

Zion Lutheran Church  
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[www.zionstratford.org](http://www.zionstratford.org)

*Open doors, open hearts, open hands*

**March 2025**  
**Zion Lutheran Church**



**Worship Schedule / Sunday Services 9:00 am**

**Sunday, March 2**

*Transfiguration of Our Lord / Holy Communion*

**Wednesday, March 5**

*5:30 pm Ash Wednesday / 6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich*

**Sunday, March 9**

*First Sunday of Lent / Holy Communion*

**Wednesday, March 12**

*5:30 pm Lenten Service / 6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich*

**Sunday, March 16**

*Second Sunday of Lent / Holy Communion*

**Wednesday, March 19**

*5:30 pm Lenten Service / 6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich*

**Sunday, March 23**

*Third Sunday of Lent / Holy Communion*

**Wednesday, March 26**

*5:30 pm Lenten Service / 6:15 pm Soup and Sandwich*

**Sunday, March 30**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent / Holy Communion*



## JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

### *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. 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 April newsletter is March 15. To submit an article about an upcoming ministry opportunity, please email the church office at [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org). Thank you.

### *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.



## 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, 2025 through January 31, 2025:

General Offering Received	\$13,720.50
Ministry Expenses (salaries, utilities, supplies, etc.)	\$17,812.99
Giving vs. Expense Deficit	\$ -4,092.49
Undesignated Cash Balance	\$ 3492.30

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*

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 or Wendy Spaeth 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!**



### *Zion's Church Library*

Great new books are now ready for check out in the church library!! Come in and see all the possibilities for readers of all ages. Thank you to Sandy Borman-Untiet for the care she gives the church library.

### *Administrative Assistant position*

As Kathy Busche has announced her retirement, Zion's Staff Support Team is seeking applicants for this part-time office position.

The Administrative Assistant performs administrative and clerical duties for Zion Lutheran Church while maintaining confidentiality at all times. Qualified candidates will be tech savvy and have a strong knowledge base for MS Office and Google Docs, as well as the ability to learn church-specific software.

For more information, job description and application materials, please contact the church office or Brenda Castellano.



## PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Amy is on vacation. Pastor Amy will be on vacation from February 16th following worship - March 4th. If anyone has a Pastoral emergency, please contact Council President Brandon Aschenbrenner or the church office 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org). Pastor Gail Sowell will be covering while Pastor Amy is on vacation.



The many faces of Pastor Amy in her service to Zion Lutheran Church. God bless her as she teaches the love of Jesus Christ.





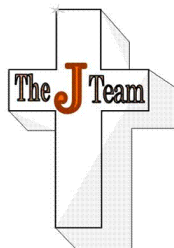
## FAITH FORMATION

JTeam / Little Lutherans

3:15 pm—5:30 pm

March 12 TOPIC: Creed part 1

March 19 TOPIC: Creed part 2



March and April Confirmation students are required to attend all Lenten services.

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 10<sup>th</sup> grade year.

### ***Disciples for Christ***

*5:30 pm March 16, 2025*

*Topic: Faith Statements and Preparing for Affirmation of Baptism Book: My Beliefs pages 29-32, Book: Saying Yes pages 33-36, Book: Life Beyond Confirmation pages 45-48*

### ***First Communion Class***

Pastor Amy will be holding a First Communion class on April 6th following worship. First Communion will be during worship on April 13th. If your child would be interested in receiving their First Communion so that they may participate in weekly communion. Please contact the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).



## 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 715-687-4110. 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!

### ***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 Phil Schultz) with any ideas you may have to brighten someone's day.





## FAITH FORMATION

### *Noisy Offering*

**March 2, 2025** Please support Zion's youth as they work to make a change in the world with the love of Jesus Christ guiding them.



Children of all ages, at Zion, are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary to support worship time.

### *Scholarships*

Each year Zion has the honor of making available to the graduating seniors 3 separate scholarships to apply to for help with the cost of furthering their education.

#### ◆ **The Marie Zuelke Scholarship**

One—\$500.00 scholarship with an extra \$100.00 if the applicant attends a Christian college or university.

#### ◆ **The Grace M.E. Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Two—\$500.00 scholarships given to two graduating seniors.

Enclosed is a copy of the scholarship application. Deadline for the completion of the application is **March 28** by 5:00pm.

Scholarships that are awarded will be announced on **May 18** during the Senior Sunday service.



## WORSHIP



Are you interested in Zion's history? Would you be interested in sharing ideas and help in planning Zion's 125th anniversary activities?

Dig into Zion's history, past celebrations, interview long time members and more. If interested please contact Brandon Aschenbrenner, Mary Wussow, Pastor Amy or the church office at 715-687-4110 or [office@zionstratford.org](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

## FAITH FORMATION

### **UNDERTOW**

All 5-8th Graders are invited to join us for a Middle School Youth Gathering! Our theme this year is "Undertow" and together we will explore what it looks like to trust in God when faced with change and uncertainty, and what it means for us to BE an example of radical change!

April 12, 2025 Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake

### **ENTANGLED**

All high schoolers who have completed grades 8-12 are invited to join us for ENTANGLED, a multi-synod youth gathering that will be held at the UW River Falls! Together we will encounter God and one another together in new ways through creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship.

July 8-11, 2025

UW - River Falls

**Youth that are interested in attending either of these events, please contact the church office and we will help with registration.**



## 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 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.m. 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](mailto:hutherbk@yahoo.com) or at Thank you. April: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0844A5A92B0-47523106-april>

### ***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 email at [gmkjmwus@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@zionstratford.org).

### ***Sunday 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.

### ***Healing Service March 30th***

Prayer stations, with prayer leaders, will be available, where you may privately ask for a prayer, personal blessing or anointing, share concerns or joys, and receive prayer.



# March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship/ Communion	3 5:30pm Worship Team Meeting	4	5 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup & Sandwich	6	7	8
9 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship / Communion Council Installation	10 6pm Executive Team Meeting	11 9:30 am Bible Study	12 3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 5:30 Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup & Sandwich	13	14	15
16 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship / Communion 5:30 pm Disciples for Christ	17	18 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Council Meeting	19 3:15 pm JTeam/ Little Lutherans 5:30 Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup & Sandwich	20	21	22
23 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship / Communion	24	25 9:30am Bible Study 6pm Evangelism Team Meeting	26 5:30 pm Lenten Service 6:15 pm Soup & Sandwich	27 1pm Worship Stoney River	28	29
30 8am Choir Rehearsal 9am Worship/ Communion Healing Service	31					