

# WE ARE ZION



**Zion Lutheran Church**

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## June 2022



**The Seven  
Marks of  
Discipleship**

***#Pray***

***#Worship***

***#Study***

***#Invite***

***#Encourage***

***#Give***

***#Serve***

## **Moving Forward**

Last Sunday (May 22), we were blessed to celebrate Pastor Kolstad's faithful and inspired ministry of 23+ years at Zion and Karen's partnership in and support of that ministry. With tears of joy and gratitude we marked the completion of that ministry in worship and at a dinner in their honor. In my first sermon as your Interim Pastor (May 1), I referred to something Pastor Jim Duerling said in his sermon at Zion during Lent, that "the fragrance of [Pastor Keith's] ministry will linger here with you for a while." I then added, "I am here to take in the aroma of Pastor Keith's fragrant ministry with you, to reflect on and celebrate that ministry as you assess and evaluate your own ministry that he so effectively directed and encouraged."

Now we move forward to a new era and a new adventure in the life of Zion Lutheran Church. In his final Pastor's report for January's Annual Congregational Meeting, Pastor Keith wrote the following: "First and foremost, we are Easter people! We know that there is life after death. We know that out of the ashes comes new life. We experienced this as a congregation many times over the past 146 years. We need only to recall that Zion survived the pandemic of 1918, the Depression, and the events of 1965 when Zion's pastor died suddenly and there was an explosion during the construction of the worship area. Just as Christ was with us in those wilderness experiences as a congregation, so too will Christ walk with us in this one, so that 'As God's children, we go where Jesus leads'." Pastor Keith was referring to the church's journey through the COVID-19 pandemic and its lasting effects. In a different context, his words seem to apply now to the time of transition we are now in, to the hopes and dreams, as well as the concerns, uncertainties and anxieties that are common to such a time as this.

I would like to refer to one more thing Pastor Keith stated in his annual report. Referring to the Seven Marks of Discipleship that have guided and will continue guide Zion's mission and ministry, he wrote the following: "Through these marks we are called to deeply listen to God speaking within our gathering and within our community. As we listen and engage in these practices, we will discover innovations that we will be invited to try. More importantly, we will be humbled to witness the presence of Christ in our midst. We will receive direction, as the church has over the centuries, and our hope will grow. Yes, there is much loss to grieve, but there is also new life to anticipate." Again, this was written prior to Pastor Keith's decision to retire at this time, but his words speak so appropriately to our journey forward as you prepare to call your next pastor. I will walk with you on that journey, leading worship, attending to your pastoral needs, and visioning with you under the Holy Spirit's guidance as you assess your gifts and assets and define your future.

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee has wisely decided to apply the Seven Marks of Discipleship to a year-long stewardship emphasis. This has already begun with a focus on PRAYER in May. That focus will shift to WORSHIP in June and into July. This is a good way to move forward and rededicate ourselves to God's calling in baptism to be his servant people. May our journey together in God's name be a blessed one as we recognize the presence of the risen and living Christ in our midst and respond faithfully to the empowering guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Doug Schoen

## From Bishop Finegan

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Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,



As I write this, it is the Monday after our 34<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly. We are in the second year of a three-year theme focused on the passage from I Corinthians, “And now Faith, Hope, and Love Abide, these three.” We know the greatest of these is love, but this year we are focusing on Faith.

Martin Luther describes faith as a “living, busy, active, mighty thing.” As Lutherans, we teach that faith is a gift. And yet, faith is dynamic and moving, less a package to be opened and more a relationship to be nurtured - less a possession, and more a commitment of trust. In these last couple of pandemic years when we have had to work harder to stay connected, I think we understand more clearly the part that we play in building and nurturing our faith community. Synod Assembly is a perfect example of what we do to build our faith community and celebrate a wider view of church. I hope you felt connected as you gathered in person as a voting member, participated in the week of online workshops, or watched the business meeting livestream.

I believe for the most part, things went smoothly. The sound was a little uneven from conference to conference, but people were willing to repeat their question or comment until we all understood.

One thing that I do not believe was understood fully was the reasoning and purpose of Resolution #7. In the fall of 2021, I was presented with the requirement to amend our constitution by our Churchwide Secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, who was being proactive in ensuring the 60/40 balance of lay and clergy voting members at synod assemblies in order to forestall any disputes as to the legality of a given outcome in future elections. We are one of a few synods who still have the provision in our constitution that all retired rostered leaders in attendance at Synod Assembly receive both voice and vote.

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### From Bishop Finegan

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Concern over lay and clergy balance has not been an issue in our synod before as so many pastors who have retired have not stayed geographically in our synod. Many, after retirement, have stayed on our NGLS roster, but they have moved far away and never expected to attend Synod Assembly.

In the last few years, this has changed, and more of our retired pastors have chosen to stay local and may well plan to attend Synod Assembly. Granted, we are not the Florida/ Bahamas Synod, where I am guessing retired clergy outnumber active clergy and lay voting members combined, but the challenge to defend the constitutional requirement of at least 60% lay voting membership at Synod Assembly is the same.

Other synods have chosen different methods. Some ensure the balance by saying that:

- 1.) No retired pastors are given voting privileges unless they are serving a congregation as an interim.
- 2.) The retired pastors meet and agree who among them will represent their vote. The amount of voting members is a certain percentage of the total retired clergy population, often 10%.

After my conversation with Sue Rothmeyer, I sent an email to all our retired pastors presenting them with the issue. I invited them to a Zoom meeting and welcomed their input. If they could not attend the Zoom, I asked that they send me their thoughts via email. I welcomed their ideas as to how best to constitutionally ensure the required balance.

Currently we have, or soon will have, 61 retired clergy on our roster, 35 of which might reasonably be expected to attend Synod Assembly. If each congregation sends their full number of lay people, we would see about 170 lay people at Synod Assembly, which would allow 110 clergy to be voting members. Assuming that 79 congregations will send a clergyperson (knowing that some have a License Lay Minister), this allows for roughly 31-32 retired clergy to be voting members.

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## From Bishop Finegan

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If, like some synods, we went with 10% of retired clergy, that would only afford 6 retired clergy the privilege of voting. Wanting to maximize the number of retired clergy who could vote, the proposal was made to wait until registration closed, have a hard number of lay voting members and active clergy, and from that, calculate the remaining balance of 40% of clergy and how many retired clergy could then vote.

I am very glad that more retired pastors are choosing to stay on the territory of the NGLS. They offer invaluable support and wisdom to the church, helping the work of ministry in countless ways even after retirement. I continue to be deeply grateful for their partnership and willingness to help. Having to limit, even a few, from the privilege of voting at Synod Assembly is a reality that this resolution seeks to address as fairly as possible, maximizing the voting participation of retired clergy who attend Synod Assembly. What can you do?

- Maximize the amount of lay people your congregation sends to Synod Assembly and pay attention to gender balance.
- Rotate Synod Assembly participation among your members, giving more people the joy and witness of being church together.
- Next year we will be in person. Please include travel expense, hotel expense, and registration cost in your congregational budget for next year. Registration will be more like it was pre-COVIC, about \$180 per person.
- As always, the registration fee for retired clergy is waived.

Synod Assembly is energizing, joyful, informative, and Spirit blessed. We are church together, and never more so than when we worship and partner in ministry together.

This year was good, but I look forward to us all being together, in person, next year.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

### **With Deepest Thanks**

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Karen and I feel so deeply blessed by the outpouring of gratitude present at my “Final Sunday” on May 22. Wow! All the work that was put into making it such a wonderful and memorable occasion. Many times, I was quite moved, and it felt surreal. Thank you for the outpouring of well-wishes, the gifts, the cards, the guests, the cookies, the cake, the table decorations, the meal, the music, the booklet, the memories shared, and all the hugs. Thank you for your patience with a worship service that ran longer than normal. (We had some ground to cover!) Karen and I were stunned by the gift given by Zion and from so many of you toward a future trip to the Holy Land which totaled \$8,195. We are so looking forward to that trip!! We also thank you for the beautiful stained glass and the way it recognizes the significant developments in our ministry together. And again, that booklet! What a surprise it was for me to see so much of my life in print like that. Just wow!

I really felt blessed and honored to be the pastor of such a wonderful, thoughtful, and caring congregation. Our almost 24 years together flew by and the primary reason it flew by is due to the fact that it was such a pleasure working with you. People tease that in Lutheran churches, the mantra is: “We never did that way before,” and it signals an unwillingness to change. You might have said the mantra, but usually it was done with excitement about the possibilities that might come with change. Thank you for that. The growing edge of our ministry together kept things fresh and interesting. I pray that you will continue embracing that attitude. It will be necessary for your faithful ministry in the years to come and will make it a blessing to those who follow me.

Again, please know just how deeply grateful we are for the rich blessings we experienced working together all these years and for the wonderful conclusion expressed on my “Final Sunday.” It really does a heart good! Of course, you will always be in our prayers.

Pastor Keith

## **Congregation Council Highlights**

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The congregational council met May 10th, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Pastors Report: April attendance up from 2021, The blood drive held at Zion May 13th was successful. Pastor Doug reported a very good first 10 days! Very enjoyable; he met with many committee heads. He noted a need for a computer for the pastoral office. The monies will come out of the Professional Expense account. April Financial Reports General Fund increase of \$2,601; Capital Improvement fund increase of \$2,264. Council proposed a gift to Pastor Keith in the amount of \$4500.00 (equivalent to 4 weeks of un-used vacation) from the General Fund.

### **Committee Reports:**

Property: Bell, Boiler — Proposals will be sent out for a vote at congregational meeting May 22, 2022.

Social Ministry: World Hunger Drive wrapped up on Easter Sunday

Youth Ministry: Bethel Lutheran Church in Menominee has reached out and would like to resume VBS this year.

### **New Business**

Lawn Care Services: Approval of Shallow Property Services for lawn care.

NO Mow May: Tabled until 2023.

Kitchen Refrigerator: Michelle will get a few prices to present at June council meeting.

The boiler resolution was discussed.

The bell resolution was discussed.

### **May 22 Congregational Meeting**

Called to order by Troy Cording at 9:33 a.m.

Tellers Dave Johnson and Dean Schoen noted that there were 82 voting members present.

Boiler Resolution: With payment revision at \$1105.00 per month, loan not to exceed \$60,000.00, motion carried unanimously

Bell Resolution: payment of \$460.00 per month, not to exceed \$25,000.00, motion carried with 58 votes in favor.

The next council meeting will be June 14th at 6:30 p.m.

### **Zion's Part in the Synod Assembly**

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On May 14, Zion was the host site for a gathering of delegates from the Menominee Valley Conference for the annual Synod Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. With our fine screen, media technology and Zoom capability, Zion served as an excellent location for the assembly gathering. While we watched Bishop Finegan and others preside from the chancel at Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette, the delegates here were able to participate in discussion and vote on site. Dave & Carol Johnson served as Zion's voting delegates. Dave also served as a teller while Carol, along with Karen Kolstad, registered delegates as they arrived. Dave & Carol also set up a table for coffee and refreshments. Pastor Kolstad, along with Troy Cording and Brad Nelson, made sure the media technology was in working order. Zion's office manager, Marissa Tharp, was present throughout the day to oversee the remote voting technology. Thank you to these folks for all they did to make the event flow smoothly. Early in the day's business, Pastor Keith was recognized for this retirement and given a certificate honoring his ministry. With Karen at his side, Pastor Keith delivered an impassioned address to the assembly. More information about the Synod Assembly may be read on pages 11 and 12 of this newsletter.

### **Salvation Army Seeks Volunteers**

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The Salvation Army is getting closer to re-opening its Youth Center for the summer. With that in mind I'm looking for some volunteers for the summer.

The Youth Center will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you can commit to one day a week or a couple hours during the week that would be greatly appreciated.

If people are interested, they may call Philip Hale at 715-735-7448 or email him at [philip.hale@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:philip.hale@usc.salvationarmy.org)

### **Fall Prevention and Home Safety Seminar**

Gather with friends Saturday, June 4th from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to learn about how balance is created by the body, and how to harness your potential to have great balance and stay safe at home!

Dr. Andrea Lyon, PT, DPT, will be presenting information that will be fun, interesting, and useful for those who want to ensure the best chance of remaining safely in their home for as long as possible. This is a free seminar and lunch will be provided.

People may call Lyon Physical Therapy at 906-309-0158 to reserve a spot!

### **Hospitalization Notifications**

If you or a member of your family should become a patient at Aurora Medical Center Bay Area and would like a visit from Pastor Schoen, please state that you are a member of Zion when



you check in. Pastor Schoen will then be notified by the hospital chaplain. You may also call the church office to notify us, request a visit, or simply to ask for prayers. If you are hospitalized in Green Bay or elsewhere, please notify the church office directly.

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

June 1: Roger DeGroot

June 2: Macy Bodam and Jacob Marzahl

June 4: Lisa Knopik

June 6: Jodi Minzlaff and Sharon Powilaite

June 13: Kirsten Andrist and Adam Thill

June 16: Robert Lund

June 18: Bruce Oleson

June 20: Diana Harper

June 21: Joan Nowakowski

June 22: Norah Derby

June 28: Nathan Klein

June 29: Brittany Kehoe





### Synod Assembly Overview

The Synod Assembly for 2022 took place Saturday, May 14. Here is a brief overview:

- A great week of Prayfaithfully devotions that leaned into our theme of Faith.
- A wonderful slate of pre-assembly workshops. Thank you, presenters! Keep an eye on the [website](#) as workshop recordings are posted.
- Our Opening Worship Friday night featured participants from across the Synod. It is still available for viewing on our [YouTube channel](#).
- Saturday's business included the following:
  1. An engaging Bible Study by Luther Seminary's Dr. David Fredrickson on the Christ hymn in Philippians. Still available for viewing [here](#). (Please note that this links to the full assembly meeting, if you are interested in the bible study specifically, it starts at 1:50:00).
  2. Reports from the Bishop, Pastor Jim Duehring, Synod Council VP Chuck Thomas, Synod Missioner Deacon Lori Ward, and Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator Stefanie Ehle.
  3. We heard from our ministry partner Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. Watch their "You're Invited" video [here](#).
  4. We received the report from our ELCA representative, Mr. Vance Blackfox.
  5. We elected a new Synod Secretary, Nancy Heykes.
  6. We thanked Dr. Larry Pagel for his 12 years as Synod Treasurer.
  7. We appointed a new Synod Treasurer, Rev. Terry Frankenstein.

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## Synod Assembly Overview ---

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8. We affirmed the election of new Synod Council members
9. We watched video greetings from LIRS, LOPPW, ELCA, and Portico
10. We celebrated ordination anniversaries and received greetings from Rev. David Van Kley (40 years) and Rev. Dean Marin (55 years).
11. We acknowledged pastors who retired this past year and received greetings from Rev. Keith Kolstad and Rev. Lisa Ubelohde.
12. We celebrated the ministry anniversaries of Good Shepherd, Peshtigo; United, L'Anse; Trinity, Trout Creek; and Our Savior's, Marinette.
13. World Hunger chair, Cory Dellenbach gave his report and awarded Big Bears to Calvary, Minocqua and United, L'Anse, and a Bread Basket award to Sarah Kimball of Emanuel, Skandia.
14. We passed a resolution to constitutionally ensure the balance of at least 60% lay voting membership at future Synod Assemblies.
15. We passed a resolution to continue financial support for the work of our Regional Gift Planner, Cynthia Halverson.

I hope you enjoyed meeting with your conferences in person. I look forward to all of us being together at next year's Assembly. Save the dates May 18 – 20, 2023 at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

## Baptism Recognition ---

Baptism recognition will start again in July! The first Sunday of the month, we will recognize the people baptized at Zion for that month.

## Eastern Europe Crisis Response

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On Feb. 24, Russian forces invaded Ukraine, launching land, sea and air attacks.

Airports are now shut, and few railway lines are operational. Civilians fleeing the violence are heading toward Ukraine's western districts and such neighboring countries as Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary. Hundreds of thousands of people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries. There are major humanitarian concerns for both internally displaced people and refugees. Many of these Ukrainians fleeing their homes need shelter, basic necessities and pastoral care.

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

The ELCA presiding bishop issued a pastoral message on Ukraine and it can be found [here](#).

We are collecting monetary donations for Ukraine. People may also donate online through the [ELCA](#) or through [Lutheran World Relief](#).



## Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Events

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will be holding the following events:

**Leaders-in-Training (LIT):** Grades 10-12, Week 1: June 19-24, Week 2: July 5-8, July 10-15, or July 17-22

**High School Week:** Grades 9-12, June 26-July 1

**Youth Week:** Grades 3-8, July 10-15 or August 7-10

(Villager, Vagabond, Venturer) **Mini Week:** Grades 1-8, July 5-8, Mighty Ones (T-Th), Minis (also offered Aug 7-10), Mash Up

**Specialty Camps:** Grades 3-8, July 17-22 (Art Camp, LEGO Camp)

**Jr. High Night Owls:** Grades 6-8, July 17-22

**On-site Day Camp:** Grades K-5, July 24-29

**Intergenerational Week:** All ages, June 19-24 or July 24-29

**Victory Camp:** 18+ with disabilities, June 12-17

**Musical Theater Week:** All ages w/ parents, Grades 7+ without an adult, July 31-August 6

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](http://www.fortunelake.org).

| 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)<br>LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)   | See website<br>\$425                |
| Week 3                              | June 26-July 1 | High School Week (Grades 9-12)  | \$425                               |
|                                     | July 5-7       | Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)  | \$205                               |
| Week 4                              | July 5-8       | Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)   Mash Ups (Grades 4-8)<br>LIT Option #1 (Grades 10-12)  | \$305<br>No charge                  |
| Week 5                              | July 10-15     | Villager (Grades 3-4)   Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   Venturer (Grades 7-8)<br>LIT #2 Option (Grades 10-12)   | \$425<br>No charge                  |
| Week 6                              | July 17-22     | Art Camp (Grades 3-8)   LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-8)<br>Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8)<br>LIT #3 Option (Grades 10-12)   | \$455   \$425<br>\$425<br>No charge |
| Week 7                              | July 24-29     | Intergenerational Week (all ages)<br>Onsite Day Camp M-Th (grades K-5)  | See website<br>\$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)<br>Vagabond (Grades 5-6)   Venturer (Grades 7-8)<br>LIT #4 Option (Grades 10-12)   | \$305<br>\$305<br>No charge         |
| <b>REGISTRATION &amp; DISCOUNTS</b> |                | Register by March 1 for a FREE t-shirt, April 1 for a \$15-\$25 discount.<br>See website for all discounts, eligibility, and program information.<br><b>Register online &amp; find forms at FORTUNELAKE.ORG</b> |                                     |

More info at [FortuneLake.org](http://FortuneLake.org)



Zion received the following thank you notes from grateful recipients.

**The DAR Boys and Girls Club:**

Thank you so much for your continued support. We are grateful for you believing in our mission and our youth, If anyone from your church would like a tour, feel free to contact us. Thanks again got making Futures brighter for our community youth.

Sincerely,  
Koreen Gardon, CEO

**Karen Kolstad**

Dear Zion Family,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent for my father's funeral on May 10. It meant the world to Keith and I and the rest of our family to know that you were surrounding us with your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Blessings to all of you!

**Lutheran World Relief:**

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your generous \$1,410.00 emergency gift to help the people of Ukraine, who are enduring unimaginable hardship and suffering. Please continue to lift them up in your prayers. Thank you for your generous \$1,410.00 emergency gift to help the people of Ukraine, who are enduring unimaginable hardship and suffering. Please continue to lift them up in your prayers.

Your gift is being put to use immediately to deliver emergency

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food, shelter, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, medicines and other critically needed items for children and their families who are trying to survive the horrifying fighting ... or are being forced to flee their homeland with a few meager belongings.

Your willingness to share your blessings during a global crisis like this is a godsend to your neighbors in Ukraine who are hurting. They can feel your love and are deeply grateful to know you are keeping them in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have any questions regarding your donation, please feel free to reach out to us anytime at 800 597 5972 or via email at [lwr@lwr.org](mailto:lwr@lwr.org). You'll also find inspiring stories of the life-changing work you make possible at [lwr.org](http://lwr.org). And if you haven't already, be sure to subscribe to our e newsletter to receive bi-weekly updates on the impact of your generosity.

Thank you again, and God bless you!

Warm Regards,  
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, President and CEO

**NEWCAP:**

Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your donation of \$25 for our Marinette NEWCAP Food Pantry. We want you to know how much we appreciated your congregations donations over the years. Blessings to all of you for helping us help those in crisis,

Your Friends at NEWCAP,  
Pattie and Bev

# THANK YOU!

## **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.

Throughout the pandemic, you have increasingly shown us how important Fortune Lake is to you. Thank you.

Grace and Peace,  
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director



## **June Eternal Light**

The Eternal Light for the month of June is sponsored by Nora Plym and is in honor of Skip Plym.



## **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](mailto:Zion@newbc.rr.com).

## **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.*

This month's article will focus on another of Zion's Seven Marks of Discipleship – Worship. Zion's Vision Statement for "Worship" is - We envision a congregation that worships enthusiastically and is so hungry to praise and worship God that at least half of its baptized members are present for worship on a weekly basis. Worship is defined as reverence, homage or honor paid to God – ceremonies or services expressing such reverence, public worship.

Worshipping God can take place anywhere, but this article will focus on liturgical worship and private worship. Liturgical worship is what takes place at Zion every Sunday. We follow a liturgical setting with prayers and readings, a sermon, Holy Communion, and the singing of hymns.

For many years in my adulthood, I occasionally attended worship, and even though I was at worship, I can truthfully say I wasn't worshipping. I was thinking about anything and everything. Listening to the sermon, or trying to listen, my mind wandered. I got out of worship as much as I put into it – chiefly nothing. Many times, I wondered why I even took the time to attend; so little did it mean to me.

Then in 1995, I had a life-altering medical diagnosis. I was seriously ill. So ill I was told I would likely die within two years. It was exactly at that moment in time when hearing the news, that God suddenly became real for me. I could feel his love and care raining down on me and filling me up. I felt peace. I felt contentment. I wasn't afraid. It was then, that I started to think about worshipping God – something I knew I had not been doing.

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## **The Stewardship and Generosity Corner**\_\_\_\_\_

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I wanted and needed God in my life just like I needed food and water. I don't think I ever knew who God was before.

As soon as I possibly could after surgery, I had my husband bring me to worship at Zion. Everything about worship felt different, but it wasn't different – I was different! It was now something I wanted to do not something I felt I should do. I started to truly listen especially to the sermons. I started to participate. My heart was open to the experience, and my faith, that tiny little mustard seed planted years before at my Baptism, started to slowly grow. There are still times when I struggle to focus during worship. I find my mind wandering. I think we all do at one time or another. The wonderful thing is God understands – after all, he made us.

Private worship is informal and often takes place at home. For me, private worship is something I always do when I walk. I call this form of worship praying. It's me having a conversation with God. I think and ponder, I talk and ask, I listen, and most times God is ready and willing to answer, especially when I call on his Holy Spirit. Don't roll your eyes, but yes, he speaks to me, just not with a thunderous voice that speaks loudly and deeply as in the Bible. It's more like a drop of knowledge which comes to me, something I wouldn't have thought of myself. I like to think God speaks to everyone, but it probably doesn't look the same for everybody.

Over the years, I've had occasion to struggle. There have been some really tough times in my life. There have been a few more health scares and surgeries. I've had difficulties with my dad and his wife, and unfortunately one of my beloved sisters. I've been hurt by unkind remarks made by people in my own family and even my church family. I've prayed and worshiped asking to forgive and to be forgiven for what I've done to others. With God's help forgiveness has come, but I still struggle with the hurt. I

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## The Stewardship and Generosity Corner\_\_\_\_\_

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wish I could forget but I can't seem to. I assume there is a lesson to be learned and I continue to pray to uncover it, to put it in the past, to truly relax and forgive. I know eventually God will send his Holy Spirit with another thought or idea to fix this problem. He's done it in the past and it is truly a beautiful thing.

Here's what I discovered way back in 1995. To truly connect and worship God bring your real self, warts and all, not some version of who people feel you are or who you might want to be. Reach out to God in worship and prayers - he is everywhere you are. God wants to be close to all of us.

Worship is the purest expression of appreciation to God for the breath in our lungs. God lives to hear us worship.

In God's peace, grace and love  
Karen Sylvester

## Congratulations Graduates\_\_\_\_\_

Please join us in congratulating Zion's 2022 graduates! Congratulations to:

Tyler Lund who graduated from the University of Whitewater Magna Cum Laude with a double major in general management and finance. He was hired 7 months before graduation by Johnsonville in Sheboygan Falls. He made the Deans List every semester!

We will be honoring our High School graduates on Sunday, June 5th during our indoor worship service.

Congratulations to: Sydney Lund, Travis Lund, Alexis Roth and Gage Schutt

Congratulations to you all! THE SKY IS THE LIMIT & THE STARS ARE YOURS FOR THE TAKING!

If you have a graduate in your family who is not listed here, please contact Zion's office to let us know!

## June Birthdays

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June 4: Matthew Swenson

June 6: Brittany Renne  
and Delanie Schroeder

June 9: Victoria Johnson

June 10: Emma Williams

June 14: Daniel Lemire

June 15: John Bowdin, Robert Lund and Patricia Rondeau

June 18: Keaton Emler and Richard Francour

June 19: Kaitie Sodergren

June 20: Allyson Knopik

June 22: Gloria Breuer and Greg Peanosky

June 23: Rosalie Settersten

June 24: Drew Andrist

June 26: Donald Schutt



## NEWCAP to close Food Pantry

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NEWCAP has been proud to assist households with their nutritional needs through our food pantry for over 20 years. As of June 1, they will no longer be providing pantry services in Marinette. They want to thank the many people in the community who have helped to keep the shelves stocked over the years.

Below are pantry resources available in Marinette County:

**Pastor Fred's Food Pantry:** Mailing PO Box 117 N15088 Cleveland St., Amberg, WI 54102

**Peshtigo Food Pantry:** Mailing: P.O. Box 53 240 McCagg St., Peshtigo, WI 54157

**The Salvation Army:** 80 W. Russell St., Marinette, WI 54143

**St. Vincent DePaul:** 1619 Main St., Marinette, WI 54143

NEWCAP's Marinette location will continue to offer services through its Community Health Clinic. Office hours will remain 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Wednesday; and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday. If you are interested in learning more about these and other programs, please contact their office at 800-242-7334. You can also, review their programs at their website at [www.newcap.org](http://www.newcap.org).

### **Accurate contact information?**

Have you or a family member recently had a change of address or phone number? Have you or a family member moved? Not sure if Zion has accurate information on file (mailing address, phone number, email)? Zion is striving to have current information on file. Please call or email Zion's office to verify what is on file (715-735-7898) or [zion@newbc.rr.com](mailto:zion@newbc.rr.com) ).

Thank you for your assistance!

### **Stewardship Initiative**

Starting June 5th, the Stewardship and Generosity Committee will continue the yearlong "Stepping in Faith" stewardship initiative with another Mark of Discipleship – WORSHIP. We will be handing out the Steps in Faith Through Worship suggestion list through July 24th when this particular emphasis will end. If you have not already received the 'Next Step' magnet one will be available at worship. If you are unable to attend worship and would like the magnet and WORSHIP list, please reach out and ask one of our committee members. We pray that your Worship life will grow by using one or several of the suggestions on the list. In addition, please choose to use the following prayer to begin this week's steps in your faith journey through Worship. Dear God, life is whizzing by so quickly and I don't know how to slow it down. I've no time to sit, be quiet, and spend time with you. I want to thank you for giving me this life which I cherish, but I need your help to do so. I ask you dear Lord, to help me slow down - to spend 60 minutes at Sunday worship – to breath and be refreshed. I trust you Lord to make this happen in my life. In your holy name I pray. Amen.

Blessings!

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee

John Radloff 715.732.0161

Bonnie Schoen 715-923-8182

Karen Sylvester 715-587-4206

### What's Around the Corner? ---

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

- June 5: Day of Pentecost, 9:30 a.m., indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Graduation Sunday. Coffee Hour to follow worship
- June 12: The Holy Trinity/First Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m., indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- June 19: Second Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m., indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Father's Day.
- June 26: Third Sunday of Pentecost, 9:30 a.m., indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary worship.

### Worship Assistant Opportunities ---

If you'd like to volunteer to serve as lector or 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. We are also looking for people to set up and take down communion and be communion assistants with Pastor Doug. Directions have been posted in the sacristy. Thank you for your consideration!

### 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!

## STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2022-2023

### Space to Abide

Where are all the young adults in the ELCA?

Daniel Kirshbaum, program director for ELCA Young Adult Ministry, hears this question often.

“They’re here.” he said. “We just need to figure out a way to meet them where they’re at.”

Meeting young adults where they’re at is a goal of Abide, a small-group ministry for ELCA members between 18 and 35. The program started in early 2020, shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Hoping to connect isolated young people from across the country, Kirshbaum, former Young Adult Ministry program director Savanna Sullivan, and ELCA young adult leaders decided to facilitate a series of weekly, virtual small groups.

In the first Abide season, more than 400 participants met in over 50 virtual small groups for nine weeks. In the following two

*Continued...*



## STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2022-2023

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...continued

seasons, over 500 more participants joined. There have been groups of teachers, nurses, Young Adults in Global Mission alumni, LGBTQIA+ people, and people of color. Weekly video and discussion topics so far have included “Abide in Hope,” “Abide in Grief” and “Abide in Failure.” Mission Support makes this program possible by funding Kirshbaum’s leadership position.

Claire Embril, social media coordinator for Abide, served as a group leader for the spring and fall seasons in 2020. “No matter what the topic was, I always left my group better than I came into it,” she said, adding that even though her group members had different political views they were ready to listen to and support each other through challenging experiences.

One challenge in particular? **“As a Black woman, watching the intense, violent racism [over the summer of 2020] was extremely difficult,”** Embrill said. **“Having an Abide group to process that with was really important.”**

This past summer, Abide partnered with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp to organize a backpacking trip. Embril dreams of organizing a national Abide gathering. For now, she’s glad that Abide is giving young adults the space to just be together. “Abide shows that young people really want to participate in the church,” she said. “When space is made, they come.”

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*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).*

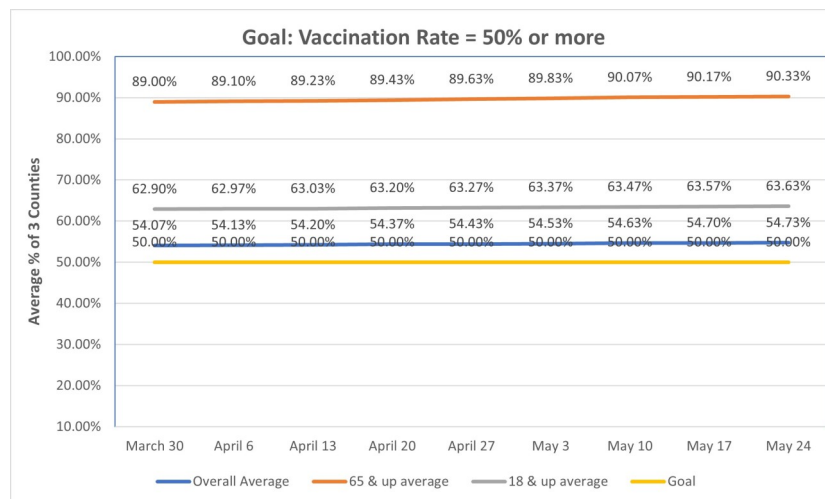
### Sew For Missions Update

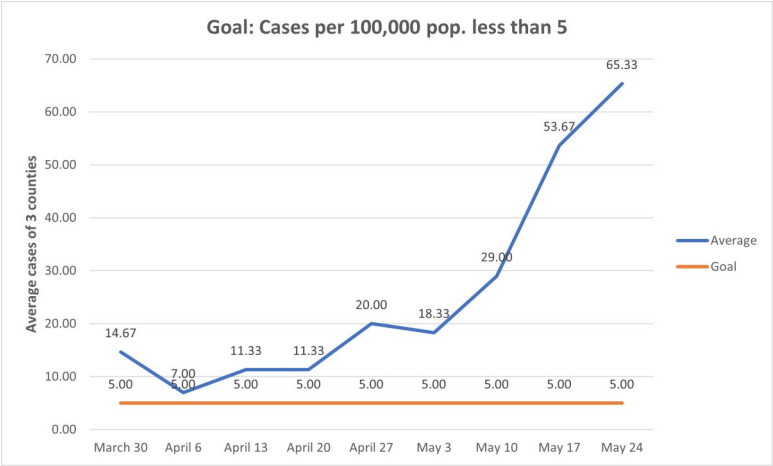
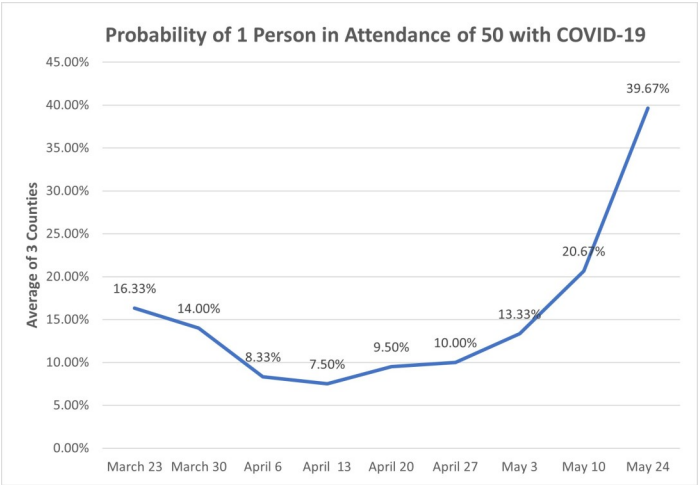
Sew for Missions has been busy!! Since the end of October, the group has created and boxed 64 quilts that will go to the ministry of Lutheran World Relief. Way to go!!!

The group would like to thank everyone for their monetary donations and donations of products.

### Masking is Optional

The number of COVID-19 active infections and the positivity rate have declined to safe levels. This, along with a high vaccination rate among those who typically join us for worship, guided the Congregation Council at its March 8th meeting to decide that masking will be optional for all activities within Zion's building, including worship. The Council also decided that our worship service will go back to our pre-pandemic practices, which will include holy communion by intinction around our altar and collecting the offering, (ushers will hold the plates). We will practice a "touchless" sharing of the Peace with waves, head nods, and lots of smiling. As soon as there is someone to sponsor coffee time following worship, that too will be available. Of course, we will continue to monitor the infection rate in our community and will take appropriate actions if they become necessary.





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