

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 2023



Zion's 2023 Congregation Council

Troy Cording — President	Kim Graf — V.P.
Michelle Larson — Secretary	LeeAnn Limberg — Treasurer
Dean Schoen	Laura Rowe
Brad Nelson	Mark Swenson
Jonah Zuehls	
Henry Zuehls, 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

Worship

Acolyte Scheduling — Undecided
 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 cleaning products as well as purchasing small equipment for

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Who Does What at Zion

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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;
 Michelle Larson/Sue Baxter; and Karen Sylvester/ Cheryl
 Maxwell
 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

In my spoken report at the Annual Congregational Meeting last Sunday, I made reference to a devotional message in *The Word In Season* that seemed relevant to the occasion. Rev. Katherine Ewald Olson based her message on a verse from Paul's first letter to Timothy. She writes, in part, "In the letters to Timothy, we see the beginnings of the institutional church. How should leaders be treated? How should we care for the poor? In the centuries since, we know that the church has been imperfect. It has caused pain and shunned the outsider. The world has not always been impressed. But the same church is a place where millions have grown in faith. It is people intentionally seeking God. It is a space to learn and to grow, to serve and be served. It is imperfect, but in it we get glimpses of perfect love. And there are moments of perfect praise and perfect joy in Christ."

How well this describes the Church in general and Zion Lutheran Church in particular. Zion is as imperfect as any other congregation, but it is also a place where love, praise and joy in Christ is not merely glimpsed, but experienced in large doses. I experience it every Sunday in worship. Love is exchanged in warm greetings. Praise is expressed in enthusiastic singing and in responses to what is heard. Joy in Christ is the prevailing atmosphere whenever we gather for worship. I experience joy in Christ in church fellowship events, in meeting with the Congregation Council, a dedicated and engaged group, in confirmation classes where I meet with a wonderful group of young people who are interested and engaged, in observing SPARK meeting at the same time with Johanna Zuehls sharing her joy in Christ with the children, in the Sew for Missions group that meets on Tuesday morning and invites me to coffee, in the Transition Team that has begun its work in the initial stages of seeking a new pastor, and in the church staff working cooperatively with one

another. Joy in Christ is evident in many ways at Zion and it is contagious.

Joy in Christ was also the spirit that pervaded the Annual Congregational Meeting. There was good fellowship, appreciation expressed for those who serve in elected and volunteer capacities, and solid support for our mission going forward expressed in the passing of the proposed budget for 2023. Thanks and appreciation was extended to Katy Bauer, Dave Johnson and Sarge Rudell who completed their service on the Congregation Council. Dean Schoen completed a first term on Council and was elected to a second three-year term. Mark Swenson stepped in early last year to fulfill an unexpired term and now has been elected to a full term. LeeAnn Limberg, who meets regularly with the Council as the church treasurer, was also elected to a three-year term. Henry Zuehls, who was confirmed last October, was elected to a one-year term as youth member.

Members elected to other areas of service were the following: Don Limberg to a three-year term on the Personnel Committee; Sally Broetzmen, Sue Baxter and Ed Rowe to two-year terms on the Nominating Committee; Phil Strohl, Kin Swenson, Karen Dill and Calista Thill to three-year terms on the Mission Endowment Committee; and Laura Rowe and Karen Sylvester to be this year's Synod Assembly delegates. Thank you to these dedicated members for their willingness to serve. With so many members using their God-given gifts and abilities, Zion is moving forward, as it has for 140+ years, giving witness to the glory of God, to joy in Christ, and to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Doug Schoen



Letter from Bishop Finegan

“You do well
if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture,
‘You shall love your neighbor
as yourself.’”

~James 2:8



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,
Have you heard the phrase, “Birds of a feather flock together?” This little saying acknowledges what we all know; we gravitate towards the familiar and the comfortable. We like to be with people who think like us, behave like us, believe the same things as us, maybe even look like us. It's natural. I suppose some anthropologist could give a long treatise on herd mentality or the role such affinity plays in survival.

Other observers of societal norms would offer that social media has intensified this phenomenon. Online algorithms supply us with posts that affirm our foregone conclusions. Worse, there are more than a few memes out there that characterize anyone with an opposing view as being fair game for mockery or dismissed as unworthy. Beware of viewpoints being portrayed in the extreme, with no room for nuance or grey area.

It is becoming more and more rare that people gather with birds of another feather, where their world view or assumptions or convictions are challenged. People talk about echo chambers, where we proclaim what we believe to be true only to hear it echo back to us as proof.

The thing is, if we only surround ourselves with people who agree with us, if we never encounter a contrary opinion and explore it for its valid points, if we avoid conversations that invite deeper thinking, broader understanding, or a push back against what we consciously or unconsciously believe to be true then we

Continued...

Letter from Bishop Finegan

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have stopped learning and our lack of engagement contributes to the polarization of our society and the underlying anger that results from feeling misunderstood.

A remedy for this is intentional engagement and deep listening, not to argue a point or change someone's mind, but to understand the reasons that support another perspective. To that end, our Synod will be offering a Lenten Kaleidoscope Challenge. Our NGLS Kaleidoscope in Christ task force seeks to provide more opportunities for our synod to see others through the eyes of Jesus so that we can better, as James and elsewhere in scripture urges, "love your neighbor as yourself."

Because it is more than a little difficult to love what we do not understand or stay present with topics or people that make us uncomfortable.

So during Lent, you are invited to engage the resources on our website under The Kaleidoscope Challenge. Short videos, articles, movies, and books are linked there for you to watch, read, and study. I encourage you to consciously lower your defenses, raise your awareness, and learn something new about racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community. And you are invited to join a small group of people every week via zoom to process and discuss the resources for that week. What do you have questions about? What surprised you? What challenged you? What pricked your compassion? Your curiosity? Your emotions?

On our synod website, www.nglsynod.org, you can register for the cohort of your choosing. A variety of leaders, dates, and times are available.

At a time when people are quick to anger and disagree, I hope that our Church and your church can lead the way toward mutual respect and understanding. As Martin Luther once said, "God

Continued...

Letter from Bishop Finegan ---

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doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." For the sake of community, for the sake of the command of Jesus to love, for the sake of our neighbor, let us do the homework that will lead to authentic witness and put the love we have for Jesus into action.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

What's Around the Corner? ---

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

- Feb. 5: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Feb. 12: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With special music by Matt Hellerman and with guest pastor Nick Johannes. Coffee hour to follow!
- Feb. 19: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service.
- Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., worship with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes. The service will also be live-streamed via Facebook Live.
- Feb. 26: Eighth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.

Congregation Council Highlights ---

The congregational council met January 10th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Pastors Report: Pastor Doug said that he enjoyed Christmas Eve and Christmas Service at Zion and it was well attended. Confirmation is to resume the week of January 9th. Two deaths were

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Congregation Council Highlights ---

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recorded, Richard Peterson and Shirley Swenson. Mid-Week Lenten Services with soup suppers are to resume this year with Zion, Our Saviors and possibly Pioneer Presbyterian working together. Envelopes not sent due to supply/staffing issues within the envelope company. The company states envelope mailings will resume in March. An email with more information will be sent with more information.

December 2022 minutes: Approved with an adjustment to the amount of energy star rebate \$5,985.00.

December Financial Report: LeeAnn presented financial notes and the boiler loan balance will be reported going forward.

Committee Reports

- **Property:** Rekeying of church is complete and keys have been distributed Thank You Mark Swenson!

Old Business

- Transition Task Force met January 15th.
- Motion made by Mark S to approve 2023 budget as presented

New Business

- **A/V Equipment:** Estimates presented to the Council; the Council would like to have company come in to answer more questions — Troy will set that meeting up.
- DAR requested letter of support for a grant they are applying for, Laura R will complete that.

The council thanked outgoing council members, Katy Baur, Elsa Limberg, Sarge Rudell, and Dave Johnson for their service



COUNCIL UPDATES

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

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

We will gather at the cross with our brothers and sisters in Christ every Wednesday in March in a truly ecumenical spirit.

5:30 p.m. Soup Suppers and **6:00 p.m. Worship Services** will be held in the social halls at each participating church.

The worship services will be ½-hour in length.

- March 1: Zion Lutheran Church, 2714 James St., Marinette; Preacher: Rev. Doug Schoen
- March 8: First United Methodist Church, 601 10th Ave., Menominee; Preacher: Rev. John Murray
- March 15: Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 1947 Riverside Ave., Marinette; Preacher: Rev. Craig Alwin
- March 22: First Presbyterian Church, 923 5th St., Menominee; Preacher: Elder Keith Schroeder
- March 29: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1600 University Dr., Marinette; Preacher: Vicar Katy Tomlanovich

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

The first Bible stories that many of us took notice of may have been the miracles performed by Jesus, probably because of their “wow” factor. The miracles of Jesus continue to speak to us powerfully, not because they are incredible displays of amazing power, but because of what they reveal to us about the nature of God and God’s desire to touch our lives in powerful ways. The pastors who will be leading this year’s midweek Lenten services will each select one miracle story that speaks to them personally and reflect on its meaning for our lives today.



Souper Bowl Collection

Help tackle hunger in our community by donating easy to prepare non-perishable foods to our Souper Bowl Food Drive. Bring your items to Zion between now and Sunday, February 19. Place them up front on either side

of the green altar. Zion's Social Ministry committee will bring the food to Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul to stock their pantries. (Bags and boxes are helpful too.) Thank you!



Menominee Valley Conference Youth Lock In



Youth Lock-In

Youth between 7th-12th grades are invited to Zion Lutheran Church in Marinette on Friday, February 10 for a Lock-In! Registration will start at 6 p.m. and there will be plenty of games, crafts, a service project, food, worship, friends, and a Swap & Donate party. To participate in the Swap & Donate Party, bring items such as clothes, games, or electronics that you no longer want or need for the chance to exchange them for something new to you! Pick-up will be at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Registration forms are available in the narthex. They can be emailed to Stefanie Ehle or brought to Zion on the 10th. For more information or to RSVP, please email Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

Lifelong Faith Formation Classes

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is offering a number of 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. For more information or to ask questions, please contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.



Classes that are available are:

- 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](#)!

Community Camp Scholarship Letter and Application

Do you know a student in our community entering grades 2-12 (in the Fall of 2023) 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 20th. Scholarship winners will be announced on Sunday, March 26th during worship.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Summer Camp Info!

Online registration for FLLC's Summer Camp is open!

- **Leaders-in-Training (LIT):** Grades 10-12, Week 1: June 25-30, Week 2: July 9-14, July 16-21, July 23-28, or August 6-9
- **High School Week:** Grades 9-12, June 25-30
- **Youth Week:** Grades 3-8, July 9-14 or July 16-21 (Villager, Vagabond, Venturer)
- **Mini Week:** Grades 1-8, July 9-12 or August 6-9
- **Mighty Ones:** Grades 1-2, August 6-8
- **Specialty Camps:** Grades 3-8, July 23-28 (Art Camp, LEGO Camp)
- **Jr. High Night Owls:** Grades 6-8, July 23-28
- **On-site Day Camp:** Grades K-5, June 19-22
- **Intergenerational Week:** All ages, Full Week: June 18-23 or July 30-August 4 or Half Week, August 1-4
- **Victory Camp:** 18+ with disabilities, June 11-16
- **Camp ACTS (Acting, Choreography, Theatre, and Song):** Grades 3-12, July 16-21

To register or for more information, people may visit Fortune Lake's website, fortunelake.org.

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 11-16	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 18-23	Intergenerational Week (all ages)	See website
	June 19-22	On-Site Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$110
Week 3	June 25-30	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$425
	July 9-12	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)	\$305
Week 4	July 9-14	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #1 Option	\$425 No charge
	July 16-21	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Camp ACTS (Grades 3-12) LIT #2 Option	\$425 \$455 No charge
Week 6	July 23-28	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-8) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8)	\$425
		Art Camp (Grades 3-8) LIT #3 Option	\$455 No charge
Week 7	July 30-Aug 4	Intergenerational Week (all ages)	See website
	Aug 1-4	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 8	Aug 6-8	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$205
	Aug 6-9	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)	\$305
		MashUp (Grades 4-8) LIT #4 Option	\$305 No charge

*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

2023
SCHEDULE

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.

We are nearing the last turn of our Year-Long Stewardship Initiative with emphasis on the Seven Marks of Discipleship, and it occurred to me that Zion just utilized the six marks we have focused on thus far, all at one time in January — Pray, Worship, Serve, Give, Encourage, and Invite. (Study will be the final mark of emphasis next month). Let me explain.

On January 7th, Zion had a funeral for one of our own, Shirley Swenson, wife to Ollie, and mother to Mark, Brian, and Karen. Phone calls and emails brought our Zion family to action and the Marks of Discipleship abounded in so many ways.

PRAY: I'm extremely confident that immediately upon hearing the news of Shirley's passing, many prayers were said for Ollie and all of the family members.

INVITE: Phone calls, emails, texts, word of mouth, and newspaper articles invited people to the visitation, funeral, and luncheon.

ENCOURAGE: The lines at the visitation were long as people waited patiently to encourage the family and offer words of compassion and support.

WORSHIP: One hundred forty plus people attended the funeral worship service which included prayers, Bible lessons, hymns, and Holy Communion.

GIVE: During the funeral, Ann Buscher accompanied Johanna Zuehls as she beautifully sang music specifically requested by Shirley. Johanna and Ann willingly gave of their God-given talents.

SERVE: Shirley had asked for a light lunch, but honestly, I'm not

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

Continued...

sure Zion knows how to do a light lunch. The funeral luncheon team co-led by Michelle Larson and me sprang into action. Emails and phone calls were made, and Zion members served by setting up, preparing food, waiting on tables, and cleaning up.

More GIVE: The giving continued after the luncheon too. Once the family took some food for later, the remainder was packaged and taken to the Abundant Life Mission in Menominee.

This congregation cares, shares, and gives of their time, talents and resources when asked and sometimes even without being asked. We are a family, and we look out for and care for our family. We are Going Where Jesus Leads as we embrace the Seven Marks of Discipleship. We are truly blessed.

After this funeral, it was discovered that we need help. We are down to one active funeral team rather than the three teams that were formed many years ago. Each team is composed of two leaders who use available procedure documents and divide duties between willing volunteers. Please prayerfully consider volunteering as a team leader, as without additional leadership, Zion may not be able to continue this ministry. It is an opportunity to serve and bless others through your service.

In God's peace and grace,
Karen Sylvester



Keeping the Light Burning



If you feel inclined to sponsor the Eternal Light for one month, please notify Zion's office which month you'd like to sponsor (715-735-7898 or zion@newbc.rr.com). March, May, June, July, August, October, November and December are all open! The cost of sponsoring the Eternal Light for one month is \$13.00. Payment of your sponsorship can be mailed to Zion or placed in the offering plate after Communion.

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!



February Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of February is sponsored by Carol Magnuson and is in honor of Pastor Doug, who's birthday is on Valentine's Day!



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 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: Colleen Madden
 February 22: Anna Marzahl
 February 25: Justin Williams
 February 26: Joyce Johnson
 February 28: Fay Bromund



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.

Donate to Zion



Did you know that you are able to contribute to Zion via the website? Simply to go: <http://www.zionlutheran-marinette.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 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

February 10: Sue Baxter and Janet Cook

February 11: Erik Breuer

February 12: Troy Cording, Joyce Johnson, and LeeAnn Limberg

February 13: Emily Limberg

February 14: Bryce 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



The word "THANK YOU!" is written in a colorful, multi-colored font. The letters are in various colors: T (pink), H (red), A (orange), N (yellow), K (green), Y (light green), O (blue), U (dark blue). The word "thank you!" is written in a black, cursive script font, overlapping the block letters.

Zion received the following thank you note:

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,
Our Vagabond campers have a tradition of tubing down the Paint River. Most would describe it as a leisurely float, where dragonflies land on the brightly colored tubes, and campers sing while drifting carelessly downstream. For some, however, it's a grand adventure, an opportunity to try something new and conquer fear.

One particular Tuesday, a first-time camper and his cabin leader were at the tail end of the tubing group. Having never experienced anything like this before, the camper was both excited and anxious. He hung close to the cabin leader and sometimes needed help untangling himself from shrubs along the riverbank. When he reached the end of the route, he struggled to gain footing. His cabin leader grabbed his tube and talked him through saying, "I'm right here, and I'm not going anywhere." Hand-in-hand, they reached the extraction point and made it back on solid ground.

Here at Fortune Lake, we are working to intentionally prioritize a radical welcome to all people, particularly those who are often marginalized. In addition to exploring how our site and programs can be more inclusive, we never turn people away due to financial reasons. This camper would not have been able to afford to come to camp without assistance. His adventures were made possible by people like you.

Thank you for valuing God's work through the ministry of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp enough to support it through your giving. We couldn't do this important work without you!

Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

Stewardship Initiative

A couple of weeks ago, I invited someone to join me at an upcoming church function. I don't know this individual well, so I was a little fearful about inviting her, but I was told to ask and so I did.

She told me she'd have to pray about it, but would get back to me. This was the reply I received a day later. "I can't think of a reason NOT to join you for this experience, other than my own apprehension. New experiences are sometimes daunting. After thinking and praying on it, I am honored to join you."

I am so glad I trusted God and followed through. I may even make a new friend, and don't we all need friends.

Dear Lord God, as we go through the next three weeks, 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 Savior's 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



INVITE A FRIEND



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 Zion@newbc.rr.com.

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2023

Yamilka Hernández Guzmán always loved education and had a talent for teaching. A psychologist in an oncology hospital in Cuba, she looked for answers to the daily struggle for life she witnessed. A patient suggested to her that knowing Jesus might help, and a friend who attended a nearby Lutheran church invited Hernández Guzman to join her at worship. Shortly thereafter, the congregation's pastor asked Hernández Guzman to lend her teaching talents to a youth ministry.

The United Evangelical Church in Cuba Lutheran Synod (IEU-SL) joined the Lutheran World Federation in 2018, and because Cuba lacks an immigrant Lutheran tradition, the church relies on bivocational leaders, lay and rostered, to maintain an education system that can teach the church's 1,500 members the hows and whys of a Lutheran life.

Though teaching children seemed like a big task for a new member, Hernández Guzmán tackled it and then started teaching adults at the church's informal seminary. "I have a talent," she said. "At least, I think it's a talent—to teach people that don't have a high level of education or training. However, with me, they learn the Bible and theology. I led people through studies at seminary, people that I think no institution would have considered. They learned and learned. And wherever I went, people always called me to teach."

Eventually Hernández Guzmán was called to serve as pastor of a congregation. In 2019 a scholarship from the ELCA's International Leadership Development Program allowed her to pursue doctoral studies at Faculdades EST, a Lutheran seminary in Brazil.

The International Women Leaders program was founded to enhance the missional capacity of our global church. Our companion churches raise up talented people to pursue advanced degrees that the ELCA finances. Once they complete their studies, students return to their home churches better equipped to serve and lead.

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2023



Above: Assistant Bishop Martha Romero makes her way to the faith community of Cristo Redentor. The roads are difficult to travel. Romero is accompanied by her daughter-in-law, Claudia Ramos, a lay leader of the church.

Hernández Guzmán is working to formalize theological education at the IEU-SL school. Thus far it has empowered church leaders to create a liturgy blending Lutheran and Cuban traditions. However, it needs someone with a doctorate to establish a program of studies that will train leaders at a higher level.

“It’s not possible to be a leader in the church without a minimum of biblical and theological preparation,” Hernández Guzmán said, “precisely because the essence of our faith is an evangelical faith lived in freedom. That freedom is based on a personal relationship with God. But that has to come from an understanding of what God is, where God comes from, how God has a relationship with us, and the things God wants from us.

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