

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 3, 2026

Pastoral Letter	Page 3
Prayer Requests?; Learning Opportunities	Page 4
Choir Concert at Zion; Current Season	Page 5
Praying; Outreach & Mercy.....	Page 6
Vacation Bible School 2026	Page 7
News & Events	Pages 8 & 9
Just for Kids	Page 10
Calendar <i>(for the upcoming week)</i>	Page 11

Remembering

Examples of the faith in May

May 4: St. Monica



St. Monica was born in Africa, most likely a member of the Berber tribe. Though Christian, she married Patritius, a Roman official, who was pagan. His behavior made their marriage an unhappy one until, through Monica's prayer and patience, he was baptized shortly before dying. Their son, St. Augustine (Aug. 28) initially followed the pagan ways of his father, to the great sorrow of his mother, who nevertheless kept hope and prayed for him. At last, he too was baptized and became the Bishop of Hippo.

Pastoral Letter

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ~ John 15:1-2



Beloved Saints,

Early spring—a time for pruning!

So it goes in our yards, and so it goes in the Church. The resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has signaled the start of an eternal spring in which the Father graciously prunes the branches of that blessed Vine, His Son—and what are His branches?

The Church!

Yes, the Lord prunes His Church, cutting out the dead wood and errant growths, encouraging good, green foliage and an abundant harvest. None of us is a “finished product,” after all, nor is any church a “finished product.” There is always room to grow through pruning, to bear fruit through the loss of what is dead or heavy—and how does the Lord do this gracious work?

Through His word!

As Jesus also said, *“As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me . . . If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you (John 15:4,7).* As the Spirit works His words in us, we lose and let go, we are corrected and trained—we are *pruned*, and in such repentance, room for new growth abounds.

Such joy! The world has little taste for cross-bearing or pruning, repentance and correction, but Christians love it, because we love the Vine, who has loved us best, and made of us His branches, that we may grow deep, deep green and bear a harvest.

Peace!
Pastor Gjerde

Prayer Requests? Ascension and Mercy Days

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

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

****Final Reminder* 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: Comoros, Qatar, Kazakhstan

Missionaries: Chris & Janine Pluger, Lutheran Bible Translators

Zion Lutheran Classical Academy: its establishment and growth

Comfort, Healing, Recovery:

The Family of Ethel Tritten

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

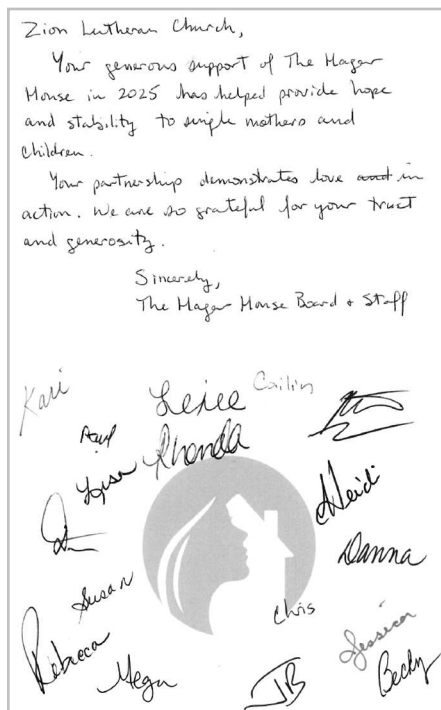
Monthly Mission Emphases:

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



Hagar House, Wausau:

The Hagar House staff have reached out to Zion to express their gratitude for our continuing support of their mission. Here you see a copy of a card we were sent recently. The text reads: “Your generous support of the Hagar House in 2025 has helped provide hope and stability to single mothers and children. Your partnership demonstrates love in action. We are so grateful for your trust and generosity.”



Vacation Bible School: June 16-18

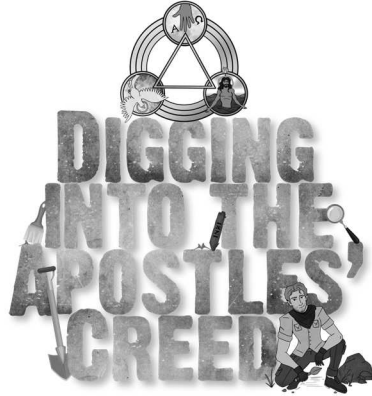
Days: June 16-18, Tues-Thurs

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!



Memorials and Other Gifts Received

- **In thankfulness for Gary & Sue Wolslegel, Mary Lou Dzick gave a gift to Zion.**



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 (*happening soon 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.

Confirmed in the Faith

The following young people were confirmed in the faith of the one holy catholic and apostolic church on Sunday, May 3: Jack Johnson, son of Pr. Christopher & Heather Johnson; Kenli Kulesa, daughter of Christopher Kulesa and T'Neal Kulesa; Harley Renken, daughter of Anthony & Rebecca Renken; and Tessa Wash, daughter of Melissa Wash. May God bless these youth and help them to always rely on the words of Christ and His body and blood to sustain them in the faith.



Confirmation





PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

- = God
- = seed
- = planted
- = watered
- = grow
- = one
- = anything
- = only

I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,

but _____ has been making it _____.

So neither the _____ who plants nor the

_____ who waters is _____,

but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Calendar

for the upcoming week

Sunday • May 10 (Easter 6, Mother's Day)

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 11 (Mercy Day, Sts. Cyril & Methodius)

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
10:15 AM WOZ Meeting
12:15 PM Prayer Service (*see pg. 4*)
1:00 PM Quilting
7:00 PM Missions Team
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Tuesday • May 12 (Mercy Day)

8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
9:00 AM Bible Study
10:30 AM Staff Meeting
12:15 PM Prayer Service (*see pg. 4*)
7:00 PM Bethany College Choir Concert (*see pg. 5*)
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Wednesday • May 13 (Mercy Day)

8:30 AM Word at the Middle of the Week, Facebook
12:15 PM Prayer Service w/Outdoor Procession (*see pg. 4*)
5:45 PM First Communion Class
6:30 PM Ascension Vespers (*see pg. 4*)
6:30 PM Confirmation
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Thursday • May 14 (Ascension Day)

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study
8:30 AM Devotion, Facebook
12:15 PM Holy Communion (*see pg. 4*)
6:30 PM Kantorei
8:30 PM Compline, Facebook

Friday • May 15

12:15 PM Holy Communion

Saturday • May 16

11:00 AM Zastrow Baptism
2—4:00 PM Card Ministry
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