



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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

Stetsonville, WI 54480-0023

715-678-2208; zionlutheranstetsonville.com

July 9 & 12, 2026

7th Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS

WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANS DIFFERENT:

Christians are planted by the Word.

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 pastor 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!

PEACE
through
Jesus
Know it. Live it. Share it. †

BEFORE WORSHIP

Prayer: Almighty God, I thank you for planting in me the seed of Your Word. By Your Holy Spirit help me receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow into the full maturity of Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Meditation

Pages 10 & 134, *CW*

Hymn

"O Spirit of Life, O Spirit of God"

186, *CW*

ORDER OF SERVICE

The Service of the Word

p. 38, *CW*

Confession of Sins and Absolution

p. 38, *CW*

Oh, Taste And See

p. 39, *CW*

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 55:6-11

God's Word produces the fruit that God desires.

¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Psalm 65Page 89, *CW***Second Scripture Lesson**

1 Corinthians 3:5-11

We sow the seed of God's Word, but only he can make it grow.

⁵ What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸ The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰ By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 55:11

Alleluia. My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus pictures ministry as a planter scattering seed.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil,

where it produced a crop — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. ²²The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. ²³But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Hymn of the Day "Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast" 324, *CW***Sermon**

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

WHAT KIND OF DIRT AM I?

Apostles' Creedp. 41, *CW***Our Thank Offering to Our God****Prayer of the Church****Lord's Prayer** (Traditional Version)p. 43, *CW***Hymn**

"Speak, O Lord"

(See pages 6 & 7) 735, *CWS***Closing Prayer**p. 44, *CW***Benediction**p. 44, *CW***Closing Hymn**

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

322, *CW***SERVING TODAY**

Pastor: Rev. Richard Russow, C: 715-965-1782; O: 715-678-2208;
RussowRnK@aol.com

Chairman: Jeff Lange, 715-748-4815

In the Organ Loft: Kelly Hartl

Ushers & Greeters: Volunteers needed

Altar Care: Lisa Gebert; Tom Onsager

STEWARDSHIP RECORD



July 2 & 5, 2026

14 + 29 = 43 Attended Pentecost 6 Worship

12 + 19 = 31 Attended the Lord's Table on Pentecost 6

9 Streamed views

Offerings: General Fund - \$1,620.00

Missions - \$75.00

NLHS - \$50.00

Total - \$1,745.00

STEWARDSHIP FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 55:6-11



The Word of God is still the powerful force it always has been. God is not stingy with his grace. As the rain and snow come down from heaven and water the earth, so God's Word always accomplishes its purpose. Compelled by the love of Christ, we will manage our possessions so that this precious Word of God might water the souls of all.

ZION'S PARISH CALENDAR

Thursday (7/9) 7:00 P.M. Pentecost 7 Worship

Sunday (7/12) 9:30 A.M. Pentecost 7 Worship
6:00 P.M. Church Council

Thursday (7/16) 7:00 P.M. Pentecost 8 Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday (7/19) 9:30 A.M. Pentecost 8 Worship with Holy Communion

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)

7/9 Acts 18:18-28	7/10 Acts 19:1-20	7/11 Acts 19:21-41
7/12 Acts 20:1-16	7/13 Acts 20:17-36	7/14 Acts 21:1-16
7/15 Acts 21:17-36	7/16 Acts 21:37-22:16	7/17 Acts 22:17-29
7/18 Acts 22:30-23:10	7/19 Acts 23:11-35	7/20 Acts 24:1-21

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.
- ✘ **Pictorial Directory:** If you missed getting your picture taken for the ne directory, make-up pictures will be taken in July. Please see, Jeff Lange, Pastor Russow or Lisa Gebert to schedule a time.
- ✘ The parsonage window project has been completed. The glass of the "Good Shepherd" door has been replaced. A decal is still in the works.
- ✘ The July *Forward In Christ*, entitled "*Answering God's Call*," is available to pick up.
- ✘ **Private Communion:** If physical problems or other concerns prevent you from attending the Lord's Table, please schedule a visit with the Pastor.
- ✘ **Volunteers Needed** for the Altar Committee, Streaming Committee and the HymnSoft Committee. In addition, committee members are sought for the Contact and Special Events Committees. Any member of Zion is encouraged to volunteer for any or all of these Committees.
- ✘ The Ladies of Zion (LOZ) thank you for your continued support of their **Kwik Trip Scrip** fund raising program. Kwik Trip gift cards in various denominations for the purchase of fuel or in store purchases. Scrip cards may be purchased from one of the Ladies of Zion.
- ✘ **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.
- ✘ **Large Print** editions of the order of worship are available.

Fellowship Declared

Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, which has for over 75 years broadcast its services on 550 WSAU 9 A.M. Sundays, has entered into fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), a synod with which WELS stands in fellowship. This took place at the recent ELS Convention, June 21-26, 2026. Formerly, Zion, Wausau, was a member of the ELCA.

The history. Zion Lutheran is the oldest Lutheran congregation in Wausau (1874). It began as a Missouri Synod congregation and later joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Unfortunately, the ELCA denies the accuracy and truthfulness of the Bible. This approach sadly results

in promoting and defending teachings contrary to the plain words of the Bible. Pastor Steven Gjerde (serving at Zion since 2003) and Pastor Christopher Johnson (since 2018) have been leading the congregation back to accept all of the Bible as God’s inspired, accurate, and truthful Word and to publicly declare this to be the case.

What is ‘fellowship’? God, in the Bible, wants Christians to reach agreement on Bible teachings (1 Corinthians 1:10) and to not join with those who teach error (Romans 16:17). Participating in worship and church work with churches that teach error shows toleration and endorsement of error (2 John 10,11). It does not honor God when Christians allow his Word to be twisted and falsehoods taught. It does not help the spiritual life of other Christians if we say nothing about false teaching that harms souls.

So, what now? When two churches confess agreement in everything the Bible teaches, they declare public fellowship. This is ‘public’ because it tells those inside the building and those outside the building that these churches share the same beliefs. When Zion declared fellowship with the ELS, they also declared fellowship with WELS. The happy result is that members of Zion and members of a ELS/WELS congregation may worship together with confident hearts and clear consciences, celebrate Holy Communion together, and share in church work.

We thank the Lord of the Church for producing these wonderful fruits through his Word—fruits that will be a blessing to us and to many others!

Changes to Thrivent Choice

from the Summer 2026 *Thrivent Magazine*

Thrivent Choice® changes make it easier for clients to support what matters

Thrivent Choice® has introduced exciting updates that simplify the program and give more clients with membership the opportunity to support the organizations and causes 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. Pro tip: Don’t wait until Dec. 31—direct today!
- More members are eligible. 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.com.

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. Perhaps this chart, copied from a letter sent to Zion, will help you understand the changes:

➤ What’s New—and Why It Matters

The Thrivent Choice® program has been upgraded, making it even easier for Thrivent clients with membership to live generously and support organizations like yours.

