

Zion Lutheran Church

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

April 12, 2026

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Remembering

Examples of the faith in April

April 9: St. Dietrich Bonhoeffer



St. Dietrich was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who worked to keep the Church free of Nazi influence. As part of that work, he helped organize a seminary for training pastors, and he wrote several volumes that are now famous, including *The Cost of Discipleship*. He is remembered for an

ardent devotion to the Word of God. A member of the German resistance, he worked to maintain contacts with the Allies, and ultimately conspired to assassinate Adolf Hitler. He was consequently imprisoned, found guilty, and hanged on April 9, his feast day.

Pastoral Letter

“When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.”
~ Luke 24:30



Beloved Saints,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The risen Lord still does after His resurrection what He did before it. Before His death, He organized much of His ministry around *table fellowship*, or sharing meals. Most significantly, on the night of His arrest, He shared a new meal with His disciples, the mystical Supper of His holy body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. That fellowship, or *Communion*, was the most intimate gift of Himself possible.

Now, not even death can stop Him from sharing that gift!

Holy Communion continues, as much a celebration of the Lord's rising as of His dying. For there, at the altar, we receive exactly what Jesus promises: His holy body and blood, the same body and blood that rose from the dead. To find it upon the altar, in the pastor's hand, and upon our tongues is to confess that *this body* and *this blood* have overcome not only our sin, but also the boundaries of the grave and power of Satan, the greatest tyrant on earth.

Just think! The resurrection, given for you to eat and drink!

His holy body is truly the bread *of life*, and His holy blood, the true cup of *salvation*. These mysteries given into our mouths, by Christ's own command, are the very things that hung upon the cross, stomped through hell, and now rule at the right hand of God. We eat what doubting Thomas once beheld in shock; we drink what the holy women may have wiped up with their veils.

If you would have eternal life, then here is where you belong: at the altar, receiving the Resurrection and the Life into your mouth and confessing, “Alleluia! Christ is risen!”

Peace!
Pastor Gjerde

The Ancient Shape of the Easter Season

Since the 1960s, churches have tended to embrace an approach to Easter made popular by the Roman Catholic Church, in which the 50 Days of Easter dwell on the resurrection appearances of Christ. The older approach, however, to which the confessional Lutheran Church and Eastern Orthodoxy have held, embodies a more Biblical vision of the resurrection.

As the risen Lord was eager to tell His disciples, the resurrection had an immediate consequence: the Holy Spirit would come rushing on the disciples to fill them with the power of that resurrection for ministry and witness. The open grave means an open future, opening hearts once closed by sin and doubt.

In view of this tight connection between the resurrection of Jesus and the ministry of the Church, the older approach to the 50 days of Easter shifts quickly towards *the Holy Spirit* and *church*. The Sunday Gospels are dominated by Christ's "last discourses," shared on the night of His betrayal, in which He teaches about the future ministry of the apostles and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

This approach mirrors the movement and energy of Easter, preparing us for confessing a risen Lord in a dying world. Here is how the triumph of Christ's rising becomes the triumph of faith, as we confess *Him, His word, and His gifts*.

Learning Opportunities

All in-person studies meet in the Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)

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

Wednesdays: **Word at the Middle of the Week**
8:30—9:00 AM (Online/Facebook)



Thursdays: **Men's Bible Study, 8 AM** "Romans"
Women's Bible Study, 11 AM, 4/9 and 4/23

Sundays: **Bible Study, 10 AM:** "Crucified Power" (none, 4/5)
Sunday School, Pre-K—Grade 5, 10:15 AM

Choir Concert at Zion!

Tuesday, May 12 + 7:00 PM

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 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.



Current Season: Easter

Theme: *Alleluia! Christ is Risen!*
Starts: Communion at Easter Vigil (April 4)
Ends: Pentecost (May 24)
Colors: White and gold (the purity and royalty of Christ)

Praying

in our prayers this week

Persecuted Christians in: Bhutan, Turkmenistan, Ethiopia

Missionaries: Chris & Janine Pluger, Lutheran Bible Translators

Zion Lutheran Classical Academy: its establishment and growth

Comfort, Healing, Recovery:

Debbie Chapman-Mar

The Family of Sharon Willfahrt

Those who need our on-going prayers:

Zion's Homebound Members

Magdalena Doskey (*Lee Anderton's granddaughter*)

Larry Hegland

James Jens

Jessica Jens

Avery Kluck

Barb Langbecker

Barb Ramker

Anna Tanck

Kim Torkko



Outreach and Mercy

sharing and being the gifts

Monthly Mission Emphases:

- **Lutheran Bible Translators, The Plugers — Goal: \$2,000**

Featured this Week: The Plugers:

Please help us support Chris and Janine Pluger as they continue their great work in Ethiopia.

The Plugers are making an impact as they help translate the Bible. Chris and Janine live in

Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa with

over five million residents. This has created endless opportunities to spread God's word. They are specifically helping to build Bible



Translation capacity in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus and beyond. With your help people will feel seen, known and loved by their Savior when their language community has access to the fulness of scripture.



Spring Salad Buffet 2026



The Women of Zion invite you to a special Spring Salad Buffet on **Tuesday, May 5, at 6 PM** in the Zion Church Hall. Men and women are invited to enjoy a delicious spread of unique salads, Texas Roadhouse rolls, and beverages, followed by a presentation from our guest speaker. Our speaker from the Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association will present “Buzz-Worthy Blooms,” a presentation focused on the needs of pollinators, especially bees, and the kinds of plants that support them from spring through fall. Certain plants can provide vital nourishment and habitat, and this presentation will offer practical ideas for choosing flowers and plants that help pollinators flourish across the seasons.

Tickets are now on sale in the Church Office until May 1.
They are \$10 and must be purchased in advance.

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a **famous salad** or a **secret family recipe** that is always a hit at potlucks? We would love for you to **share your delicious creation** at our Spring Salad Buffet! Sign up in the church office to let us know what you’re bringing.

We also need the following volunteers:

- Dining Room Set Up Crew
- Kitchen Prep Crew
- Dining Room Attendants
- Clean up Crew
- Dishwasher Operator

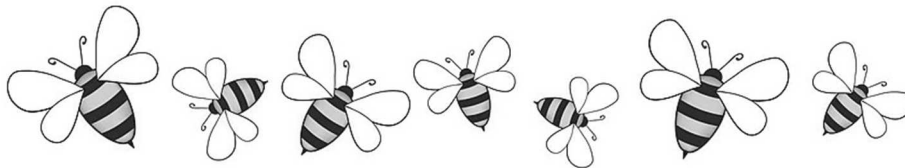


A **volunteer sign-up sheet** is available in the church office.

Have questions or want to call in your contribution?

Contact Shelly at (715) 493-1797.

or email: shellymurvine@icloud.com.



News & Events

***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!



***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 12. Thank you!



Pancake Breakfast

Zion's sister congregation, Bethany Lutheran (174071 Church Rd., Easton), is sponsoring their annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 26 from 11:30AM—1:30PM in their fellowship hall. The menu includes all-you-can-eat buttermilk pancakes with real maple syrup, sausages, cheese, applesauce, fresh fruit, assorted bars and beverages. A freewill offering will be accepted, and proceeds will be used to fund property maintenance and improvements. Everyone is welcome!



Quilting at Zion

The quilters plan to gather next on May 4 at 1:00PM in the Church Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Watson at 715-216-0696. See you there!



Organ Recital

The Wisconsin River Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to present Dr. Craig Sproat in recital. Originally from the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Craig Sproat holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance from the University of Oklahoma. In 2022, he was appointed Assistant Professor and Director of the undergraduate church music program at Concordia University Wisconsin. The concert will be held at Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 26 at 3PM. A reception will follow the concert. A free-will donation will be received.



News & Events

Save the Date 2nd Academy Family Night

Are you interested in your child or a child you know attending St. David's Classical Academy in Fall 2026? Then please join us on Thursday, April 23rd at 6PM in the Zion Church Hall! Come learn about the curriculum that will be used, the enrollment process, the uniforms the children will wear, and the school calendar for the year. Contact Headmaster Berg at matthew.berg@zionlutheranwausau.com or 715-436-4639 for more information.



Just for Kids



PUZZLE

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV


























- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

Vacation Bible School: June 16-18

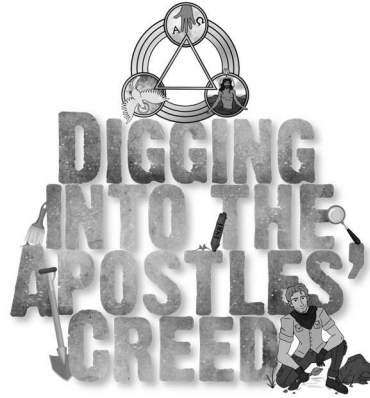
Days: June 16-18, Tues-Thurs

Time: 1-4 PM

Ages: Pre-K — 6th Grade

Let us know if you cannot pick up your child by 4 PM

The focus for this year's VBS is the Apostles' Creed. Our little ones learn about and memorize the importance of this confession of faith we say together every Lord's Day.



The curriculum is from "Higher Things" (<https://higherthings.org/>), a resource page and youth ministry site for confessional Lutherans. Registration forms will come soon, or you may call the Church Office and request one. VBS will include Bible study, catechism study, music, crafts, food, and games. VBS Families are encouraged to come for worship on Sunday, June 21, when the VBS children will sing at Zion's 9 AM Divine Service.

The volunteer needs we have for VBS include:

- 1) Two caring adults to help check in students (12:30-1 PM)
- 2) Two caring adults to help students check out (4-4:15 PM)
- 3) A pianist and someone who can help our students sing
- 4) A Bible study teacher
- 5) Helpers for crafts and snacks
- 6) (If necessary) Two caring adults to help hang out and play with the kids between 4-5 PM
- 7) Anyone who would like to help decorate/set-up, either Sunday evening or sometime Monday
- 8) Anyone who would like to help clean up, either Thursday evening or Friday morning.

We'll soon have a "WISH LIST" of items needed for this year's VBS week. Stay tuned! In the meantime, you are more than welcome to contribute financially to support this ministry venture.

If you would like to help and/or volunteer, please contact Pastor Johnson—chris.johnson@zionlutheranwausau.com.



Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • April 19 (Easter 3)

9:00 AM Holy Communion; Live Radio Broadcast,
WSAU 550 AM
10:00 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Bible Study
10:15 AM Fellowship in the Church Hall
11:00 AM Holy Communion
4:00 PM Pizza with the Pastor

Monday • April 20 (St. Johannes Bugenhagen)

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

Tuesday • April 21 (St. Anselm of Canterbury)

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
9:00 AM Bible Study
10:30 AM Staff Meeting
12:15 PM Holy Communion
1:30 PM Service at Forest Park
5:00 PM Handbells
6:00 PM Academy Team Meeting
6:00 PM Elders
7:00 PM Church Council
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Wednesday • April 22

8:30 AM Word at the Middle of the Week, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Confirmation
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Thursday • April 23

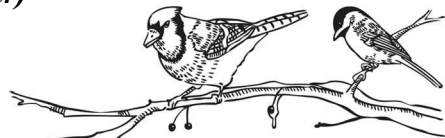
8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
11:00 AM Women's Bible Study (*see pg. 8*)
12:15 PM Holy Communion
6:00 PM Academy Family Night (*see pg. 9*)
6:30 PM Kantorei
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Friday • April 24 (St. Johann Walter)

12:15 PM Holy Communion

Saturday • April 25 (St. Mark)

12:15 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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Web: zionlutheranwausau.com

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