

NEWSLETTER

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Stetsonville, WI



*“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” (1 Peter 2:6)*

OCTOBER 2026

THINGS ABOVE

What’s your secret? How did you do it? Although I can’t say I’m a Penn and Teller or David Copperfield fan, I am intrigued by how magicians can make it appear they’re doing things which don’t seem possible. They many times start their shows by asking the audience to suspend their sense of what’s real and what’s imaginary, to “set people up” for what’s about to happen. Always entertaining, always intriguing, always mysterious — those are the key goals of magicians.

Those same questions might arise in another circumstance, as well. As we all get older, it’s probably common to look back at the highs and lows or and challenges of your life. People might remember a common thread running through the list. “I didn’t think that was possible,” could apply to either the good or the bad. Sometimes the outcome of a situation might be very close to going either way! We can have that same vision of those around us. Friends and family members may go through adversity or celebrations from time to time. If that’s the case, we may ask, “How did they do that?” What motivates a person? Where does their strength come from? How were they able to manage all that?

For you and me as Christians, navigating the land mines of life and properly enjoying life to the full, we know life’s successes only come with the help of our Heavenly Father. It’s not uncommon today to see a successful athlete point to the sky after performing some act of skill or strength. I’m not sure what’s going through all their minds, but I assume at least some of them are acknowledging God for His help or their success. Do we all acknowledge the blessings in life’s varying situations? Better yet, do we automatically

search for God’s help when faced with those things? We should. It’s also important to remember to ask for help in the “little” things as well as the “big” things. For the last few weeks, I’ve tried an experiment connected with God’s help, support, and guidance.

When faced with a problem, temptation, or struggle, I think to myself, “Things above.” Such “things above” means different things in different cases. If looking at a temptation, “things above” may mean focusing on what’s true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, or praiseworthy, as Philippians 4:8 suggests. If I’m sick or injured, “things above” reminds me that this life is only temporary. The glory of heaven is forever. When acknowledging a sinful act or thought or omission, “things above” is a declaration of “not guilty” because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Celebrations of success or blessings are no different. When thanking God and praising Him for good earthly things, “things above” highlights what our heavenly celebrations will be like when we’re with Him! *“Therefore, because you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.”* (Colossians 3:1-2)

Your mental “tap on the shoulder” may be different than mine, but any way you can be reminded to lean on God, thank God, or imagine being with God is a very good thing, indeed!

Transfer

At his request the communicant membership of a Zion member was transferred to St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church, Marshfield.

Special Congregational Meeting

At the Special Congregational Meeting held Sunday, September 13th, the voters decided to purchase and install surveillance cameras for the church and property.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

The next Quarterly Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2026, following our morning worship. A Congregational Forum open to all of Zion's Communicant members will be held before the Voters' Meeting. This will allow all communicant members of Zion to give their input and allow the Voters to make informed decisions when the Voters' Meeting was convened.

The Church Council encourages all members to attend. It also encourages all members to consider how they can volunteer to serve their congregation and their Lord on the various boards and committees.

Coats for Kids

Search your closets for winter coats, gloves hats and boots. Watch for the Coats for Kids collection box when it is placed in the church entryway. Donations of new and gently used winter coats, boots, hats and gloves (for kids and adults) will be accepted.

Donations are usually accepted toward the end of October into early December. Plan ahead and get your donations ready.

Basket Raffle

A Basket Raffle is being planned for November. If you are planning to donate a basket, please submit them by October 31st.

Turn Your Clocks Back!

Daylight Saving Time (DST) ends at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, November 1, 2026. Set your clocks BACK 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st. Fall Back!



LWMS Fall Rally

The Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of LWMS will hold it's Fall Rally on Saturday, October 17th, 8:30 am to noon, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 703 Flieth St., Wausau, WI.

The theme is *The Land Will Yield Its Harvest*, based on Psalm 67:6-7, "*Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us, and*

all the ends of the earth will fear him." Come and hear our missionary speaker from Pakistan and his family's story of Christ's salvation.

The funds gathered in the Mission Offerings will go to further the gospel work in Pakistan and the Equipment fund to help home missions fund needed updates to furnishings and technology.

Registration begins at 8:30 am. Light refreshments will be served at that time. The Rally begins at 9:00 am and goes until noon.

There will be displays from Pakistan, the Mission to the Children, and Time of Grace. Learn what LWMS does and choose to become part of it.

The Rally is open to all the men, women and children of Zion.

Martin Luther College Choir Concert

You are invited to the Martin Luther College Choir Concert, "God's Love Revealed," at 2:00 P.M., Monday, October 26, at Northland Lutheran High School, Kronenwetter. Under the direction of Dr. Adrian Smith, the choir will present settings of familiar hymns and other choral anthems in a variety of musical styles.

Martin Luther College is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The mission of the school is to prepare teachers, pastors, and staff ministers to serve the synod's congregations and schools. The concert is open to the public. A freewill offering will be gathered to support Martin Luther College.

Bible Class

The Adult Bible Study is exploring the book of Galatians. The faith of the Galatians was threatened by the false teaching that salvation depends both upon Christ and good works. This false gospel, he wrote, was "*no gospel at all.*" This study follows the Fellowship.

Forward In Christ

The October *Forward In Christ*, entitled "*A Place To Belong,*" is available. Please take a copy.

In the cover story this month, Rob Guenther shares a concern as he looks at his congregation's Confirmation Wall: Too many of those confirmands are no longer in church. He offers encouragement to all of us, as Christ's church, to look for ways to connect today's youth to the Prince of peace, the people in the

pews, and the purpose of the parish—connections that will prayerfully result in the next generation finding church as a place in which they belong (p. 10).

Finding belonging in Christ’s church can offer individuals a new purpose, to share what they discovered with others. Just ask Tony and Sarah Carmody, who, after learning about Jesus’ love and forgiveness and the certainty of heaven, can’t stop inviting people to their church (p. 7). Or Steve Gerling, who, after struggling with spiritual questions during his youth, found answers in the Bible and is now in Senegal to proclaim that message of salvation to those who have never heard the gospel (p. 18).

Finally, Holger Weiss, a pastor and seminary professor for our sister synod in Germany, shares a personal story to remind us all—young and old—of the importance of holding on to Bible truths (back page).

WELS Christian Aid and Relief provides care through humanitarian aid grants

To help carry out its ministry of compassion, WELS Christian Aid and Relief announced that it has approved \$426,357 to support humanitarian aid projects in WELS mission fields throughout the United States and worldwide for fiscal year 2025-26.

“These grants are huge for our missions,” shares Rev. Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief. “They provide an opportunity to show compassion to those who are struggling and lead to many conversations about our compassionate Savior.”

The humanitarian aid projects supported by the grants take many forms, including health care for the sick and dying, borehole drilling to provide clean drinking water, food and warm clothing, school supplies for underprivileged kids, assistance for legal immigrants, scholarships for poor students, mosquito nets, and vocational training.

Amazing Grace, Amarillo, Texas, plans to use grant funds in multiple ways—providing school supplies to kids in need, delivering meals door to door in community neighborhoods, and helping feed those who are homeless. Pastor Hans Thomford says, “These grants help us to love our community and put ourselves and our new mission around even more people in need of Jesus’ love and forgiveness! The compassion net can really go

a great distance with these funds.”

On June 24, the U.S. Geological Survey recorded a pair of earthquakes in northern Venezuela that totaled 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude. The earthquakes caused widespread damage throughout Venezuela. More than 6,500 people have been reported dead, more than 225,000 were injured, and tens of thousands are still missing many months later.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief provided \$10,000 in aid to help those in Venezuela. Throughout the summer WELS Christian Aid and Relief also helped congregations in the United States affected by flooding, tornadoes, and wildfires as well as those in Colombia after a major earthquake and the Hmong Evangelical Lutheran Church in Vietnam following severe flooding. Christian Aid and Relief is also closely monitoring the needs following the deadly flooding in Nepal.

“Every disaster is hard and painful,” notes Dan Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, “but each one is also an opportunity to show hurting people the compassionate love of our Savior.”

☺ For A Smile ☺

Last October the woman bought a magnolia tree from the local nursery, but after only a few weeks the leaves shriveled. It appeared to be on its last legs. She took some leaf samples and marched into the nursery to demand an explanation. “I know exactly what’s wrong with your magnolia,” said the manager. “Good,” she said. “What’s it suffering from?” “Autumn,” he replied.

After a day of fun at a church picnic, my 4-year-old granddaughter said to my son, “Daddy, you have to stop acting like a kid, or I’ll have to drive this car home!”

Mrs. Jones was reading a letter at breakfast. Suddenly she looked up suspiciously at her husband. “Henry,” she said, “I’ve just received a letter from mother saying she isn’t accepting our invitation to come and stay, as we do not appear to want her. What does she mean by that? I told you to write and say that she was to come at her own convenience. You did write, didn’t you?” “Er, yes, I did,” said the husband. “But I, I couldn’t spell ‘convenience,’ so I made it ‘risk.’”

October

1. Proverbs 10:1-11:13
2. Prov. 11:14-12:28
3. Prov. 13:1-14:21
4. Prov. 14:22-15:23
5. Prov. 15:24-16:33
6. Prov. 17, 18
7. Prov. 19:1-20:13
8. Prov. 20:14-22:16
9. Prov. 22:17-23:35
10. Prov. 24
11. Prov. 25:1-26:12
12. Prov. 26:13-27:27
13. Prov. 28, 29
14. Prov. 30
15. Prov. 31
16. Romans 1:1-17
17. Rom. 1:18-32
18. Rom. 2:1-16
19. Rom. 2:17-29
20. Rom. 3:1-20
21. Rom. 3:21-31
22. Rom. 4:1-15
23. Rom. 4:16-25
24. Rom. 5:1-11
25. Rom. 5:12-21
26. Rom. 6:1-14
27. Rom. 6:15-7:6
28. Rom. 7:7-25
29. Rom. 8:1-17
30. Rom. 8:18-39
31. Rom. 9:1-13

Through My Bible In 3 Years

To the left is a Bible Reading schedule for the month of October. It is hoped that such a schedule will help each of us “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” (2 Peter 3:18) As we grow in God’s Word, we will be anchored securely on the solid foundation of Christ crucified and arisen. Also, we will be better prepared to give the reason for the hope that we have. (1 Peter 3:15)

Hospital

Please notify Pastor Russow of your hospital stay. By notifying Pastor Russow, he can visit you and include you in his private prayers, and in the Prayer of the Church in worship, if you so desire.

Kwik Trip Scrip

The Ladies of Zion (LOZ) thank you for your continued support of their Kwik Trip Scrip fund raising program. Kwik Trip gift cards for the purchase of fuel or in store purchases in various denominations. Scrip cards may be purchased from one of the Ladies of Zion.

Private Communion

If physical problems prevent you from attending services and you desire private Communion, please schedule a visit with Pastor Russow. To contact Pastor Russow, please call: (Office): 715-678-2208; (Home): 715-678-2204; or (Cell): 715-965-1782.

Address or Phone Change?

Please inform Pastor Russow of any address or phone change you make. Please update your address with the church. If you no longer have a land line, or a cell phone is the best way to contact you, please inform Pastor Russow.

Offerings

Please remember the ongoing financial needs of the church. If travel, illness or other reasons keep you from attending, remember God’s amazing grace in daily forgiveness and in supplying your daily bread. Our offerings are part of how we thank Him.