

**A Prayer  
Upon  
Entering  
Church**

*Receive me, O  
Christ Who  
lovest all men,  
as Thou didst  
receive the pros-  
titute, the thief,  
the tax collector  
and the prodigal.  
Take away the  
heavy burden of  
my sins, for  
Thou takest  
away the sins of  
the world, Thou  
healest the infir-  
mities of men,  
Thou callest to  
Thyself and  
givest rest to  
those who labor  
and are heavy  
laden.*

*~ Basil the  
Great*



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**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

September 13, 2020 + 9:00 A.M.

**Welcome to the Lord's Day.** In today's Gospel reading, a servant is forgiven a huge debt of money, and then he goes out and almost strangles someone who owes him money! We all know it makes no sense, but Jesus told the story anyway. He must know something about us that we don't know, or that we forget we know. What could it be?

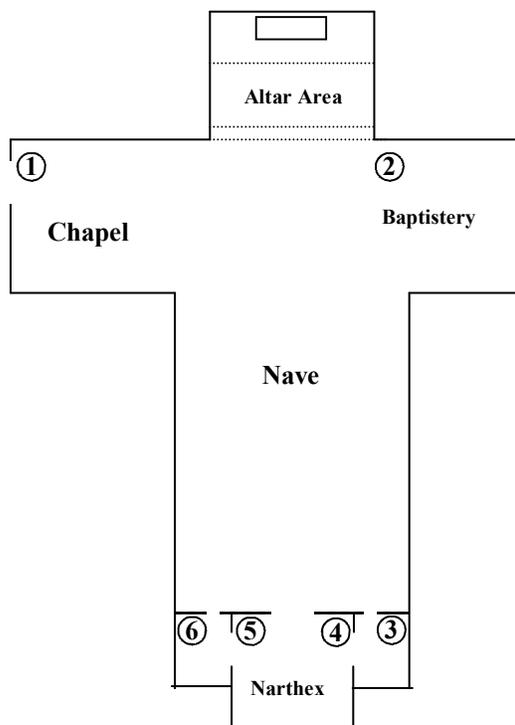
## Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of August H. Wendorf by his wife, Delores, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. August passed away six years ago on November 13.
- The flowers at the altar are sponsored by Tom and Emi Oshima Tranetzki, and the Larry and Polly Nemec family, in loving memory of their mother and grandmother, Pearl L. Tranetzki, who passed four years ago on September 16.
- The flowers at the lectern and pulpit are sponsored in memory of Mavis Boettcher, who would have been 94 years old on September 10, by Carl Boettcher, and Judy and Paul Henning.
- The sponsor charts for 2020 for Broadcasts and Flowers are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

## To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in **Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church.** Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by **number (1-6)** or ask an usher for assistance.

This returns us to an older and beautiful tradition of the Lutheran church in which offerings are not collected during worship so as to focus more intently on God's gifts and offerings to us.





## PRELUDE

“Come Down, O Love Divine”

... Benjamin M. Culli

## 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.*

*The Liturgy is more like a perennial in the garden than an annual. Annuals are dug up at the end of the season and discarded and something new is planted in its place. So it is with disposable liturgies that are here one Sunday and gone the next. But perennials are lovingly shaped and pruned, sometimes drastically, sometimes modestly, always carefully and with an eye towards the future. In the same way, the Liturgy is carefully shaped and pruned . . .*

*[continued next page]*

[from previous page]

... using the best from the past and adding to it the best of the present for those who will come after us. We are neither the first to believe in Christ, nor, should the Lord delay in His appearing, will we be the last. We honor the saints who have fought the good fight of faith ahead of us and now cheer us on to our finish. And we are careful to hand on a tradition to our children that is faithful to the "faith once delivered to the saints."

~ Pr. William Cwirla, Didache

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 "All People that On Earth Do Dwell"



1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the  
2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our  
3. Oh, en - ter then his gates with praise; Ap - proach with  
4. For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy  
△ 5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice; Him serve with mirth, his  
aid he did us make. We are his folk, he  
joy his courts un - to; Praise, laud, and bless his  
is for - ev - er sure; His truth at all times  
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the

praise forth tell;      Come ye be - fore him and re - jice.  
 doth us feed,      And for his sheep he doth us take.  
 name al - ways,      For it is seem - ly so to do.  
 firm - ly stood,      And shall from age to age en - dure.  
 an - gel host      Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING and COLLECT

**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.**

**P:** Let us pray . . . O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness: hear the devout prayers of your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 50:15-21

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about

*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.  
~ The Venerable Bede, 700s A.D.*

that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 103:1-12**

L: Bless the LORD O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name.

C: **Bless the LORD O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

L: He forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities;

C: **he redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and lovingkindness;**

L: he satisfies you with good things, and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C: **The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.**

L: He made his ways known to Moses and his works to the children of Israel.

C: **The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.**

L: He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger forever.

**C: He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

**C: As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us.**

**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** Romans 14:1-12

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. <sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and

*In heaven,  
there are only  
forgiven sin-  
ners. There  
are no good  
guys, no up-  
right, suc-  
cessful types  
who, by dint  
of their own  
integrity,  
have been  
accepted into  
the great  
country club  
in the sky.  
There are  
only failures,  
only those  
who have ac-  
cepted their  
deaths in  
their sins and  
who have  
been raised  
up by the  
King who  
himself died  
that they  
might live.  
~ Robert  
Farrar Ca-  
pon, King-  
dom, Grace,  
Judgment*

every tongue shall confess to God.” <sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

### VERSE

L: Alleluia, Alleluia!

If you forgive others their 'trespasses,\*  
your heavenly Father will also for'give you.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

### GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. <sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ <sup>29</sup>So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the

debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. <sup>35</sup>So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## 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.*

Well my  
goodness gra-  
cious let me  
tell you the  
news

My head's  
been wet with  
the midnight  
dew

I've been  
down on  
bended knee  
talkin' to the  
man from  
Galilee

He spoke to  
me in the  
voice so sweet

I thought I  
heard the  
shuffle of the  
angel's feet

He called my  
name and my  
heart stood  
still

When he said,  
"John go do  
My will!"

~ Johnny  
Cash,  
American  
Recordings,  
Vol. 5, tr. 2

## HYMN OF THE DAY "Come Down, O Love Divine"

Vocalists: st. 1;

Congregation: st. 2, 3 and 4



1 Come down, O Love di - vine; Seek Thou this soul of mine,  
2 O let it free - ly burn. Till world - ly pas - sions turn  
3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty Mine out - ward ves - ture be  
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, With which the soul will long,



And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
And low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing—  
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;



O Com - fort - er, draw near; With - in my heart ap - pear,  
And let Thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight.  
True low - li - ness of heart, Which takes the hum - bler part.  
No soul can guess His grace Till it be - come the place



And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
And o'er its own short - com - ings weeps with loath - ing.  
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

## SERMON

"How to Stay Good and Dead"

*Please kneel.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(The following young people will be receiving their first communion:*

*Lydia Beilke, Trevor Kell, Piper Kulesa, Carra Lewis, Ethan Loppnow, Elsa Oestreich, and Joseph Strand. Please pray for them as they begin a life of receiving the merciful gifts of Jesus' holy and precious Body and Blood.)*

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.*

## **OFFERTORY**

*As the pastors prepare the altar for the Holy Supper, vocal or instrumental music provides a time for worshipers to prepare for the Holy Supper, offering thanks to God and asking for the blessing of His Holy Spirit. When the Offertory ends, please stand.*

### **“Psalm 143”**

LORD, hear my prayer, and in your faithfulness heed my supplications; answer me in your righteousness.

Enter not into judgment with your servant, for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

For my enemy has sought my life; he has crushed me to the ground; he has made me live in dark places like those who are long dead.

My spirit faints within me; my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; I consider the works of your hands.

I spread out my hands to you; my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

*He became  
what we are  
that He might  
make us what  
He is.  
~ Athana-  
sius, 300s  
A.D.*

*O the miracle, O the blessing of God, who with the Father sits above and in that very point of time is handled by the hands of all and gives Himself to those who wish to receive and embrace Him! . . .*

O LORD, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; do not hide your face from me or I shall be like those who go down to the pit.

Let me hear of your lovingkindness in the morning, for I put my trust in you; show me the road that I must walk, for I lift up my soul to you.

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD, for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Revive me, O LORD, for your name's sake; for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

Of your goodness, destroy my enemies and bring all my foes to naught, for truly I am your servant.

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

*Please stand.*

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray . . . Merciful Lord,

**C:** **we do not come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. Grant us so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

# 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:



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name

*. . . And this does not take place by any sleight of hand but before the very eyes of those who are standing there and looking around, namely, along with these earthly things which are visible there is at the same time believed to be present the body and blood of Christ.*  
 ~ John Chrysostom, *Arguments from the Testimonies: The Lord's Supper*, 300s A.D.



## 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: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

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

*We come like  
beggars, with  
our hands  
open - to re-  
ceive what He  
has given us.  
~ Pr. John  
Kleinig,  
May 18,  
2003, work-  
shop*

## AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Please be seated.*

### DISTRIBUTION

*The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. The pastor will hand you the holy Body. Please take a cup of the holy Blood as directed. Those who do not commune may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward to ask 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.*

*I go to the  
Eucharist day  
after day, every  
day I can, be-  
cause that is  
what I am about.  
~ Pr. Otis C.  
Edwards,  
1900s A.D*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*The vocalists will sing the hymns.*

*The texts are printed for prayerful meditation during both services.*

### **“Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure”**

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,  
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;  
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,  
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!  
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:  
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!  
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.  
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!  
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,  
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.  
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God’s thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.  
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!  
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death’s fortress,  
Brings forth the pris’ners triumphant, unharmed.  
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!  
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!  
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow’r,  
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;  
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!  
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!  
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

**“Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared”**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared  
This feast for my salvation,  
Your very body and your blood;  
Thus, at your invitation,  
With weary heart, by sin oppressed,  
I come to you for needed rest;  
I need your peace, your pardon.

Though into heaven you have gone,  
Ascending far above me,  
Yet here in earthly food I see  
How much indeed you love me.  
You are not bound to any place;  
No contrite heart escapes your grace;  
Your love unsought surrounds me.

I eat this bread, I drink this cup,  
Your promise firm believing;  
In truth your body and your blood  
My lips are here receiving.  
Your word remains forever true;  
All things are possible for you;  
Your searching love has found me.

Unaided reason cannot see  
What eager faith embraces,  
But this consoling supper, Lord,  
Each restless doubt displaces.  
Your wondrous ways are not confined  
Within the limits of my mind;  
Your promise wholly triumphs.

*(continued on the next page . . . )*

**A Prayer  
As You Go**

O Lord,  
thou know-  
est how  
busy I must  
be this day;  
if I forget  
Thee, do not  
Thou forget  
me. *Amen.*

~ *Jacob As-  
tley (1579-  
1652 A.  
D.) Royal-  
ist com-  
mander in  
English  
Civil War*

I should have died eternally,  
But here, repentant kneeling.  
Newborn I rise to live the love  
Found in your strength, your healing.  
Lord, in this sacrament impart  
Your joy and courage to my heart;  
Dead and alive I praise you!

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

**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.



**SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE**

“Trumpet Voluntary in D Major”

... John Stanley

+ **Soli Deo Gloria** +  
*To God alone be glory*

## **Serving at Worship**

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Joseph Pinzl (*at Bethany, 10:30*)

Assisting: The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Vocalists: Janean Andres; Ted Gulhaugen; Jessica Ray

Horn: Meagan Cihlar

Lector: Mark Gehrke

Radio Announcer: Landis Holdorf

Acolyte: Michael Cornell

Elder: Jon Oestreich

Ushers: Marty and Janet Dettmering;  
Landis and Jewell Holdorf;  
Gary and Sue Wolslegel

Altar Guild: Sally Christoffersen; Kay Krall

## **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  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Associate Pastor** Joseph C. Pinzl  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Office Manager** Pam Gabriel  
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**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
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