

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 22, 2026

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Remembering

Examples of the faith in March

March 25: The Annunciation



God sent the angel, St. Gabriel, to tell the Virgin Mary that she would bear His Son. At first, Mary questioned how it could be true, but then she responded, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38), and thereafter she conceived. The Church therefore commemorates this event nine months before Christmas. By falling, often, in Lent, it makes a thoughtful connection

between the Lord’s birth in our flesh and His suffering in the flesh for our sake.

Pastoral Letter

“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.” ~ John 18:37



Beloved Saints,

God didn't send us to apologize for Him.

As Jesus stood before Pontius Pilate, facing such untold anguish that He cried out to the Father for help in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus did not turn from His mission. He spoke the truth, because He is the truth, and for that truth He willingly died.

“Peace, if possible,” said Luther. “Truth, at all costs.”

So it has always gone with God and His Church. “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32). We trust the *truth* to grow the Church. God's truth will liberate souls, sanctify minds, and raise the body. The most loving thing we can do is to speak God's truth to the world.

Truth is Jesus' mission. In *truth* our hope rests.

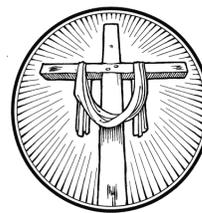
It may well mean suffering (“If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you,” John 15:20a), but by God's power, it will also mean a faithful, increasing Church (“If they kept My word, they will also keep yours,” John 15:20b). It's not easy, because the world *does! not! want! to! hear it!* But neither did the world want Jesus, and yet the world still got Him—thanks be to God!

In the same way, the world must hear the truth from us.

Holy Week is a truthy week, the truthiest of all weeks. It's one of many ways that we speak good words to our neighbors—it is one of many ways that we *love* them—and therefore, it is a hopeful week, reminding us that the Spirit keeps us with Jesus in the one, true faith, to the fulfillment of His most gracious will.

Peace!
Pastor Gjerde

Holy Week and Easter Schedule



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

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

Holy Week: A Brief Guide

“This central week of the Christian year is the Church’s way of proclaiming and reexperiencing the events that changed the world.” (Pfatteicher, Journey into the Heart of God).

Palm Sunday: Recounting our Lord’s entry into Jerusalem with a Palm Procession puts us on the road with Him to the cross. Reading the account of His passion intensifies our focus on that suffering. We take the palms home as a visual reminder of His passion for our sake.

Holy Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Holy Week does not aim at a precise timeline, but an intense meditation on Christ’s sacrifice. The simple, spoken Communion services of these days serve that goal.

Maundy Thursday. The evening service on this day is, in many ways, one of the most significant. It begins the *Triduum*, or great “Three Days” that culminates Holy Week. It starts with corporate Absolution, reenacts Christ’s washing of His disciples’ feet, and ends with the Stripping of the Altar in remembrance of Christ’s betrayal.

Good Friday. At Zion, this second day of the *Triduum* centers on the *Tre Ore (tray-oray)*, or Three-Hour Service (in reality, nine 20-minute services, where you are free to come and go). It starts with the traditional Veneration of the Cross and ends with an outdoor procession as we symbolically proclaim God’s redemptive love to the world.

Easter Vigil. This service, starting around sundown with the New Fire, welcomes the first sounds of Easter joy as our Baptismal union with Christ and His Word is renewed. Light was extinguished; now, Light returns—in you!



*When observed fully and annually, the **Triduum**, or Three Days (Maundy Thursday-Good Friday-Easter Vigil), makes an enduring impression on children and plants the faith well! As you are able, consider bringing them to all three services.*

Bethany Lutheran College Choir 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.**



Choir Concert

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 to 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.

****Final Reminder** Lenten Organ Meditations**

The last Lenten Meditation presented by the WI River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is this Friday, March 27 from 12:15—12:45pm at 1st Presbyterian Church (406 Grant St., Wausau). It will feature Bryan Higgins-Moe and Zion's own Jacob Drengler. A free-will donation will be received. Come for a time of meditation and music over the lunch hour.



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.



Maundy Thursday Men's Breakfast

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!

Praying

in our prayers this week

Persecuted Christians in: Uzbekistan, Niger, Tajikistan

Missionaries: Chris & Janine Pluger, Lutheran Bible Translators

Zion Lutheran Classical Academy: its establishment and growth

Comfort, Healing, Recovery:

Patricia Hollander

The Family of Sharon Willfahrt

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

Jessica Jens

Avery Kluck

Barb Langbecker

Barb Ramker

Darrin Stanke

Anna Tanck

Kim Torkko



News & Events

Baptism

Caden James Budnik, son of Adam & Christine Budnik, was baptized on Sunday, March 8. May God bless this child and his family and strengthen him in his Baptism that by His grace he may serve Christ in true faith.



***Final Reminder* 22nd Annual Presentation of Bow The Knee**

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



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

***Final Reminder* 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.***



***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!



New Portals of Prayer

Copies of the April – June 2026 *Portals of Prayer* are available. Large print copies are also available. If you cannot come to church to get a copy, call us to have one mailed to you.



***Reminder* Return HOPE Pregnancy Center Bottles**

If you still have Operation Baby Bottles (used to collect donations in February & March), please return them to the church office! Empty or full, HOPE Pregnancy Center would like them back so they can reuse them! Currently, we are missing 14. Thank you!



THIS WEEK



**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.

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: _____

****Last Week to Order—Order Forms are due Mar. 27****

Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • March 29 (Palm Sunday)

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

Monday • March 30 (Holy Monday)

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

Tuesday • March 31 (Holy Tuesday, St. Joseph, the Patriarch)

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

Wednesday • April 1 (Holy Wednesday)

8:30 AM Word at the Middle of the Week, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Thursday • April 2 (Maundy Thursday)

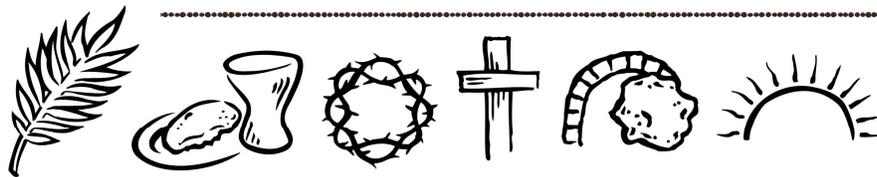
6:30 AM Men's Breakfast (*see pg. 7*)
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Holy Communion (*see pg. 4*)

Friday • April 3 (Good Friday)

12—3 PM Tre Ore; Live Radio Broadcast, (*see pg. 4*)
WRIG 1390 AM

Saturday • April 4 (Holy Saturday)

6:30 PM Easter Vigil (*see pg. 4*)



Holy Week



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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