

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church
2714 James Street
Marinette, WI 54143
715-735-7898
zion@newbc.rr.com

NEWS

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

February 2022



**The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship**

#Pray

#Worship

#Study

#Invite

#Encourage

#Give

#Serve

Our Discipleship Together

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10-11

Remember Charlie the Tuna commercials for Star-Kist? He wanted so badly to be deemed worthy of Star-Kist tuna. Oh, how disappointed he was time and again when the hook came down carrying the sign, "Sorry Charlie." He didn't make the grade. He was deemed unworthy.

I've done a fair amount of fishing and I haven't yet brought a fish into the boat that was glad to be there. The fight is what makes the fishing fun. I've caught a few fish that have made me wonder if I was bringing in a log rather than a fish, and it wasn't much fun . . . until they got into the boat. Then it got real exciting trying to keep the treble hooks out of my body as they attempted to get their revenge.

So, it makes one wonder about this promise Jesus makes to his brand-new disciples that they will be fishing for and catching people. Do these people want to be fished for? Do they want to be caught? And why were these early disciples so willing to leave everything behind to do this kind of fishing?

Of course, all this hinges on the fact that it is Jesus making the offer. What kind of fishing does Jesus do? His goal is to be a blessing. He wants nothing more than to lovingly care for all people. So, Jesus' fishing is a lot like showing up at people's doors in order to give away a million dollars. This is the "fishing" Jesus does. Like giving a newlywed couple 180 gallons of really good wine, "the best wine," in order to save the party and take care of their wine needs long into the future. This is Jesus fishing for people. Of course, it includes the teaching and the healing, and the

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casting out of demons. Ultimately it includes the cross. Like Charlie the Tuna, people want to be caught by Jesus because Jesus will never drop the sign, "Sorry Charlie."

This is why the first disciples left everything to follow after Jesus. They had been richly blessed when Jesus caught them. It was a joy being in the net of Jesus because they came in contact with the joy, the peace and the love of heaven. Their hearts had never been so blessed. When Jesus called them it was easy for them to imagine how fun it would be to share those same blessings, to fish like Jesus fished for them.

This is the foundation of the mission work we do in the world when we fish for people as those original disciples did; as Jesus did; as Jesus DOES through us. We go forth to be the blessing that has blessed us, to be the love that has loved us, to share the joy that has filled our hearts. We know that life brings way too many "Sorry Charlie" signs into the lives of people, declaring them to be unworthy or unfit. Our fishing is one of welcome and inclusion, inspiring the world to see the blessed gift of being caught up in the net of God's kingdom through Christ.

Pastor Keith



From Bishop Finegan



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,
I had the honor of installing Pastor Catherine Ford at Faith Lutheran in Three Lakes, WI on Sunday, January 9. Not only was this a long-awaited event for Faith because they had been without a pastor for more than two years, but the event needed to be rescheduled because of weather.

So it was with great joy that the congregation gathered, both online and a few in person, masked and spread out in the pews, to celebrate this new partnership of pastor and congregation.

In the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we schedule our installations of new pastors in the afternoon so that neighboring clergy can also attend, offering their support and a visible reminder that the church is more than one congregation, so that as a whole synod we rejoice together. The color of the day is always red in acknowledgement of the work of the Spirit that forged the new partnership and brought us all to this moment of celebration. And just after the Installation Rite is completed, I present the new pastor to the congregation. When the applause has faded, I invite the pastoral leaders who are present to introduce themselves and offer a word of greeting.

At the installation of Pastor Ford, her mentor, Pastor Kari Vadis, was the first to speak. And into this moment still glowing warmly with good wishes and fresh from enthusiastic applause, Pastor Vadis recounts what was said at her installation. To the newly installed Pastor Ford, she says, "Here is your congregation." And as everyone smiles, she adds, "They will disappoint you. They will let you down."

I confess this is not what I was expecting. I wondered where she was going with this. It was like a bucket of cold water being dumped on the good feels and warm happiness of the moment. But then, she went on. "Yes, they will disappoint you. But love them anyway. Forgive them, anyway." And then she added as

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From Bishop Finegan

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she addressed the congregation, “Here is your pastor. She will let you down. She will disappoint you. Love her anyway. Forgive her anyway.”

I do not know who said this to Pastor Kari at her installation, but these wise words continue to resonate.

The relationship of pastoral leader to congregation, and congregation to pastoral leader, indeed any relationship that we are in, cannot move forward without forgiveness and love. And in our current times, this has never been more true than now.

We have all suffered disappointments. Between adaptations and adjustments, pandemic protocols and sickness, loss of traditions and loss of loved ones, we are weary. And the reality is, we are not done with this yet.

I believe congregations are well practiced now at making decisions together. You know your context, your vaccination rate, and the rate of compliance when it comes to wearing a mask. If I can provide any more clarity to what you already know, I offer this:

- Continue, if possible, with an online worship option.
- Stay home if you feel sick, even if you only have a cold.
- Get vaccinated, if possible. While it will not prevent a person from getting COVID-19, it will diminish the possibility of hospitalization and death.
- Decide together if in-person worship is advisable, given vaccination rates in the congregation and the burden on the local healthcare system.
- Continue to love and forgive each other, even as we are weary and disappointed.

As the year of our Lord 2022 continues, we find our strength from the presence of Christ in each other. God gives us what we need for the challenges we face now, and the challenges ahead. And together we move forward, one step at a time.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

THANK YOU!

Zion received the following thank you note from a grateful recipient.

NEWCAP:

Zion Lutheran Church, It is so kind of you to think of us at NEWCAP with your donation of \$70 for our food pantry. It is very much appreciated in our service of helping others in our community who are in crisis. Blessings to your congregation.

Your friends at NEWCAP,
Pattie and Bev

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp:

Greetings from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!

Thank you for your generous support of outdoor ministry. For 90 years people have gathered in authentic community on the shores of Fortune Lake to be refreshed, to have new experiences, and to grow in faith. God has blessed us! Thank you for allowing these meaningful moments to continue through your contribution.

This past year has taught us a lot. We are ever grateful for our beautiful facility and the opportunities it provides to be in God's creation Music and art. they are balm for weary souls. Prayer and worship: they center our own lives while keeping us mindful of others. More than anything, we value relationships with God and with one another! The true magic of Fortune Lake happens when we gather together.

Thank you! Blessings to you all in 2022.

Grace and Peace,
Amanda Rasner

Congregation Council Highlights



COUNCIL UPDATES

The congregational council met via zoom on January 11th, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Pastor Keith's report included the attendance for December and for 2021, both of which have shown a decrease. The Christmas Eve attendance was also lower than in previous years of in-person worship. Pastor

listed some of his chosen vacation dates which are January 24-28, January 31-February 6, July 22-29, and November 14-20. He will be working on Kiwanis Kapers scheduled for April 1-3 this year. And he is also in the process of moving his dad into Shore Manor apartments in Marinette. The financial report shows a general fund decrease of \$7368.00 for the year. Pledges for 2022 are down as reported by the Stewardship and Generosity Committee. The Property Committee has not heard anything further regarding the bell repair, and the dishwasher/plumbing repair work. They also reported that a member of the congregation has offered to pay for lighting inside of the shed; they will look into what this would require and make a determination at that time. Social Ministry will be collecting food for their Souper Bowl of Caring food collection. The World Hunger drive will take place during Lent beginning Feb 27th with the theme being bees and honey this year. Worshipping during this ongoing pandemic will continue as it has been with safety protocols in place. Pastor will look into midweek Lenten online offerings. The council also set the date for the annual meeting for January 30th following worship, to be held in person. (There will be a zoom option for viewing but voting via zoom will not be an option.) A Constitutional Amendment regarding council size and the recommended budget for 2022 will be a part of the approved Annual Meeting Agenda for Sunday, January 30th, 2022.

***Join us in lifting up our brothers and sisters in
Christ, in prayer as we remember their Baptism***

February 1: Debra Harding, Sarah Marzahl and Johanna Zuehls

February 6: Daniel Zuehls

February 7: Randall Schroeder

February 8: Jordan Lueskow

February 9: Barbara Baumgarten

February 11: Shelby Atwood

February 12: Donald Boerschinger,
Bethany Emler and Presley Schroeder

February 15: Sydney Lund and Travis Lund

February 16: Pamela Lund

February 17: Shawn Limberg

February 19: Kathy Heimbuch

February 20: Keith Despins and Colleen Madden

February 22: Anna Marzahl and MacKenzie Somers

February 25: Justin Williams

February 26: Joyce Johnson

February 28: Fay Bromund



**Community Camp Scholarship Letter and
Application**

Do you know a student in our community entering grades 2-12 (in the Fall of 2022) and would like to attend camp at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp? If so, the scholarship letter and application (*for non-members of Zion*) will be available in the Social Hall and here on our website. You are encouraged to have a conversation with the student about camp at FLLC and ask them to consider applying for a scholarship. Students are to have the completed application (and essay) to Zion by Monday, March 14th. Scholarship winners will be announced on Sunday, March 20th during our Facebook live worship.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Events

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will be holding the following events:

March 14, and May 9: Senior Days, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presentations and topics vary. Follow the camp on Facebook for updates and details.

February 11-13: "Nurturing Wholeness," young adults ages 18-26 (must be high school grads).

February 18-20: Young adult retreat with an emphasis on self care for people ages 18-26

February 25-26: "Building on Faith," youth retreat for kids in grades 3-6

April 22-23: "Disconnect to Reconnect," a retreat for people in grades 7-12.

Each retreat includes meals, programming, opportunities to play both indoors and outdoors, time to reconnect with friends and family, and key faith formation for all ages. For more information and registration details, visit FLLC's [website](#).

Summer camp for 2022 is also open for registration! Below is shown the camp schedule for the summer.

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP			
	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 12-17	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 19-24	Intergenerational Week (all ages) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	See website \$425
Week 3	June 26-July 1	High School Week (Grades 9-12)	\$425
Week 4	July 5-7	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$205
	July 5-8	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) Mash Ups (Grades 4-8) LIT Option #1 (Grades 10-12)	\$305 No charge
Week 5	July 10-15	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #2 Option (Grades 10-12)	\$425 No charge
Week 6	July 17-22	Art Camp (Grades 3-8) LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-8) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) LIT #3 Option (Grades 10-12)	\$455 \$425 \$425 No charge
Week 7	July 24-29	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Onsite Day Camp M-Th (grades K-5)	See website \$110
Week 8	July 31-Aug 6	Musical Theatre Week (All ages - see website.)	See website
Week 9	Aug 7-10	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) Villager (Grades 3-4)	\$305
		Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #4 Option (Grades 10-12)	\$305 No charge

REGISTRATION & DISCOUNTS

Register by March 1 for a FREE t-shirt, April 1 for a \$15-\$25 discount.
 See website for all discounts, eligibility, and program information.

Register online & find forms at FORTUNELAKE.ORG

More info at FortuneLake.org

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

The goal of Zion's Stewardship and Generosity Committee is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

God the Holy Spirit is full of surprises, and never fails to astound me. A few weeks ago, I had yet another epiphany while sitting in a pew at Zion and listening to Pastor Keith's sermon. I honestly don't understand how I didn't make this connection before, but I confess ashamedly I didn't. As I listened to Pastor, it occurred to me that what he was saying about Jesus and Jesus' relationship to God, and how that relationship came to be applied to me as well. This was my epiphany. Let me explain.

There is a huge gap in what we know about Jesus' life. He was born, then at age 12 his parents thought him lost but found him in the Temple, and still much later John the Baptist baptized him. It is at this point, where Jesus' ordinary life turned extraordinary. It is at this very point in his life, at his Baptism, when God tells Jesus that he is his son. It is at this point in Jesus' life when God begins guiding Jesus' life every step of the way from his Baptism until the time of his death on the cross. It is at this pivotal point where God tells Jesus that he is loved because of who he is and not what he has done or is about to do. He is loved simply because he is God's son.

Something just clicked! I saw the light! My epiphany happened! I understood, even before Pastor spoke the words, that the very same thing that happened to Jesus at his Baptism happened to me – happened to you. We probably don't remember our Baptism, but God does. Baptism is our pivotal point just as it was for Jesus. Like Jesus, we were declared children of God, the Holy Spirit took up residence within us, Heaven was open to us, and the love of God dwelt and still dwells within us each day. Yes, because God the Holy Spirit is within us right now, he lives every

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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moment of our life with us, the good and bad, he is completely one with us. That Holy Spirit is supporting us and surrounding us with God's comfort.

Heaven is right here now because we have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Pastor said, "The next life will be very different than this one. God isn't at a distance with us until we die. No, he is right here with us.... At our Baptism God said he is well pleased with us simply because of 'who' we are. We are children of God, and he loves us....All that we do in life is connected to Heaven and the love of God."

In God's Peace and grace,
Karen Sylvester

Donate to Zion _____

Did you know that you are able to contribute to Zion via the website? Simply to go: <http://www.zionlutheran-marquette.org> and in the far right margin of the page is a nice purple rectangle button that reads: Donate. Click it and follow the steps to donate. If you have questions, please call Karen Houdek. She'll help you through each step of the way. You may also click on the "Shop Now" button on Zion's Facebook page!

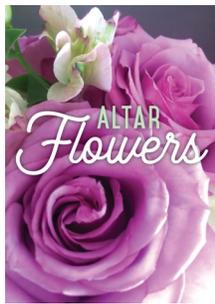


February Eternal Light _____

The Eternal Light for the month of February is sponsored by Laura Peonsky and is in honor of Richard Peonsky.

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, sign ups for distribution of Holy Communion and the monthly newsletter (just to name a few)!



Altar Flower Sponsorships

Zion has altar flower sponsorships available. The cost of sponsoring the flowers for one week is \$15.00. Dates are reserved on a first come first serve basis. To reserve a date, please call or email Zion's office at 715-732-7898 or Zion@newbc.rr.com.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Each year thousands of churches, schools, youth groups, local businesses, NFL teams and passionate individuals have participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring leading up to Super Bowl Sunday. Across the U.S. donations of money and food are collected for food pantries and shelters. You can help again this year by bringing food items to re-



stock the pantry shelves. Ready-to-eat soup is great! Condensed soup is great! Boxed meals, microwaveable meals, pasta, beans, canned meat, fish, veg & fruit. You know the stuff. Bring it on Sundays and place it upfront by the altar. We'll collect right up to Super Bowl Sunday, February 13th. Thank you for sharing! To learn more about this national event, people can visit tacklehunger.org.

February Birthdays

February 1: Wendy Ihler

February 2: Randall Schroeder

February 3: Michelle LaFond

February 6: Heidi Beland

February 8: Tom Dudek

February 9: Donald Boerschinger and Jared Harding

February 10: Sue Baxter and Janet Cook

February 11: Erik Breuer

February 12: Troy Cording, Joyce Johnson, LeeAnn Martin
and Katie Somers

February 13: Emily Limberg

February 14: Brycen Buenning

February 16: Thomas Hayward and Eric Powers

February 18: Maxwell Albert, Gerald Poquette and Fyfe Thill

February 19: Bill Tipple

February 21: Beckham Betts

February 22: Nick Kehoe and Baylee Zuraski

February 26: Barbara Clarke and Rachel Rosenfeldt

February 27: Scott Gressel

February 28: Pete Cramer



STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2021-2022

A Life of Accompaniment

In 1982, a month after their wedding, Mark and Linda Jacobson moved to Kenya. Three years later they accepted a call with the Lutheran Church in America, a predecessor church of the ELCA, to serve as community health workers with the Arusha Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Little did they know that they would become the ELCA's longest-serving active mission personnel, with 38 years of service.

"Mark and Linda Jacobson are the embodiment of a faithful servant of Christ," said Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA executive director for Service and Justice. "Their whole life has been a life of accompaniment. "Mission Support, which funds ELCA mission personnel, makes the Jacobsons' work possible.

In the beginning, Mark, a doctor, supported Maasai community health workers in six small primary-care clinics. He quickly concluded that "prevention could only prevent a certain amount of disease; people still needed a place to go when they were acutely ill. "So, with the ELCT, he developed one of the clinics into Selian Lutheran Hospital, which now provides care in orthopedics, fistula, hospice and other areas.

Then he and his team opened the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, creating training programs for medical officers and nurses and opening a rehabilitation center for children recovering from surgery. Mark said he's proud of the work he and his colleagues have done together and loves seeing his colleagues' skillful leadership of the medical center since he stepped down from his leadership role there.

After working briefly in one of the clinics and then in hospital labs, Linda focused on coordinating volunteers, offering hospitality and arranging housing for visiting medical students and

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STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-2021

interns. But her most substantial accomplishment may be the support group Widow's Might, launched to counter Tanzania's practice of disinheriting widows. When a Tanzanian woman's husband dies, their property goes not to her but to her in-laws. Not every widow's in-laws claim the inheritance, but Evelyn (last name withheld) and her children stood to lose their house.

"I'm not going to fight my family," Linda remembers her saying. **"I'm just going to work. God will help me."** Together, Evelyn and Linda launched Widow's Might, whose members support their families by weaving, sewing, embroidering and beading.

Remembering her life in Tanzania, Linda is most struck by her neighbors' faith. "If things get really bad [here], we pray," she said. "My neighbors start by asking us what God wants to do. ... [I] am learning from this tremendous faith.

© 2021-2022 ELCA ELCA.org <https://elca.org/Resources/Stories-of-Faith-in-Action>

Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the church-wide organization. To learn more, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://elca.org/SOFIA).



Worship Assistant Opportunities

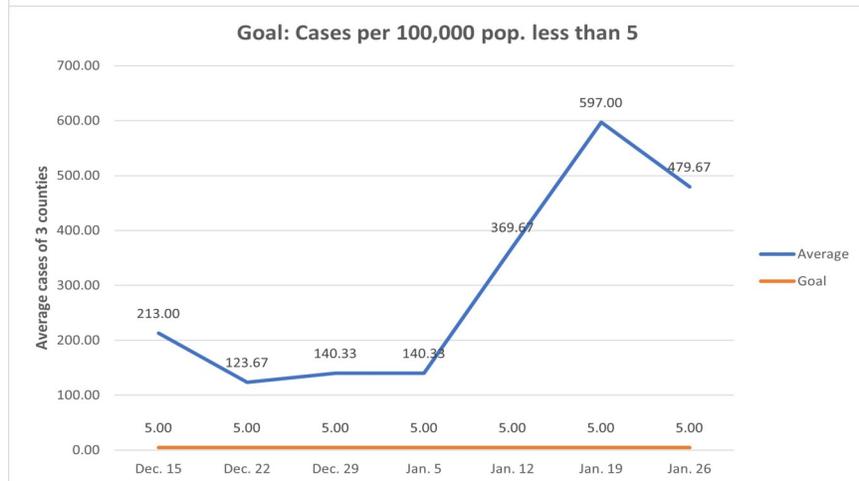
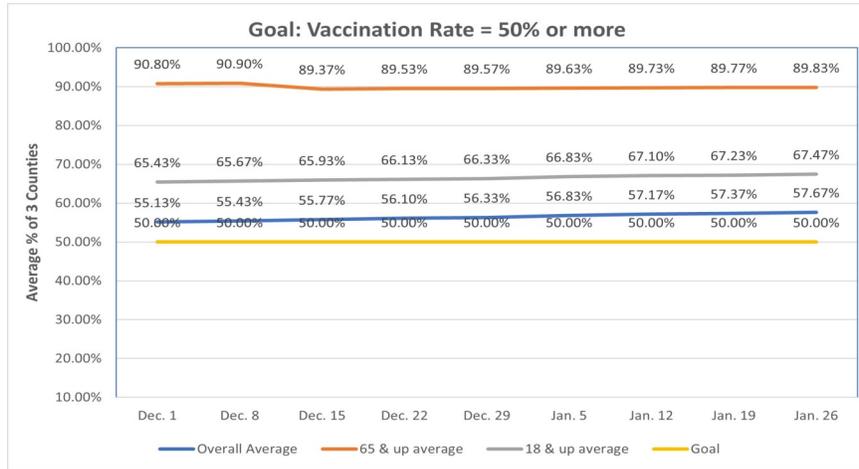
If you or someone you know would like to volunteer as a lector or as an usher please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017. The readings for the particular Sunday will be shared with you days in advance and a copy will be printed for you to use that particular Sunday. Pastor Keith will update you of the ushering duties prior to worship as needed. Thank you for your consideration!

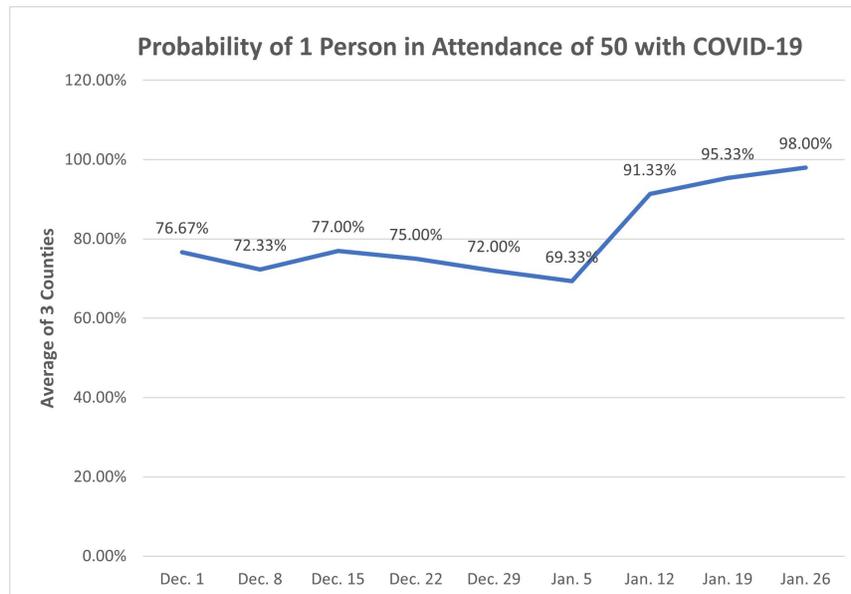
Indoor in-person worship

Indoor services are held every Sunday. ***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 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).

At this time, we acknowledge that there is some risk involved. Even though as of January 26, our local total population is 57.67% vaccinated which surpasses our safer goal of 50%, our 65+ age group is over our safe goal at 89.83%. The 18 & up vaccinated average is currently at 67.47%. We are also watching the test positivity rate. Our area's positivity rate is 25.73%, which has recently risen significantly. Cases per 100,000 has also risen. Another measurement is a percentage of probability where, in a random gathering of 50 people, how likely is it that someone with COVID-19 would be present. Right now, there is a 98% chance of this happening. 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 is 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. As always, if you have questions, please call Zion's office at: 715-735-7898 or send an email to: Zion@newbc.rr.com.

Here are the charts showing the various COVID-19 data on which the Congregation Council is keeping a close eye.





What's Around the Corner?

Zion is buzzing with worship preparations! Below is a brief outline of what is "around the corner".

- Feb. 6: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music recorded by the Zion Choir. Pastor Nick Johannes will lead Worship.
- Feb. 13: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary worship.
- Feb. 20: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany. 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Feb. 27: Transfiguration of Our Lord / Last Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- March 2: Ash Wednesday, indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Time of worship to be announced. Special music recorded by the Zion Choir.

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Going Where Jesus Leads**



**Northern Great Lakes Synod
Bishop Katherine Finegan
1029 N. 3rd St. A
Marquette, Michigan 49855
www.nglsnod.org
Equipping the Saints for Ministry**



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
www.elca.org
God's work. Our hands.**