



ZION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLARENCE CENTER

SPRING 2026

THE SOUNDS OF ZION

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From The Pastor's Desk

Siblings in Christ,

First, a word of thanks for all the generous gifts that have helped replenish our Zion Improvement and Repair Fund. Since you received my appeal letter at Christmas... Your gifts, large and small, have raised a total of **\$17,567.53**

These dollars are vital to help us care for our aging building and make sure that future generations will have a place to worship, sing, play, and grow in God's love! THANK YOU!!



The Season of Lent at Zion 2026

Mid-Week Prayer and Soup Suppers
"Praying for the Healing of the Nations"
Wednesdays at 6:00pm

From Ashes to Alleluia: Daily Scriptures



Daily Podcast
Scan the QR
To Listen

Daily Evening Prayer on Facebook Live
Daily at 8:00pm
Follow our page @zionclarencecenter

First Communion Class
Sundays from 10:30-11:30am
Starting March 8th

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK AT ZION

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9AM & 5PM
 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7PM
 (COMMUNITY DINNER THURSDAY 5:30PM)
 GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE 7PM
 SATURDAY EASTER VIGIL 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES
6:30, 9:00, AND 11:00 AM

As we enter the season of Lent and prepare for the great mystery of Easter... Remember that Lent began as a season when new believers prepared for baptism at Easter. They focused on what was essential. What was at the very center of the Christian life. So this Lent that is what we're doing, too.

We're returning to what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love of neighbor, care for the vulnerable, food for the hungry, and nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teaching is liberation, mercy, grace, and love. And that is good news for all of us.

Jesus' words are often softened or reshaped to fit our preferences. Following him leads to a deeper, wider life... but it isn't always comfortable. The word radical comes from the Latin radicalis, meaning "root." So if Jesus' ministry is radical, it's because it takes us back to the root. Back to who God created us to be. The question before us is this: can we become "good news" people in a world saturated with bad news? This season, I hope we remember that the good news really is good. It's joyful... like the best wine saved for last. It grows quietly like a mustard seed. It lingers like perfume poured out in love. It multiplies like bread shared with a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and music. It feels like mercy. The good news is not abstract. It is alive.

My prayer is that we would be rooted again in the expansive goodness of God. And that as we follow Jesus more closely, the good news would move through us—into a world that is hungry to see, hear, and taste something good.

Your Pastor.

Roger

WORSHIP at ZION! 9am and 5pm EVERY SUNDAY!

Winter Fun: S'mores



The Great Bake Off!

Faith Family Fun Night: Ice Skating



Zion Youth Rock Climbing

Virtual Confirmation Class



Winter Retreat



Valentine's Day Cookies



Zion youth supporting each other at their high school musicals.



Faith Formation

#theLifeofZion

Our lives as disciples of Christ.

Zion represents at the 2025 Turkey Trot!



Clarence Food Pantry



Seneca Street Mission



St. Luke's Mission of Mercy



First Communion is Maundy Thursday, April 2



All 3rd Graders (and older) at Zion are invited to attend First Communion instruction, culminating in their First Communion on Thursday evening, April 2. Classes are Sundays, during Faith Formation Hour, 10:30-11:30 am.

March 8
March 15
March 22

Families are invited to a potluck supper on Maundy Thursday, April 2, which is followed by First Communion during the Maundy Thursday worship service.

Contact Pastor Roger if you wish for your 3rd graders to participate or receive additional information about the program.

Watch for opportunities to assist with Lenten services, especially Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Volunteers are essential to our worship program-especially ushers, readers and worship assistants.

FAITH FORMATION IN ACTION...

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



Pastor Roger's Weekly Bible Study explores the scriptures and stories that shape our faith. The Bible is the one true source of our knowledge of God's will. As Lutherans we hold that wrestling with and deeply understanding God's Word is vital to our spiritual well being and life as Christian disciples.

Join Pastor Roger Mondays at 10am.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

A study through Revelation:

An EFIRD Bible Study Series by Mickey Efird

Join us for a 25-min. Video teaching/explanation followed by a discussion time led by Mark Sivec.

No special materials needed.

So if you're new to the faith, or a long-time Christian, if you've never studied the Bible, or are a seasoned veteran, all are welcome to attend.

Please join us on Sunday mornings in Room 3.



Zion's Coffee House Ministry engages the deeper and more challenging topics of religion, faith, and life. Join us every Third Wednesday of the month @7pm. (3/18, 4/15, 5/20)

Confirmation Corner

Class meets following 5 pm worship:

March 8	May 3
March 22	May 17
April 19	



Holy Week Helpers Needed

Please consider helping prepare for our Easter Festival. We need help for only 2 hours the morning of Holy Saturday with:

Cutting Flowers

Preparing Floral Cross

Setting up Chairs

Setting up for Easter Breakfast

Please consider signing up in the kiosk.

Many hands make light work!

YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

Zion Youth

March

- 3/3 Burrito Project at Zion
- 3/8 Seneca Street Mission
- 3/13 Youth Night Easter Games
- 3/20 Faith Family Fun Night Get Air
- 3/27-29 Zion Family Retreat LCLC
- 3/28 St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
- 3/29-4/5 Holy Week at Zion

April

- 4/11 Chiavetta's Preparations
- 4/12 Chiavetta's Fundraiser
- 4/12 Seneca Street Mission
- 4/18 Family Day: Rochester Museum of Play
- 4/25 St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
- Dates TBD-Volleyball Marathon

May

- 5/5 Burrito Project at Zion
- 5/8-9 Youth Overnight
- 5/10 Youth Sunday (Mother's Day)
- 5/10 Seneca Street Mission
- 5/15 Family Night: Bisons Game
- 5/16 LCLC Work Day
- 5//23 St. Luke's Mission of Mercy
- 5/30 Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy



Fundraising Events

4/12 10-2 Chiavetta's Chicken Sale

Support our ongoing bottle/can drive, too.

Thank you!

We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the next Youth Gathering. We look forward to living through Him in Minneapolis in 2027!

If you or someone you know are interested in attending or learning more, visit

<https://www.elca.church/gathering> and

contact

halley@zionclarencecenter.com.



Zion Family Retreat

March 27-29

Please join our Zion Family for a weekend of fun indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. The relaxed atmosphere is a perfect environment to experience God's word and creation with loved ones and friends.

For more details contact Will Baron.



Zion at LCLC

Zion Family Retreat: March 27-29

Classic & Mini-Camp: July 5-10

Confirmation Camp: July 5-10

Senior High Week: July 26-31

Come and see what LCLC is all about!

Registration and info at:

www.lclcenter.org



Faith Family Fun Night

Zion families gather monthly to enjoy a meal together play games or even go to Get Air!

Join us in the coming months for more faith family-friendly fun nights!

See the Mission Minutes and Worship Announcements as the dates get near.

March 20 Get Air

April 18 Rochester Museum of Play

May 15 Bisons Game



Summer 2026
LCLC Camp Theme

CHEERS
To
90
YEARS

This summer marks a huge milestone! Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center celebrates its **90th** summer at camp! For nine decades, generations of campers, families and staff have shared friendships, faith, laughter, and unforgettable moments along the lake. Throughout the summer, LCLC will honor this legacy with special touches and opportunities to celebrate their past, present and future.

Getting involved and caring for the needs of our community is easy!

Here is a list of non-perishable foods most needed by The Clarence Food Pantry:

Canned fruit , soup, tuna, canned chicken,
bags of rice/dried beans

Reusable shopping bags are always welcomed!

Please - no bulk food items, no opened or expired items and no soda. Thank you!

Zion's food pantry drop box is located in the front entrance hall.

Burrito Project

Be a part of a city-wide Lutheran church project! Zion takes our turn the **first Tuesday** of every other month (March 3, May 5) preparing and serving burritos to hungry people in downtown Buffalo. Watch the Mission Minutes for specific locations and sign-up at the Information kiosk.
Tuesdays, 4:30-8 pm.

SENECA STREET MISSION

Every Second Sunday at 1:30 p.m., Zion meets at the Seneca Street Methodist Mission Church to prepare and serve a hot meal to people in the Seneca Babcock neighborhood.

Zion's Hospitality Team

We need volunteers to serve as kitchen helpers at various events throughout the year. We also need donations of food and baked goods for funerals and receptions.

You will receive a text message/email when an event is planned. **There is no commitment to serve at every event!**

To join our team, contact the church office.

Zion's "Angel Food Ministry"

The Angel Food Ministry now has a small group of dedicated volunteers who **cook meals for those in need**. If you have a short term need for meals such as recovering from surgery or illness, death in your family, birth of a new baby etc. please contact us. We'll ask you what you need and then get the team of volunteers organized to develop a meal schedule that will work for all.

We can still use volunteers who would be willing to cook a meal from time to time for a family in need. The more volunteers we have, the more families we can serve.

Call the church office for more information.

Fellowship Hour Hosts

Would you and your family, or you and your Zion friends like to host a Coffee Hour? Hosting duties include set-up, clean-up and providing sweet/savory snacks. Sign-up for your Sunday on the table in the Gathering Area—then enjoy with your Zion friends!

Worship Helpers

Please consider serving the Zion Family through:

ALTAR CARE prepares the altar and sanctuary for worship and helps clean up after

A/V TEAM keeps our liturgy and music sounding and looking good

USHERS/GREETERS invites people into worship, creates a sense of comfort and safety, and helps with offering and communion.

LENTEN-HOLY WEEK HELPERS during worship. Sign up at Information kiosk.

Monthly Fellowship Opportunities



Our women's discussion group led by April Folckemer meets on the second Wednesday of the month in the Grove Coffee

House at 6:30pm. All women and their friends are welcome to share in a potluck dinner, devotions, and fellowship.

Spring Schedule: 4/8, 5/13

Join Pastor and the Men of Zion as we enjoy a delicious breakfast and explore topics related to Male Spirituality and Life. (We meet Saturdays at 8am!)

Spring Schedule

March 7	May 2
April 4	June 6

Topics change based on church and worldly events.



Zion Women's Retreat Friday, May 29- Sunday May 31, 2026

All women and friends of Zion are invited to a weekend at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center.

Enjoy nature and your relationship with God and have an awesome time with new and seasoned friends. All lodging and meals are in the Retreat Center. Registration forms available at Information kiosk. Any questions, contact the church office.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL



The new council term has begun!

As always, members of council are eager to hear your suggestions for Zion and to answer any questions you might have about our work.

Your 2026 Council Members:

President-Scott Williams
Vice President-Will Baron
Secretary-Karen Brandau
Treasurer-Mary Kelley

Sky Barto	Jen Kennedy
Sterling Calvin	John Kinney
Terry Elberson	Paul Parisi
Martin Ieda	Pam Pizarro

God's Work. Our Hands. March 15th

Our next God's Work. Our Hands. **March 15 will be ONE worship service at 10.** This special worship service is followed with fellowship, learning, food and fun. From 11:30-1, enjoy pizza, snacks, play games and hear from our ministry partner, Jim Owen, from the Clarence Food Pantry.

ZION BOOK CLUB

March 9@ 2:00pm
Book: *Wayward Girls*
by Susan Wiggs

An historical fiction novel about six teenage girls in 1968 sent to a Catholic reform school in Buffalo, NY, similar to the Magdalene Laundries, where they endure abuse and forced labor but form a powerful bond of friendship and survival.

Snack provided by last names M-Z.



Partners in Peace WNY:
A ministry
of
**Zion Lutheran Church
Clarence Center, NY**
has launched a podcast.

Partners in Peace WNY is a ministry of Zion Lutheran Church dedicated to building trust through meaningful conversation.

By gathering voices from different communities, faith traditions, and life experiences, the podcast invites listeners into dialogue that fosters empathy, curiosity, and mutual respect.

Our hope is simple: that understanding can grow where fear or misunderstanding once lived.

Our first episode is available on Apple Podcasts and Spotify!

...Coming July 2026...

"Build It Up" Summer Camp at Zion!

This seven week program highlights several key values like cooperation, integrity, responsibility, generosity, respect, perseverance and empathy in a fun and supportive summer camp environment.

Each new week, kids will explore these character traits through engaging activities, group discussions, leadership exercises and community service projects designed to build social skills and personal growth.

With two daily programs for elementary children entering grades K-5 in the Fall, there's plenty of opportunity to arrange your summer plans for a session that is convenient for you and appealing to your child.

The morning program runs from 8:30-11:30 and the afternoon program, 12 - 3. Children staying for the whole day are required to bring a bagged lunch. There is also **Morning Care from 7:30-8:30** and **Afternoon Care from 3:00-4:00** available outside the program camp hours.

July 6-August 21



Registration Fees:

Half Day Session: \$35 per day or \$175 full week.
Full Day Session: \$65 per day or \$325 per week

Weekly Discounted Rates, Extended Care, and Additional Discounts available.

Register by April 1 for 10% discount.
Space is limited! Sign-up today!

REGISTRATION & SIGN UP

Registration forms are available at the Information kiosk.

See Elaine with questions.

March 1
9 am Worship
5 pm Worship

March 2
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

March 3
4:30 pm Burrito Project

March 4
9:30 am MomCo
6 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Prayer

March 7
8 am Men's Breakfast

March 8
9 am Worship
10:30 am First Communion Lesson #1
1:30 pm Seneca Street Mission
4 pm Scouts Spaghetti Dinner
5 pm Worship

March 9
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

March 11
6 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Prayer

March 13
6 pm Youth Night: Easter Games

March 15
10 am Worship/God's Work. Our Hands.
10:30 First Communion Lesson #2

March 16
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

March 18
9:30 am MomCo
6 pm Lenten Soup Supper
7 pm Coffee House Ministry

March 20
6 pm Faith Family Fun Night

March 22
9 am Worship
10:30 First Communion Lesson #3
5 pm Worship/Confirmation

March 23
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours
6:30 pm Zion Council Meeting

March 25
6 pm Lenten Soup Supper & Prayer

March 27-29
Zion Family Retreat at LCLC

March 28
9 am St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

March 29
9 am Worship
10:30 am First Communion Class
5 pm Worship

April 2
7 pm Maundy Thursday

April 3
7 pm Good Friday/Tenebrae

April 4
8 am Men's Breakfast
7 pm Saturday Vigil/The Great Vigil

April 5
6:30 am Sunrise Service
9 am Easter Worship
11 am Easter Worship

April 6
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

April 8
6:30 pm WOW (Women's Ministry)

April 12
9 am Worship
10 am Chiavetta's Fundraiser
1:30 pm Seneca Street Mission
5 pm Worship

April 13
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

April 15
9:30 am MomCo
7 pm Coffee House Ministry

April 18
9 am Faith Family Fun Day

April 19
9 am Worship
10:30 am Spring Discipleship Class #1
5 pm Worship/Confirmation

April 20
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours
6:30 pm Zion Council Meeting

April 25
9 am St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

April 26
9 am Worship
10:30 am Spring Discipleship Class #2
5 pm Worship

May 2
8am Men's Breakfast

May 3
9 am Worship
10:30 am Spring Discipleship Class #3
5 pm Worship/Confirmation

May 4
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

May 5
4:30 pm Burrito Project at Zion

May 6
9:30 am MomCo

May 10
9 am Worship
1:30 pm Seneca Street Mission
5 pm Worship

May 11
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

May 13
6:30 pm WOW (Women's Ministry)

May 15
6 pm Faith Family Fun Night

May 16
9 am LCLC Work Day

May 17
9 am Worship/ Welcome New Disciples
10:30 am Final Day-Faith Formation
5 pm Worship/Confirmation

May 18
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours
6:30 pm Zion Council Meeting

May 20
9:30 am MomCo
7 pm Coffee House Ministry

May 23
9 am St. Luke's Mission of Mercy

May 24
9 am Worship
5 pm Worship

May 26
10 am Adult Bible Study
11 am Pastor Office Hours

May 30
9 am Buffalo Olmsted Parks

May 29-31
Zion Women's Retreat at LCLC



Our Congregational Meeting
June 14
following 9:00 am Worship



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*To serve God's
world
with love as we
follow the forgiving
& inclusive
teachings of Jesus
Christ.*

