

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)*

APRIL 2026

WAIT, WHAT?

The family was made up of a husband, wife and four daughters. Because the girls had a lot of friends over the years, many of these friends became “unofficial” daughters in the family, as well. One friend — let’s call her Kelsey — became so close to the family that she came the closest to holding the title of “fifth” daughter. Kelsey basically grew up together with the youngest daughter, from grade school through high school. To make them even closer, their two moms were friends as well. Kelsey had many endearing qualities, but perhaps the one most obvious one was her frizzy blonde hair. Now I’m not going to insult any of you who may be of the blonde persuasion, but let’s just say Kelsey didn’t always know what was going on. When she was caught in one of those situations where she was kind of paying attention, but maybe not completely, she would frequently blurt out, “Wait, what?” It became such an endearing quality to all of the family members, that they all began to say, “Wait, what?”

I’m pretty sure we can all relate to Kelsey at times. Even when it comes to our Christian faith, there are times when we may be caught off guard or be amazed. With the Easter celebration occurring this month, we can imagine the excited women returning from the tomb with their incredible story. Some of the disciples may have been tempted to say, “Wait, what?” As Jesus explained the Scriptures to the two men on the way to Emmaus, we can imagine them saying it. We might even think it from time to time ourselves when we’re particularly struck by the fact that God would send his own Son into the world to suffer a horrific death on the cross so that sinners, such as you and I, could spend eternity in heaven with him. “Wait, what?”

Unfortunately, we know that the phrase may also be used (with a much different tone) when an unbeliever hears the Gospel for the first time. We know the old saying, “If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.” The unbelieving heart just can’t accept “something for nothing”. Why would God do that for me? I can’t accept that! God must want something from me. At the very least, I should be able to pay part of the bill.

You don’t have to be inattentive or daydreaming to miss the full measure of God’s amazing grace. Even if you have been raised in a Christian family, attended Christian schools your whole life, or read the Bible from cover-to-cover numerous times, the overwhelming nature of God’s plan of salvation is hard to grasp. *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)* Wait, what?

Baptisms

On Saturday, March 7th, a child was given *“the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit”* (Titus 3:5) in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

On Saturday, March 21st, another child was given *“the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit”* (Titus 3:5) in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Confirmation

On March 1st, after completing the Basic Bible Information Course, three people were confirmed in Evangelical Lutheran Faith.

Quarterly Congregational Meeting

The Quarterly Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, April 26, 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.

Pictorial Directory

Photos for Zion's new Pictorial Directory are being taken Sundays following our worship service. No purchase is necessary, but we would like every Zion member to be pictured. Please schedule your photo session with Jeff Lange, 715-748-4815.

Offering Statements

Your 2025 Offering Statements are available for you to pick up from the white box on the north side of the counter in the church entry.

Holy Week Services

Maundy (Holy) Thursday Worship with Holy Communion will be held on April 2 at 7:00 P.M..

Good Friday Worship with Holy Communion will be held at 1:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on April 5 with a sunrise (Son, Rise!) service at 6:30 A.M. and a Resurrection Festival service at 9:30 A.M. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both of Easter services.

An Easter breakfast will be served between the services.

God's work in Ukraine continues

Our sister church the Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC), along with all the citizens of Ukraine, has been experiencing the hardship and suffering caused by four years of a terrible and destructive war. Families have had to flee to safer locations, homes have been destroyed, and some pastors have had to relocate to areas away from the war zones.

When the war began, WELS members responded with their own personal prayers and with prayers in their congregations. They also responded generously with

gifts and offerings. Those gifts, regularly forwarded to the ULC, have been faithfully used to provide food, fuel, transportation, medicine, and clothing. And the members of the ULC did not keep those gifts for themselves. They have responded to our generosity with generosity of their own, making needed supplies available to many people in their communities who have been affected by the brutality and scarcity of war.

Vyacheslav Horpynchuk, the bishop of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, tells the story far better than I can. This is what he writes:

Here the fifth year of the full-scale Russian invasion began. Thanks be to God this winter is coming to an end. It has been the most severe winter in the recent decades: lots of snow, very low below freezing temperatures and very heavy bombardments of our electrical, heating systems and residential areas of Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, as well as smaller cities and villages. Lord, have mercy.

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters in WELS who came to help us. Many people did not have any extra warm blankets, and some people requested some help to survive that cold. We provided all our congregation members in need with extra warm blankets to survive the cold in apartments with no heat or with very little heat. We also continued to provide all the needy with thermal wear. All of them send their gratitude to all in WELS for your generous help. Thank you very much!

Yet even in these terrible times, God finds ways not only to bless his people but also to create opportunities for God's people to carry out his mission. Through the works of love done by the members of the ULC, God has brought many non-Christians into contact with Christian love in action, but more important, with the saving gospel of Jesus and the comforting power of his Word. Many have begun to worship regularly in ULC congregations, and dozens of people have been instructed and confirmed.

Roger Neumann, our WELS liaison to the ULC, adds some of his observations:

While the war rages on and people deal with the elements of nature, the gospel ministry is not stopped. I'm very thankful to our Lord for the faith he has given our brothers and sisters in Christ in Ukraine. The ULC pastors continue to preach the gospel, help those who

are in desperate need, and offer encouragement and friendship to many people. So many people suffer from depression and anxiety, not certain if they will survive this ordeal or what their futures will be like. The pastors bring them the reassurance that the Lord loves them and will continue to bless them. They also encourage the people to pay more attention to the spiritual blessings that they have in Christ and not focus on the physical needs that are lacking at this time.

While most ULC churches have lost members who have fled from the war and taken refuge in neighboring countries, there are, nevertheless, four new mission sites. Pictured below is mission work being done in one of those sites in Snihurivka.

People in those towns have welcomed pastors to share the gospel with them. In addition, a number of ULC members have taken refuge near Poznan, Poland. Bishop Horpynchuk will be making a trip there, and it's hoped that a new mission can be started. God is certainly opening new doors and opportunities, despite the war and adversity. God be praised!

I want to thank all of you who have already responded to this need in Ukraine with your generous gifts and prayers. With the end of the war still not in sight, the need continues.

Support for Asia-Oceania ministries

In late January and early February 2026, Daniel Sims, director of WELS Christian Aid and Relief, and Paul Biedenbender, pastor at Christ, Denver, CO, and a member of the WELS Christian Aid and Relief Commission, traveled to Thailand to meet with WELS missionaries, administrators, and other church leaders from the Asia-Oceania Team. WELS Christian Aid and Relief works with WELS missionaries in this large mission field by providing funding for humanitarian aid and disaster relief programs.

While there, Sims and Biedenbender also attended the dedication of the new training facility for Thai Village in Chiang Mai. More than two hundred friends, artisans, donors, and partners gathered at the dedication to support Thai Village's mission to train and employ low-income people; support Christian outreach and education; and create opportunities to share God's love in the community. Thai Village, an independent nonprofit organization, is a WELS-affiliated ministry that works closely with the Asia-Oceania Team.

WELS Christian Aid and Relief contributed funding for the outreach pavilion at the new facility—the place most used by the community. Sims shares, “We support this mission wholeheartedly! It was a joy to meet their artisans and hear their testimonies about how Thai Village and the gospel shared there changed their lives.”

Cancellations

Should weather cause the cancellation of worship, the closure will be announced on TV on WAOW channel 9 and on WSAW channel 7 and on waow.com and wsaw.com. You may also call the church.

Service Streaming

Zion's worship services are streamed at zionlutheranstetsonville.com. A copy of the most recent bulletin is available under the News tab.

☺ *For A Smile* ☺

Leaving church one Sunday, a woman said to her husband, “Do you think that Flanagan girl is dyeing her hair?” “I didn't even see her,” replied the husband. “And that skirt Mrs. Jones was wearing,” continued the wife. “Don't tell me you thought that was appropriate attire for a mother of four?” “I'm afraid I didn't notice that either,” said the husband. “Huh!” scoffed the wife. “A lot of good it does bringing YOU to church.”

Over dinner, she explained the health benefits of a colorful meal to her family. “The more colors, the more variety of nutrients,” she told them. Pointing to the food, she asked, “How many different colors do you see?” “Six,” volunteered her daughter. “Seven if you count the burned parts.”

A pastor overheard a conversation between his young daughter and one of her friends. “Why does your daddy know so much about the bible?” “Um... because he watches Veggie Tales.”

A man asked me for a dollar. I told him I only carry big bills. He said give me one of those. I gave him my electric bill.

April

1. Luke 17:1-19
2. Lk. 17:20-37
3. Lk. 18:1-17
4. Lk. 18:18-34
5. Lk. 18:35-19:10
6. Lk. 19:11-28
7. Genesis 27:1-45
8. Gen. 27:46-28:22
9. Gen. 29:1-30
10. Gen. 29:31-30:43
11. Gen. 31:1-32:2
12. Gen. 32:3-32
13. Gen. 33
14. Gen. 34
15. Gen. 35
16. Gen. 36
17. Gen. 37
18. Gen. 38, 39
19. Gen. 40:1-41:13
20. Gen. 41:14-57
21. Gen. 42
22. Gen. 43
23. Gen. 44
24. Gen. 45
25. Gen. 46:1-47:12
26. Gen. 47:13-48:22
27. Gen. 49
28. Gen. 50
29. Luke 19:29-46
30. Lk. 19:47-20:47

Through My Bible

In 3 Years

To the left is a Bible Reading schedule for the month of April. 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.

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.

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.