

Zion Lutheran Church

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

March 1, 2026

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Remembering

Examples of the faith in March

March 7: Sts. Perpetua & Felicitas



St. Perpetua was a noblewoman living in north Africa, married and the mother of one child. St. Felicitas was her slave, and also a young mother. Both women were baptized and enrolled as catechumens (“learners”) in the Christian church, leading to their arrest by local authorities. In time, they were taken with other catechumens to the public games celebrating Caesar Geta’s birthday, where they were scourged, attacked by a wild cow,

and ultimately slain by a sword, but not before they embraced each other with a holy kiss of peace.

Pastoral Letter

“God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” ~ Romans 5:8



Beloved Saints,

While we were still sinners.

Not after we became believers. Not once our faith started bearing fruit. Not when we prayed or asked for it.

While we were still sinners.

God’s love came to us in this way, that He sent His Son to die for sinners, and *sinner* is all-inclusive. God died for the ungodly. Jesus died for the un-Jesus-y, Christ for the un-Christ-like. Life came for the dead. Salvation for sinners. God for all of mankind.

We therefore come to Him as He found us: confessing ourselves to be sinners, and Him to be the Savior. To whatever He says, we say *amen*, because His promises are more to us than our own blood, and His blood is more than any of our promises. His words are our breath of life; we hold our breath to hear His words.

All this confesses the truth: *while we were still sinners.*

What grace! Jesus did the clean-up—His death is enough for you to live! He came of His own love, and not of our asking: He gives of His own mercy, and not in response to our desire. Not our faith, but that in which our faith rests, is our value and our worth, our treasure and hope.

That great treasure, our Lord Jesus and His grace, is what the Holy Spirit delivers to you in His Church. It comes to you by the command of the Father, a gift and confirmation of all you are to Him in the light of His love.

Peace!
Pastor Gjerde

From the Headmaster



God's blessings upon you and your families. During Lent we commemorate the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness along with the spiritual practice of reflecting upon our own attachments to worldly desires.

The temptation of Jesus was a temptation to embrace the care and concerns of this world. Satan presses on our three great human cares—sustenance, safety, and empowerment: turn the stones into bread (Matthew 4:3), trust that God will protect you (Matthew 4:6), follow me and you will gain the world (Matthew 4:9).

It struck me as I heard this familiar story that these are the very temptations that we have when considering a school for our children. We think, "How will this prepare them to make a living?" "Surely it is safe to prioritize other things over a Christ-centered education?" and even "I want them to get into a good college and have a respectable career." We think that we are setting our children up for success but, as Jesus' example shows, we gain nothing apart from God's Word. Jesus responds to these temptations in three ways: first, that "one does not live on bread alone" (Matthew 4:4); we can and should consider our children's future, but we must first feed the needs of their souls before we train them to earn the provisions for life.

Second, that "you must not put the Lord your God to the test" (Matthew 4:7). We know and believe that God attends to us and our children and that he cares for us but this does not absolve us from the responsibility for choosing an education that best aligns with God's will for us and our family. If we choose our earthly comfort over the will of God, we put him to the test and risk our children's safety.

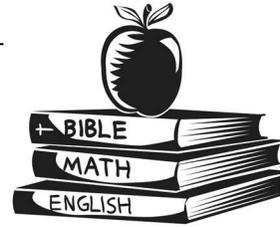
Finally, Jesus says, "Worship the Lord your God and serve him only" (Matthew 4:10). When we truly serve and worship God alone, we reject the worldly temptation for power or prestige for us and for our children.

Thanks be to God for his mercy and free gift of forgiveness as we reflect upon our failings during this Lenten season. As a congregation with a strong educational ministry, we choose to form our children for the service of the Kingdom. There are many worries and anxieties that come in life, but when we trust in the Lord, he works all things for our good.

Yours,
Matthew Berg, Headmaster
matthew.berg@zionlutheranwausau.com; 715-436-4639

Updates on the Academy

Preparations for a 2026 opening of the Academy continue on pace. Generous donations have made for a strong financial base and the start of Headmaster Berg's service has allowed the Academy Board to work with him in setting policies and planning outreach. Interest has come from both within in the congregation and in the public.



The federal Headstart program currently housed at Zion has secured new and spacious quarters and will begin its remove from Zion in June, with plans to vacate the premises fully by the middle of that month. This gives the Academy time to start setting up its classrooms and operations.

If you are interested in classical education for your children, or know of other families whom St. David's may serve, please forward their contact information to the Zion church office for Headmaster Berg or contact him directly (see pg. 4 for his contact information). He will start being in Wausau three days a week in March before his full, residential service begins in May.



89th Anniversary of the Wausau Lutheran Hour

On January 31, 1937 Wausau's first radio station, WSAU went on the air. Two months later on Easter Sunday, March 28, Zion broadcast its first service from the old church at 5th & Scott Streets. Through the efforts of Zion's Pastor Paul Roehrs & WSAU's Chief Engineer & Zion member, Roland Richardt, the Wausau Lutheran Hour began. Many members of Zion wondered how they would raise \$15.00 for each broadcast—at the time, a lot of money! Pete Radunz, a Zion member who died in 2002, was a radio announcer of Zion's broadcasts for many years of his life. The broadcasting is currently done on a rotating basis by Zion parishioners: Dick Ames, Paul Fandrey, Ryan Fernstaedt, Adam Holzschuh, Jon Oestreich, Jessica Ray & Scott Schubring. The broadcast has flourished over the years through the support of members of Zion and others from the Wausau area, and, via the Internet, the world may now listen to the broadcasts. Thanks be to God!



Lent 2026: Wednesdays

Lenten Midweek Sermon Series:

Devoted: Praying Day by Day

Lord, teach us to pray. With our Lord, we will seek a deeper and more focused practice of daily prayer. Our guide will be Holy Scripture and the Daily Prayers provided in the Small Catechism. These simple practices exercise our union with Jesus Christ, through whom all our prayers come to the throne of God.

When: Wednesdays, February 18—March 25
Time: 12:15 PM (Holy Communion)
6:30 PM (Vespers)

<i>February 18:</i>	<i>Practicing Your Righteousness</i>
<i>February 25:</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
March 4:	Evening Prayer
March 11:	Asking a Blessing
March 18:	Returning Thanks
March 25:	Keep Watch with Me



Lenten Midweek Study

Faith, the Highest Service

Scripture presents *faith in Christ* as your *daily, priestly* service before God. This study will explore that daily service, the practices that accompany it, the virtue and moral character that spring from it, and the deep, abiding strength and comfort it delivers to believers.

When: Wednesdays, February 18—March 25
Time: 7:20 PM (after Vespers in Church Hall)

<i>February 18:</i>	<i>Brief Introduction and Overview (15-30 min.)</i>
<i>February 25:</i>	<i>“The Royal Priesthood”</i>
March 4:	“A Broken Spirit, a Contrite Heart”
March 11:	“Praise, Lips that Acknowledge Him”
March 18:	“Do Good and Share”
March 25:	“A Living Sacrifice”



Lent 2026: Sundays

Lenten Weekend Sermon Series:

What Are You Worth?

In your worthy and honorable Savior, Jesus, God secures for you an enduring value beyond all imagination. You are worth more than you do; more than your best qualities; more than all you possess; and more than your own life.

When: Saturday-Sunday, February 21—March 29
Time: 5:15 PM (Saturday)
9 and 11 AM (Sunday)

<i>February 22:</i>	<i>What is Priceless?</i>
<i>March 1:</i>	<i>More than You</i>
March 8:	More than His Family
March 15:	More than His Miracle
March 22:	More than His Nation
March 29:	More than His Life



Lenten Sunday Study

Crucified Power

Jesus did more with His hands and feet nailed to wood than we do in all our running and doing. By His weakness, the surrender of His rights and His inactivity in the grave, He overthrew the prince and powers of this age. That hidden victory gives His Church a backwards kind of power, a *crucified power* that triumphs more through faith, suffering, obedience, and death than the world can imagine.

When: Sundays, February 22—March 29
Time: 10:15 AM (Church Hall)



Praying

in our prayers this week

Persecuted Christians in: Burkina Faso, China, Iraq

Missionaries: Chris & Janine Pluger, Lutheran Bible Translators

Zion Lutheran Classical Academy: its establishment and growth

Comfort, Healing, Recovery:

The Family of Jan Bresnahan

The Family of Bill McDonald

Sharon Meranda

The Family of Brenda Plautz



Those who need our on-going prayers:

Zion's Homebound Members

Magdalena Doskey (*Lee Anderton's granddaughter*)

Sarah Hemingway (*Lee Anderton's daughter*)

Larry Hegland

James Jens

Avery Kluck

Barb Langbecker

Barb Ramker

Darrin Stanke

Anna Tanck

Kim Torkko

Operation Baby Bottle Fundraiser

At every entrance of the church, you will find baskets full of baby bottle banks. You are invited to take them home, fill them with coins, bills or checks, and return them to the church by March 15. They will be given back to Hope Life Center to use to support their mission (www.hopewi.org).



The graphic features a dark grey background with a pattern of white diagonal lines. On the left, there is a circular logo with the text 'HOPE OBB' inside. To the right of the logo is a QR code. Below the QR code, the text 'OPERATION BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. On the right side of the graphic, there are four horizontal buttons, each with an icon and text: a baby bottle icon for 'PICK UP A BOTTLE', a dollar bill icon for 'FILL THE BOTTLE', a church icon for 'RETURN THE BOTTLE', and a heart icon for 'THANK YOU!'. At the bottom of the graphic, a dark grey bar contains the text 'OR GIVE ONLINE: HOPEWI.ORG / DONATE'.

Soup in Lent



Lunch: The soup lunches will be carry-out, 12:45/1:00 PM, available after the noon Lenten service. An order will be \$10 and will include a quart of soup, bread/crackers and a dessert. There is a sign-up sheet in the Church Office, and orders are due the Monday before the date the soup will be served (*see below*).

Supper: The soup suppers will be served in-person in the fellowship hall, 5:15-6:15 PM, before the Lenten worship service and will include soup, bread/crackers, desserts and drinks. A free-will offering will be collected. You do not need to sign-up for the evening meals; just come as you are!

Plan to join us for the following Wednesdays:

March 4 *Beef Barley*
March 11 **Zuppa Toscana**
March 18..... **Chili**
March 25 **Minestrone**

Call Lynn Budnik (715-446-1474) to help in any of these ways:

- ⇒ People to make **homemade desserts** every week
- ⇒ People to **serve** at 5:30pm and/or **clean-up** after the evening meals

Carryout Soup Sign-ups:

If you would like to order Carryout Soup for March 11, please stop by the office (or call), and put your order on the sign up sheet. Orders are due by Monday, March 9, but payment will not be collected until you pick up your order.

BLC Choir Concert at Zion

May 12

The Concert Choir, handbells, and Martha Singers of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, will perform at Zion on **Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 PM.** There is no cost for admission; an offering will be received. Zion will serve dinner to the singers and their leaders at 5:00 PM that day. To volunteer for help, please contact the church office. Bethany Lutheran College is the college of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, preparing followers of Christ for vocation in family, church, and the world. For more information, visit www.blc.edu.



Choir Concert

Catechumenate

learning the gifts

Youth Education

Sundays: **Sunday School, 10:00 AM**
(Pre-K through Grade 6)



Wednesdays: **Confirmation** (Grade 7 and Older)

Bible Study *(Fellowship Hall)*

Tuesdays: **Bible Study, 9 AM** “The Gospel of John”

Thursdays: **Men’s Bible Study, 8 AM** “Romans”

Outreach and Mercy

sharing and being the gifts

Monthly Mission Emphases:

- **Greater Wausau Christian Services — Goal: \$5,000**

Greater Wausau Christian Services:

Greater Wausau Christian Services (GWCS) is a community of congregations in the Wausau area that brings Christian compassion and hope to individuals and families in elder care facilities, the Marathon County Jail, and the Marathon County Juvenile Facility. Zion has been a part of GWCS since its inception in 1981 (40+ years ago!), and now is one of 14 congregations that provide a pastoral presence and other programs of support to residents of our community’s institutions. Many of these members of our community either are physically isolated or may feel isolated from the community. GWCS works to share God's love for them which is revealed in Jesus Christ and His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection.



Current Season: Lent

Theme: *Return to the Lord Your God*
Starts: Ash Wednesday (sundown, February 17)
Ends: Evening Service, Maundy Thursday (April 2)
Colors: Red-Violet: the color of royalty and the physical sufferings of Christ

Zion Kantorei Invitation

Do you love to sing? Would you like to join a welcoming, enthusiastic group of your sisters and brothers in Christ to proclaim the Gospel through music? If so, now is a great time to add your voice to the Zion Kantorei. Prior choral experience is helpful but not required. We will teach you what you need to know! We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM-8:00 PM and sing for Sunday morning services 2-3 times each month. Contact Kantor Drengler at Jacob.drengler@zionlutheranwausau.com or speak to him after any worship service for more information. All are welcome!



News & Events

**Save the Dates* 22nd Annual Presentation of Bow The Knee*

You are invited to the dramatic musical Easter drama, **BOW THE KNEE**. There are four opportunities to see the story of Anthony, a Roman centurion, whose life is changed when he encounters Jesus. Free admission.

Trinity Lutheran Church, 107 N State St., Merrill
March 21 at 7PM & March 22 at 2:30PM

Zion Lutheran Church, 238145 Star Rd, Aniwa
March 28 at 7PM & March 29 at 2:30PM



Thrivent Choice Dollars Program

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial may now recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable dollars.

You can request that Zion be given your charitable dollars. Call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice"; or on the internet: www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. ***Designations must be made by March 31, 2026.***

thrivent[®]

Quilting at Zion

The quilters plan to gather next on March 16 at 1:00PM in the Church Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Watson at 715-216-0696. See you there!



News & Events

Lenten Organ Meditations

The Wisconsin River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a series of Lenten Meditations. These 30 minute recitals presented by area organists, will be held from 12:15—12:45pm at 1st Presbyterian Church (406 Grant St., Wausau) on the following Fridays:



February 27—Irene Beethe

March 6—Patrick Burkhardt, Mark Schroeder, and Isaac Tritz

March 13—George Felty

March 20—Dan Larson

March 27—Bryan Higgins-Moe and Jacob Drengler

A free-will donation will be received. Come for a time of meditation and music during your lunch hour!

Paul Fey Organ Concert

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in Wisconsin Rapids is thrilled to announce that world-renowned German organ recitalist, composer, and YouTube performer, Paul Fey, will be presenting a concert at St. John's on March 21 at 3:00PM. Visit his YouTube channel to watch him perform: www.youtube.com/c/paulfey. Reserve your tickets now by calling 715-423-2332. Tickets are \$35 (cash or check only). All are welcome to attend!



“Meet Me at the Well” Women’s Event

All women are warmly invited to St. Mark's Lutheran Church's for a day of fellowship, worship and learning at “Meet Me at the Well” on Saturday, March 14 from 8AM to 3:30PM. We invite each attendee to bring a new or gently used children's board book to bless families served by The Babies Place (Neighbor's Place). A light breakfast and a catered Mexican buffet lunch will be served. Registration is \$25.00. Registration forms and on-line sign ups are available through the church's website: stmarkswausau.org. Come be renewed, encouraged, and equipped



Apple Tree Sale

St. John Church & School (164923 County Rd. Z, Wausau) is selling top of the line, bare root apple trees. All trees are \$25, and proceeds will go to St. John Church and School. Order forms are available at www.stjohnofwausau.org. For questions call Virgil: 715-571-7893.



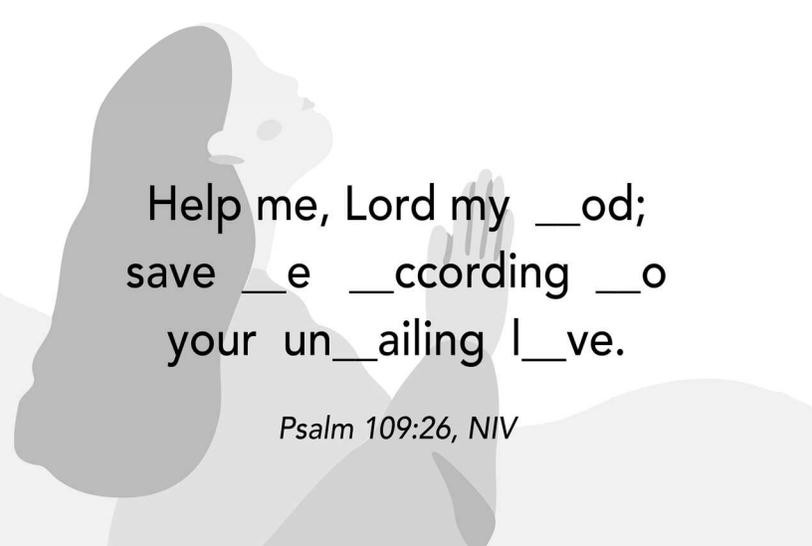


BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| Psalm 145:8 | SGAICURO | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Job 36:5 | HGIYMT | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Psalm 90:2 | LTAVREENISG | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2 Peter 3:9 | INETTPA | _ _ _ _ _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:24 | FUFHIATL | <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ _ _ |
| Isaiah 40:25 | OYHL | _ <input type="checkbox"/> _ _ _ |



Help me, Lord my __od;
save __e __ccording __o
your un__ailing l__ve.

Psalm 109:26, NIV



ZION'S EASTER DECORATING FUND 2026

Zion's tradition at this time of the year is to accept gifts as Thank Offerings, Memorials, and/or for the Beauty of God's House for the Easter Decorating Fund. The **Easter Decorating Fund** pays for the beautiful flowers in the chancel on Easter morning, April 5, and all of our special advertising.

The deadline for your gift is Friday, March 27.

Return your gift to the church office or the offering boxes. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

Amount given \$ _____

Please designate your gift:

Your envelope # _____

_____ Thank Offering

_____ Beauty of God's House

_____ In Loving Memory of: _____

Given by (if different than your name above):

Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • March 8 (Lent 3)

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



Monday • March 9

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
10:15 AM WOZ Meeting
12:15 PM Holy Communion
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Tuesday • March 10

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
9:00 AM Bible Study
10:30 AM Staff Meeting
12:15 PM Holy Communion
5:30 PM Handbells
6:00 PM Academy Team Meeting
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Wednesday • March 11

8:30 AM Word at the Middle of the Week, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
12:45 PM Carryout Soup (*see pg. 9*)
5:15 PM Lenten Soup Supper (*see pg. 9*)
6:30 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Confirmation
7:20 PM Lenten Midweek Study (*see pg. 6*)
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Thursday • March 12

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Kantorei
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Friday • March 13

12:15 PM Holy Communion

Saturday • March 14

5:15 PM Holy Communion



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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Where you can reach us:

Church: 715-848-7286

Fax: 715-848-7286

Email: zion@zionlutheranwausau.com

Web: zionlutheranwausau.com

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