

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

We're on the web! [www.zionstratford.org](http://www.zionstratford.org)

Phone: 715-687-4110  
Email: [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org)

*August 2024*

## *Zion Lutheran Church*



### *Sunday, August 4*

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost /Communion

### *Sunday, August 11*

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion/  
Outdoor with music provided by Mark Heinz and  
Rick Letlau.

### *Sunday, August 18*

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion

### *Sunday, August 25*

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Communion



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear friends in Christ,  
I had a different pastor's letter ready to go for this newsletter when I received word that our friends over at Emmanuel Lutheran in Longwood experienced a fire last night. The congregation is in shock, but trusting in the Lord for future direction and current comfort.

It made me think about the Jonah sermons I've been preaching for a couple weeks. Jonah has been running away from God's direction and ends up in a most unlikely and probably scary and uncomfortable place—the belly of a great fish. Yet while he's there, he prays as if God has already rescued him. He trusts that the Lord will deliver him even if the delivery means he has some difficult actions to take. The Ninevites are then given a message that their city will be overthrown in forty days. Even though they're given nothing else but that message of doom, they trust that God may yet have a change of mind. This will mean difficult decisions about change, but they rely on the Lord to deliver them anyway.

The congregation in Longwood is trusting the Lord right now as to what their future holds. They know there will be difficult and costly decisions ahead, and new ways of doing things will need to be explored. And still they trust.

After all, where God is involved, being overthrown (or having a wrench thrown into the works) means something new is about to happen. We will keep you posted on how you and our congregation can help.

In the meantime, a fund has been set up for the congregation as they discern how to proceed. Please keep them in your prayers.

Update from their Facebook page:

Update as of 5:40pm, 7/23: A fund has been set up at Forward Bank in Withee to take donations for Emmanuel's fire recovery efforts. We don't know exactly what is before us and we appreciate the community's support in helping with unanticipated/uncovered expenses.

In Christ's service, Pastor Amy

## 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.



Council minutes are available on the church website [zionstratford.org/publications](http://zionstratford.org/publications). You can also get a copy of the minutes by contacting Kathy in the church office or on the Information table by the church office.



Listen on  
**Podbean**

### 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/>.



## ***In need of food or dropping off donations?***

- ◆ Tuesdays 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Wednesdays 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Or by appointment.

The Stratford Area Food Pantry is supported by individuals, local churches, groups and businesses; and staffed by volunteers.

We are grateful for the community support we receive. We are neighbors helping neighbors in need.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Dan Wieland at [wieland.dandeb@gmail.com](mailto:wieland.dandeb@gmail.com) or at 715-506-0020 and he will help you get connected.

### ***Stratford Blood Drive***

Location: Stratford VFW 213222 Hwy 97 Stratford.

Date: Tuesday, August 27th

Time: 3:30 pm—6:30 pm

No appointments are necessary.

If you wish to make an appointment call 715-842-0761.

Thank you for helping us save lives!

## **ministering** *TO Seniors*

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

Beginning May 23. Pastor Amy will be leading a short worship service monthly 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.

### ***Outdoor Worship***

Mark your calendar for the summer outdoor worship service. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy worshipping your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ out on the green space here at Zion August 11. Music performed by Mark Heinz and Rick Letlau

### ***Bible Study Begins September 10***

We're getting the gang back together to study the bible beginning Tuesday, September 10 at 10 am, but we'd like to include new people too!

This year, we will study essential bible stories each week. I have a list of 40 stories, so there will be plenty to do! Come join us and find out more about:

- Hagar and Ismael
- Dry Bones
- David and Bathsheba
- The Good Samaritan
- The Upper Room
- Peter and Cornelius
- and more!

And if you'd like to participate in a bible study at a different time, let the office know. We can always add times or work together online.



# FAITH JOURNEY



## Preaching Schedule for Summer 2024

**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*

### Stories told have been:

The Woman at the Well, Jesus and the Ten Lepers  
Children: Nativity and Feeding the Five Thousand.

### 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!*



We are excited to announce that the Stratford Farmers Market, formerly held at Ground Up, has been moved to the South parking lot of Zion Lutheran Church, just outside the Stratford Food Pantry! Zion has been working on ensuring this opportunity will continue in our great community and we are looking forward to providing a spot for all of our wonderful vendors! We will keep the days and times all the same, every Wednesday from 4-7. Vendors, please reach out to our Facebook Page, which we took over from Ground Up; Stratford Farmers Market.

Please private message us what your goods will include and which dates, if not all, you would be interested in selling. If you need to call, the church office number is 715-687-4110. We do have a vendor insurance form you will be required to review before selling, but it will be very painless. Please share with other vendors and those who may not be on Facebook and encourage them to reach out directly to Zion. We look forward to retaining our previous vendors and maybe adding some more as well!

**Stratford Farmers Market**  
**South Parking lot of Zion Lutheran Church**  
**Wednesdays: Time 4pm – 7pm**



## **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 fall sign-ups are now available. Sign up by August 17 for September 2024. I appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up! Brenda Huther.

Here is the link for September: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-50376877-50376877-september>

## **Vacation Bible School**

VBS was a great success and a wonderful time for the children and for the adults who gave their time and talents. Special thank you to all who contributed food, money, time, and prayers.



- ◆ 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 Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth 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!**



## ***Confirmation Students Need You!***

You may have no idea how valuable you are to Zion's young people, but they do know and they want you to be part of their faith journey. How?

Here's a list:

**Attend occasional confirmation classes**

**(Scheduled Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm -7:30 pm).**

**Pray for the students.**

**Help with Advent dinners**

**(fewer students means fewer hands to produce the meal).**

**Be a media tech for class**

**(or attempt to teach Pastor more about it).**

**Act as a Lenten mentor if asked.**

**Help students plan and prep for mid-week worship services.**

**You could also teach one of the elective classes.**

Take a look at the sessions below and let Pastor Amy know if there's one that you would like to know more about. Pastor will not leave you high and dry but will work with you on developing a lesson plan. Here's the list of electives being offered this year:

**Women of the Word-Sep. 25**

**We're the Lutherans Your Mom Warned You About-Oct. 23**

**Luther the Human Being-Jan. 22**

If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to consider any of the above ways to accompany our young people on their journey of faith, talk with Pastor Amy or any member of the Faith Formation team or Church Council, or give Kathy a call in the office.

You'll find that your own faith will grow simply by being around these amazing younger Zion members!

## ***Confirmation***

Confirmation classes begin September 11, 2024. Time: 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Confirmation is for youth from 7<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Registration form, schedule, and information about the confirmation program will be emailed to families of youth that are eligible to attend the 2024 – 2025 classes. This information is also available on Zion's website [zionstratford.org](https://zionstratford.org). If you have not been part of the confirmation program and would like to enroll please contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

\$1000.00 - Zion's Germanfest fund for families in the Stratford School district in crisis.

\$1000.00 - Stratford Elementary School playground to enhance accessibility for all.

\$1000.00 - Shirley's House of Hope to aid women and children affected by homelessness, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, and domestic violence.

\$1000.00 - Hannah Center to aid pregnant women needing a fresh start.

\$500.00 - Marshfield Area Pet Shelter.

\$1505.00 - Stratford Area School District to pay school fees for students on free or reduced-price lunch program

\$7500.00 - Our sister denomination The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi to provide clean water through installation of solar wells.

\$7500.00 - Northwest Synod of WI endowment to aid local congregations and pastors in funding new areas of ministry in our communities.

The remaining \$2,000 will be used for additional local needs once more information has been received from the organizations. The bulk of the estate funds will remain available to Zion for future infrastructure repairs.

It has been a privilege for this committee to demonstrate God's love in this way, and we are proud of our congregation for recognizing the importance of the biblical injunction to tithe. We pray for additional blessings on all who have received a gift, and for newly inspired generosity on the part of Stratford community members.

## ***Prayer Request***

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>.

## ***Evangelism***

The Evangelism team would like to send cards to individuals or families who are hospitalized or have experienced a loss in their family. If you have someone that you wish for the church to reach out to you can contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## 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 June 30, 2024:

- General Offering Received \$10828.92
- Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.) \$15,132.80
- **Giving vs. Expense Deficit \$ - 4303.88**

Undesignated Cash Balance (06/30/24) \$ 4934.02

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.

## Benevolence Report from Sale of Land

At Zion’s annual congregational meeting on January 28. We voted in favor of giving 10% of the Kathy Belgea-Zuelke estate gift to charity. All congregational members were given the opportunity to volunteer for the committee charged with disbursing the funds.

Chuck Foley, Nicole Curtis, and Dan Wieland volunteered their time; Pastor Amy served in an advisory capacity.

We are pleased to announce the following recipients of Zion’s biblical response to this gift:

## Zion’s Young Disciples need you!



Additional help is needed for JTeam (4-6 grade) & Little Lutherans (K-3 grade) for 2024/2025

Teachers or assistants  
Substitute Teachers  
Craft Leaders  
Bible Lesson Leaders  
Activity/Game Leaders  
(based on lesson)

We would love to have you join our team! We can help with training, materials, and/or lesson planning. We are flexible! If you (or someone you know) are only available twice a semester or only for an hour during the time we meet, or only want to work with a specific age group, we can accommodate. Please contact:

Jill Dasler 715-305-7324 or Darla Leick 715-506-0044

We look forward to hearing from you!

## JTeam/Little Lutherans

It is getting to be that time again to begin another year of JTeam/ Little Lutherans. September 11, 2024, is the first class. Registration forms can be found on the website [zionstratford.org](http://zionstratford.org). For children who attended last year. Their family will receive an email with the registration and schedule attached in August. Children must be in kindergarten through sixth grade to attend JTeam / Little Lutherans. Come join in the fun of learning about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

## Disciples for Christ

This program is designed for 9th-grade youth who wish to Affirm their Baptism in the spring of 2025. Classes are held on the third Sunday of each month. Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. Registrations will be available on Zion’s website [zionstratford.org](http://zionstratford.org). Families whose youth have completed the confirmation program will receive emails with the Disciples for Christ information in August.



## ***Rally Sunday: September 8***

Rally Sunday is the day when we officially gather together after a summer of fun and learning and trips and gardening and whatever else you've gotten up to over the last few months! This year we'll celebrate the start of our academic year on September 8th with a Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Kids of all ages are invited to bring backpacks, briefcases, laptop or tablet bags, or other tools of your trade.

We hope to have some refreshments and/or activities after worship as well, but that takes volunteers. If our VP Brian Stroetz asks you to participate, please prayerfully consider saying an enthusiastic "Yes!" Or, if your heart moves you, just give him a call or call the church office and say, "This sounds like fun! I'm in!" J-Team and Little Lutherans begin September 11th after school, and confirmation classes begin that evening.

## ***Teacher and Staff Appreciation Dinner***

Every year, the Evangelism Committee puts on an appreciation dinner for the teachers, staff, bus drivers, etc. We would also like to give them some essential items for the special classrooms that don't get the normal school supplies like the other grades do, like the art rooms, phy-ed, music, etc. We are looking for anyone that would like to donate the following items:

Clorox Wipes, Kleenex, Hand Sanitizer and Travel size - shampoo, soap and deodorant. *(Please make sure these are new, unopened items!)*

We will give these to the school on the day of our appreciation dinner on August 30th, so please turn your donations into the church office by August 29th, donation box will be in the Narthex by July 28th.

Thank you!

Evangelism Committee

## ***Choir***

All members are always welcome in all voices and instrumental accompaniments. Do you play percussion? Guitar or other strings? other? Rehearsal:

**August 11 and 18 at 8:00 am.**

**WE WELCOME YOUR MUSICAL TALENTS.**

**Come as you are able.**

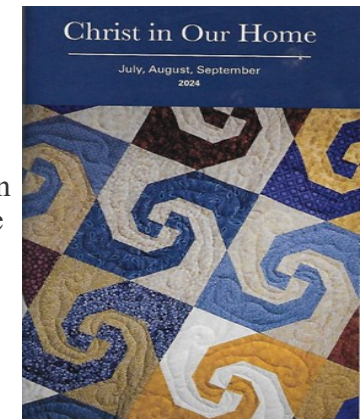


Several members of Zion are homebound. This makes it difficult for them to come to church and receive communion. Pastor Amy makes frequent visits to these members and encourages other members of Zion to visit their fellow members and serve communion. Pastor Amy will walk you through how to serve home communion. Consider disciplining the homebound by taking a few hours a month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day.

## ***Christ in Our Home***

The devotional *Christ in Our Home* for July,

August, and September is now available in the Narthex or the information table in the church lobby. The church provides this devotional for anyone that would like to take a few minutes each day to reflect.



## ***Fellowship***

Join us each Sunday following worship for coffee, tea, and hot cocoa fellowship. It is a wonderful time to catch up with friends, family, and other members of your congregation.

Often, there are tasty treats to enjoy as well. Consider hosting a fellowship for your fellow members, it is as easy as signing up.

If you have never hosted a fellowship, no worries! Several people are willing to help you out with making coffee and setting up. Let the office know and those arrangements will be made.



2024 Zion Worship Schedules

Date	8/04/2024 Pent 11 9:00 AM	8/11/2024 Pent 12 9:00 AM	8/18/2024 Pent 13 9:00 AM	8/25/2024 Pent 14 9:00 AM	9/1/2024 Pent 15 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Terry Schoenherr	.....	Brenda Huther	Riley Spindler	Brenda Castellano
Reader	Terry Schoenherr	Brenda Castellano	Brenda Huther	Riley Spindler	Brenda Castellano
Acolytes	Brynn & Cooper Wiesman	.....	Ella Schultz Jevin Spindler	Reese & Reid Spindler	Charlotte & Nolan Peirce
Ushers	Eddy & Ann Peterson	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Jim & Cory Wiesman	Brian & Darla Leick
Communion Assistants	Angie Guralski Terry Schoenherr Tadd Schoenherr	Angie Guralski	Brenda Huther Sandy Andersen Tierra Messerschmidt	Riley Spindler Angie Guralski Marge Kollmansberger	Brenda Castellano Brenda Garrigan Brenda Huther
Basket Holder	Averi & Mila Johnson	.....	Natalie Messerschmidt Jordy Spindler	.....	Griffin Peirce Archer Tews
Communion Steward	Patti Casperson	Patti Casperson	Sandy Andersen	Lindsay White	Rhonda Thompson
Fellowship	Eliot & Kaitlyn Waddell	Evangelism Team	Bryce & Angela Ford	Sharla Dreikosen	Gary & Mary Wussow
Host	Kevin Miller - Treasurer	Maryel Schoenfuss	Brian Stroetz	Mary Wussow Worship	Dan Thompson
Bell Ringer	Kevin Miller	Tom Schoenherr	Phil Schultz	Jim Wiesman	Brian Leick
Media	Kevin Miller	.....	Rod Huther	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther

# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>9am Worship/ Communion Pastor Amy vacation</i>	5 <i>5:30 pm Worship Team meeting Pastor Amy vacation</i>	6 <i>Pastor Amy vacation</i>	7 <i>6:30 pm Yoga Pastor Amy vacation</i>	8 <i>Pastor Amy vacation</i>	9 <i>Pastor Amy vacation</i>	10 <i>Pastor Amy vacation</i>
11 <i>9 pm Outdoor Worship/Communion</i>	12 <i>6pm Executive Meeting</i>	13	14 <i>6:30 pm Yoga</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>9am Worship/ Communion</i>	19	20 <i>6 pm Council Meeting</i>	21	22 <i>1 pm Worship Service Stoney River</i>	23	24
25 <i>9am Worship/ Communion</i>	26	27 <i>6pm Evangelism Team Meeting</i>	28 <i>12pm-6pm Teacher Appreciation Luncheon</i>	29	30	31