



A Christmas Eve reminder!

Just a reminder that we are having two Christmas Eve worship services. One at 4:30 p.m., and another at 8 p.m. The services will be similar. Both will feature candlelight and Holy Communion. The 4:30 p.m. worship service will also be available via Facebook Live, but the 8 p.m. service will not be broadcast.

In Our Prayers This Week

It is so important that we remember one another in prayer. During this week, please focus your prayers on the following members who were picked randomly: Donald Boerschinger, Donna Dietrich, Wendy and George Ihler, Diane Lynch, Bradley Nelson, Leah Rose, Linda Walker.



Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given by Carol Johnson in thankfulness for all our blessings in 2021.

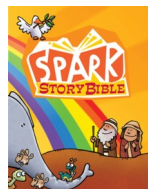
Please call Zion's office (715-735-7898) or send an email (Zion@newbc.rr.com) if you would like to sponsor the flowers for a specific Sunday. The cost is \$15.

What's Around the Corner?

- Dec. 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Spark Christmas program.
- Dec. 24: Nativity of our Lord, 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. indoor worship and via Facebook Live. With special music, candlelight and Holy Communion.
- Dec. 26: First Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Guest Pastor Nick Johannes.
- Jan. 2: Second Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music recorded by Jim Weissgerber.

SPARK Bible Story

The SPARK Story Bible reading for Sunday, December 19, is found on page 202; "Mary Visits Elizabeth" based on the reading from Luke 1:39-55.



January Newsletter

A friendly reminder that articles and information for publication in the January Newsletter are due to Zion's office by Tuesday, December 21st.
Thank you for your assistance!

Questions of the Day for Sunday, December 26, Luke 2:41-52

The Question of the Day helps prepare you for next Sunday's focus text. These questions are posted on Zion's website each day offering an opportunity for discussion. (Just click in the title of the post and you will be taken to the discussion window.) Try it out for a week and see how Jesus will use your time of pondering upon God's word to deepen your faith and enrich your worship experience.

Monday: Jesus' parents were not wealthy. What kind of sacrifices did they need to make in order to attend the festival of Passover in Jerusalem every year, especially with Nazareth being over 65 miles away?

Tuesday: Why did Jesus' parents not notice that he wasn't with them?

Wednesday: How did his parents feel when they discovered he was not with them?

Thursday: Why did they not go first to the temple? What other places would they have spent three days looking in?

Friday: How did his parents feel when they received this answer from Jesus?

Saturday: Why was this event something that Mary would treasure in her heart?



Birthday Blessings to You

December 20: Alice Larson, Dawn Vincent

December 21: Carrie Heitmeier, Lori Kirt

December 22: Presley Schroeder

December 26: Jacob Marzahl

Thank you to our Worship Assistants

Thank you to Karen Dill for being our lector on Sunday and to Dave Johnson for serving as our usher.

Ushers Needed



In Need of Ushers

As you all know, our lecturers and ushers are volunteers. We need an usher the 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If you can volunteer, please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017.

Tithes & Offerings Dec. 8 — 14

General Fund: \$3259 Christmas: \$25

Piano Fund: \$500 Capital Improvement Fund: \$40

Advent: \$191 Poinsettias: \$20



Thank you so very much for your continued giving and generosity. Every little bit helps. You are making a difference! Again, thank you!

Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays this Week

December 21: Niklas Williams

December 22: Lori Kirt

December 23: David Despins

December 25: Aaron Trusty, Jerzee Trusty

December 26: Hope Goes, Philip Strohl



Volunteer Worship Opportunities!



If you or someone you know would like to volunteer as a lector or as an usher please follow the link [2021 Worship Assistant Opportunities](#) & fill in the necessary information. The readings for the particular Sunday will be shared with you days in advance and a copy will be printed for you to use that particular Sunday. Pastor Keith will update you of the ushering duties prior to worship. Thank you for your consideration!

Stay Up to Date with Zion

Are you on Zion's email list? If not, would you like to be? To be included on our email list, please send an email to: zion@newbc.rr.com requesting to be added to our emailing list. The emails consist of weekly announcements, important reminders, volunteer opportunities and the monthly newsletter (just to name a few)!

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Winter Events **Winter Wonderland Retreat**

FLLC is holding a Winter Wonderland Retreat January 14-16, 2022 (with an optional extension through Monday, January 17 for an additional fee). This event is open to everyone: families, youth groups and individuals!

Come and enjoy a hot sauna, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and all sorts of winter fun. The weekend will include opportunities to hear Scripture and reflect, enjoy quality time with family and friends, and play about in the winter wonderland of Fortune Lake.

People may visit their [website for more information and to register](#). January 7 at 5 p.m. is the deadline to register.

Disconnect to Reconnect: Junior/Senior High Retreat

Technology is everywhere these days, there's just no way around it. Fortune Lake invites youth currently in grades 7-12 to take a break from screens and join us at camp for an unplugged retreat.

This one night retreat will be held February 4-5 and will feature Bible Studies, games, and camp style activities designed to encourage attendees to disconnect from their electronics and reconnect with the people around them.

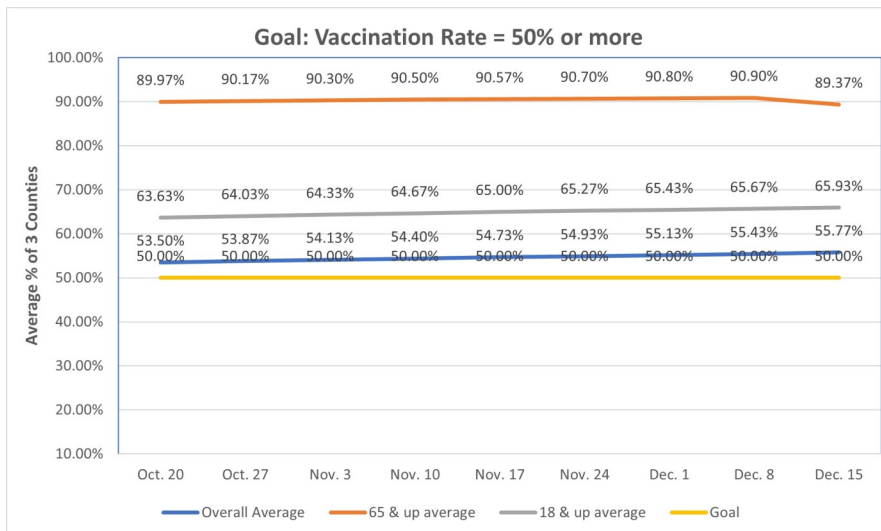
Adult chaperones are encouraged to attend. This helps build relationships with your youth outside of your church walls. Please contact the FLLC office for more information at 906-214-2267. The registration deadline January 28 at by 5 p.m. People may [register online](#) as well.

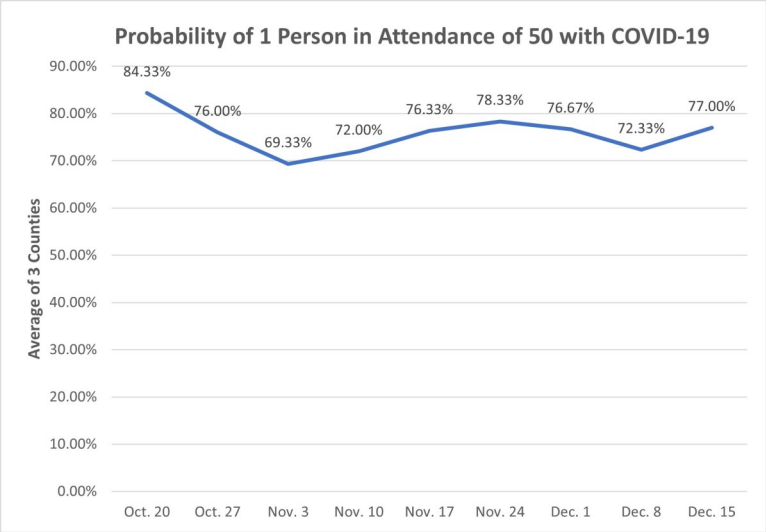
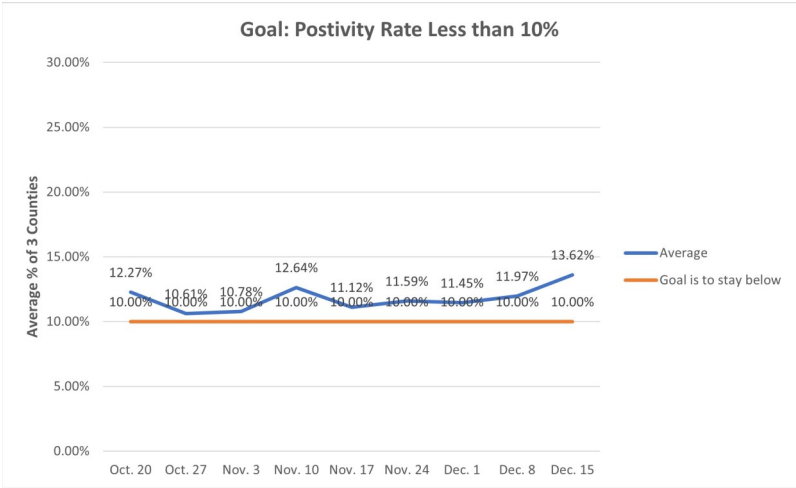
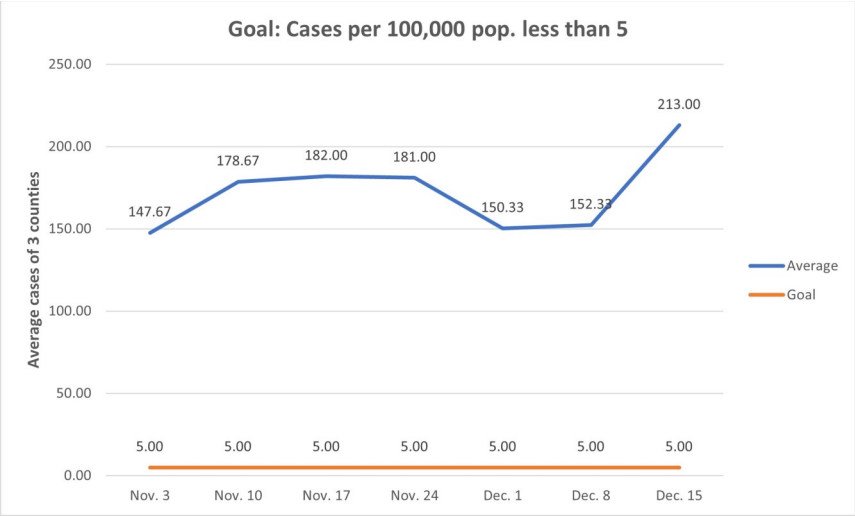
Indoor in-person worship: December 19, 2021

Indoor services will be held every other Sunday. Outdoor services will alternate with these indoor services. (If an outdoor service is cancelled because of weather, indoor worship will be available, first-come, first-served.) *At this time, Zion is no longer requiring you to reserve a pew for the in-person indoor worship. However, it is subject to change* and is dependent upon the positive test rate, cases per 100,000 and the probability rate. Social distancing practices will continue to be used (no passing of the peace or offering plate, limited & soft singing).

Please visit Zion's website to read the [Protocols for In-Person Indoor Worship](#) - all adults in attendance are required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth (the exception being Pastor who is leading worship). As always, if you have questions, please call Zion's office at: 715-735-7898 or send an email to: Zion@newbc.rr.com.

At this time, we acknowledge that there is some risk involved. Even though our local total population is 55.77% vaccinated which surpasses our safer goal of 50%; our 65+ age group is over our safe goal at 89.37%. A strange note on the 65+ age group, there was a decrease in the number of people 65 and older vaccinated in Menominee County. The group was almost entirely vaccinated at 99.9% for a few months. However, on Dec. 15, the number went down to 95%. An email was sent to the CDC asking for an explanation and a response is expected within 10 business days. The 18 & up vaccinated average is currently at 65.93%. We are also watching the test positivity rate. Our area's positivity rate is 13.62%, which is over our goal and persists above it. Cases per 100,000 remain high. Another measurement is a percentage of probability where, in a gathering of 50 people, how likely is it that someone with COVID-19 would be present. Right now, there is a 77% chance of this happening. We feel that every-one's knowledge of the risk is important. We are publishing graphs in the weekly announcements that represent the average numbers of the following Counties: Oconto, Marinette and Menominee, MI. We are watching the trend of each graph with what are considered to be safer and safe goals in mind. The data used in the graphs are collected from the [CDC website](#) and from a [website tool](#) provided to us from our Northern Great Lakes Synod. Please make the time to familiarize yourself with the graphs/information. Should you have concerns, questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Zion's office.







Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response

On the night of Dec. 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed, including a candle factory in Mayfield, Ky., where first responders are still searching for survivors. More than 330,000 people are without electricity across multiple states. The full extent of the damage is expected to become clear in the coming days.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "U.S. tornadoes" will be used entirely (100%) to assist those affected by tornadoes until the response is complete. Together, we can support those who are on the long road to recovery.

People may visit the [ELCA website](#) to make a donation virtually or find out other ways to give.





NORTHLAND LUTHERAN

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, INC

831 Pine Beach Rd

Marinette, WI 54143

715-732-0155

www.northlandlutheranwi.com

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Your congregation is a partner with Northland in delivering care and services to seniors in our area. Together, we have been maintaining this ministry for 104 years! We are reaching out to you now because we have a need to fill some Board Member seats. We have immediate needs on the

Northland Terrace Estates Board	1 member
Northland Village Board	1 member
Northland Home Health Board	2 members
Luther Home and Luther Manor Board	1 member
Northland Lutheran Retirement Community, Inc.	1 member
Interfaith Manor/New Hope Heights Board	2 members
Northland Foundation Board	1 member

The commitment is for 5 meetings per year. Each meeting is about 1- 1.5 hours in length.

Please consider being a member of one of these boards. Your participation will help ensure that Northland will be able to deliver good care and services to our valuable seniors. Contact me at 715-732-5656 (direct line) or via email at lancd@northlandlutheran.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darrell Lancour
NHA/CEO

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A member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America