

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

Phone: 715-687-4110
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We're on the web! www.zionstratford.org

November 2024

Zion Lutheran Church



Sunday, November 3

All Saints Sunday / Communion

Sunday, November 10

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Communion

Sunday, November 17

Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost / Communion

Sunday, November 24

Christ the King Sunday / Communion

Thursday, November 28

Happy Thanksgiving



PASTOR'S CORNER

Walk with a humble and gentle spirit, patiently showing love and respect to each other. Let [the Spirit] weave you together in peace as you dance in step with one another in the great circle of life.

-Ephesians 4:2-3 [First Nations Version]

Dear friends in Christ,

By the time you read this, we will be right on top of election day in our country.

Given the divisive nature of our politics at the moment, I'd love to stop right there, but I can't. I can't stop there, because I serve the good news of God in Jesus Christ alongside all of you.

So let me remind you of one of the most important statements Jesus ever made; actually, one of the most important commandments in scripture:

"I am giving you a new road to walk," [Jesus] said. "In the same way I have loved you, you are to love each other. This kind of love will be the sign for all people that you are walking the road with me."

John 13:34-45 [First Nations Version]

Regardless of where you are located in our partisan political landscape, let Jesus' words be your guide. What does it mean to "walk the road" with Jesus? What exactly is the nature of the "way that [Jesus] has loved us?" How are we to "love each other" when we don't even like each other all that much at the moment?

We all have our ideas of what's best for ourselves and our nation. But when the dust settles and we get back to being fellow Americans, let's look for ways to walk that new road with Jesus. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us to love early, love often, and love without limits so that the next generation will come to know God's love and all people will experience God's grace and mercy.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Amy

Technology Ministry

Website zionstratford.org

Look us up online at 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. 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/>.

GERMANFEST



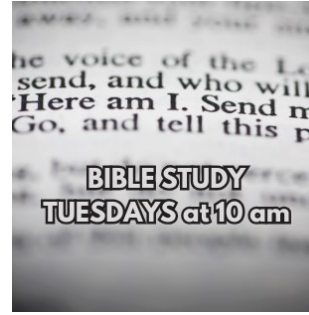
Worship at Stoney River Assisted Living

Pastor Amy leads a short worship service monthly at Stoney River Assisted Living in Marshfield. This worship service with Holy Communion will be held 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 West McMillan Street in Marshfield.

Please note that due to Thanksgiving, the next Stoney River worship service will be a Christmas carol service on December 26!

I don't know enough about the bible to participate in bible study.

Well, do you know how to ask questions? If you do, *then you qualify for bible study*. We are all learners in this group; even Pastor Amy learns new things just from the questions and the discussion surrounding our reading of scripture.



Need a different option? Let our office know or contact Pastor Amy. We can always add times or work together online.

November Bible Study Topics

- November 5** Topic: JONAH AND GOD'S MERCY
Scripture: Jonah 1:1-17; 3:1-10; 4:1-11 Luke 18:13
 - November 12** Topic: GOD CALLS ISAIAH
Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:8-10
 - November 19** Topic: GOD PROMISES A NEW COVENANT
Scripture: Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34
Luke 22:19-20
 - November 26** No Bible Study
- Happy Thanksgiving!



FAITH JOURNEY

JTeam/Little Lutherans

November 6, 2024
Reformation Party

November 13, 2024
Prayer



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

For those families outside the Stratford school district, children may be dropped off any time between 3:15 and 3:50 pm.

In case of inclement weather, please watch the Zion Facebook page for updates on class. If Stratford schools are closed, there will be no class.

Information and calendar can be found at: <https://zionstratford.org/faith-formation/k-6th-grade/>.

Confirmation Core Class

November 6, 2024

Scripture Through a Lutheran Lens

Advent Lenten Services December 4, 11 and 18.

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/>.



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 know someone who might enjoy receiving a card, contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.

Holy Communion

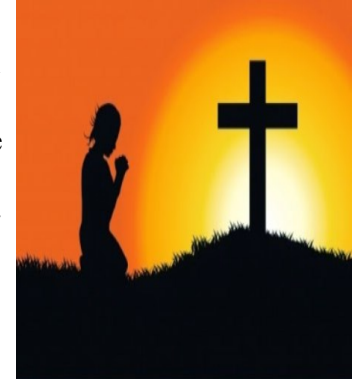
The bread contains honey and gluten. **GLUTEN** and **HONEY FREE** servings are in a basket as you approach.

Please take one as needed to serve yourself during the blessing.

Prayer Requests

Zion has a group of people who serve as disciples who 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.

If you request prayer, please clarify if the information should be anonymous or if it is alright to share identifying information with the prayer disciples and/or the congregation.



All Saints' Sunday

November 3rd

All Saints' Day celebration has a long history in the worship life of the Christian Church. It began as a commemoration of the martyrs who has died for the faith, and it has

since become a day when we honor and remember those who in death have joined the Church Triumphant, as well as the faithful saints of the present who serve Jesus Christ. Martin Luther held that all Christians are simultaneously sinner and saint—sinner because of our rebellious nature, but a saint because of salvation in Jesus.

On Sunday, November 3rd, we will remember those in our congregation who died during the past year and those whose names are submitted by the congregation. Names will be read during worship, and family members will have the opportunity to light a candle in remembrance.

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 winter sign-ups are now available. Sign up by November 17 for December 2024. I appreciate and can't thank you enough for signing up! Brenda Huther.

Here is the link for December: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-51560574-december>

On vacation? At a sporting event? Family wedding? If you are scheduled to serve in worship as an assisting minister, acolyte, communion server, reader, usher, etc. and are unable to serve on that date, please look at the calendar and contact another person to switch with you. If you need a list of people to contact, please contact the church office 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.



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 to support Zion Faith Formation youth programs such as camp scholarships, regional and national youth gatherings and more!
- ◆ It's easy! You can download the RAISE RIGHT app and shop right from your couch or contact
- ◆ Contact Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth 715-615-2500 or the church office for the code.

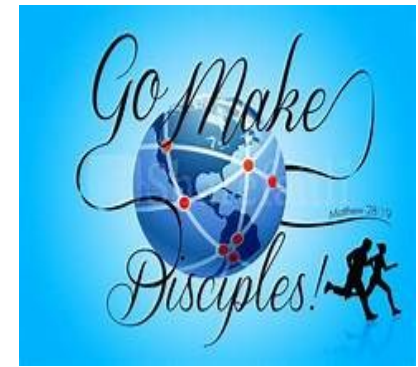
[Visit www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com)

[Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth!](#)

Disciples for Christ

***November 17, 2024 5:30—7:30 pm
My Faith Today & Tomorrow***

***Book: Following Jesus pages 13-16
My Mission Pages 21-24***



Live Nativity Volunteers Needed for Christmas in the Park
When: Saturday, December 7, 2024
Time: 2:45 pm-6:00 pm
Where: Zion Lutheran Church parking lot

If you are interested in participating as an angel, a shepherd, one of the Magi, Mary or Joseph you can sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex.

This is an outdoor event, please dress accordingly.

Snacks are provided.

Operation Christmas

Marshfield Children's Child Life Program and Ronald McDonald House have been selected as outreach recipients for Zion's Operation Christmas gift-giving for 2024.

Child Life specialists are available seven days a week and partner with doctors and nurses using evidence-based practice to minimize a child's stress, making their medical experience easier. They embrace the value of play as they enhance growth and development of infants, children and adolescents. The Child Life team normalizes each child's environment and reduces stress of medical experiences by providing the following services: procedure preparation, coping and support, comfort positioning, inpatient pre-admission tours, therapeutic play, medical plan, pet therapy, music therapy, preparation and coping techniques for children who have ill parents, and grief support. The Child Life team provides services throughout Marshfield Medical Center medical offices, including the Outpatient Surgery Center and Marshfield Children's Hospital.

The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Marshfield supports families with a hospitalized child by providing temporary housing at no cost to the family. The RMHC provides opportunities that strengthen children and families during their most complex and challenging times. The purpose of the Ronald McDonald House Charities is to support access to care, reduce financial burden, provide psychosocial support to keep families together, enhance clinical experiences and outcomes and help families resume normalcy. The house provides families with comfortable, private rooms, home-cooked meals, activities and all the comforts of home, allowing families to focus on the health of their child by providing access to the best medical care possible. In addition to the house, they partner with Marshfield Children's Hospital, providing a hospitality cart and family lounge. The RMHC supplies items for all three spaces, allowing them to serve even more families.

Tags with 'wish list' items from both Child Life and Ronald McDonald House will be placed on the Operation Christmas tree. Choose a tag(s), purchase the item(s) and bring your donations unwrapped along with the tag to Zion. Envelopes will also be available if you prefer to donate cash and we will purchase items from the tree.

The deadline to return donations to Zion is **Friday, December 20th**. *Thank you for your generosity and continued support of Zion's Operation Christmas!*



HURRICANE RELIEF FUND

SPIRIT LUTHERAN FOUNDATION TO MATCH "DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR"

Spirit Lutheran Foundation is pleased to announce that they have created a Hurricane Relief Fund to assist those persons who have been affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the southeast region of the United States.

All gifts will be matched by the Foundation "dollar for dollar" to a maximum of \$50,000. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

We have chosen ELCA's "Lutheran Disaster Response" as the recipient of our collective donations for a number of reasons; they are a "faith-based" organization that is committed to using 100% of our donations going directly to their relief efforts, plus they are a proven organization that will be there for the long haul, well beyond the initial efforts.



We hope to close this campaign by mid-November so act now, thousands of people need our support.

Let's all come together and make an impact for those people in need.

HOW TO DONATE



Spirit Lutheran Foundation
1310 Main Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701



spiritlutheran.org/foundation

Memo Line: Hurricane Relief Fund

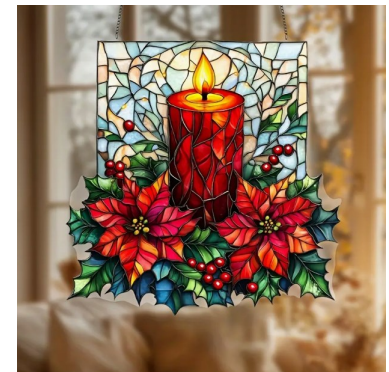


Christmas Worship Decorations

Poinsettias will be used to brighten our sanctuary for the Christmas season. They may be given in honor, or memory, of family and friends. Poinsettia plants may be taken home following worship on Christmas Eve. The poinsettia plants this year at \$15.00.

Please fill out a form and return it to the church office or Sunday morning offering. You may also call the church office or email: office@zionstratford.org to sign up at 715-687-4110.

You may place your payment in your offering envelop and indicate on the envelope you are paying for a poinsettia.



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

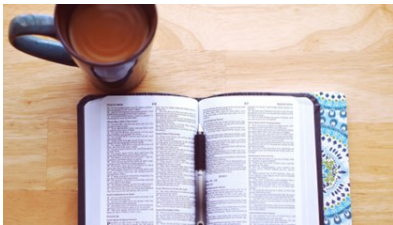
To keep everyone informed of the financial status of Zion Lutheran, we include a monthly Treasurer’s Report in the newsletter. The overall purpose is to be transparent about how Zion is building a culture of generosity and being good stewards (managers) of God’s gracious provision to fuel Jesus’ ministry.

January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024:

• General Offering Received	\$118,081.84
• Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.)	\$120,420.08
• Giving vs. Expense Deficit	\$ -2338.34
Undesignated Cash Balance (08/31/24)	\$ 9655.24

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.

Join the Worship Planning Team



If you have ideas to help enrich our worship services at Zion, we'd love to have you join our planning team! We meet monthly to discuss all aspects affecting the Worship experience from liturgy to music to involving all ages, communion, those who help serve

throughout the service, special activities and more! See Mary Wussow or contact the Zion office if interested.

Noisy offering month of September



NOISY OFFERINGS given to support Emmanuel Lutheran Church following their church fire.

Zion collected 482.49 and Zion will match the donation. A check for 964.98 will be given to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Longwood WI.

You may continue to support by dropping off cash or checks at any Forward Bank location; checks written to Emmanuel

Lutheran Church with FIRE DONATION in the memo line.

Stratford Area Food Pantry

The Stratford Area Food Pantry provides food to individuals and families within the Stratford School District. If you are in need of food, we are here for you! Hours are Tuesday mornings from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. or by appointment.



Also, for those who wish to make donations, you may drop items off on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The Stratford Area Food Pantry is supported by individuals, local churches, groups and businesses; and is 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 or at 715-506-0020 and he will help you get connected.

**Please note the Food Pantry will be closed the following days during the Holiday season:*

- November 27, 2024
- December 24, 2024
- December 25, 2024
- December 31, 2024
- January 1, 2025

All Creation Sings

CHOIR REHEARSAL

All are welcomed and encouraged to sing praises!



Choir

All are welcome to share their talents in song, or musical instruments in praise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

If you need any additional information, please contact contact Mary Wussow by phone at 715-897-4538 or email at gmkjmwus@gmail.com



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 discipling to the home-

bound by taking a few hours a month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day.

Rehearsals Sunday mornings @8:00 am

- November 3 Rehearsal
- November 10 Rehearsal
- November 17 No Rehearsal
- November 24 Rehearsal

Bell Choir

Looking for a way to use your musical talents? Interested in participating in the Zion Bell Choir?

If you want to participate in the bell choir contact Paul Untiet by phone or text 715-615-9442 to receive communications updates.



Rehearsals Sunday mornings @10:15 am

- November 3 Rehearsal
- November 10 Rehearsal
- November 17 Rehearsal
- November 24 Rehearsal

Book Sale



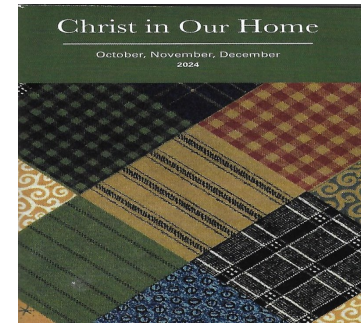
Friends of the Library Book Sale will be held from November 6-9, 2024 at the Marathon County Public Library at 300 North First Street, Wausau.

Friends members only: Wednesday, 11/6 from 5-7:30 p.m.
 Open to the public: Thursday, 11/7 from 9:30 am-7:30 pm; Friday, 11/8 from 9:30 am-4:30 pm; and Saturday, 11/9 from 9:30 am-3:30 pm.

Christ in Our Home

The devotional *Christ in Our Home* for October, November and December 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.

November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 <i>*Time Change*</i> 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship/ Communion 10:15 Bells Rehearsal	4 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting	5	6 3:15pm JTeam/ Little Lutheran 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Yoga	7	8	9
10 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship/ Communion 10:15 Bells Rehearsal	11 6pm Executive Team Meeting	12	13 3:15pm JTeam / Little Lutherans 6:30pm Yoga	14	15	16
17 9am Worship/ Communion/ Blessing of the Orange 10:15 Bells rehearsal 5:30pm Disciples for Christ	18	19 6pm Council Meeting	20 6:30pm Yoga	21	22	23
24 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship/ Communion 10:15 Bells Rehearsal	25	26	27 6:30pm Yoga	28	29	30

Date	11/3/2024 All Saints Sunday 9:00 AM	11/10/2024 Pent 25 9:00 AM	11/17/2024 Pent 26 9:00 AM	11/24/2024 Christ the King 9:00 AM	12/01/2024 First Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Carmella Moon	Dan Thompson	Brenda Castellano	Brenda Huther	Riley Spindler
Reader	Carmella Moon	Dan Thompson	Brenda Castellano	Brenda Huther	Tadd Schoenherr
Acolytes	Cooper & Brynn Wiesman	Turner Southwick Lily Cournoyer	Ruby Casperson Ian Maguire	Ella Schultz Avery White	Anika Weber Averi Johnson
Ushers	Tom & Nancy Schoenherr	Mark & Sandy Andersen	Tim & Amii Kreft	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Jim & Cory Wiesman
Communion Assistants	Carmella Moon Terry Schoenherr Janet Schoenherr	Dan Thompson Lois Miller Wendy Spaeth	Brenda Castellano Nancy Schoenherr Sandy Andersen	Brenda Huther Rhonda Thompson Brenda Garrigan	Riley Spindler Tadd Schoenherr Angie Guralski
Basket Holder	Griffin Peirce Jordy Spindler	-----	Colton Trachte Greyson Wilke	-----	Jordy Trachte Mila Johnson
Communion Steward	Patti Casperson	Wendy Spaeth	Sandy Andersen	Rhonda Thompson	Wendy Spaeth
Fellowship	Sharla Dreikosen	Stroetz	Brenda Castellano & June Krueger	Lois Miller	Tiffany & Tristyn Zawislán
Host	Dan Thompson	Robin Curtis	\	Mary Wussow	Ray White
Bell Ringer	Tom Schoenherr	Kevin Miller	Tim Kreft	Phil Schultz	Jim Wiesman
Media	Marge Kollmansberger	Kevin Miller	Connor Kreft	Rod Huther	Ted Dasler
			Praise Service		