

# WE ARE ZION



**Zion Lutheran Church**

**2714 James Street**

**Marinette, WI 54143**

**715-735-7898**

**zion@newbc.rr.com**

**[www.zionlutheran-marinette.org](http://www.zionlutheran-marinette.org)**

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## January 2023

# WELCOME 2023!

### **Zion's 2022 Congregation Council**

Troy Cording — President	Dean Schoen — V.P.
Michelle Larson — Secretary	LeeAnn Martin — Treasurer
Katy Bauer	Kim Graf
Dave Johnson	Laura Rowe
Brad Nelson	Sarge Rudell
Mark Swenson	Jonah Zuehls
Elsa Limberg, Youth Member	

### **Zion Staff**

Administrative Assistant — Marissa Tharp  
 Choir Director and Organist — Ann Buscher  
 Accompanist for Choir and Organist— Rachel Rosenfeldt  
 Financial Secretary — Karen Houdek

### **Who Does What at Zion**

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#### **Worship**

Acolyte Scheduling — Undecided  
 Altar linens (Laundering) — Shirley Swenson  
 Assistants — Ann Buscher (Ushers, readers, communion assistants, set up communion)  
 AV Team — Troy Cording & Jonah Zuehls  
 Banners — Ann Buscher, Kathy Heimbuch and Karen Dill  
 Bulletin and Newsletter Assistance — Church Secretary  
 Candles (eternal and oil) Michelle Larson  
 Contemporary Worship — Bill Tipple  
 Hymn Selection — Ann Buscher  
 Wine and apple or grape juice — Michelle Larson

#### **Building Maintenance – Interior/Exterior**

Supplies — Gary Grom provides paper and *Continued....*

## Who Does What at Zion

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cleaning products as well as purchasing small equipment for maintaining Zion's ground such as shovels, rakes, etc.

Handyman — Jack Heimbuch — experience in plumbing and electrical. (no high ladders)

### **Committees/Groups**

Caring Ministry Team — Karen Sylvester

Equal Exchange Items — Heidi Beland

Confirmation Classes — Pastor

Funeral Luncheon Teams — Ann Buscher/Carol Johnson and Michelle Larson/Karen Sylvester

Harvest of Hope Community Garden — John Radloff

Kitchen Supplies — Nora Plym

Mission Endowment Comm. — Troy Cording

Money Counters — Karen Dill and Bonnie Schoen

Nominating Comm — Troy Cording, meets in fall

Personnel Comm. — Troy Cording, meets in fall

Property Comm. — Mark Swenson

Sanctuary Arts — Seeking new members!

Sew for Mission — Carol Magnuson

Social Ministry — Heidi Beland & Michelle Larson co-chairs

SPARK — Johanna Zuehls and Pastor

Stewardship & Generosity — Karen Sylvester

Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen Dill

Worship and Music — Ann Buscher

Ruth Women's Circle — Jane Landenberg



**The Seven  
Marks of  
Discipleship**

***#Pray***

***#Worship***

***#Study***

***#Invite***

***#Encourage***

***#Give***

***#Serve***

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

What a joy it was to worship with the Emmanuel family and their guests on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day! What a blessing to celebrate together the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ! I look forward to one more Sunday of Christmas celebration on January 1, New Year's Day. This service will once again include several of our favorite Christmas hymns and carols, some we sang last weekend and some we have not yet sung. What better way to usher in a new year than to honor our God and Lord in word, song and sacrament. Christmas may be the shortest season of the Church Year, but its message stays with us and blesses our lives every day in all the seasons of our lives.

I have served as Zion's Interim Pastor for the past eight months. It has been my privilege to not only worship with you most Sundays, but to work with the most faithful, dedicated members. Zion is blessed with a wonderful staff, dedicated leaders and faithful volunteers who so willingly take responsibility to serve and carry on the work of the church. Working with the Congregation Council and several committees and task forces, I am assured that Zion is in good hands.

Now we are about to embark on a new year of doing our Lord's work together. We have been intentional up to this point of not rushing into the process of calling a new pastor. When a congregation has been served faithfully and effectively for as many years as Pastor Kolstad served you as a beloved and trusted pastor, it is important to take time to process your loss—yes, to grieve—and reflect on the blessings and benefits of that long ministry. It is also important to take time to reflect on the progress of the church's mission and ministries leading up to the present, to assess the congregation's assets and needs, and

determine how you want to move forward. I feel that this has been accomplished in the past eight months.

It is now time to dig in to the process of calling a new pastor who will serve Zion congregation and direct its mission and ministry in the coming years. In consultation with me, Congregation President Troy Cording has assembled a Transition Task Force made up of himself, Shawn Limberg, Rachel Rosenfedlt, Laura Rowe, Karen Sylvester and Jonah Zuehls. This is a diverse group of members representing various ages, years of membership, and areas of involvement. Thank you to these dedicated members for consenting to service. Their task will be to oversee what is called the Mission Site Evaluation. They will pour through the materials provided by Bishop Finegan and gather the information about Zion's history, statistics, demographics, and goals for the future. When completed, with the input of many of Zion's members, this comprehensive report will be placed in the hands of Bishop Finegan to help her in identifying candidates for a pastoral call that best fits Zion's profile. I will be consulting with the task force to guide them through the process. I ask that you hold these members in your prayers, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide them in their task.

As we move together into a new year, I offer you a benediction from Paul's letter to the Romans consistent with my Christmas message to the congregation: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all!  
Pastor Doug Schoen



**Jan. 1:** First Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 a.m., carol-based worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.

Jan. 8: Baptism of Our Lord, 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Rick DeBenedetto.

Jan. 15: Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary worship.

Jan. 22: Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With special music.

Jan. 29: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Hymn Sing service. Annual Meeting to follow.

## Congregation Council Highlights



The congregational council met  
December 13th, 2022 at 6:30  
pm.

**Pastors Report:** Communion visits complete for the month. Confirmation has gone well. Sent a mid-year report to the families of the confirmands to let them know what to expect.

Looking forward to Christmas services with us. Sub-pastors list is ready for the coming months, blessed to have sufficient back-up. The November Council minutes were approved. An adjustment was made to the minutes that a \$900 Energy Start rebate was applied for, but not received in November. This reflects the estimated amount which will be applied to the balance of the boiler.

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## **Congregation Council Highlights**

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*Continued...*

**Financial Update:** LeeAnn Martin presented her notes. Troy Cording and LeeAnn will review the current state of the invoices to ensure we haven't paid for services not rendered. WPS installed a new meter which will change our bills going forward. Using online banking will make additional payments on the loan to bring down the balance.

### **Committee Reports**

**Property:** Rekeying the church, Mark dropped off the new keys and will change over to the new keys on December 30. Will come up with a form for Marissa to have people fill out when they are assigned a key or want to 'check out' a key. Therefore, it will be documented where the keys have been distributed. Will begin distributing the keys between now and then by determining who should have keys. New keys will not be able to be copied.

**Worship & Music:** Proposing improving video equipment to upgrade equipment. Video, switcher, cable management. Recommend to ask a technician from Northern Sounds & Video to come and assess the situation.

**Youth Ministry:** There has not been a lot of activity with the Youth account, made a \$500 donation during the Brat Fry fundraiser for Fortune Lake, matched funds from CoVantage Credit Union.

**Stewardship & Generosity:** Planned giving pledge information was submitted by Karen Houdek.

**Personnel:** Minutes were presented. Staff evaluations have been completed, thanking and affirming employees. Received forms back, and personally addressing. Recommend a 6% increase for all employees except for Pastor Schoen

**Mission Endowment Fund:** St. Vincent DePaul and Town of Peshtigo Fire Department will come in to do a Temple Talk to discuss how they used their funds.

**Safety & Security Taskforce:** Working to get the main door to the North secured. Researched the system used at local school which includes cameras and a buzzer system to allow guests

## Congregation Council Highlights

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*Continued...*

entry to the building.

### Old Business

**Transition Task Force:** Jonah, Laura, Troy, Rachel Rosenfeld, Karen Sylvester, Shawn Limberg will start meeting the first of the year on Sundays. January 8 will be first meeting. Will work together to fill out the packet from the synod.

**MMACF Future Fund:** Tabled

**Budget Draft:** Choir directors will be paid monthly in 2023.

Putting an estimate together for future Pastor salary, housing, insurance to make the amount fair going forward. Discussed preliminary budget with some changes made. Consider in the future using excess in General Fund to pay more on the Boiler Loan. Discontinue Call Fund. Repurpose Parsonage Proceeds to Bell Fund. Recommend a 6% increase for all employees. Will receive a final draft for approval at January meeting.

### New Business

Boy Scout Troops 1017 6017 Charter: Contacted Troy to charter a Boy Scout Troop, similar to the Cub Scouts Pack 4068. There is no charge, or minimal charge to charter. We give them a place to gather, may also grant them the use of our tax exempt number to purchase supplies. Would like to know what liability we hold as a charter. Would like to do a lock-in on December 20, this would be separate from the charter.

The next council meeting will be January 10th at 6:30 p.m.

The Annual Meeting is set for January 29. 2023.



### Zion to Host Blood Drive

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Zion is hosting a blood drive January 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the social hall. To make an appointment, people may call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or [schedule an appointment online.](#)



## Upcoming Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Events \_\_\_\_\_

Fortune Lake is proud to continue the tradition of Senior Days for the elders in our region. This year's dates have been



**FORTUNE LAKE**  
*A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI*

selected. Mark your calendars and make plans to join us! January 9, March 13 and May 8.

Each Senior Day begins at 10 a.m. and wraps up by 2 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$10 to cover the cost of lunch. Please RSVP by the Friday before each event by calling 906-214-2267 or emailed [hospitality@fortunelake.org](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org)

There will be a Winter Wonderland Retreat January 13-15 and is open for all ages! 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.

The Young Adult Winter Retreat will be February 3-5 and is for people ages 18-28. Come and connect with other young adults while recharging yourself at Fortune Lake.

To register or find more information about either of these events, people can visit their [website!](#)

## Menominee Valley Conference Youth Sledding Party



Youth between 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to go sledding at Water Tower Park in Menominee on Saturday, January 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. Bring your own sleds and winter gear. Snacks and drinks will be provided. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Stefanie Ehle at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org).

## Lifelong Faith Formation Classes

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Beginning in January 2023, the Northern Great Lakes Synod will offer more opportunities than ever for fellowship and learning through Lifelong Faith Formation. Held online via Zoom, with one exception, classes are FREE, but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials. Recommended registration deadlines are listed for each individual class. **A Spirituality of Death and Dying** is meeting in person at First Lutheran in Gladstone, with a Zoom option on request. For more information or to ask questions, please contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org).



Classes that are available are:

- Introduction To Biblical Hebrew II; registration deadline: January 13
- Year-Round Stewardship on a Congregational Level; registration Deadline: January 21
- A Spirituality of Death and Dying; Registration deadline: January 10
- Rediscovering God and Changing the World: A Book Study of the Life of Martin Luther by Eric Metaxas; Registration deadline: January 24
- Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault; Registration will close on February 7 or when capacity is reached, which is 15 participants.
- Meeting Christ in Prayer; Registration deadline: February 16
- Introduction to Family Systems Thinking & Book Study of Friedman's Fables: Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking ; Registration deadline: March 11

More information and the ability to register for these classes is available on the [synod website](#)!

### **Recycle Your Sheets!**

Did you receive new bed sheets for Christmas? You may bring your old ones to Zion to be recycled into beautiful new patchwork quilts by the Sew for Missions ladies. All material is welcome and put to good use. Thank you!

### **Zion is in need of ushers!**

We are desperately looking for people to be ushers at church. We will be glad to train any volunteer. Due to our snowbirds we will be losing many people who usually sign up on the volunteer sheet. If you are willing to be a communion assistant, usher, reader or learn to set up and take down communion please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017.

### **Volunteers Needed for Synod Assembly**

Zion's Nominating Committee is seeking a married couple or individuals to attend the in-person Synod Assembly May 18-20, 2023, in Marquette, Michigan. These are elected positions that will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January. There will be an election for bishop taking place. Zion will cover your expenses for our voting members' travel, registration, lodging, and meals.

Marissa, Zion's Administrative Assistant, will take care of delegate registration and motel reservations. Materials and information will be available to you beginning in March.

If interested, please contact Karen Sylvester at 715-587-4206 or via email at [sylvesterkaren27@gmail.com](mailto:sylvesterkaren27@gmail.com). Thank you.

### **Update on the Annual Report and Annual Meeting!**

If you are responsible for a yearly write up for the annual report, please email it or drop it off at Zion's office by January 16th!

Our Annual Meeting will be held January 29th following the service.

## **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.*

The next seven-weeks of the Stewardship and Generosity Committee's year-round stewardship emphasis will be focused on Invite. Zion's Vision Statement for "Invite" is: "In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that invites others to participate in the life of the congregation by training its members to actively encourage those who are not connected with a congregation to participate in what Jesus is doing through Zion, warmly welcoming them and enthusiastically involving them in the mission work we do together as God's children."

I'll admit this mark is really a tough one for me. When at worship, I can usually walk up to a complete stranger and start a conversation or invite someone to come to Coffee Hour if we have one that Sunday and then sit with them if I'm able. I'm also great at inviting people to a gathering. I can easily invite someone to a concert or a performance at Theater on the Bay. What I'm not good at is asking someone to come to worship with me – not even my own family!! How can I overcome this problem, this fear?

I've been told that the first time you do something is always the hardest. If you keep it up it'll get easier. Perhaps I'm terrified they'll tell me to forget it; it's boring; it takes too much time; or they have better things to do. They may say they get nothing out of it so why even bother. Those excuses sound much like the excuses I used myself when I would decide not to attend worship ages ago.

Today, worship and Christian interaction are so important to me, I've no idea why it wasn't before. My heart was hardened even though God was always walking with me.

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

*Continued...*

Some realize this need for communing with God early in life and others, like me, must have a life altering experience before the Holy Spirit can enter in and make changes.

So back to inviting people to Zion. I received an assist from Bonnie Schoen, another member of this committee. She shared some random thoughts that I thought were fabulous.

She said, "Invitations are just the beginning of planning for an event...should be the easiest part, but we often make inviting hard...there is always a fear of rejection for a variety of reasons... we should think of inviting someone to church as the easiest part...that's all we have to do...just invite and then Let Go and Let God! ...the Holy Spirit does the rest of the work."

"Sometimes we have to invite repeatedly....don't give up...let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest." Another thought she offered was to use written invitations. What might happen if every member invited someone, with an oral or a written invitation? Wouldn't that be wonderful and exciting?

Bonnie offers sage words of wisdom, and I'm so thankful for her insight. I invite you, and I pray to God that I, when the opportunity presents itself invite someone to share in the joy by attending worship with us.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

May God grant each of you health, happiness, and prosperity in 2023.

In God's love and mercy,  
Karen Sylvester

## Stewardship Initiative

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January's focus is inviting. I prayed to God to help me as inviting is not easy for me. He certainly answered that prayer in spades. I have found myself busy inviting people to join various committees at Zion. Many have graciously accepted that invitation. I have also had occasion to write a thank you to visitors worshipping with us and I invited them to come visit us again. At times through this inviting process, I've become discouraged, but I was blessed to have people to encourage me as I hope to encourage you. I offer this prayer and Bible verse.

Dear Lord God, as we go through this month, we pray that you will bless us with the desire to reach out to a stranger or someone we know and invite them to come and see what Zion is about. Give us a yearning to share your love and this caring congregation with others. All this we pray in our Lord and Saviors name. Amen

Revelation 22:17 - *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.*  
Karen Sylvester

## Tailgate for Fortune Lake a Success!

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Sunday, December 11 was a great day to Tailgate for Fortune Lake! Volunteers from 5 of the Menominee Valley Conference churches came together to prepare and serve brats and hot beverages to the community.

The event raised \$5,253 to support the CoVantage Cares Giving Tuesday Challenge for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. The total raised for FLLC was \$141,409.89 with CoVanatge Cares matching \$77,107 for a total of \$218,517.40!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the event and everyone who stopped by for brats! It was great to see the collaboration between churches and shared love for our Bible camp.

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

January 1: Beverly DeGroot, Robert Hamer, Carrie Heitmeier, Alice Larson and Dean Schoen

January 3: Lynn Francour

January 5: Mary Hayward

January 7: Carol Magnuson

January 8: Naomi Dumke

January 9: Jaclynn Knopik and Mary Thielen

January 10: Ainsley Emler and Bryan Gutknecht

January 15: Susan Fischer

January 17: Addalynn Brown

January 18: Spencer Martin

January 20: Karen Dill

January 27: Alexis Roth and Gabriel Roth

January 30: Carissa Kempka



**Donations needed**

We are seeking to help a family with four children who recently moved to Marinette to begin job training and new employment. They have acquired housing, but due to limited finances, need help with furnishings. If you have any of the items listed below in usable condition, you may bring them to Zion, or we can arrange to have them picked up.

- 1 Bunk Bed w/Mattresses; 2 Twin Beds w/Frames & Box springs; 1 Queen Bed w/Frame & Box Spring.
- Kitchen Cooking Utensils: Silverware, Pots, Pans.
- Rugs, Area Rugs
- Lamps, Coffee Tables, End Tables, 6 Seater Kitchen Table w/Chairs, Blinds, Television and Television Stand, Living Room Furniture, Kitchen Garbage Canister
- Hangers, Linens & Comforters, Wash Cloths, Towels

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

### January Birthdays

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January 2: Debra Harding  
January 3: David Francour  
January 4: Mary Hayward  
January 5: Adison Rosenfeldt and Daniel Zuehls  
January 10: Johanna Zuehls  
January 13: Oliver Swenson  
January 15: Marilyn Gould, Dianne Slack and Bethany Wolf  
January 17: Maryellen Radloff  
January 18: Gina Boucher  
January 20: Kathy Heimbuch  
January 21: Sharon Powilaites and Drake Schutt  
January 22: Shawn Limberg  
January 23: Willow Williams  
January 24: Pamela Lund and Tatem Schroeder  
January 25: Beverly DeGroot and Denise Despins  
January 26: Colleen Madden  
January 30: Shirley Kaufman



### January Eternal Light

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The Eternal Light for the month of January is sponsored by  
Dave and Lori Despins in honor of Zion's Caring Ministry  
Team.







Zion received the following thank you notes:

**Zion's Social Ministry Committee**

Thank you people of Zion!

You made Christmas merrier for 30 kids this year with your gifts to the Salvation Army. Your generosity shows one of the many ways we are blessed to be a blessing.

Special thanks to Sharon & John Powilaites who delivered the gifts to the Salvation Army after we sorted through them on December 7th.

Thank you!

Heidi Beland on behalf of Zion's Social Ministry Committee

**Amanda Rasner**

People of God at Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your participation in and support of Tailgate for Fortune Lake! The fun went and inspired generosity and brought people together and we are grateful!

Grace & Peace,  
Amanda Rasner

**Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**

Dear Giving Tuesday Donor,

THANK YOU! Fortune Lake was truly honored to be selected as the CoVantage Cares Giving Tuesday Matching Campaign Recipient for Crystal Falls. We are humbled and grateful for the ways you have so generously stepped up to support this campaign! Thanks be to God!

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When the donor gifts, regional event donations, and the CoVantage match amount were tallied, we have collectively raised \$218,517.40! This money will be used to help ensure that Fortune Lake is accessible, energy efficient, and available for use for generations to come. Thank you for being a significant part of this effort!

Because funds were received by the CoVantage Cares Foundation, you will receive a receipt for your tax deductible donation directly from the foundation by the end of the year. Here at camp, we have noted your gift and are deeply appreciative. There are many reasons why folks have supported this campaign. You likely have a story of your own. We brought an interactive display to some of our CoVantage Cares regional events for people to add a post-it note about why they love camp.

We are committed to creating moments and memories like these for generations to come. Your gift along with the match from CoVantage Cares will help us to do just that. May your Christmas season and the year to come be richly blessed!

Grace & Peace,  
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director





### Join the AV Team! \_\_\_\_\_

We are in need for volunteers to help our AV team. The hope is with enough people, volunteers would only have to be available once a month. If people have any questions, they can reach out to Troy Cording or Jonah Zuehls. Thank you for your consideration!

### Sanctuary Arts Committee Seeks New Members \_\_\_\_\_

The Sanctuary Arts Committee is looking for new members who would enjoy decorating the church for special occasions. It is a fun group and the committee can certainly use new ideas to make the church beautiful. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Zion's office.

### Worship Assistant Opportunities \_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like to volunteer to serve as lector, usher, communion assistant, or would like to help set up and take down communion, sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions or would like to ask about certain days, people may 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. Thank you for your consideration!



### 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 Zi-on@newbc.rr.com.

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
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**Going Where Jesus Leads**



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**Bishop Katherine Finegan**  
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**Equipping the Saints for Ministry**



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**God's work. Our hands.**