

Zion Lutheran Church
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www.zionstratford.org

Open doors, open hearts, open hands

February 2025
Zion Lutheran Church



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays at 9:00 am

Sunday, February 2

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany / Holy Communion

Sunday, February 9

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Holy Communion

Sunday, February 16

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany / Holy Communion

Sunday, February 23

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany / Holy Communion



JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

Website zionstratford.org

Look us up online at zionstratford.org. Zion's website is full of information at your fingertips. You can listen to weekly sermons and follow a link to the scriptures of the week and the weekly 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, either online or by contacting the church office.

Sermons by Phone or Podcast App

Audio records of Sunday sermons are now available by calling **848.204.2721**. You can also find it on the podcase 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/worship>.

Facebook Worship

On many Sundays, you can also catch the entire worship live on our Facebook page at 9 am. We are still experimenting with this option, so we are unable to guarantee this service at this time. Please give us a try on those weekends you are out of town or stuck at home! The goal will be to provide the service/sermon in one format based on usage. If you are a regular listener of the audio sermon, please contact the church office to let us know that you have a preference for accessing remotely for church services.

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March newsletter is February 15. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at office@zionstratford.org. Thank you.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Zion's Annual meeting was held following worship on Sunday, January 26, 2025. At this meeting, they receive the reports of the church and make decisions on our ministry and our budget for the upcoming year.

Annual report can be found on the church website: zionstratford.org.



BENEVOLENCE

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 complete 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 December 31, 2024:	
General Offering Received	\$211,214.96
Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.)	\$218,596.46
Giving vs. Expense Deficit	\$ -7,381.50
Undesignated Cash Balance	\$ 4,420.53

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.



WORSHIP

Our communion bread is homemade and contains honey and gluten. **Gluten** and **honey free** servings are in a basket as you approach the communion station. Please take on as needed to serve yourself during the blessing.



EVANGELISM

Scrip Cards Make Great Valentine's Gifts!

RaiseRight is the answer for quick, easy gift card giving and use! Proceeds support Zion youth programs and our Faith Formation Team! Each card purchase returns a percentage 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.
- ◆ Contact Janet Schoenherr at 715-650-0097 or Wendy Spaeth at 715-615-2500 or the church office for the code, and for assistance with the app.

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

Thank you for continuing to support Zion youth!

Thank you's

Thank you to members Pat Emon, Dan and Deb Wieland and Dan and Rhonda Thompson for inventorying the church kitchen and restocking the needed items.

Superbowl of Caring

Hurry up! There are only a couple weeks before the big NFL showdown on February 9! If you've been waiting for a chance to support the Stratford Community Food Pantry (housed right here at Zion), now's your chance. You may have noticed the table set up in front of our worship space. It's divided in half with one side representing the AFC and one the NFC (as of this writing, the final two NFL teams have not been decided).

All you have to do to participate is to bring non-perishable food and place it on the side you think will win the Super Bowl. If you'd like to drop off food during the week, either leave it at the office with a note for which side it belongs on or run it up to the sanctuary any time the building is open.

Let's have a big win for everybody by stocking the food pantry!



PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I was little, my family made a big deal out of Valentine's Day. My brother and I made homemade cards for everyone, Dad brought Mom roses, and Mom made sugar cookies with I Love You written on them with icing. Dad's cookie was always written in Latin: *ego amo te*. Yes, I come from a long line of nerds.

It's fun to celebrate Valentine's Day. It's romantic to leave the world behind and concentrate on that special someone. I have a sneaking suspicion, however, that Valentine's Day is every day for God. And it's not just about that special someone; it's about that special everyone. Scripture shows us how important love is to God; depending on the translation used, love is mentioned between 300 and 350 times. But Jesus shows us what love is according to God. After all, Jesus said, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." [John 14:9] And if God is love [1 John 4:8], then we only have to look at how Jesus lived and how he died to understand what love really is.

Jesus showed us that love stands up for those who are at the bottom of the pile. That love seeks out the outcast and befriends them. That love can become angry when faith is turned into moneymaking. That love is steadfast and true. That love involves deep humility and sacrifice. That love is resilient and patient and turns the other cheek.

This is the kind of love that is of God, and it is the love God celebrates every day with us. Love that died on a cross and was resurrected because of pure love itself. There is no charge, no need to prove we are worthy of love; there is only God's love simply because God is love. And rather than leave the world behind to concentrate on someone special, God tells us to wade right back into that world and love everyone.

Happy Valentine's Day from God... every day!

In Christ's service,

Pastor Amy



FAITH FORMATION

Schedule

JTeam / Little Lutherans

3:15 pm February 5, 2025

The Lord's Prayer Part 3

3:15 pm February 26, 2025

Creed—Part 1



Looking for disciples to offer some time to substitute for JTeam / Little Lutheran program teachers in the event they are unable to attend that week. If you are interested please talk to Jill Dasler, Janet Schoenherr or contact the church office 715-687-4110 or office@zionstratford.org.

Confirmation CORE class

6:00 pm February 12, 2025

Governance and Polity

During Lent, students will meet with a mentor at least twice during the six-week period. Together, they will complete two discussion sheets. Mentors must be a member of the Zion congregation and may not be a family member. This activity will help prepare you for the Disciples for Christ program in your 10th grade year. Ask them *EARLY!* ****The name of your mentor must be turned in to the church office by Sunday, February 9.****

Disciples for Christ

5:30 pm February 16, 2025

Staying in Touch with God Book: Why the Church ?
pages 17-20.



EVANGELISM

Hospitalizations and Prayer Requests

Please remember that hospitals and other care facilities are prohibited by law from sharing your information with non-authorized persons. This includes your congregation and pastor!

If you are experiencing challenges in life and would like a visit from your church family, please contact the church office at 715-687-41210. Your information will be shared confidentially with Pastor Amy and with our prayer team if you wish.

Our prayer team consists of 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.

Hats, Hats, Hats!

There are still some beautiful hats (handmade by one of our members) available in the fellowship area. They are free for the taking, and lots of color combinations are available.

The hats are free, but if you'd like to offer something in payment, please make a separate donation to another ministry of the church: some ideas include the memorial fund, the Germanfest crisis fund, camp scholarships, the music fund, and many more,

They're soft and warm, and you'll look awesome wearing one!

The Community Crisis Fund

- supported through Zion's annual Germanfest dinner - is here to help if you know or are aware of someone in our community or congregation, experiencing a personal crisis, whether it be a devastating fire, medical struggle, etc. Speak with Pastor Amy, a member of council or the Evangelism Team about how this fund might help support those in need



EVANGELISM

Updating Membership Information

Zion is continuing to update the membership information and needs your help. To remain an active member in good standing, you need to complete a Membership Contact Information form if you haven't done so already. A fillable PDF form is available on the homepage of the church website at <https://zionstratford.org>. A hard copy is available from the office or in the Narthex. Thank you.

Homebound Ministry Opportunity

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 can walk you through how to serve home communion. Consider ministry to the homebound by taking an hour or two per month to visit with a fellow member and brighten their day. Or perhaps you'd like to visit on special occasions such as Christmas or Easter, bringing a small gift along with you visit.

Please talk to any member of the Evangelism Committee (led by Dan Thompson) with any ideas you may have to brighten someone's day.

Monthly Noisy Offering — First Sunday each month

February 2, 2025

NOW program.

The children of Zion will be collecting a noisy offering on the first Sunday of each month to be gifted to a program that they decide on as a

group. The donations collected each term will change so watch for which program the children will be supporting. Remember to set aside and bring your loose change to worship to support our children's efforts to make a change in the world with the love of Jesus Christ guiding them.



WORSHIP

Baptism January 19, 2025



Waylon Scott Voda son of Tyler and Tianna Voda

Library

On these cold and snowy days, it is a great time to read a great book from the Zion Church library. Come check it out!





WORSHIP

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 715-615-942 to receive communications updates. ***Rehearsals Sunday mornings @10:15 am*** (refer to the enclosed calendar for rehearsal dates).

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 p. 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.

Serving in Worship Substitutions

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 reach out to Brenda Huther at hutherbk@yahoo.com or at 715-581-2485. Thank you.

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 Mary Wussow by phone at 715-897-4538 or email at gmkjmwus@gmail.com. Sunday morning rehearsals begin at 8:00 am in the balcony. Please refer to the enclosed monthly calendar for Choir rehearsal dates.

Christ in Our Home

The devotional Christ in Our Home for January, February and March is now available in the Narthex or on the information table near the church office. The church provides this devotional for anyone who would like to take a few minutes each day reflecting on God's word.



EVANGELISM

Stratford Food Pantry

The Stratford Food Pantry Board wishes to thank everyone for their generous donations of money and non-perishable food items. Your generosity keeps the shelves stocked, allowing us to help our neighbors in need. Your giving is greatly appreciated! We wish you all the best in the new year.

The Stratford Area Food Pantry, located in our facility, provides food to individuals and families within the Stratford School District. If you are in need of food, we'd love to help you out! We're open Tuesday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m.; Wednesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 p.m.; or by appointment.

Donations may be dropped 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.

Card Ministry

The Evangelism team is sending 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.

Sunday Fellowship

Fellowship time is a great chance to catch up with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Hosting the fellowship time is easy as making some coffee, setting out items to make tea and hot cocoa. Snacks of any kind can be brought to share during fellowship. Have a new recipe you have been wanting to try. This is a great time to give it a try. There is a sign up sheet to sign up for any Sunday that works in your schedule. Ask a friend to sign up with you and host together.

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

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship/ Communion 10:15 Bells	3 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting	4 9:30 am Bible Study	5 3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 6:30 Yoga	6	7	8
9 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship / Communion	10 6pm Executive Team Meeting	11 9:30 am Bible Study	12 6pm Confirmation CORE class	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship / Communion 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ	17	18 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Council Meeting	19 6pm Faith Formation Team Meeting 6:30pm Yoga	20	21	22
23 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship / Communion	24	25 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Evangelism Team Meeting	26 3:15pm JTeam / Little Lutherans 6:30pm Yoga	27 1pm Worship Stoney River	28	

Date	02/02/2025 4th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	02/09/2025 5th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	02/16/2025 6th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	02/23/2025 7th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 AM	03/02/2025 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 AM
Assisting Minister	Darla Leick	Dan Thompson	Dan Wieland	Darla Leick	Brenda Huther
Reader	Darla Leick	Dan Thompson	Dan Wieland	Darla Leick	Brenda Huther
Acolytes	Turner Southwick Avery White	Charlotte & Nolan Peirce	Averi Johnson Trystyn Zawislan	Ella Schultz Abby Ballerstein	Dayton & Finley White
Ushers	Tadd & Janet Schoenherr	Tommy & Nancy Schoenherr	Carmella Moon Brenda Castellano	Phil & Kerri Schultz	Mark & Sandy Andersen
Communion Assistants	Brian & Darla Leick Wendy Spaeth	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Jessica Southwick	Dan & Deb Wieland Wendy Spaeth	Nancy Schoenherr Lois Miller Darla Leick	Brenda Huther Angie Guralski Brenda Garrigan
Basket Holder	Ellie Southwick Colton Trachte	-----	Mila Johnson Hadley Kramer	-----	Greyson Wilke Jordy Trachte
Communion Steward	Wendy Spaeth	Lindsay White	Deb Wieland	Patti Casperson	Wendy Spaeth
Fellowship	Dan & Rhonda Thompson	Brian & Chris Stroetz	Tiffany & Tristyn Zawislan	Volunteer	Volunteer
Host	Brandon Aschenbrenner	Maryl Schoenfuss	Brian Stroetz	Kevin Miller	Dan Thompson
Bell Ringer	Tadd Schoenherr	Tommy Schoenherr	Carmella Moon	Phil Schultz	Mark Andersen
Media	Rod Huther	Garrett Smazal	Ted Dasler	Kevin Miller	Rod Huther
Livestream					