



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.com

October 8 & 11, 2026

20th Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S FOCUS

The beginning of the end — It's time to invite the unworthy.

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: Remember me, O Lord, not for what I deserve, but because You have begun Your good work in me. As You have called me to serve You, make me worthy of my calling. As You have blessed me, let Your Spirit move me to be a blessing. I pray this through my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Meditation

Pages 10 & 134, *CW*

Hymn

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

339, *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

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; 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 25:6-9

A strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin.

⁶On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine — the best of meats and the finest of wines. ⁷On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁹In that day they will say, “Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Psalm 84Page 96, *CW***Second Scripture Lesson**

Romans 1:16,17

We proclaim that we are saved through faith alone.

¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Verse of the Day: Isaiah 25:6

Alleluia. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. Alleluia.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 22:1-14 23-32

The king gives us the privilege of inviting people to his wedding banquet.

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵But they paid no attention and went off — one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.

¹³Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

Hymn of the Day “Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness” 376, *CW*

Sermon

Romans 1:16,17

UNASHAMED

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

“I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus”

446, *CW***Closing Prayer**p. 44, *CW***Benediction**p. 44, *CW***Closing Hymn**

“God of Mercy, God of Grace”

249, *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; Barb Reiter

Ushers & Greeters: Volunteers needed

Altar Care: Esther Kraus; Jean Pitzke

STEWARDSHIP RECORD



October 1 & 4, 2026

14 + 40 = 54 Attended Pentecost 19 Worship

11 + 31 = 42 Attended the Lord's Table on Pentecost 19

3 Streamed views

Offerings: General Fund - \$2,020.00

Missions - \$70.00

NLHS - \$50.00

Cemetery - \$25.00

Fellowship Freewill - \$36.00

Total - \$2,201.00

STEWARDSHIP FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 25:6-9

 What happens when we make a good investment? We reap the benefits. When we were baptized, the Lord made a good investment in us. He washed us. He saved us. He marked us as his own. One day we'll sit down to an incredible banquet in heaven. We'll enjoy the choicest foods and the finest drinks. As we look at each other across the table, we'll see how the Lord's investment paid off. It's not a full bank account, an incredible wardrobe, and a stable of sports cars. It's you; it's me—with the Lord forever!

ZION'S PARISH CALENDAR

Thursday (10/8) 7:00 P.M. Pentecost 20 Worship

Sunday (10/11) 9:30 A.M. Pentecost 20 Worship

10:45 A.M. Fellowship

10:45 A.M. Galatians Bible Class

6:00 P.M. Church Council

Wednesday (10/14) 4:15 P.M. Confirmation Class

Thursday (10/15) 7:00 P.M. Pentecost 21 Worship with Holy Communion

Saturday (10/17) 8:30 A.M. LWMS Fall Rally, Our Savior, Wausau

Sunday (10/18) 9:30 A.M. Pentecost 21 Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 A.M. Fellowship

10:45 A.M. Galatians Bible Study

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)

10/8 Prov 20:14-22:16	10/9 Prov 22:17-23:35	10/10 Proverbs 24
10/11 Prov 25:1-26:12	10/12 Prov 26:13-27:27	10/13 Proverbs 28, 29
10/14 Proverbs 30	10/15 Proverbs 31	10/16 Romans 1:1-17
10/17 Romans 1:18-32	10/18 Romans 2:1-16	10/19 Romans 2:17-29

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.
- ✘ **Fellowship:** The Ladies of Zion (LOZ) are asking for volunteers to help with setup and serving of Fellowship, BUT, especially for help with cleanup. You may talk with a LOZ member, or just show up and help.
- ✘ **Custodian Needed:** \$12.50/hr to clean the church and Fellowship Hall.
- ✘ Donations are being accepted for the basket raffle scheduled to begin in November.
- ✘ The October *Forward In Christ*, entitled "A Place To Belong," is available. Steve Gerling, who, after struggling with spiritual questions during his youth, found answers in the Bible and is now in Senegal to proclaim that message of salvation to those who have never heard the gospel (p. 18).
- ✘ Looking ahead: On October 17th the Wisconsin River Valley Circuit of LWMS will hold its Fall Rally at Our Savior's, Wausau, WI. On October 25th the next Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held.
- ✘ **Plan ahead:** The Ladies of Zion will be gathering donations for a Food Drive to benefit the Food Bank at Immanuel. Bins will be put out November 1st.
- ✘ **Coats for Kids:** Donations of new and gently used winter coats, boots, hats and gloves (for kids and adults) are accepted.
- ✘ **Bible Study:** The Adult Bible Study is exploring the book of Galatians. The faith of the Galatians was threatened by the false teaching that salvation depends both upon Christ and good works. This false gospel,

he wrote, was “*no gospel at all.*” This study follows the Fellowship.

- ✧ **Volunteers Needed** to serve on the Church Council, Altar Committee, Streaming Committee and HymnSoft Committee. In addition, committee members are sought for the Contact and Special Events Committees. Any member of Zion is encouraged to volunteer.
- ✧ **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.
- ✧ 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.

Martin Luther College Choir Concert

You are invited to the Martin Luther College Choir Concert, “God’s Love Revealed,” at 2:00 P.M., Monday, October 26, at Northland Lutheran High School, Kronenwetter. Under the direction of Dr. Adrian Smith, the choir will present settings of familiar hymns and other choral anthems in a variety of musical styles.

Martin Luther College is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Its mission is to prepare teachers, pastors, and staff ministers to serve the synod’s congregations and schools. The concert is open to the public. A freewill offering will be gathered to support Martin Luther College.

WI Constitutional Amendment on November 3rd Election

The underlined section is the proposed addition.

Section 18. Freedom of Worship; Liberty of Conscience; State Religion; Public Funds

The right of every person to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of conscience shall never be infringed; nor shall any person be compelled to attend, erect or support any place of worship, or to maintain any ministry, without consent; nor shall any control of, or interference with, the rights of conscience be permitted, or any preference be given by law to any religious establishments or modes of worship; nor shall any money be drawn from the treasury for the benefit of religious societies, or religious or theological seminaries; nor shall the state or a political subdivision of the state order the closure of or forbid gatherings in places of worship in response to a state of emergency at the national, state, or local level, including an emergency related to public health.