

**A Prayer  
Upon Enter-  
ing Church**  
Gather us  
all this Lent,  
O Lord our  
God, in  
Your em-  
brace, that  
we may be  
formed into  
the likeness  
of your Son,  
Jesus Christ  
our Lord.  
Amen



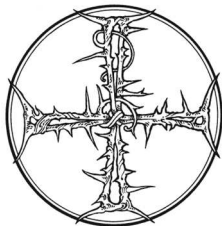
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## **The Third Sunday in Lent**

*Oculi* + March 3, 2024 + 9:00 A.M.

**Welcome to the Lord's Day.** The reports of Jesus casting out demons can insult human reason. To think that mankind, who has gone to the moon and back, might be subject to such spiritual battle, and rendered helpless by unseen attackers! Yet the Holy Spirit has recorded these historical exorcisms for good purpose: they teach us who can really help, who is really the Strong One, Jesus Christ. He alone can deliver us from sin, death, and the devil, and graciously, He has taken up that very task on our behalf.



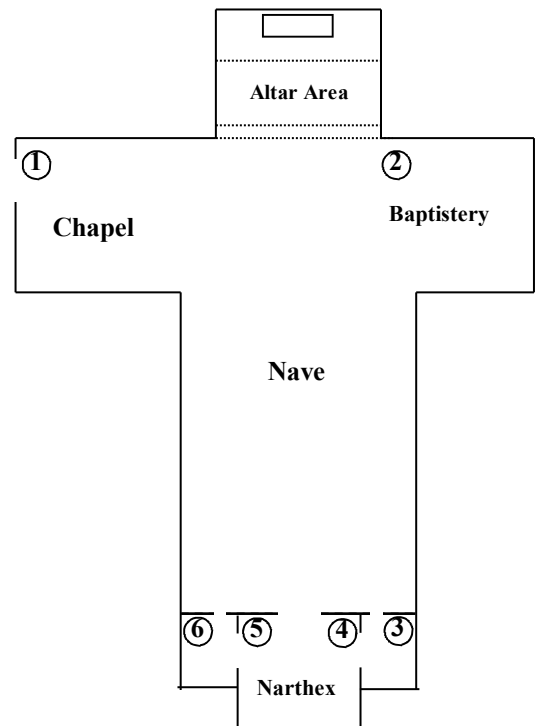
## Sharing God's Blessings Today

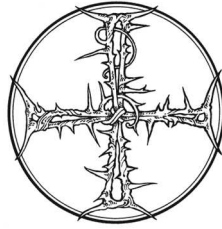
- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Lenten season.
- The sponsor charts for 2024 Radio Broadcasts, Flowers and Bulletins are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

### To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church. Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by number (1-6) or ask an usher for assistance.

This returns us to an older and beautiful tradition of the Lutheran church in which offerings are not collected during worship so as to focus more intently on God's gifts and offerings to us.





## PRELUDE

"Drawn to the Cross" ... Anne Krentz Organ & Benjamin Culli

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

*Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.*

## HYMN OF INVOCATION

"Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed" ... LSB #560

## INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Please kneel. Silence for reflection.*

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you, of your boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

*For Christianity, "help" is not the central value and criterion by which all things are judged.*

*"Truth" is the criterion. The purpose of Christianity is not to help people by reconciling them with death, but to reveal the Truth about life and death in order that people may be saved by this Truth...*

*[continued on next page]*

[continued  
from previous  
page]

. . . Christian-  
ity is not rec-  
onciliation  
with death. It  
is the revela-  
tion of death,  
and it reveals  
death because  
it is the reve-  
lation of Life.  
Christ is this  
Life. And  
only if Christ  
is Life is  
death what  
Christianity  
proclaims it  
to be, namely  
the enemy to  
be destroyed,  
and not a  
“mystery” to  
be explained.  
Religion and  
secularism,  
by explaining  
death, give it  
a “status,” a  
rationale,  
make it  
“normal” . . .

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

*Please stand.*

### **INTROIT**

L: My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,\*  
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

**C: Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\*  
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.**

L: To you, | O LORD,\*  
I lift | up my soul.

**C: O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;\*  
let not my enemies exult | over me.**

L: The troubles of my heart | are enlarged;\*  
bring me out of my dis- | tresses.

**C: Consider my affliction and my | trouble,\*  
and forgive | all my sins.**

L: Oh, guard my soul, and de- | liver me!\*  
Let me not be put to shame, for I take ref- | uge in you.

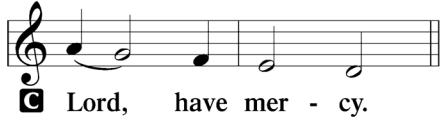
**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

L: My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,\*  
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

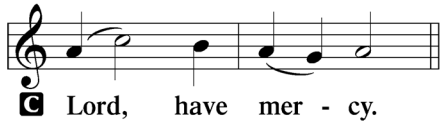
C: Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\*  
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

## KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



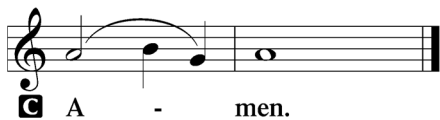
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



... Only Christianity proclaims it to be abnormal and, therefore, truly horrible. Only in Christ is the fullness of life revealed to us. It is when Christ reveals Life to us that we can hear the Christian message about death as the enemy of God. It is when Life weeps at the grave of the friend, when it contemplates the horror of death, that the victory over death begins.  
~ Alexander Schmemmann,  
For the Life of the World

*There we  
leave you in  
that blessed  
dependency,  
to hang upon  
Him that  
hangs upon  
the cross.  
~ the final  
sentence of  
the final  
sermon of  
John  
Donne,  
dean of St.  
Paul's Ca-  
thedral,  
Feb. 12,  
1631 A.D.*

## COLLECT

P: Let us pray . . . O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 8:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the earth, so that it may become gnats in all the land of Egypt.'" <sup>17</sup>And they did so. Aaron stretched out his hand with his staff and struck the dust of the earth, and there were gnats on man and beast. All the dust of the earth became gnats in all the land of Egypt. <sup>18</sup>The magicians tried by their secret arts to produce gnats, but they could not. So there were gnats on man and beast. <sup>19</sup>Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said. <sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise up early in the morning and present yourself to Pharaoh, as he goes out to the water, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let my people go, that they may serve me. <sup>21</sup>Or else, if you will not let my people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants and your people, and into your houses. And the houses of the Egyptians shall be filled with swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand. <sup>22</sup>But on that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, where my people dwell, so that no swarms of flies shall be there, that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the earth. <sup>23</sup>Thus I will put a division between my people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall happen.'"" <sup>24</sup>And the LORD did so. There came great swarms of flies into the house of Pharaoh and into his servants' houses. Throughout all the land of Egypt the land was ruined by the swarms of flies.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALMODY** *Psalm 136:1-16*

L: Give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever.

**C: Give thanks to the | God of gods,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever.**

L: Give thanks to the | Lord of lords,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

**C: to him who alone does great | wonders,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

L: to him who by understanding made the | heavens,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

**C: to him who spread out the earth above the | waters,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

L: to him who made the | great lights,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

**C: the sun to rule o- | ver the day,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

L: the moon and stars to rule o- | ver the night,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

**C: to him who struck down the firstborn of | Egypt,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

L: and brought Israel out from a- | mong them,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

*God gave His light to us not by taking us out of the darkness, but by entering into our darkness, by being enveloped in the darkness of our death, by being oppressed by the darkness of our evil, by experiencing the darkness of our ignorance. "From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land . . ." (Matt. 27:45) On the cross, Jesus went into the darkness. He became the "darkness of the world" for us so we might be the "light of the world" (Matt hew 5:14). We no longer live in the darkness . . .*

**C: with a strong hand and an | outstretched arm,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

L: to him who divided the Red | Sea in two,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

**C: and made Israel pass through the | midst of it,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

L: but overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the | Red Sea,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;

**C: to him who led his people through the | wilderness,\*  
for his steadfast love endures for- | ever;**

**All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

**EPISTLE** Ephesians 5:1-9

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.** <sup>8</sup>



*Please stand.*

## TRACT

L: To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,  
so our eyes look to the Lord our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.  
Have mercy upon us, O Lord,  
have mercy upon us.

## GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>Now [Jesus] was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup>But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," <sup>16</sup>while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup>But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup>And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup>And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup>But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup>When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup>but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup>Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>24</sup>"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' <sup>25</sup>And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup>Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." <sup>27</sup>As

*. . . We bask  
in the light,  
in the life, in  
the goodness  
and wisdom  
of Christ's  
light. In this  
age, the dark-  
ness always  
lurks nearby,  
seeking to  
envelop us  
once again.  
In this age,  
we live as  
"children of  
light"  
(Eph. 5:8) in  
a world still  
groping in  
darkness.  
But having  
seen the  
Light, we  
know the  
Way. We  
know that our  
end is in that  
city where  
"they will not  
need the light  
of a lamp or  
the light of  
the sun, for  
the Lord God  
will give  
them light"  
(Rev. 22:5).  
~ J.A.O  
Preus,  
Just Words*

*I am sure of  
God's hand  
and guid-  
ance... You  
must never  
doubt that I  
am thankful  
and glad to go  
the way  
which I am  
being led.  
My past life  
is abundantly  
full of God's  
mercy, and  
above all sin,  
stands the  
forgiving love  
of the Cruci-  
fied.*

*Dietrich Bon-  
hoeffer, The  
Cost of Dis-  
cipleship*

he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" <sup>28</sup>But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Lord of Our Life"

... LSB #659

### **SERMON**

"With Me"

*Please kneel.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: ... let us pray to the Lord,

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERTORY

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

... LSB #411

*The Choir will sing Stanza 1*

*Congregation will sing Stanzas 2 & 3*

*Please stand.*


**Congregation:**

**■** Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -

*Whenever the devil declares: "You are a sinner!" Christ interposes: "I will reverse the order; I will be a sinner, and you are to go scot-free." Who can thank our God enough for this mercy?*

*~ Martin Luther, Sermons on the Gospel of St. John*

*It therefore becomes the first and highest privilege of the Christian preacher to tell people that the Road Back to God is the road of forgiveness. There is a forgiveness for sin. There is a forgiveness of the guilt and burden and memory of sin. It is not to be found with men but in Him who was wounded for our transgression and bruised for our iniquities . . .*



tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, who by your tender love gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption. May we who now receive his body and blood be filled with the strength to take up our cross and follow him.

C: Amen

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.




**C** And al-so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

## SANCTUS ("Holy")

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

## LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

... With a voice which rings over sin-cursed souls with divine power, the entire Holy Scriptures testify to the fact that the only relief from the tragedy of sin can be found at the end of the Road Back to God, at the foot of the Cross, in the dust of Calvary.

~ O. P.

Kretzmann,  
*The Road  
 Back to God*

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.  
Amen

*What would become of me, O God, without Your shepherding care? How often have I, like a careless sheep, gone astray!*

*But Yours is a "love that will not let me go." Into the deepest darkness of my wandering, Your presence follows me. As sure as the beating of my heart, and as quiet, is Your voice calling me back to You . . .*

## ACCLAMATION

P: Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

## AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION

*The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.*

*Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.*

*The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.*

### COMMUNION HYMNS

- "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray" ... LSB #623
- "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ... LSB #426
- "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ... LSB #656
- "O Blessed, Holy Trinity" ... LSB #876

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

### POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-raise;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*... Truly, I am lame from wandering, weary of loneliness, and thirsty for the water of life.*

*So, here and now I would and do return to You, the Shepherd of my soul, knowing full well that only in Your fold and by Your side can I find salvation and peace. Amen*  
*~ Anony-mous, For All the Saints*

**A Prayer  
As You Go**  
Send out thy  
light and  
thy truth,  
that I may  
live always  
near to thee,  
my God.  
Amen  
~ Henry  
Martyn,  
1781-1812  
A.D.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray...O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



## SILENT PRAYER

## POSTLUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

... Kevin Hildebrand

+ **Soli Deo Gloria** +  
*To God alone be glory*



## **Serving at Worship**

<u>Presiding:</u>	The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson
<u>Preaching:</u>	The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde <i>(Pr. Johnson to Bethany at 10:30 am)</i>
<u>Organist:</u>	Kantor Irene Beethe
<u>Flute:</u>	Jacob Roseman
<u>Choir:</u>	The Zion Sunday School Choir
<u>Vocalists:</u>	Jessica Ray, Cyndi Reuter, Betsy Utecht
<u>Radio:</u>	Dick Ames
<u>Lector:</u>	Mark Gehrke
<u>Acolyte:</u>	Troy Joanis
<u>Communion:</u>	Sally Christoffersen, Grace Mueller
<u>Elder:</u>	Keith Watson
<u>Ushers:</u>	Amy Meyer, Brant Meyer, Jessica Pagel, Tyler Pagel
<u>Altar Guild:</u>	Janet Dettmering

## **Acknowledgements**

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## **Zion Lutheran Church**

**Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403**

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

**Church Telephone: 715-848-7286**

**Senior Pastor** Steven K. Gjerde  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Office Manager** Jessica G. Ray  
**Custodian** Cody Augustine  
**Deployed Chaplain** Joseph C. Pinzl  
**Pastor Emeritus** Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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[www.zionlutheranwausau.com](http://www.zionlutheranwausau.com)

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**  
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or  
click "Listen Live" at [www.wsau.com](http://www.wsau.com))

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gregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)**