

## 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 19, 2026**

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## Remembering

*Examples of the faith in April*

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### **April 20: St. Johannes Bugenhagen**



God worked through St. Johannes Bugenhagen to shepherd the early Lutheran church. The chief pastor at Wittenberg, Germany, he served as the father confessor and pastor to St. Martin Luther (Feb. 18). During the Reformation, he organized the Lutheran churches throughout Germany and Denmark, where he installed seven men to the office of bishop and crowned the Danish king and queen. He also helped translate the New Testament into German.

## Pastoral Letter

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*“The trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”*

*~ 1 Corinthians 15:52*



Beloved Saints,

Spring brings to us both beginnings and endings.

Trees and flowers bud, but the old growth of a prior year gets raked up and cast away. The summer stretches before us, full of promise, but another school year ends, with some hopes realized and others dashed. The wedding season brings new marriages sworn before God, yet all around us relationships come to an end. Birds build nests; the children of Adam and Eve continue to bury their dead.

Christians know what it all means.

In the world's bright, new beginnings, we see the shadows of familiar endings. “There is nothing new under the sun” (Ecc. 1:9). We look at life as it is now, and we see something that does not endure forever, but that already came to an end on the cross, where Christ died to the world, and the world to Christ. “One died for all; therefore, all have died” (2 Cor. 5:14). Instead, “we are looking for the city that is to come,” the new creation (Heb. 13:14, 2 Peter 3:13).

Here's why we baptize babies and gather for Communion.

We take those fresh newborns and “bury them through baptism into death” (Rom. 6:4) so that they may rise with Christ. Likewise, we turn from the fresh produce of the earth—the “bread that spoils”—and turn towards the bread that lasts, our risen Lord's own flesh, feeding us for eternal life (John 6:27ff.). In every beginning, we see an ending, and turn to the true Beginning that never ends.

What fresh starts will you have this spring? Whatever they may be, see in each of them the things that pass away. Face them, consider them, and renew your faith in our Alpha and Omega, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Beginning and the End (Rev. 21:6).

Peace!  
Pastor Gjerde

## Heading towards Ascension Day

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In the Church, even time teaches the faith.

Our Lord Jesus spent 40 days with His disciples before ascending into the invisible Presence of God. Likewise, we spend 40 days celebrating Easter before observing the Feast of Ascension, which takes place this year on **May 14**.

We will preach on the Ascension at two services:

**Wednesday, May 13: Vespers, 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, May 14: Holy Communion, 12:15 PM**

Also, on the three days before Ascension—**May 10, 11, and 12, at 12:15 PM**—we will hold three days of communal prayer for our congregation, community, and nation, called *Rogation Days*, or as we have called them at Zion, *Mercy Days*. These services of prayer will replace our normal services of daily Communion.

Do you have special prayer requests for us to include in those services of prayer? Do your neighbors? Friends? Enemies? Be sure to gather all of those prayer requests and give them to a pastor. We will include them on those days, and many more prayers besides, joining Christ our High Priest in intercession for the whole world.

## Learning Opportunities

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*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** “James”  
**Women’s Bible Study, 11 AM, 4/9 and 4/23**

Sundays: **Bible Study, 10 AM:** “A Deeper Look at the Supper”  
**Sunday School, Pre-K—Grade 5, 10:15 AM**



## Praying

*in our prayers this week*

**Persecuted Christians in:** Cameroon, Oman, Mozambique

**Missionaries:** Chris & Janine Pluger, Lutheran Bible Translators

**Zion Lutheran Classical Academy:** its establishment and growth

**Comfort, Healing, Recovery:**

The Family of Ethel Trittin

**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

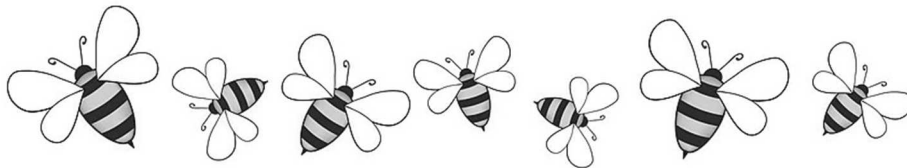


A **volunteer sign-up sheet** is available in the church office.

Have questions or want to call in your contribution?

**Contact Shelly at (715) 493-1797.**

or email: [shellymurvine@icloud.com](mailto:shellymurvine@icloud.com).



## News & Events

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### 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 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!



### \*Change\* Quilting at Zion

The quilters plan to gather next on May 11 (instead of 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!



## \*FINAL REMINDERS\*

### 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 Sun., 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. Everyone is welcome!



### Organ Recital

The WI 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

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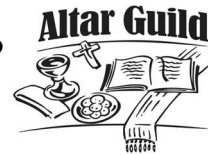
### ***\*This Week\* 2nd Academy Family Night***

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](mailto:matthew.berg@zionlutheranwausau.com) or 715-436-4639 for more information.



### **Altar Guild Meeting**

Zion Altar Guild members and guests are welcome to attend our next meeting on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 PM in the church hall. Pastor Chris Johnson will be our speaker. If you have a topic you would like addressed at the meeting, call Anna Mae at 715-212-9744. The hostesses are Janet Dettmering, Sally Christoffersen and Connie Lemmer. Please call the church office to RSVP your attendance at the meeting. Thank you!



### ***\*Save the Date\* Rummage Sale 2026***

The Women of Zion will host their annual rummage sale in Zion's school gym. The sale will be held on Saturday, June 20, from 9AM to 1PM.

We will again offer a \$5 per bag sale, with bags provided at the door. Select special items will be individually priced and available on a designated table. As you begin your spring cleaning, please set aside your gently used items for donation. Watch future Newsletters for more details about drop off on Friday, June 19. For more information, contact Shelly Murvine or Jan T. Brown.



### **Attention Graduate Families!**

If you have a family member graduating this spring, please call the church office to let us know two things: (1) Which school they are graduating from and (2) what their plans following graduation are (college, work, military, etc.). The Elders of Zion stay in touch with our young adults for a few years after they graduate with timely gifts throughout the year. We're also looking forward to publishing their names and pictures in an upcoming newsletter, so that we might celebrate with you!



## Vacation Bible School: June 16-18

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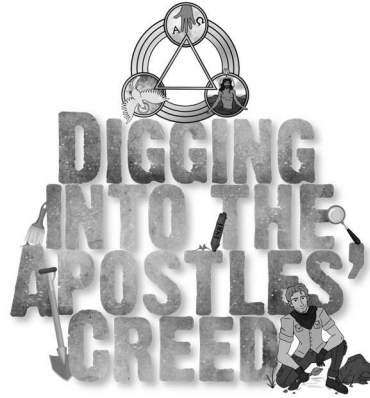
**Days: June 16-18, Tues-Thurs**

**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](mailto:chris.johnson@zionlutheranwausau.com).



## Calendar

*for the upcoming week*

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### **Sunday • April 26 (Easter 4)**

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  
3:00 PM AGO Organ Concert (*see pg. 8*)

### **Monday • April 27**

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook  
12:15 PM Holy Communion  
6:00 PM Endowment Fund Quarterly Meeting  
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

### **Tuesday • April 28**

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 29**

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

### **Thursday • April 30**

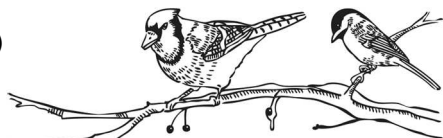
8:00 AM Men's Bible Study  
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook  
12:15 PM Holy Communion  
6:30 PM Kantorei  
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

### **Friday • May 1 (Sts. Philip and James the Younger)**

12:15 PM Holy Communion

### **Saturday • May 2 (St. Athanasius)**

12:15 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](mailto:zion@zionlutheranwausau.com)**

**Web: [zionlutheranwausau.com](http://zionlutheranwausau.com)**

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