

**May 2024**

***Zion Lutheran Church***

***Sunday, May 5***

Sixth Sunday of Easter/Communion

***Sunday, May 12***

Seventh Sunday of Easter/Communion

***Sunday, May 19***

Pentecost/Communion

***Sunday, May 26***

The Holy Trinity/Communion



## *Pastor's Corner*



Dear Friends in Christ,

You all know how much I love our annual vacation to Dauphin Island, Alabama, but did you know that I also love the long drive down there and back?

My enjoyment of these long hours is found in the time cooped up with my husband. We do lots of catching up, of course, since our work schedules don't line up very well during normal times. We also listen to audio books and discuss what we're hearing.

The last couple trips, we've been obsessed with Scientology, and this year we tackled *A Billion Years* by Mike Rinder, a former top executive with the organization. A main premise of Scientology is that a person can perfect their faith by following an exacting schedule of classes and counseling sessions.

Mistakes allegedly are severely punished, and it seems that fear is the motivator behind this entire "faith" system.

Through each of the stories related by Rinder in his book, what bothered me was how fearful each person was of messing up. They spent thousands of dollars on courses and counseling sessions to advance to the next level, but the anxiety they carried about making mistakes was devastating to hear and instilled deep sadness in me. As disciples of Jesus, we know we are forgiven. Make no mistake, however; Jesus doesn't give us a free pass on our errors. He expects us to learn from them, to turn from them, and to discern from them a better path. The difference is that he stands among us and with us; he

forgives our mistakes; he heals us from our failures and leads us forward in his way. There is true freedom in Jesus' love; freedom to stop doing our own math and let God do it God's way. We are therefore completely free to love and serve without keeping track of what it costs or what merits we earn.

That makes me happy!

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...*

*[Ephesians 2:8]*

### ***Worship at Stoney River Assisted Living***

Beginning May 23. Pastor Amy will lead a monthly short worship service at Stoney River Assisted Living in Marshfield. This worship service with Holy Communion will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 1 pm. Please feel free to join Pastor Amy as we worship and visit together with members we don't get to see very often. Stoney River is located at 1204 W. McMillan in Marshfield.





Averi Johnson

Kaden Foster

Carter Foster

Austin Foster

Averie Foster



***God's Blessings to the children who have received their First Communion.***

## ***New Member of Zion***



McKale Weichert

Brandon Kuyoth, Felicia Kuyoth, and Carson Kuyoth.

Judy Treankler

## ***Confirmation Sunday***

Confirmation Sunday will be **May 5th**. This year's confirmands will be Ryan Christopherson, Jackson Dahlke, Jaegar Ormond, Riley Spindler, Colin Cournoyer, Charlie Kolbeck, and Cody Randow.

Mentors for the youth are Connie Randow, Keith Grell, Tadd Schoenherr, Joel Christopherson, Tim Schoenherr, Paul Drexler, and Tammie Christopherson.

## ***Children Leading Service***

***May 12***

Make plans now to attend worship on Mother's Day, May 12th. Our younger disciples are in charge of the worship service that day and are excited to lead, instruct, preach, and inspire. The theme of the day is "Stories About Jesus." You do not want to miss this!

## ***Senior Sunday***

***May 19***

***God's Blessing to all the graduating seniors.***



***Aliya Manecke***

***Baptized: 6-18-2006***

***Confirmed: 5-8-2006***

***Confirmation Verse: Matthew 28:19-20***

***“ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey***

***everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”***

***Future plans: I will attend the University -Twin Cities with an undecided major.***

***Favorite Church memory: I always smile when I think about the retreats I would go to with my classmates at church.***

*We would play 9 square, eat snacks, and learn about what our confirmation journey means. The bonds that were formed during that time are something I will remember and cherish forever.*



*Carissa Weis*

*Baptized: 7-9-2006*

*Confirmed: 8-2-2020*

*Confirmation Verse: John 14:14*

*“If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”*

*Future Plans: My future plans are to attend the University of*

*Wisconsin Lacrosse to receive a bachelor’s degree, with a major in Political science and a minor in Finance. I then plan to continue my education by attending law school. I plan to use my education to become a Lawyer.*

*Favorite Church memory: Attending church every Christmas and then coming home to open presents under the tree.*

***Koehler Kilty***

***Baptized: 6-18-2006***

***Confirmed: 5-8-2022***



***Confirmation Verse: Mark 10:27***

***Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” -***

***Future Plans: Bemidji State University to play football.***

***Favorite Church memory: During the confirmation sessions, going to eat with a couple from the***

***congregation.***



***Braden Bloom***

***Future Plans: Pursuing a career as a Diesel Mechanic.***

***Favorite Church memory: Baking communion bread for his First Communion.***



*Casey Dasler*

*Baptized 6-24-2006*

*Confirmed 5-8-2022*

*Confirmation Verse Mark 16:16*

*“The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.”*

*Future Plans: Attend Minnesota State University in Mankato*

*majoring in Elementary Education.*

*Favorite Church memory: Staying overnight at Zion for a confirmation retreat and learning about Martin Luther. We watched a video on his life and I learned a lot about him that I didn't know (which was obviously the point of the video). We also played 9 square which is my favorite game-it is so much fun.*

*Hailey Federwitz, Jacob Dahlke, Ryan Brubaker*



# ***Faith Journey***

Preaching Schedule for Summer 2024



**May 26** *Tell Me a Story: Jesus*

**June 2** *Grow in Faith: How To... Pray*

**June 9** *Grow in Faith: HowTo... Read the Bible*

**June 16** *Grow in Faith: How*

*To... Do Daily Devotions*

**June 23** *Grow in Faith: How*

*To... Practice Stewardship*

**June 30** *Grow in Faith: How*

*To... Testify*

**July 7** *Tell Me a Story Jesus*

**July 14** *Jonah Resistance is Futile*

**July 21** *Jonah God's Mercy is Real*

**July 28** *Jonah God's Mercy is Real Difficult*

**August 4** *Tell Me a Story: Jesus*

**August 11** *Respectable Sins Pride*

**August 18** *Respectable Sins People Pleasing*

**August 25** *Respectable Sins Anger*

**September 1** *Tell Me a Story: Jesus*



### **2024 Summer Sermon Series Bonus!**

*Along with the three preaching series—Grow in Faith: How To..., Fish Tale: The Book of Jonah, and Respectable Sins—we'll have a bonus series called Tell Me a Story.*

*On these four bonus Sundays, one person (maybe it's you!) gets to tell a story about Jesus, and Pastor Amy will make up a sermon on the spot about that story. But fear not! All you have to do is raise your hand when Pastor asks for a volunteer, tell one of your favorite stories about Jesus, maybe answer some simple questions about the story, and sit back to see what happens next.*

*Be prepared to tell your story about Jesus, as much as you can remember. Think about these questions, as you may be asked to expand the story a bit: Why this story? How does it connect with you? What sticks out to you? What questions might you have about the story?*

*Most important of all, don't tell Pastor Amy! The fun part is what grows out of the combination of your stories about Jesus and what might be lurking in the pastor's head!*

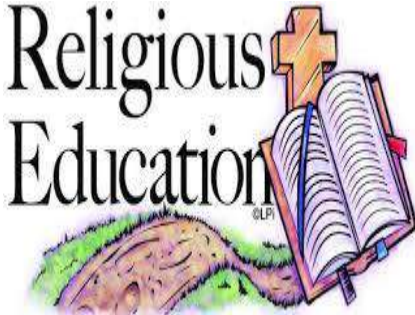
*Any age can play, so let's have some fun with this!*

## ***Tuesday morning Bible Study***

Bible study will be each Tuesday morning. We invite anyone interested in exploring the scriptures and a time of fellowship to join us on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m.

### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study Schedule 2024 (10 am)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Scripture Notes</b>
<i>May 7, 2024</i>	<i>Peter and Cornelius</i> <b>Acts 10</b>
<i>May 14, 2024</i>	<i>Living Together, Saved by Grace</i> <b>I Corinthians 12, 13</b> <b>Ephesians 2:1-10</b>
<i>May 21, 2024</i>	<i>Being Like Christ, God is Love</i> <b>Philippians 2:1-11</b> <b>John 4:7-21</b>



***Continue to pray for  
all the children and  
leaders as they  
continue their faith  
journey.***

**Little Lutherans/J-Team  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

*Children Leading Worship Practice*

**Sunday, May 12, 2024**

*Children Leading Worship*

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

*Celebration*

Little Lutherans and J-Team (K-6th grade) will be focusing on the Bible this year with games, crafts, and Bible stories. These faith formation classes will be held every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from **3:15-5:15 p.m.**

Children may arrive anytime between 3:15 and 3:50 pm, for those coming from a non-Stratford school district. Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>

***Confirmation***

***May 1, 2024 CORE***

***Letters/Revelation***

**Class runs from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Confirmation students are required to participate in all CORE classes. Elective classes are selected by the student. Sermon notes and activity verification are required throughout the year and should be returned to the office or dropped in the basket in the narthex or on the information table in the lobby. Confirmation registration forms, class schedules, and more information available at:

<https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/7th-9th-grade/>.

***Disciples For Christ***

**Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 9:00 am.**

***Affirmation of Baptism and Fellowship***

Ryan Christopherson

Connie Randow

Jackson Dahlke

Keith Grell

Jaegar Ormond

Tadd Schoenherr

Riley Spindler

Joel Christopherson

Colin Courmoyer

Tim Schoenherr

Charlie Kolbeck

Paul Drexler

Cody Randow

Tammie Christopherson



## ***Faith Formation***

On behalf of the Faith Formation Team, I am letting our valued congregation members know that we are looking out for the best interest of our young people here in Zion. In a continued effort to always make sure we are being responsible we are in the process of updating our policies and procedures for the prevention of Child Abuse. We are going to be doing Background checks on anyone who is volunteering here at Zion, our goal is to not deter volunteers but to enhance our trust in our congregation and those involved in all the activities we do for our young people here at Zion. We will be using an electronic-based company called "Lifeway" through Clear Investigative Advantage out of Frisco Texas. The process is very confidential, and the background check will be handled by Kathy in the office. Each background check will cost \$9.00 per volunteer, and we will be doing checks every other year. As a Faith Formation Team, we are always looking to provide the safest, most comfortable environment for our youth here at Zion.

Respectfully Dan Wieland/ Faith Formation Team

## ***Supporting Ministries [Simply Giving](#) | [VANCO](#)***

Your congregation works hard to support your faith journey, respond to your pastoral needs, and plan for educational and worship opportunities all year long. Make it easy for yourself (and for us) by signing up for Simply Giving. Through Simply Giving, you can "set it and forget it" when it comes to donating to Zion's ministry. Your donation will automatically come out of your account in whatever amount and on whatever schedule is best for you. Forms are available just outside the worship space and can be completed and returned to the office. Or just give Kathy a quick call in the office and she will be happy to help you out.

## ***Treasurer's Report***

To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer's Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being good stewards (managers) of God's gracious provision to fuel Jesus' ministry.

January 1, 2024 through April 17, 2024:

- General Offering Received \$25,818.91
- Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) \$15,326.62
- **Giving vs. Expense Deficit** **\$ 10,492.29**

Undesignated Cash Balance (04/17/24) \$ 8754.02

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Zion's ministry in Jesus' name with financial gifts. It takes all of us together to fuel our ministry plan.

### ***Building Update 2024***

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 67,328.90
Total monthly interest payments	<u>\$ 353.40</u>
Balance of loan as of 04/01/2024	\$ .00

Partners Bank

Building checking acct. balance as of **04/01/2024** \$ .00

Payment Bi-Weekly	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
01/12 & 01/26	\$67,294.65	\$3,100.00	\$200.62	\$2,899.38	\$64,395.27
02/09 & 02/23	\$64,395.27	\$3,100.00	\$132.68	\$2,967.32	\$61,427.95



02/13	\$61,427.95	\$55,000.00	\$ .00	\$55,000.0	\$6,427.95
03/08 & 03/22	\$6,427.95	\$3100.00	\$17.04	\$3,082.96	\$3,344.99
04/01	\$3,344.99	\$ 991.06	\$3.06	\$987.46	\$2,357.53
04/01	\$2,391.78	\$ .00	\$ .00	\$ .00	\$2,391.00
04/01	\$2,391.78	\$2,391.78	\$ .00	\$2,391.78	\$ .00

4/01 Satisfaction Fee paid \$34.25. Thank you all for helping to accomplish this goal of paying off the mortgage of the Building project.

### ***Mortgage News***

Thanks to the generous gift of land from the estate of Cathy Belgea Zuelke, we have been able to retire our mortgage debt in its entirety.

Also, your faithful stewardship of resources over the years has been instrumental in making this milestone possible. Praise and thanks to God who gives us vision, resources, will, and each other!

If you are able to continue giving at this level, we ask you to prayerfully consider reallocating your entire contribution to the general fund. This is the best guarantee we have that we will be able to continue to pay our bills and meet our budget. Our mission

is to proclaim God's love for all, and your partnership with the Holy Spirit makes it possible. Thank you!

Zion has a group of people who serve as disciples in prayer that pray for all prayer requests the church receives. If you would be interested in becoming a disciple in prayer please contact the church office and you will be added to the group. Group members receive all prayer requests by email. Contact the church office for all prayer requests.



[office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org) or 715-687-4110. Did you know that you can submit your prayer requests on the website?

<https://zionstratford.org/prayer>.

***Choir Rehearsal 8:00 a.m.***

**May 5, 12, 19**

**New members are always welcome in all voices and instrumental accompaniments. Do you play percussion? Guitar or other strings? other? WE WELCOME YOUR MUSICAL TALENTS.**

**Come as you are able.**

**RaiseRight new name for SCRIP**

RaiseRight is the answer for quick, easy gift card giving and use while also helping Zion Youth programs and Faith Formation Team! Each card purchase returns a % back support Zion Faith Formation Youth Programs like Campus Scholarships, National Gatherings and more!

It's easy! You can download the RAISE RIGHT app and shop right from your couch or contact at Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth at 715-615-2500 or the church office for the code.

[Visit www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com)

**Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth!**

## ***Worship Duty Signup via Signup Genius***

Please take a moment to sign up to participate in our worship service as an usher, reader, acolyte, media, communion assistant (server), or assisting minister. The summer signups are now available. Sign up by May 17 for June/ July 2024. I appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up! Brenda Huther

Here is the link for June / July:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-47523290-junejuly>

## **Technology Ministry**

### ***Website [zionstratford.org](http://zionstratford.org)***

Look us up online at [zionstratford.org](http://zionstratford.org). Zion's website is full of information at your fingertips. Weekly sermons you can listen to with a link to the scriptures of the week and attached bulletin. The events calendar can be used as a quick reference for events here at Zion. The monthly newsletter and council minutes are also available each month. The church office is taking care of loading the information, so please be patient as this is new to the office. Hope you enjoy the website of Zion Lutheran Church.

### **Sermons by Phone or Podcast App**

Audio recordings of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcast apps *PodBean* and *Bullhorn* under the podcast name "Open Doors Open Hearts Open Hands." You can also find a recording and a copy of the bulletin at <https://zionstratford.org/publications/>.

Zion Lutheran Church  
213501 Legacy Street  
Stratford, WI 54484-5908

**[www.zionstratford.org](http://www.zionstratford.org)**

Phone: 715-687-4110

Fax: 715-687-3541

Email: [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org)

**We're on the web!**

Return Service Requested

# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm Confirmation CORE class	2	3	4
5 9am Worship/ Communion Affirmation of Baptism	6 6pm Worship Team Meeting	7 10am Bible Study  Reserved Family Center 6:30—8:30	8 3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans Registration for VBS begins	9 7pm Faith Formation Team Meeting	10	11
12 9am Worship/ Communion Children Leading Worship	13 6 pm Executive Team Meeting	14 10am Bible Study	15 Students testing in Family Center 8am—12pm	16	17 Family Center Reserved 6:30 pm Rehearsal Berg/ Dasler Wedding	18 2pm Wedding Sara Dasler & Scott Berg Jr.
19 9am Worship/ Communion Senior Sunday	20	21 10 am Bible Study 6pm Council Meeting	22 3:15 pm JTeam/Little Lutherans	23 Service at Stoney River Home 1pm	24	25
26 9am Worship/ Communion	27 Memorial Day Office is closed	28  Kathy on vacation	29  Kathy on vacation	30  Kathy on vacation	31 Rehearsal Landwehr/Halopka Wedding 4:30 pm	

Date	5/05/2024 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/12/2024 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00 AM	5/19/2024 Day of Pentecost 9:00 AM	5/26/2024 The Holy Trinity 9:00 AM	6/02/2024 Pent 2 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Casey Dasler	Darla Leick	Dan Thompson	Darla Leick	Terry Schoenherr
Reader	confirmands	JTeam/LL	Brenda Castellano	Jordan Aschenbrenner	Jordan Aschenbrenner
Acolytes	Dayton & Finley White	Emmercyn Schiller JTeam/LL	Ella Schultz Ruby Casperson	Anika Weber Sierra Kreft	Ellie Smazal Ian Maguire
Ushers	Gary & Mary Wussow	JTeam/LL	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Rhonda Knoll (2)	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr
Communion Assistants	confirmands	Darla Leick Carmella Moon Marge Kollmansberger	Nancy Schoenherr Lois Miller Dan Thompson	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Darla Leick	Terry Schoenherr Angie Guralski Marge Kollmansberger
Basket Holder	Ellie & Turner Southwick	.....	Griffin Peirce Archer Tews	.....	Hadley Kramer Jordy Spindler
Communion Steward	Rhonda Thompson	Sandy Andersen	Patti Casperson	Rhonda Thompson	Lindsay White
Fellowship	Faith Formation	Faith Formation	Faith Formation	Volunteer	Huther Family
Host	Robin Curtis Property	Carmella Moon Stewardship	Mary Wussow Worship	Ray White Faith Formation	Casey Dasler Faith Youth Rep
Bell Ringer	Gary Wussow	JTeam/LL	Phil Schultz	Ray White	Tom Schoenherr
Media	Ted Dasler	Brandon Aschenbrenner	Kevin Miller	Brandon Aschenbrenner	Brandon Aschenbrenner
	Confirmation	Kids lead Worship	Senior Sunday		