

## 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 15, 2026**

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## Remembering

*Examples of the faith in March*

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### March 19: St. Joseph, Guardian of Jesus



A carpenter from Nazareth, St. Joseph was engaged to the Blessed Virgin Mary when she became pregnant with Christ. Though he initially thought to end their engagement, St. Joseph ultimately obeyed God's call to protect and care for Mary and her Child as his own (Matthew 1:18-25). He is also the father of St. James the Just, who served as the first bishop of Jerusalem, and St. Jude (Mark 6:3).

## Pastoral Letter

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*I remember You upon my bed, and meditate on You in the watches of the night; for You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy. ~ Psalm 67:6-7*



Beloved Saints,

On occasion, the Altar Guild in my childhood congregation served as a choir. One song they sang was a sentimental piece, “Count Your Blessings” by Johnson Oatman, Jr. It’s refrain stuck in my young mind: *Count your blessings, name them one by one!*

We could never do it entirely, could we?

God is so generous that we cannot know all the blessings He gives in a day, or even in a second, and we have only begun to understand the goodness of His Son, our Savior. Still, counting our blessings leads us into an important task of our faith, so good for the soul and for our neighbors: thanksgiving.

As Lent deepens our awareness of God’s grace, it increases our thanksgiving. Consider the blessings He’s given Zion this year:

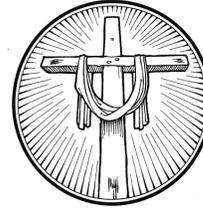
His blessed word and sacraments, still preached and delivered for our forgiveness, life, and salvation; abundant “hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs” (Eph. 5:19), led by our talented kantor; new friends and support in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as we travel more deeply into faithful Lutheranism; the arrival of a new headmaster for our classical academy; and more—thanks be to God!

You have blessings that you know about, too, far beyond “food and clothing and all we need from day to day.” Especially when sorrow creeps into your heart, or the devil’s attacks are near, take time this season, as we prepare for Passiontide and its final Easter joy, to recall those blessings. Remember that the Lord is with you always, “to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Peace!  
Pastor Gjerde

## Holy Week and Easter Schedule

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### **Palm Sunday: March 29**

*Holy Communion with Blessing of the Palms*

Saturday: 5:15 PM

Sunday: 9 AM (Live, WSAU 550 AM, 99.9 FM)  
11 AM

### **Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (3/30—4/1)**

*Holy Communion, Spoken*

Daily at 12:15 PM

### **Maundy Thursday: April 2**

Holy Communion: 12:15 PM

Holy Communion with *Stripping of the Altar*: 6:30 PM

### **Good Friday: April 3**

Three-Hour (Tre-Ore) Service: 12—3 PM (Live, WRIG 1390 AM)

*Nine 20-min Services + Come-and-Go As You Are Able*

### **Holy Saturday: April 4**

Easter Vigil: 6:30 PM

### **Easter Sunday: April 5** *(video recorded)*

Holy Communion: 9 AM (Live, WSAU 550 AM, 99.9 FM)  
11 AM



## **Current Season: Lent**

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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

## Passiontide: Lent's Last Weeks

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The last two weeks of Lent are called *Passiontide*, which includes the very last week, Holy Week.

In its gentle way, the Church is always easing us into things:

- + It prepares us for Lent through *Gesimatide* (the three Sundays before Lent);
- + It signals the half-way mark of Lent by changing purple cloths to rose on the 4th Sunday in Lent;
- + It prepares us for the culmination of Lent through *Passiontide*, beginning on the 5th Sunday in Lent.

On that fifth Sunday, we read the Gospel from John 8:46-59, in which the Jews start to plot their destruction of Jesus and He *hides* Himself. His *passion* (from the Latin *passio*, for “suffering”) has begun!



The Church keeps in step, *hiding* His images with dark veils. It's another signal: “Attention! The events of our redemption draw near!” Likewise, the “minor Gloria,” or Gloria Patri (“Glory be to the Father and to the Son . . .”) disappears from the end of psalms and worship becomes more somber.

It's a meaningful proclamation of how God deals with us in the cross. In that suffering of our Lord's death, God hides His glory. God's *yes* and God's *salvation* often come to us in this hidden way, enclosed in what feels like a *no* and *rejection*, but in reality is fellowship with Christ under the cross.

So watch for those dark veils this year and the disappearance of the minor Gloria. It all intensifies the Lenten fast as we give up more of our joyful worship, headed towards the great day of fasting, Good Friday.

## **Lent 2026: Worship and Learning**

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### *Lenten Midweek Sermon Series:* **Devoted: Praying Day by Day**

**Wednesdays, 12:15 PM and 6:30 PM**

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

### *Lenten Midweek Study* **Faith, the Highest Service**

**Wednesdays, 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>
<i>March 4:</i>	<i>“A Broken Spirit, a Contrite Heart”</i>
<i>March 11:</i>	<i>“Praise, Lips that Acknowledge Him”</i>
<b>March 18:</b>	“Do Good and Share”
<b>March 25:</b>	“A Living Sacrifice”

### *Lenten Weekend Sermon Series:* **What Are You Worth?**

**5:15 PM (Saturday) and 9 or 11 AM (Sunday)**

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

## Maundy Thursday Men's Breakfast

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**Thursday, April 2 + 6:30 AM**  
*Full Hot Breakfast and Speaker*

**Cost: \$10**

Professor and pastor Timothy Hartwig, president of Bethany Theological Seminary, will speak on Christ's "last supper" with His disciples and Holy Communion at this year's men's breakfast on Maundy Thursday.



*Pastor Timothy Hartwig*

Pr. Hartwig comes to the United States from Australia, where he labored in farming and West Australian gold mines before emigrating to the United States and becoming a pastor. He is married to Katie, a counselor and church musician, with whom he has 7 children. He has served parishes in Arizona and Minnesota.

Zion's annual men's breakfast features of full, cooked breakfast and provides an inspiring entrance into the *Triduum*, or "Three Days" that culminate Holy Week. Please come and invite others to join you!

### ***\*Final Opportunity\** Soup in Lent**

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**Lunch:** Carry-out, 12:45/1:00 PM, available after the noon Lenten service. 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. Just come as you are!

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

## News & Events

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### 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.

**thrivent**<sup>®</sup>

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](http://www.Thrivent.com/thriventchoice). **Designations must be made by March 31, 2026.**

### BLC Choir Concert at Zion

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,

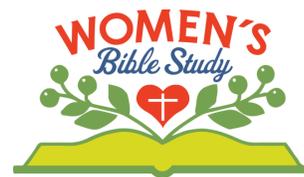
please contact the church office. Bethany Lutheran College is the college of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, preparing followers of Christ for vocation in family, church, and the world. For more information, visit [www.blc.edu](http://www.blc.edu).



Choir Concert

### \*New\* Women’s Bible Study

“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). A new Bible study for women will be held on the following dates at Zion: **April 9, April 23, May 7, and May 21.** We will gather in the fellowship hall at 11:00 AM on that day. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office!





## The Lutheran Classical Academy Of St. David the King at Zion

Interested in learning more about a Lutheran Classical Education?

Join us Thursday, March 26th at 6pm to find out what makes us:

**Classical.**  
**Christian.**  
**Confessional.**



Scan the QR code or email Headmaster Berg at [matthew.berg@zionlutheranwausau.com](mailto:matthew.berg@zionlutheranwausau.com).

Come and learn about our **mission, methods, tuition, and distinctives**. You can explore the curriculum, ask questions, and meet other families from the community. We will be meeting in Zion Hall

We can't wait to see you there.

*Sapientia et Aetate et Gratia*



### 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 22 (Lent 5)**

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 23**

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook  
12:15 PM Holy Communion  
1:00 PM Quilting  
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

### **Tuesday • March 24**

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 25 (The Annunciation)**

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

### **Thursday • March 26**

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook  
12:15 PM Holy Communion  
6:30 PM Kantorei  
6:30 PM Information Night for St. David's Academy (*see pg. 9*)  
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

### **Friday • March 27**

12:15 PM Holy Communion

### **Saturday • March 28**

5:15 PM Holy Communion





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

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Where you can reach us:*

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