

Zion Lutheran Church

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

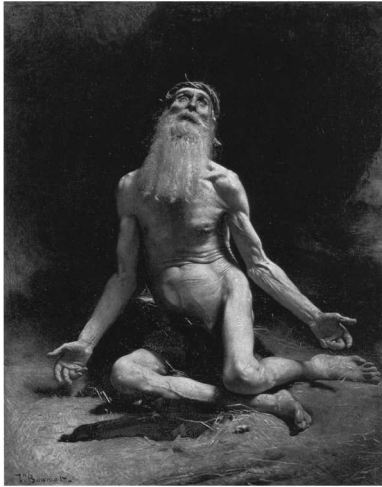
May 10, 2026

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Pastoral Letter | Page 3 |
| The Feast of Ascension; ELS Update | Page 4 |
| Catechumenate; First Communion; Current Season | Page 5 |
| Praying; Outreach & Mercy..... | Page 6 |
| Vacation Bible School 2026 | Page 7 |
| News & Events | Pages 8 & 9 |
| A Letter from Headmaster Berg | Page 10 |
| Calendar (for the upcoming week) | Page 11 |

Remembering

Examples of the faith in May

May 9: St. Job



God's gracious dealings with St. Job, recorded in the Biblical book carrying Job's name, help us to bear sufferings and afflictions in faith. A wealthy man, Job suffered the loss of his property, children, and health (his body was covered with sores). God did not ignore his cries for justice, but responded with a proclamation of His almighty power and called Job to a radical humility. Job heeded that call, and he was restored. He teaches us to pray and cry out to God, humble ourselves, and trust in God's mercy.

Pastoral Letter

*For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.
~ John 6:55*



Beloved Saints,

You know what the world needs? More *humanity*.

The world disagrees. Often, people think that humans are the *problem*—and we do come with a heavy load of sin. We corrupt the earth with violence and inflict injury upon each other in body and soul. Some people say the world would be better off without us!

But, no, we need *more* humanity, not less!

We can still catch glimmers of the truth in our daily life. For example, only the human race consciously seeks the good of species other than itself and views such kindness as a moral obligation. Even more importantly, the word of God promises that He made us in His image and sent His Son to redeem us. God loves humanity—He became human!—and healing our humanity is His goal.

That's a good way to understand Jesus and the Church.

In His Spirit, Jesus is giving our lost humanity back to us. Through His sacrifice, He cleanses us of our sin and purchases our resurrection. By His holy word, He dwells with us, even in us, and teaches us what *humanity* is—what it is to be male and female, parent and child, neighbors and believers, the very children of God. He goes so far as to nourish us with His own body and blood!

Such love is divine, and yet it is also deeply *human*.

So here is the goal of our whole Christian life: to lean more and more deeply into the humanity of Jesus, His flesh and blood, His body, the Church, and His love at work in the daily callings of home, neighborhood, and nation. This path necessarily leads us through pain and grief—it puts us under the cross—but we already know how it is there, under the cross, that we meet the almighty God.

Peace!
Pastor Gjerde

The Feast of the Ascension

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

Alleluia! Christ has ascended into the power of God, where He now prays for you and all the world.



Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Update

Zion has now completed the steps for inclusion in the ELS, and its formal rostering in the Synod will take place at the end of June. After two interviews with the Synod's Colloquy Committee, the last taking place on Palm Sunday, Pastor Gjerde and Pastor Johnson were approved to serve as ministers. Bethany in the Town of Aniwa will be undertaking its vote in the weeks that lie ahead.

The liturgical changes associated with ELS membership, such as servers at worship, will start occurring at the start of June. The ELS takes seriously the call of pastors to *serve the word* to their congregations, and for believers to *rest in the word*. Pastors therefore read the lessons and are the primary ministrants of the Holy Supper. Where ease of distribution requires assistance, they are assisted by men who could otherwise serve as pastors but are not.

This change leads Zion upon the confessional Lutheran path it embraced at its founding, the apostolic faith and practice that was known to our forebearers and that, in these recent years, has served as a source of renewal and reinvigorated discipleship among younger generations worldwide. As a new friend in the ELS recently said in a greeting to Zion's pastors: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls" (Jeremiah 6:16).

Catechumenate

learning the gifts

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, “Resurrection”
(meeting 5/21, 6/4, and 6/18)

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

First Communion

pray for our youth

Five of Zion’s children began instruction for receiving their First Communion the start of this month. First Communion preparation includes deeper learning of the Catechism, not only regarding the Holy Supper but also the Commandments, Creed, and Lord’s Prayer.



After instruction, the children are then examined and attend Private Absolution (individual confession and forgiveness). Their first time receiving our Lord’s holy body and blood will take place on the Feast of Holy Trinity, Sunday, May 31.

Please pray for these young people as they look forward to receiving the blessings of our Lord’s Holy Supper and deeper communion with Him in His body and blood.

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: Nepal, Colombia, Chad

Missionaries: Chris & Janine Pluger, Lutheran Bible Translators

Zion Lutheran Classical Academy: its establishment and growth

Comfort, Healing, Recovery:

All affected by the recent storms

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



Outreach and Mercy

sharing and being the gifts

Monthly Mission Emphases:

- **Hagar House, Wausau — Goal: \$3,500**

Hagar House, Wausau:

Did you know there are single moms in the Bible? The most powerful story is of a woman named Hagar. As a maidservant, she had very little say in her own life, and after continual mistreatment, she decided to run away. However, she found herself in the hopelessness of brutal desert and expecting a child. In her desperate state, scripture says that God saw her distress and came to her. He spoke with her and refreshed her with water from a nearby well. Later, as the child grew, still abandoned and alone in the burning desert, she faced death once again. Imagine the torment of Hagar's heart, as she helplessly watched her son growing so close to death. God heard their cries and returned once again, tenderly rescuing them. God in his mercy, came through for Hagar and her child. This is the mission of the Hagar House: to free single mothers from cycles of crisis through a Christ-centered community. God asks Hagar, "Where have you come from, and where are you going?" (Genesis 16:8). Thank you for supporting this mission.



Vacation Bible School: June 16-18

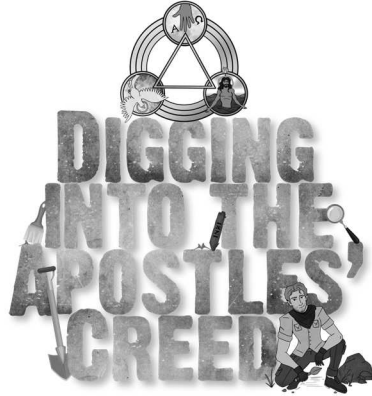
Days: June 16-18, Tues-Thurs

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 are now available at the Church Office. 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.



News & Events

****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. Donations may be dropped off at the school gym, on Friday, June 19, from 9AM to 4PM. Please do not bring computer electronics or exercise equipment, and ensure that all clothing and toys are clean and in good condition, without rips or broken pieces. Donations of plants are also welcome; any size or type may be given, but all plants must be potted. Empty decorative pots are appreciated as well. If you'd like to help advertise, lawn signs are now available by the church office. For more information, contact Shelly Murvine or Jan T. Brown.



Women's Bible Study

"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). The new Bible study for women will be held next on May 21. Stay tuned for additional dates in future Newsletters.



We will gather in the fellowship hall at 11:00AM on that day. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office!

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!



News & Events

Zion Garden Helpers Welcome

If you have a love for gardening and keeping Zion's gardens beautiful, your help would be appreciated as a garden helper! You can work on your own as your time permits or with others on larger, scheduled projects. Here's how you can help:



Spring Clean-up (*already done for 2026*)

Clean beds of winter debris and cut back those grasses and shrubs that are pruned in early spring

Mulching (*now done for 2026*) Usually done every two years

Planting

Help plant purchased plants/flowers when the weather is safe from frost

WEEDING! **ALL SUMMER & EARLY FALL!**

Work any time you want and for as long as you want.

Fertilizing & Watering

Weekly for fertilizing annual flowers and watering as needed

Fall Clean-up (*late October to early November*)

Rake leaves from flower beds, pull out dead annuals, and trim all yews.

Please call Lynn Budnik (715-446-1474) or Sue Wolslegel (715-842-3836) if you are interested, have questions or would like to take a look at the gardens and supplies.

Improve Your Balance with the Stepping On Program

Learn from a variety of local experts—including a physical therapist, pharmacist, optometrist, and fire department professionals—about the many factors that can affect your balance. Join us every Tuesday, beginning June 2- July 14 from 9:30 AM -11:30 AM at Riverside Fire District (20 Alexander Avenue, Rothschild, WI). Pre-registration is required; call 888-486-9545. Program is FREE. Contributions are welcome!



A Letter from Headmaster Berg



"Most of us have had some experience learning a sport, a musical instrument, or another difficult skill. Imagine that, instead of receiving lessons from a piano teacher, you were simply placed in front of a piano and asked to play. Or imagine being given skates and a hockey stick and being told to score a goal without coaching. How far would most of us get?"

Yet much of modern education has moved in this very direction. It has often removed the teacher from the center of the classroom and asked students to "construct" knowledge for themselves before they have been given the tools and knowledge necessary to do so.

The results are increasingly difficult to ignore. Professors across the country are warning that many college students now struggle to read complex texts with comprehension. One Northwestern professor recently reported that about 40–50% of her students describe themselves as novice or reluctant readers, with some struggling to read full sentences.

This is not only an academic concern. It is also a spiritual one.

The Bible is a substantial book, filled with historical narrative, poetry, parables, and theological argument. While the Gospel message is able to be comprehended by children, if young people are not trained to read deeply, how will they learn to dwell deeply in the Scriptures, the hymns, the catechism, and the Lutheran Confessions?

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

This is one reason Lutheran classical education matters so deeply. If we abandon our students to the educational practices of modern schooling, we limit their ability to engage with God's Word and stand firm on the truth. There is a better way. A classical education can form young people who can read with understanding, think with clarity, speak with wisdom, and receive their Lutheran inheritance with gratitude and joy.

At St. David's Academy, we have the opportunity to help recover this kind of education: teacher-led, Scripture-shaped, intellectually serious, and ordered toward the formation of faithful Christian disciples. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to visit lestdavid.org and to share the Academy with families who may be blessed by this work. Together, we can help train the next generation of disciples for faithful service in their homes, churches, communities, and vocations.

Matthew Berg

Headmaster

The Lutheran Classical Academy of Saint David the King

Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • May 17 (Easter 7)

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

Monday • May 18

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

Tuesday • May 19

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 Academy Team Meeting
6:00 PM Elders
7:00 PM Church Council
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Wednesday • May 20

8:30 AM Word at the Middle of the Week, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion
5:45 PM First Communion Class
6:30 PM Vespers
6:30 PM Confirmation
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Thursday • May 21 (St. Helen)

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
11:00 AM Women's Bible Study
12:15 PM Holy Communion
6:30 PM Kantorei
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Friday • May 22

12:15 PM Holy Communion

Saturday • May 23

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

NON-PROFIT ORGN
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
WAUSAU, WI
PERMIT NO. 66