

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)*

AUGUST 2026

HOW GOOD!

My nephew is a Development Director (a money raiser) for the University of Wyoming in Laramie. His job is to interact with a lot of people, mostly alumni, many of whom have done well in life with their degrees from the university. The goal is to raise money for the projects and programs the university has or wants to carry out. Before that, he carried out the same job for Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) in Milwaukee. The goal there was the same, but the focus was on carrying out WLC's ministry of training Christian professionals, dedicated, energetic, Jesus-people, for the benefit of God's kingdom. It's a gratifying feeling to see God's people working together in love and unity!

Think of our own congregation. Any time a major need or project arises, people generally tend to “grab the rope” and all pull together in the same direction. Of course, Satan hates that and generally does everything he can to sow seeds of dissension among the ranks. It takes a strong, rock-solid focus on the end goal to keep things moving in the right direction. When that happens, few things in life are as satisfying. If you're one of the “worker bees”, remind yourself (and others, if necessary) of the joys found in working together in unity. It's a good thing! *“How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)*

It sounds relatively simple, but it's usually not. People, even God's people, have egos and pride and all sorts of reasons their way is the “best” one. When those things are overcome and the standard becomes “you first,” the results can be, not only gratifying, but glorious! And that's our real goal all along, the glory of God. What it takes is great humility and patience. *“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace*

with everyone.” (Romans 12:18) Think about the times in your life when you were part of a group effort which was successful. It might have been as part of an athletic team, or a work project, or a committee of some sort. In addition to the end result, winning a game, finishing a project, or successfully navigating a thorny problem, the deep sense of satisfaction and unity was, in itself, kind of a reward.

Think of Jesus sending out his disciples for the first time. He didn't send them out as individuals. He sent them out as teams. A teammate can give encouragement. A teammate can point out unseen dangers or problems. A teammate can propose different ideas to accomplish the task. If those things are true of life in general, how much more so when it comes to work of God's Kingdom? Peace and unity aren't just nice-sounding ideals, they are the results when God's people work together to benefit God's Kingdom in this life and the life to come! Thank you, Jesus, for being the ultimate teammate and showing what humility and love can accomplish.

Congregational Open Forum

July 26, 2026

After church services, Chairman Jeff Lange explained to the congregation that he intended to share some updates with everyone during this open forum meeting, and that there would not be a formal voter's meeting following.

Everyone was asked to review the reports that were handed out, which included the minutes from the April 26, 2026 voter's meeting, Pastor Russow's report, and the treasure's report, Jeff then recapped the highlights of the reports. Michael Dieck gave a synopsis of the treasurer's report. No questions were asked.

Jeff then gave updates on the window replacement, village wide garage sale food stand, rain gutter replacement, and the new pictorial directory. He also reminded everyone that Zion needs its members to volunteer to help on the various committees and the church council.

In covering new business, Jeff told everyone about the planned Welcome Home to Zion Sunday scheduled for September 13, 2026. Tom Onsager informed everyone about the proposed landscaping work to be done on the church property next year. Jeff then explained about the recent rash of attempted break-ins around the village and that the council was asking permission to pursue installing surveillance cameras on the church property. He also asked everyone to review the installation proposal from Meter IT Systems (see below) and asked permission from the members to pursue this project. This was agreed upon by the members. We will look into gathering additional quotes.

Respectfully submitted by Carl Thomsen.

Proposed Camera System

This will be an 8-camera system set up with access points and switches for the ability to reach out to all the cameras and the locations. There are a few different options to go with. If you wish to purchase your own camera system, I am ok with that but would highly recommend one of the ones that I suggest in order to have quality equipment that meets all of the requirements needed.

Equipment needed will be:

- NVR (recording) System with 8 cameras and the ability to connect to cameras through network and not directly
- 2 POE Switches
- 2 Access Points
- Everything needed for installation will be provided

Here is the installation estimate if Zion purchases its own equipment:

- 10 cable runs x \$150 = \$ 1500

Here are some of the systems and estimates with installer supplying the system:

1. Ubiquiti - The installer's top recommendation because of the friendly user set up and use, adaptability, and comes with other benefits. The cameras operate with a clear 2k resolution and a

live view that has little to no stutter. While this comes at a higher price, this will provide network security for the whole church, options to expand for more cameras in the future and ability to have systems added to it in the future like: door access, phones, and various other integrations. This is future proof and provides security to help the church in multiple ways.

Estimate for this is: \$ 4,150

2. Reolink —Another good option that the installer has used in multiple locations. It will have ease of access similar to the Ubiquiti systems with some limitations. This is strictly a camera system and does offer the ability to expand on more cameras in the future as needed. This will also provide the ability to access this from the both phones and computers. The cameras are not as clear as the Ubiquiti cameras but do have a good view. While it is a cheaper option, if any of the features listed above are wanted in the future, more systems will have to be installed.

Estimate for this is: \$ 2,700

With either of these systems, data is stored in the hard drives in the NVR until the drive is full, then it will rewrite over the oldest data. It can be adjusted to record only during events or at specific times of day. It can also be set to record continually or only when activated by motion detected. Data can be viewed by computer or phone or both, depending on preference.

Sunday School

Zion is seeking volunteers to help reinvigorate our Sunday School. Teachers are needed. More of Zion's Sunday School age children are needed. If you have children or grandchildren of Sunday school age (ages 3 or 4, K-8) we encourage you to enroll your children in Sunday School. The Fall session begins September 13th. Please contact Pastor Russow.

Bible Class

Do you have ideas about what you want studied in the adult Bible Class? Please contact Pastor Russow. Classes begin September 13th.

Vacation

Pastor Russow will be on vacation from through August 17th through the 23rd. If an emergency arises, please contact the Immanuel Office at 715-748-2921; or

Pastor Iwinski at 309-428-9680 (cell), or Pastor Spaude at 715-821-3161 (cell). Pastor Russow can still be contacted by means of his cell phone, 715-965-1782.

Pictorial Directory

The end of August is your last chance to get your picture taken for the ne directory. Please see, Jeff Lange, Pastor Russow or Lisa Gebert to schedule a time.

Lending Library

On the coat rack shelf in the Church entry, near the AED, is a small lending library. These books are meant for members to use and then return. Recently, a series of devotional books were added to this library.

Forward In Christ

The August *Forward In Christ*, entitled “*A Precious Soul*,” is available to pick up.

Repeatedly throughout the pages of this issue is the word *pray*. As Christians we have the privilege of talking directly to God—and he hears us!

Two articles share thoughts on praying in general. The devotion encourages us to pray more and gives us tips for incorporating prayer into our daily life (p. 5). The Bible study reminds us that God will answer our prayers, giving us exactly what we need (p. 32).

Need some ideas of what to add to your prayers this month? We have you covered:

- Learn about the exodus of women from the church—both in general and in WELS—and pray for the wisdom and the opportunity to encourage them to stay (p. 7).
- Join Clayton Fury in his prayer to God to preserve the lives of babies (both inside and outside the womb) with Down syndrome as well as to help all people see their worth and value in Christ (p. 12).
- Read prayer requests from members of our sister church bodies around the world and hold their ministries up to God for his blessing (p. 19).
- Meet five new district presidents (p. 24) and ask God to guide them in their new roles as district and synodical leaders.

College Students: Don’t forget that WELS Campus Ministry offers free subscriptions to *Forward in Christ* and *Meditations*. Students can sign up at wets.neticottage.

Changes to Thrivent Choice

from the Summer 2026 *Thrivent Magazine*

Thrivent Choice® has introduced exciting updates that simplify the program and give more clients with membership the opportunity to support the causes and organizations they care about. Here’s what’s new:

- One annual designation. In mid-April, Choice Dollars® were designated up front as a single annual lump sum. Members can now direct their full amount anytime between now and year-end. Don’t wait until Dec. 31—direct today!
- Now, all Thrivent members receive Choice Dollars, expanding the reach of generosity. If you’ve been eligible in the past, nothing changes about how Choice Dollars are calculated. Never directed before? To learn more, visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

The heart of the program remains the same: Members continue to have a voice in where millions of dollars in grant funding go each year—strengthening causes, congregations and communities nationwide. To explore the latest updates, visit thriventchoice.com/upgrades.

☺ For A Smile ☺

“Grandpa, I’m really proud of you,” said his granddaughter. “Why?” asked the old man. She replied, “I noticed that when you sneeze, you put your hand in front of your mouth.” “Of course,” explained Grandpa. “How else can I catch my teeth?”

A young boy who was being read to by his father, asked, “Do all fairy tales began with ‘Once Upon A Time?’” The fathers says, “No son. Today they begin with ‘...and if I am elected...’.”

I’m forever asking my family to repeat what they say. Convinced that I had a hearing problem, I grudgingly went to a specialist to be tested. After running all the tests, the doctor said, “Your hearing is exceptional. Your problem is that you live with a husband and three teenagers who all mumble.”

The nine-year-old walked in while her mother was getting ready for work. “What’a you doing?” she asked. “Putting on my wrinkle cream,” Mom answered. “Oh,” she said, walking away. “I thought they were natural.”

August

1. Amos 6
2. Amos 7:1-8:3
3. Amos 8:4-9:15
4. Hosea 1, 2
5. Hos. 3
6. Hos. 4:1-5:14
7. Hos. 5:15-8:14
8. Hos. 9, 10
9. Hos. 11, 12
10. Hos. 13, 14
11. Psalms 13, 14
12. Ps. 15, 16
13. Ps. 17
14. Ps. 18:1-30
15. Ps. 18:31-50
16. Ps. 19
17. Ps. 20, 21
18. Ps. 22:1-21
19. Ps. 22:22-31
20. Ps. 23, 24
21. Ps. 25
22. Ps. 26
23. Ps. 27
24. Ps. 28, 29
25. 1 Thessalonians 1
26. 1 Thess. 2
27. 1 Thess. 3
28. 1 Thess. 4
29. 1 Thess. 5
30. 2 Thessalonians 1
31. 2 Thess. 2:1-12

Through My Bible In 3 Years

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