



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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

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April 9 & 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

TODAY'S FOCUS

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

He lives to give me proof and peace.

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!



BEFORE WORSHIP

Prayer: Almighty God, I have celebrated the mystery of my Lord's resurrection from the dead. Help me to show the power of His resurrection in all that I say and do; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Meditation Pages 10 & 134, *CW*

Hymn "With High Delight Let Us Unite" 168, *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

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

First Scripture Lesson

Acts 2:14a,22-32

The living Lord appeared to many eyewitnesses so they could testify to the truth of Jesus' resurrection.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ²²“Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³This man was handed over to you by God’s set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵David said about him: ‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, ²⁷because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. ²⁸You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

²⁹Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. ³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.”

Psalm 16

Page 68, *CW*

Second Scripture Lesson

1 Peter 1:3-9

St. Peter points to the resurrection as proof of the hope we have.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that your faith — of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire — may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him;

and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Verse of the Day: John 20:29b

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

Jesus gave the proof that led to peace for Thomas.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

²⁴Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

²⁸Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

³⁰Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Hymn of the Day "O Sons and Daughters of the King" 165, *CW*

Sermon John 20:19-31
PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Apostles' Creed p. 41, *CW*

Our Thank Offering to Our God

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer (Traditional Version) p. 43, *CW*

Hymn "Crown Him with Many Crowns" 341, *CW*

Closing Prayer p. 44, *CW*

Benediction p. 44, *CW*

Closing Hymn "Morning Breaks upon the Tomb" 159, *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: John Oliver; Luanne Olson

Ushers & Greeters: Volunteers needed

Altar Care: Esther Kraus; Jean Pitzke

ZION'S PARISH CALENDAR

Thursday (4/9) 7:00 P.M. Easter 2 Worship

Sunday (4/12) 9:30 A.M. Easter 2 Worship
10:30 A.M. Fellowship
10:45 A.M. Sunday School
10:45 A.M. Exodus Bible Study
6:00 P.M. Council Meeting

Tuesday (4/14) 3:45 P.M. Confirmation Class

Wednesday (4/15) 4:15 P.M. Confirmation Class

Thursday (4/16) 7:00 P.M. Easter 3 Worship

Saturday (4/18) 8:30 A.M. LWMS Rally, Grace, Ringle

Sunday (4/19) 9:30 A.M. Easter 3 Worship
10:30 A.M. Fellowship
10:45 A.M. Sunday School

10:45 A.M. Exodus Bible Study

STEWARDSHIP RECORD

April 2, 3 & 5, 2026



18 Attended Maundy Thursday Worship

14 Attended the Lord's Table Maundy Thursday

68 + 19 = 87 Attended Good Friday Worship

47 + 14 = 61 Attended the Lord's Table Good Friday

52 + 113 = 165 Attended Resurrection Worship

36 + 66 = 102 Attended the Lord's Table Easter Sunday

Streamed views: 13

Offerings: General Fund - \$1,394.00

Maundy Thursday - \$341.00

Good Friday - \$6,381.00

Missions - \$135.00

Capital Improvement - \$25.00

Easter - \$2,851.00

Easter Breakfast - \$371.00

Total - \$11,498.00

STEWARDSHIP FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES: 1 Peter 1:3-9



Gold has always been considered valuable. Even today, you can see commercials that promote owning gold as a hedge against economic uncertainty. The Lord has given you something more precious than gold. He's given you faith in the risen Savior. The goal of your faith is eternal life in heaven, and through Christ, you will reach that goal. Through faith in Jesus, you now live your life in this world, not looking to amass treasures. Instead, you rejoice to use the gifts God has given you in this world to bring to others that gift of faith in Jesus, which is far more precious than gold.

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)

4/9 Genesis 29:1-30

4/10 Gen 29:30-30:43

4/11 Genesis 34:1-32:2

4/12 Genesis 32:3-32	4/13 Genesis 33	4/14 Genesis 34
4/15 Genesis 35	4/16 Genesis 36	4/17 Genesis 37
4/18 Genesis 38, 39	4/19 Genesis 40:1-41:13	4/20 Genesis 41:14-57

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.
- ✘ The next Quarterly Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 26, following the morning’s worship service. Watch for more information. Plan on attending.
- ✘ Your **2025 Offering Statements** are available on the entryway counter.
- ✘ **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. There will be no photos taken Sunday, April 26. Sunday, May 10, will be the last day for photos to be taken.
- ✘ **Reminder:** 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.
- ✘ **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. Any member of Zion (man or woman) is encouraged to volunteer for any or all of these Committees. Please contact Pastor Russow.
- ✘ **Large Print** editions of the order of worship are available.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ The April *Forward In Christ*, entitled “*Alive in Christ*,” is available on the entryway counter. In this issue:

A baptism is always a special event in a congregation. We love to show baptism photos on our pages (see our cover and p. 5), as sinners—young and old—receive new life in Christ. But baptisms during the Lent and Easter seasons can be especially poignant as we consider all that our Savior has done to win eternal life for us. Our devotion this month reminds us of what our baptism means—the death and burial of our old self and the arising of a new self to serve God (p. 5). We’re alive in Christ! A variety of other articles throughout the issue remind us of other Easter and Holy Week assurances we have.

- We have nothing to fear in death (p. 6).
 - In his exaltation, Jesus is always with us (p. 10).
 - Jesus is in complete control (p. 12).
 - Jesus lives in us (back page).
 - One day we too will arise to be with Jesus in heaven (p. 34).
 - “Q&A” (p. 14)—an examination of the timing and purpose of Jesus’ descent into hell.
 - Meet Angel and Maribel, members at Good Shepherd, Deltona, FL, and see how they are sharing the gospel with Spanish speakers (p. 7).
 - How has Lutheranism in the United States changed in the last 40 years? Paul Prange examines some trends and statistics (p. 17).
 - What do you do if you have doubts about what the Bible says? Craig Wilke offers helpful counsel in this month’s “Please explain” (p. 30).
- ✘ **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.