

The Fourth Sunday of Advent + December 18, 2011 AD + 9:00 and 11:00 AM

“God Takes to Himself a Body”



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### A Prayer Upon Entering Church

Almighty God, grant that we who are oppressed and weighed down by the chains of our ancient slavery to sin may be set free by the long-awaited yet ever-new birth of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Welcome.** God looked upon His children with pity, seeing that death reigned over us and that sin had grown in its threat to us. Seeing all this, He had mercy on us and our sin, and, unable to bear that death should rule over us, His own creatures, He took to Himself a body, no different from ours in order that He might save us.

**Parents:** Children are welcome at our services. For parents who desire it, a nursery with an attendant is downstairs.

**PRELUDE**

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

... Bloedow

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

*Please stand.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

C: **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please kneel.*

*(silence for reflection)*

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church, and by the authority of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

*Please stand.*

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

“Savior of the Nations, Come” green hymnal #28

*Blow the trumpet in Zion, for the day of the Lord is near. Behold, He comes to save us. ~Joel 2:1*

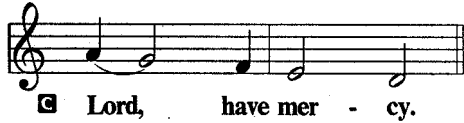
**GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

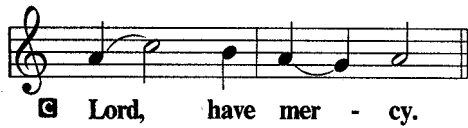
C: **And also with you.**

**KYRIE**

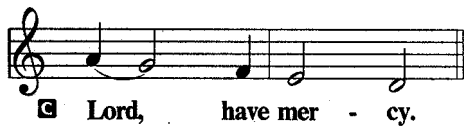
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray . . . Stir up your power, O Lord, and come and help us by your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by your grace and mercy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST LESSON** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” <sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE** “Magnificat” (Luke 1:47-55)

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

*The incarnation is a dagger thrust into the fabric of human history.*

*~Edwyn Hoskyns, 20th Century*

**SECOND LESSON** Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

*How do any of us believe anything except the Holy Spirit overshadow us with the power of the Most High? How shall we ever believe anything at all, except that the Holy Spirit shall call us each to the Gospel?*

*~Russell Saltzman, 2011 A.D.*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He is com-ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

**GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*The devil himself came in the serpent, who, once he deceived our first parents, stripped mankind of the glory of immortality. Because death made its entrance through a woman, it was fitting that life return through a woman. The one, seduced by the devil through the serpent, brought man the taste of death. The other, instructed by God through the angel, produced for the world the Author of salvation. ~Bede the Venerable, 673-735 A.D.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



**NICENE CREED**

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for ☩ the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*Please be seated.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** (9:00 a.m.)

*During the singing of the hymn, children of preschool age through grade 4 may leave for Sunday School classes downstairs in the church hall. Please reclaim your children after the divine service.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” green hymnal #34

**SERMON**

“God Takes to Himself a Body”

*Please kneel.*

**PRAYERS**

P: Living in the hope of our Lord’s arrival, let us pray for the Church and all creation.

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.*

**OFFERING**

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the **Friendship Register**, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

**VOLUNTARY**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

... Lachenauer

*Please stand.*

Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down upon the heavens and the earth? He raises up the poor from the dust, and lifts up the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit on thrones and with the rulers of His people.  
~Psalm 113:5-8

**OFFERTORY** “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

**My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior’s praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.  
Now ev’ry land and ev’ry age this blessing shall proclaim—  
Great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.**

P: Let us pray . . . Gracious Father, with this bread and cup, we remember the life our Lord offered for us. Believing in the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ **And al - so with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ **We lift them to the Lord.**

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



☐ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

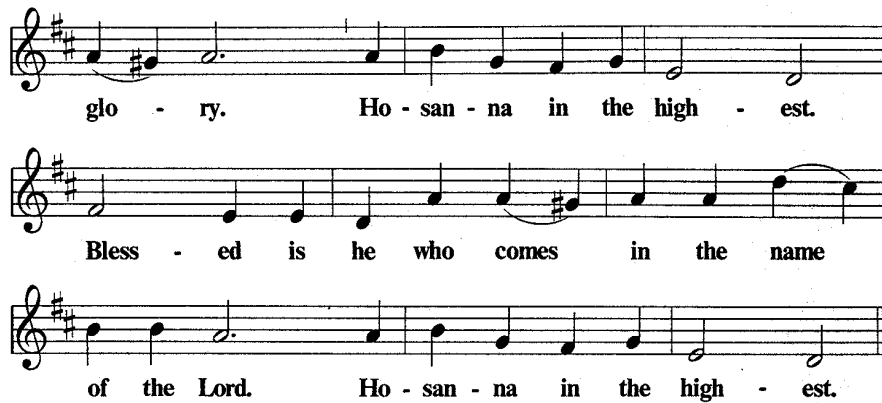
P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



☐ **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**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

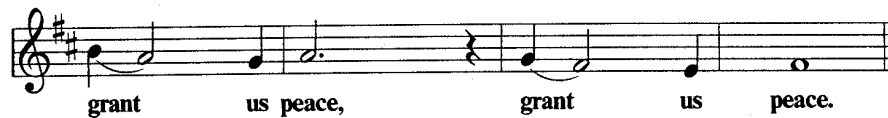
**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**



☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
 God, you take a-way the sin of the world;

*O Lord, we have heard the angel announce that you would be the Savior which you have confirmed for us through this supper of salvation. Give us now a joyful celebration of your birth. We bless you now and evermore. Amen.*  
 ~Eugene Lehrke, 1999 A.D.



*Please be seated.*

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

“What Feast of Love” blue hymnal #701

“Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn” blue hymnal #633

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE**

**O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee,  
 My heartfelt thanks forever be;  
 Who hast so lovingly bestowed  
 On me thy body and thy blood.**

**Break forth, my soul, in joy and say:  
 What wealth has come to me today,  
 What health of body, mind, and soul!  
 Christ dwells within me, makes me whole.**

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** Amen

**BENEDICTION**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



**SILENT PRAYER**

**POSTLUDE**

“People, Look East”

... Kerr

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

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*“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #13202-L.*

✠ **HOLY COMMUNION** ✠

**The Lord’s Supper** is celebrated at Zion in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

**Children** may receive the sacrament after completing first communion class. Zion holds this class at the end of the child’s 4<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**Distribution:** You may receive the Supper at either the altar rail or the chapel. To commune at the chapel, please proceed down the center aisle with the other communicants, and inform the usher at the front pew that you desire to commune at the chapel.

**Communion Cards:** Both members and visitors are asked to use a “Communion Registration” card. This enables our pastors to provide ministry and personal attention within the Zion family. When visitors include a church name and city on the card, we will mail it to that church.

**A Prayer  
As You Go**

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we, who have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, announced by an angel, may by His cross and Passion be brought to the glory of His resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Today's Participants:**

Presiding Pastor: Rev. Steven Gjerde

Preaching Pastor: Rev. Ted Gulhaugen

Guest Organist: Rodney Riese

Vocalist: Jessica Ray

Lector: (9:00) Grace Mueller

(11:00) Jim Rosenberg

Ushers: (9:00) Marty Dettmering; Rita Falk; Mark and Shelley Gehrke;

Grace Mueller

(11:00) Al Lippert; Herbert Zahrt

Radio Announcer: (9:00) John Rich

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Ruth Hochberger; Kathy LaPorte

(11:00) Dave Gisselman; Donna Nuernberg

Acolyte: (11:00) Chris Beam

Elder: (9:00) Grace Mueller

(11:00) Al Lippert

Altar Guild: Adele Blair; Kay Krall

## For You This Week

December 18—26, 2011

### Sharing God's Blessings

- The poinsettias at the lectern and pulpit are sponsored by Jan Gaugush and Sharon Albrecht in memory of their mother, Laura Post, who died one year ago, December 18, 2010.

### Bible Study in the Church Hall

- Sunday, 10:15 a.m., A Catechism on Human Life (No class on December 25)
- Tuesday, 9:00 a.m., 1 John 1:1
- Thursday, 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast; Ezra 5:1

**Wednesday Worship at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.:** "Fear: Joy in Fear"

### Worship Notes

The season of Advent ends at sundown on December 24, whereupon the Nativity begins. This reckons time according to the Scriptural calendar, in which the day begins at sundown, not sunrise, reflecting how both creation and the resurrection were preceded by darkness.

**Eve of the Nativity:** Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m.: Festival of Lessons and Carols

8:00 p.m.: Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio, 550AM

**The Nativity of Our Lord:** Sunday, December 25

9:00 a.m.: Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio, 550AM

*No 11 a.m. Service*

**New Year's Eve:** Saturday, December 31; 6:30 p.m. Holy Communion

**The Feast of Epiphany:** Thursday, January 5, at 6:30 p.m.

Holy Communion, beginning with a Festival Procession

The Epiphany celebrates the arrival of travelers from the east ("wise men") to worship the newborn King. It extends from sundown on January 5 to sundown on January 6 and bridges the Christmas and Epiphany seasons. What is a "Festival Procession"? Come, join the eastern travelers, and see . . .

### Portals of Prayer

Copies of the January through March 2012 Portals of Prayer are available for you to pick up in the narthex or on the table by the northwest reception area by the church office.

### Confirmation Class

... will not be held December 28.

### Sunday School Class

... will not be held December 25 and January 1.

### Zion's 2011 Christmas Decorating Fund

Please refer to the insert page for more information about how you can contribute to this yearly fund. Your response is due this Monday, December 19.

### Every Sunday

The Wausau Daily Herald may be purchased in the narthex or near the church office to benefit Zion youth.

**Zion  
Cookbooks  
and  
Snowflake  
Ornaments  
Cookbooks**  
cost \$10 each,  
or 2 cook-  
books for  
\$15.  
**Ornaments**  
cost \$10 each,  
or 2 orna-  
ments for  
\$15. The  
cookbooks  
can be pur-  
chased at the  
church office,  
or the Everest  
Inn Bed and  
Breakfast,  
601 McIndoe  
Street.  
**Christmas  
cards are  
sold out!**

**Zion Christmas Caroling**

The Zion Outreach Ministry team invites you to join us for an evening of Christmas caroling this Sunday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. We will meet in the reception area by Zion's church office . Everyone will receive a copy of a selection of familiar carols. We will carol at Primrose, Forest Park, Wausau Manor and the Zion neighborhood. The evening will finish with pizza in the church hall. We hope you and your family will take the time to join us. Share the Good News of Christmas with others.

**Zion's December Mission: Greater Wausau Christian Services**

Since 1981, GWCS has provided a pastoral presence and also various programs of support to residents of our community's institutions. There are 13 churches who are members and also support GWCS. Specifically, the efforts of GWCS has centered on local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the county jail. In addition to jail support and nursing homes, GWCS recently has put a greater emphasis on juvenile facilities and refurbishing the jail library. Your offering to missions is appreciated. Zion's mission goal for December is \$3,750.00.

**Worship and Winter Weather**

Scheduled worship services will always be held at Zion for those who are able to attend, even at times of inclement weather. Each individual or household is encouraged to make wise decisions regarding winter travel.

**Crèche in the Chapel Area**

The 19 figures in the crèche represent the first Christmas: The Holy Family, the Shepherds and the Wise Men, the Animals, and the Angel of the Lord. Hand-carved for us by craftsmen in the Black Forest of Oberammergau, Germany, the figures are made from lindenwood. They were purchased in New York City in 1964 by Rev. Dale Hansen, former Zion pastor (1961-1974). Mrs. August C. (Ottile) Mueller, a member of Zion, donated the money for the carvings as a gift to the children of the parish. Herbert Ladwig, a Zion parishioner, constructed the wooden stable in 1964.

**THIS WEEK AT ZION:**

**December 18—26, 2011**

**Sun. ADVENT 4**

- 9:00 am Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:15 am Bible Study
- 10:15 am Pastor Meets with 5th & 6th Grades
- 11:00 am Holy Communion
- 5:30 pm Christmas Caroling—meet in reception area by church office

**Tues. 9:00 am Adult Bible Study**

- 10:30 am Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm Child Care Team
- 7:00 pm Church Council

**Weds. 10:00 am Matins Service**

- 1:00 am Jail Ministry
- 6:30 pm Vespers Service
- 7:15 pm Catechism

**Thurs. 7:00 am Men’s Bible Class**

- 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

**Sat. CHRISTMAS EVE**

- 1:00 pm Wedding
- 5:00 pm Festival of Lessons and Carols
- 8:00 pm Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio

**Sun. CHRISTMAS DAY**

- 9:00 am Holy Communion, broadcast on WSAU Radio
- NO Sunday School
- NO Bible Study
- NO 11:00 am Service

**Mon. Church Office Closed**

**Share Zion**

If you have picked up one of Zion’s “outreach DVD’s”, please be sure to share it with some-one. If you have not yet picked up a DVD, they are available at the church entrances.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**December 10, 11 & 14**

**Saturday 5:15 pm: 56**

**Sunday:**

9:00 am 174

11:00 am 52

**Wednesday**

10:00 am 32

6:30 pm: 31

**Total: 345**

## **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**

Steven K. Gjerde, Senior Pastor  
Theodore B. Gulhaugen, Associate Pastor  
Virginia Giese, Kantor  
Pam Gabriel, Office Manager  
Anna Mae Zeinemann, Secretary  
Michael Renken, Head Custodian  
Roger Ormond, Custodian

**Learning Center: 715-845-7404**

Theresa Blake, Directress

**To contact us by email:**

[zion@dwave.net](mailto:zion@dwave.net)

**For more information,  
please visit our webpage:**

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

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**

Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM