



# Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

203 E County Road A, P.O. Box 23

Stetsonville, WI 54480-0023

715-678-2208; zionlutheranстетсонвилле.ком

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

## TODAY'S FOCUS

*God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home:*

*Grace instead of condemnation.*

## WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

Zion has been serving the spiritual needs of people since 1885. We declare God's Good News of the perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of all. Our pastors and congregation are willing to serve you in any way. Please help yourself to any information found in the narthex. Visitors are invited to sign our guest register. May God bless your worship!



## BEFORE WORSHIP

**Prayer:** Almighty God, my Heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning, and though I have in no way deserved Your goodness, You still abundantly provide for all my wants of body and soul. Give me, I pray, Your Holy Spirit that I may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward me, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience. I pray this through Jesus Christ, my Lord and only Savior. Amen.

**Personal Prayers and Meditation**

Pages 10 & 134, *CW*

**Hymn**

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

234, *CW*

*During the season of Lent we forgo the use of Alleluia (a Hebrew word for "Praise the Lord") and the Song of Praise (Glory Be To God, p. 16) in order to focus on our need of repentance and faith.*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**The Common Service Without Communion**

p. 15, *CW*

**Confession of Sins and Absolution**

p. 15, *CW*

**Lord, Have Mercy**

p. 15, *CW*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, you receive us as your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge your merciful goodness, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### First Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 12:1-6

*God's grace turns the fear of our condemnation into the joy of our salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

<sup>4</sup>In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

### Psalm 32

Page 78, CW

### Second Scripture Lesson

Romans 8:1-10

*In Christ Jesus, God has already condemned all sin. For us there is only grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is

death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

### Verse of the Day

Luke 15:10

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

### Gospel Lesson

Luke 15:1-3,11-32

*How does God respond to those who object to or are enraged by his grace? He responds with more grace.*

<sup>1</sup>Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. <sup>2</sup>But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>11</sup>"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup>"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup>After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup>"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup>I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' <sup>20</sup>So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup>"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against

you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup>“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup>“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup>“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

**Apostles’ Creed** p. 19, *CW*

**Hymn of the Day** “Amazing Grace-How Sweet the Sound” 379, *CW*

<b>Sermon</b>	Luke 15:11-32
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING TO FIND IN LIFE?	

**Create in Me** p. 20, *CW*

**Our Thank Offering to Our God**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Lord’s Prayer** (Traditional Version) p. 20, *CW*

**Hymn** “Baptismal Waters Cover Me” 739, *CWS*

**Closing Prayer** p. 25, *CW*

**Benediction** p. 25, *CW*

**Closing Hymn** “Come unto Me, Ye Weary” 336, *CW*

**SERVING TODAY**

Pastor: Rev. Richard Russow, H: 715-678-2204; C: 715-965-1782;

O: 715-678-2208; RussowRnK@aol.com

Chairman: Jeff Lange, 715-748-4815

Organists: Kelly Hartl; Barb Reiter

Ushers & Greeters: Volunteers needed.

Altar Care: Donna Babler; Lisa Gebert



**STEWARDSHIP RECORD**

March 20, 21 & 23, 2025

21 Attended Midweek Lent 2 Worship

12 + 39 = 51 Attended Lent 3 Worship

6 Attended Predestination Bible Study

Streamed views: 8

Offerings: General Fund - \$1,187.00

Mission - \$20.00

Lent - \$165.00

Capital Improvement - \$25.00

Fellowship Freewill - \$17.25

Total - \$1,414.25

**STEWARDSHIP FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES: Romans 8:1-10**



For those controlled by the sinful nature, it’s impossible to live a life of God-pleasing stewardship. Their only focus is on themselves, instead of on God. Because Jesus perfectly met the righteous requirements of God’s law in our place and paid for our sins, and because we’ve been set free by the Spirit working faith in our hearts, we’re now able to live a life of God-pleasing stewardship using all that we have in loving service to God. There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

**ZION’S PARISH CALENDAR**

Thursday (3/27) 7:00 P.M. Lent 4 Worship

Sunday (3/30) 9:30 A.M. Lent 4 Worship

10:30 A.M. Fellowship

10:45 A.M. Sunday School

10:45 A.M. Predestination Bible Study

Tuesday (4/1) Spring Election. Vote!

3:45 P.M. Confirmation Class



- Wednesday (4/2) 1:00 P.M. Midweek 3 Lenten Worship  
2:00 P.M. Ladies of Zion  
4:15 P.M. Confirmation Class
- Thursday (4/3) 7:00 P.M. Lent 5 Worship with Communion,
- Sunday (4/6) 9:30 A.M. Lent 5 Worship with Communion  
10:30 A.M. Fellowship  
10:45 A.M. Sunday School  
10:45 A.M. Predestination Bible Study  
6:00 P.M. Council Meeting

### Through My Bible In 3 Years

Below is part of a 3 year Bible Reading schedule. The more we grow in God’s Word, the more we will be anchored on the solid foundation of Christ crucified and arisen. The more we grow in God’s Word, the more we will be prepared to give the reason for the hope that we have. (1 Peter 3:15)

3/27 Jeremiah 24, 25	3/28 Matthew 19:1-22	3/29 Matt 19:23-20:28
3/30 Matt 20:29-21:22	3/31 Matthew 21:23-46	4/1 Matthew 22:1-14
4/2 Matthew 22:15-46	4/3 Matthew 23:1-22	4/4 Matthew 23:23-39
4/5 Matthew 24:1-31	4/6 Matt 24:32-25:13	4/7 Matthew 25:14-46

### Announcements

- ⌘ Look around yourself today. Is there a family member who could/should be sitting next to you? Is there a friend absent from the place where he or she would usually sit? Is there a neighbor who needs God’s Word? Pick up the phone, go over to their house, and invite them to worship.
- ⌘ **Church Anniversary:** On Sunday, April 6, 2025, we will mark the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Zion Congregation with a cake served at our Fellowship. “The first Lutheran service was conducted in Stetsonville on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1884, by Pastor Bernhardt Ungrodt of Immanuel Lutheran, Medford, at the home of John William Hearth. This was a wedding service uniting Hans Silbertson to Emma Bockrandt in marriage according to the rite of the church. Encouraged by this beginning, August Berner began to interest fellow Lutherans in regular divine services and set aside a room in his home for this purpose. Pastor Ungrodt promised to hold services once a month on Sunday afternoon for which he would receive a salary of \$30.00 per year. The first service under this

arrangement was held May 25, 1884. One year later, April 5, 1885, the members assembled to organize and incorporate a congregation. Fourteen voting members were present. The incorporation was duly organized and the name of Evangelical Lutheran Zion Congregation was incorporated and duly registered on April 21, 1885.” (From the Church’s history)

- ⌘ The Ladies of Zion will hold their April Meeting following the Midweek Lenten Service on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- ⌘ Your **2024 Offering Statements** are available in the wooden box on the entryway counter. Pick yours up for your tax records.
- ⌘ The 2025 Lenten sermon theme, *Reflections on Repentance*, teaches the characteristics of repentance. Next week Pastor Andy DeGier, Trinity, Tn of Berlin, preaches on Psalm 51:3,4, *Recognizing against whom we sin*.
- ⌘ **Midweek Lenten Services:** Our Midweek Lenten Services this year are held at 1:00 P.M. For those who prefer an evening service, we encourage you to attend the 6:30 P.M. service at Immanuel.
- ⌘ There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the church entry for **Easter Mums:** White, Purple; Yellow or Tri-color. Cost: \$21.00 for each plant; **Deadline: March 30, 2025.**
- ⌘ **Easter Breakfast** is scheduled to be served between the Easter morning services, 7:30 -9:15 A.M. Volunteers are needed. Donations are welcome. A sign up sheet is found on the entryway counter. Invite others.
- ⌘ 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.
- ⌘ The Ladies of Zion (LOZ) encourage the women of Zion to consider joining their organization. Or, would you consider volunteering to help set up, serve and clean up the Fellowship coffee and goodies? Volunteers are also needed to help families when a caterer serves a funeral meal in our Fellowship Hall. Could that volunteer be you?
- ⌘ The March issue of *Forward In Christ*, entitled “*A Light Through The Darkness*,” is available. Feeling anxious or alone? Several articles dig into God’s Word to help you cope (pp. 16-19).Pick up a copy today!
- ⌘ **Large Print** editions of the order of worship are available.

## Announcements

- ✘ **Private Communion:** If physical problems or other concerns prevent you from attending the Lord's Table, please schedule a visit with the Pastor.
- ✘ **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.
- ✘ Do you know someone who's hobby is to take photos? Who is skilled in retouching photos? Zion is in need of someone to take Confirmation pictures on May 4, 2025. Please speak with Pastor Russow.
- ✘ **Thrivent Financial** allows members to direct their Choice Dollars. Log into your account at [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) Your available Choice Dollars are shown under the Generosity tab. Or, call 1-800-847-4836. Say "Thrivent Choice." Have your membership number handy. The deadline for designating your Choice dollars accumulated in 2024 is March 31, 2025. If you do not direct your Choice Dollars to your preferred charity, Thrivent will direct them where they choose.

## Baptismal Waters Cover Me

739

1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As  
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His  
 3 Lord, may your wound - ed hand im - part Your  
 4 From your own mouth comes forth a word; Your  
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's

I ap - proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy  
 bod - y bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore him  
 heal - ing to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can  
 Shep - herd speaks, but you are heard; Through him your hand now  
 wound - ed hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's

here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.  
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.  
 form in me A heart that serves you joy - ful - ly.  
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.  
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise him for his grace.

*The vital relationship between Holy Baptism and daily repentance and absolution is vividly described in this hymn.*