study, Facebook
12:00 PM Music at Midday
12:15 PM Holy Communion
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Wednesday • August 12

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

Thursday • August 13

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

Friday • August 14

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

Saturday • August 15

5:15 PM Holy Communion



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709 N SIXTH STREET
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U.S.POSTAGE PAID
WAUSAU, WI
PERMIT NO. 66

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A member of Lutheran CORE

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