

WE ARE ZION

NEWS



Zion Lutheran Church
2714 James Street
Marinette, WI 54143
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www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

April 2023



Zion's 2023 Congregation Council

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 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 — Ann Buscher
 Assistants — Ann Buscher (Ushers, readers, communion assistants, set up communion)
 AV Team — Troy Cording & Jonah Zuehls
 Banners — 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 — Barb Grom, Karen Dill, Carol Johnson and Ann
Buscher
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



From the Pastor's Desk

This has been a deeply meaningful Lenten season for me as I have had the privilege of sharing with the Zion congregation the wonderful stories in the Gospel of John of Jesus' encounters with some fascinating individuals. In these stories we are given some of the greatest verses in the Bible. In Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus (John 3) we heard our Lord say, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." In his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4) we heard Jesus say, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." In his encounter with a man born blind (John 9) we heard Jesus say, "I am the light of the world." In his encounter with Mary and Martha at the raising of their brother Lazarus, we heard Jesus say, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." In these remarkable (and lengthy!) stories, we hear of a Savior who is intensely involved in our lives, who understands our struggles, fears, disappointments and defeats, who offers us compassion and power that can lift us up and enable us to experience life in all its fullness—resurrected life, eternal life.

We are also in the midst of a most meaningful midweek Lenten series focusing on the miracles of Jesus. In these stories we are hearing about God's healing and restorative power touching the lives of individuals through Jesus and how that power can touch our lives today. The attendance at these midweek services and soup suppers has been beyond our expectations. All the churches involved have done a wonderful job of hosting and the meals have been delicious. The fellowship and ecumenical spirit have been heartwarming.

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With one midweek service to go, we look ahead now to Holy Week. It will begin with our Palm Sunday celebration on April 6 and the passing out of palms to all worshipers. This is also Passion Sunday when we will read the Passion according to the St. Matthew in dramatic fashion with the congregation participating. This is followed by Maundy Thursday (April 6) with a service of Holy Communion at 6:30 p.m. commemorating our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples.

Our Good Friday worship (April 7) will be another ecumenical experience. The Twin County Ministerial Association is offering a service from noon to 3:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, corner of 10th Ave. and 6th St. in Menominee. This will feature six half-hour segments on the theme In His Footsteps—Jesus' Final Hours before the Resurrection. I will represent Zion in the 1:30-2:00 segment, speaking on The Trials of Jesus before Pilate/Caiaphas/Herod. Special music will be provided by Barb Grom and Karen Sylvester. Johanna Zuehls will offer a selection with voice and harp at the 2:00-2:30 segment when Pastor Kolstad will speak on The Road to Golgotha.

The somber reflection of Holy Week will be shattered by the joyful and triumphant celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 9). Our 9:30 a.m. service at Zion will feature bright colors, the fragrance of lilies, uplifting hymns, special music by Zion's choir, and a message of victory and hope. I look forward to walking with you through Holy Week and on into the glorious Easter season. There is no greater joy or fulfillment in life than to live out all that it means to be the church, the people of God, followers of the Risen Christ.



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On March 5, the Transition Team met for the fourth time and completed their work on the Ministry Site Profile. In so doing, they identified Zion's assets and needs, as well as the qualities desired in the next pastor who will be called to serve Zion. Filling out the lengthy MSP involved homework, data gathering and a good deal of conversation. The MSP describes, not only Zion congregation, but the community we serve and our vision for ministry and mission. The completed MSP was presented to the Congregation Council at their regular March meeting and received their approval. The MSP is now in the hands of Bishop Finegan. It will be an essential tool in her search for a candidate or candidates to present for interview and possible call. It will also be a helpful tool for the Congregation Council to refer to when interviewing candidates.

The Transition Team consisted of Troy Cording (Council president and Team chairperson), Shawn Limberg (4th generation member of Zion), Rachel Rosenfeldt (musician and mother of confirmands), Laura Rowe (Council member), Karen Sylvester (Stewardship and Caring Ministry chairperson), and Jonah Zuehls (college student and Council member). Working with this team was a joy and inspiration. They went about their task with enthusiasm and vision. Special thanks to Rachel for taking minutes and producing reports, and Zion's Office Administrator Marissa Tharp for entering all the data on the ELCA site for the bishop's consideration.

This is an important step in moving forward in the process of calling a new pastor. Please pray for Zion and Bishop Finegan that the Holy Spirit will send a candidate or candidates for a call to serve Zion with inspired pastoral leadership.

God's blessings to you on your Lenten journey!
Pastor Doug Schoen

Letter from Bishop Finegan



“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

~Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,
What time is it?

In our Synod Office, we have two clocks on the conference room wall, one set to Eastern Time and the other to Central Time. Between the two clocks is the above verse. I find this to be a helpful reminder, not only that our Synod spans two time zones, but that all things have their time. And God’s time, or rather God’s timing, plays a part in what our time will hold. So what time is it for you? In your life? In your congregation’s life? In the life of the Church? In the context of our changing culture and world?

As I look back on the times of my family, we are now past the season of small children and the rhythm of school activities, events, and sports. I am glad for the time we spent watching games, choir concerts, piano lessons, and so much more. I’m both sad and relieved that I don’t have to sit on the bleachers in a windy blizzard anymore, trying to distinguish the boy and the ball on a gridiron covered with falling snow. These seasons of life pass, and while we’re glad to have had them, we know that time does not stand still. We expect that there will be different seasons in a lifetime.

It is more difficult, I think, to witness the end of a season that has spanned generations. When a congregation closes, it is easy to feel not only deep grief, but a sense of failure, that somehow the current generation has not done what is necessary. But what if that community of faith has accomplished all that was needful in its season? No congregation that was founded by the apostles in the first century is still in existence. Those communities of faith served for a time, the time that was given to them. And they accomplished what was needful for their time, planting seeds of future churches and future faith.

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Letter from Bishop Finegan

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For everything there is a season; for people, for churches, for institutions. I grieved along with you at the announcement that Finlandia University will begin to end. The impact on the community, the blow to its economy, to its sense of self and pride, can hardly be estimated. It is a huge loss.

And yet, I find it helpful to put this loss within the context of Ecclesiastes. For Finlandia, its season is over, along with hundreds of other small colleges and universities that also will close because they cannot withstand the challenges and realities of our time. This is not the result of some failure or lack of creative strategy or dedicated effort.

This simply is. Finlandia's season is completed. And what remains is to end with grace and gratitude for all that was accomplished during its time. We celebrate the vision of its founders, the education excellence, the nurturing of character and integrity of so many students, the dedication of faculty, staff, management, coaches, and more.

No one and no thing lasts forever; not people, not congregations, not institutions. Kingdoms and nations rise and fall. Indeed, it is when something has existed for generations that we expect it to outlive us also. But this generation may well witness the end of many things whose seasons will be complete during our time.

Consider the rotary dial phone, the 35 mm film camera and the end of Kodak, the manual typewriter, cassette tapes, and the whole polyester fashion debacle of the 70's. These things that were so essential to their time are not only obsolete now, but they only exist in antique shops, thrift stores, and garage boxes.

By the grace of God, our ministry efforts of the past, and those that will end in our time, will plant seeds for future churches and future faith. The assets of one whose season is ending will

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Letter from Bishop Finegan ---

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provide new life for one whose season continues for future ministry. The work of Christ and God's purposes are far bigger than any single person, congregation, or institution. God in Christ Jesus is in the business of new life, and has a particular flair for new life after death. As the season of ministry ends for beloved efforts, traditions, congregations and institutions, God brings new life, new energy, new possibilities, new opportunities. So we contribute what we can, we participate as we are able, in the time that we have been given, to further the work of Christ that we know will continue long after we are gone.

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".

- April 2: Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With special music by the Zion Choir.
- April 6: Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- April 9: Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With special music by the Zion Choir.
- April 16: Second Sunday after Easter, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Nick Johannes.
- April 23: Third Sunday after Easter, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service.
- April 30: Fourth Sunday after Easter, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Pastor Appreciation Day! A coffee hour will follow worship.

Congregation Council Highlights



The congregational council met March 14th, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Report: The average February attendance was 86. The Red Cross will be holding a Blood Drive on April 28th at Zion.

Delegates have been registered for Synod Assembly in May. Pastor Schoen will be recognized for his 50th anniversary of ordination. Mid Week Lenten services have been well received.

January Financial Report: The General Fund had an increase of \$4,687 and Capital Improvement had an increase of \$1,292

Committee Reports

- Property/Safety Security — Dean fixed a loose toilet seat in the men's room. Mark installed weather stripping on new doors, and installed a handle bar at top of balcony. Contacted Hobart to look at dishwasher, revamped starting instructions

Old Business

- Transition Task Force— They met four Sundays and the Ministry Site Profile is complete. A motion was made to submit as written. The members of the task force were thanked for their work on this project
- Bulletin Format — going to remain in booklet format
- Pianos – Motion was made to offer the social hall and balcony pianos to anyone who would like them
- MMACF Future Fund — A motion was made to contribute \$6000.00 per year for the next three years from the Ken and Thea Swenson Memorial fund to sponsor a school grade.

New Business

- Lawn Care — Zion will continue with Mark Shallow

The next council meeting will be April 11th 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 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.

Community Good Friday Service

First United Methodist Church, 601 10th Ave., Menominee, is holding a community Good Friday service from noon to 3 p.m. This will feature six half hour segments on the theme "In His Footsteps — Jesus' Final Hours before the Resurrection" Zion will have a segment from 1:30 to 2 p.m., with Pastor Doug. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Blood Drive

Zion to Host Blood Drive

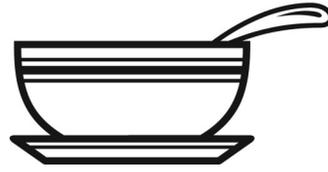
Zion is hosting a blood drive April 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the social hall. To make an appointment, people may call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or [schedule an appointment online.](#)

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Circle Group will not be meeting in April. They will meet May 18th at 3 p.m. in the family room. All are welcome to join!

World Hunger Drive!

More than 820 million people - that's about 11% of the world - are hungry. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.



Throughout the whole season of Lent we will be collecting money for ELCA World Hunger. We take up this collection every year and our delegates bring it with them to the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly in May. To date, we have raised over \$4,000!

This year we will track our progress with a soup bowl and spoons. For every \$20 raised we'll add a spoon to the bowl. Let's see how many spoons we can fit in there!

To learn more about how the ELCA helps feed people all over the world go to ELCA.org/Our-Work

Grant Application from Zion's Mission Endowment Fund

The application and Endowment Fund Brochure are available on the table in the front hall and on Zion's [website](#). Please take one and share it with another one of your favorite organizations. Applications need to be received at Zion by June 1.

April Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of April is sponsored by Joan Nowakowski!



Darkness to Light Child Protection Training Offered___



As people of faith, we are called to care for “the least of these” and “the smallest of these.” Faith leaders (pastors, council members, Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, parents) and all who are interested in creating a safer community for our children are invited to a Stewards of Children® training on Monday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran, 2901

13th St, Menominee. This 2.5 hour program is offered by Pastor Kari Vadis (Trinity, Rhinelander), an Authorized Facilitator, and is approved for 2.5 contact hours of continuing education.

Darkness to Light is a national not-for-profit leader in the prevention of child sexual abuse. Guided by the vision of a world where children can grow up happy, healthy, and safe, Darkness to Light is committed to empowering people to prevent child sexual abuse. They believe that protecting children is an adult’s responsibility, and that through education and training, adults will be empowered to act. Stewards of Children® is an evidence-informed, award-winning, two-hour training that teaches adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Through interviews with child sexual abuse survivors, experts, and treatment providers, Stewards of Children® teaches adults practical actions they can take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities.

This program is sponsored and supported by the Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Team. There is no charge to attend the class, but registration is encouraged by emailing Stefanie Ehle (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) to ensure enough workbooks are available.

Synod-Wide Family Hike

The Northern Great Lakes Synod Youth Ministry Team and U.P. Wild Church invite you to participate in a Synod-Wide Family Hike on Saturday, May 13. There will be multiple hikes taking place in different locations throughout the synod and you are invited to join one of them!

The Menominee Valley Conference Hike will start at 3:00 p.m. at Chickadee Stables, located at the home of Pastor Lee and Jeanie Goodwin (W2234 State Hwy 64, Marinette). This family-friendly event is free and all ages and abilities are welcome. Trail snacks and activities for kids will be provided! Participants are asked to bring their own water bottle, boots and bug spray. Questions can be directed to Jeanie Goodwin (jeanhgoodwin@gmail.com).

A full list of hike locations and times are on the synod website at <https://nglsynod.org/youth/>. You can also learn more about U.P. Wild at <https://upwild.org/>.

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
- **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:** Grades 3-12, July 16-21

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

Another yearly cycle of growing our faith through Zion's Seven Marks of Discipleship begins with the first focus being 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.*

The Easter Sunday Gospel tell us about Mary Magdalene and another faithful woman that had watched the burial of the Lord. These women went out very early on Sunday morning, before the sun rose, to see the grave, and to take the first steps in the process of embalming the Lord's body. The women hadn't yet reached the garden, when a mighty quaking shook the earth, caused by an angel of the Lord who came down from heaven and rolled away the stone from the door of the tomb, and then used it as a seat for himself. The angel didn't come to open the grave for Christ. He came to show the empty grave to the whole world, to give absolute and undeniable evidence of the fact that the resurrection had taken place despite the stone and seal and guards who watched the burial site.

To be human is to be weighed down with "stones" or problems of one type or another at different points in life. There is only one thing that relieves the weight of these stones, and that is Christ's love and our faith in his omnipotence. Through his love and our faith in him, we humans can find peace, comfort, and contentment even in the worst of times. Christ set us free. Free from the burdens, or stones, in our life, problems in family relationships, ill health, financial concerns, etc.

But we need to cultivate that faith so it remains strong, and one of the ways we can do that is through worship; a declaration that God is in the midst of all that is happening in our

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

Continued...

world today. The act of worship offers us an opportunity to gather with fellow Christians and to submit and surrender all of our cares to God – our priorities, plans, hopes, dreams, and especially our fears.

Growing in faith through worship helps us to understand that God is at work, and we can find peace, comfort, and contentment even in the midst of our "stones." Put your trust in God. Having faith helps us to understand that God is at work.

In God's peace and grace,
Karen Sylvester



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

April 1: Janet Cook, George Ihler and Gerald Sylvester
 April 2: Julie Williams
 April 4: Drake Schutt
 April 6: Duane Clarke
 April 9: John Bowdin
 April 11: Eric Powers
 April 13: Eric Breuer and Jacqueline Hamer
 April 15: Susan Goldsmith
 April 16: Kathleen Cramer
 April 17: Matthew Hellerman and Alexis Rosenfeldt
 April 20: Gerald Poquette and Sue Poquette
 April 21: Kurt Oleson
 April 22: Denise Despins
 April 24: Brycen Buenning
 April 25: Judith Limberg
 April 30: Troy Cording



Stewardship Initiative

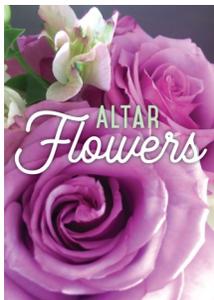
How many rocks are you carrying around in your life? Are they overriding your joy and contentment? Do you spend more time concentrating on those rocks or worries than you do anything else? Are they weighing you down and becoming more and more problematic - robbing you of a good night's sleep, causing you to question your mental wellbeing. It can happen so easily.

The answer for relief is turning to God through worship and prayer. Turn from worry to worship. Talk to him about your pile of rocks - turn them over to him. Become more dependent on God and less reliant on yourself. Thank him for the peace he will bring to you and keep thanking and praising him through worship. The Bible tells us in Luke 1:37: "For nothing will be impossible with God."

Dear Lord God, you know I'm struggling with the rocks I have in my life. They seem to grow heavier and heavier every day. As I go through this day, I ask you to send your Holy Spirit to me to remind me to worship you with praise and thanksgiving. Help me to admit defeat and to reach out to you throughout the day to provide me peace, comfort, and contentment. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Karen Sylvester

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. You can take the flowers home after service! To reserve a date, please call or email Zion's office at 715-732- 7898 or Zion@newbc.rr.com.

Current dates that need sponsoring are:
April 16, 23rd and 30th; May 7th, 14th and 21st.

April Birthdays

April 1: Kathleen Cramer and Cheryl Maxwell
April 2: Sue Poquette and Jacob Swenson
April 3: Carol Johnson
April 7: Donald Limberg
April 9: Elsa Limberg
April 10: Sandra Gressel
April 11: Judith Limberg
April 12: Steve Bromund
April 13: Allie Buenning
April 15: Matthew Hellerman
April 17: Theresa Kloida and Hannah Oleson
April 19: Jakob Callaway-Ross
April 20: Easton Buenning and Tyler Lund
April 21: Michelle Larson, Ruth Olson and Justin Williams
April 22: David Johnson, Diane Lynch, Katelyn Sylvester and
Richelle Vincent
April 23: Clark Kehoe
April 24: Shirley Enderby, Karen Houdek and Calista Thill
April 25: Roger DeGroot
April 27: Sophie Limberg, Kimberly Swenson and
Sandra Tessmer
April 28: Adam Thill
April 29: Lori Despins, Bonnie Schoen and Judy Stehle



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!

THANK YOU!
thank you!

Zion received the following thank you notes:

Dill Family:

Thank you so much to our Zion family for the words of sympathy and acts of kindness given to us after the death of our precious schnauzer Libbi. It has helped us deal with her loss.

Lanse and Karen Dill

The Salvation Army:

To our friends at Zion Lutheran,
 Thank you so much for your generous donation through your Souper Bowl of Caring. Over 400 pounds of food that will serve families in need, during a time where they are losing some benefits. We appreciate your continued support of the Salvation Army throughout the year.

God bless you!
 Major Rhegan Stansbury

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2023

A Ministry Sprung to Life

COVID-19 has meant many changes for many people: online school and worship, families balancing work with child care and, in too many instances, saying goodbye to loved ones.

For one ELCA community in Baltimore, though, there has been growth—and hope—during uncertain times.

In early 2020, after being called by the Delaware-Maryland Synod to be a street minister in Baltimore’s Station North neighborhood, Elazar Atticus Schoch Zavaletta began spending time and engaging with people on and around North Avenue. That street ministry, with the help of your Mission Support shared with the Delaware-Maryland Synod and the churchwide office, evolved into North Ave Mission (NAM).

The NAM community gathers each week at Ynot Lot, an outdoor event space, for “Family Life” (part worship service, part resource connection) and the Farm-to-Stoop Free Market, where anyone can stop by, pick up a hot meal, leave with clothes and groceries, and visit a mobile community health clinic.

“Everything that has sprung to life at North Ave Mission is a vision of the early community,” Zavaletta said. “We’re a mix of worshiping community, mutual aid organization, harm reduction, housing, leadership development, even advocacy. But Family Life is our center and our locus. It is what everything else that NAM is doing has grown out of.”

Keia McCray is a community coordinator with NAM, a job she started in mid-2021. McCray, who grew up a few blocks from where NAM gathers each week, said the ministry has changed the neighborhood and there’s even less crime.

“You’ve got to see it to believe it,” she said. “The community is getting strong with each other.”

McCray said NAM is also changing what church can look like in

STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2023



Above: North Ave Mission (NAM) in Baltimore, the only synodically authorized worshipping community in the Delaware-Maryland Synod to launch during the pandemic, gathers outdoors for worship each week.

at least two significant ways. First, and perhaps most visibly, the worshipping community gathers outdoors each week. Second is that Zavaletta identifies as a nonbinary Latiné transguy, making them the first known transmasculine and nonbinary person of color to be ordained in the ELCA. Zavaletta is Tejano and comes from a mixed-race background that includes Indigenous, Basque, Mexican and Swiss ancestors.

“I came to the ELCA because grace was embodied for me and to me,” Zavaletta said. “I came to the ELCA because when people looked at me, they saw possibility and they saw potential, and they put my love of God and my call in front of all of the other ways the world might have disqualified me.”

Looking ahead, Zavaletta hopes NAM will continue to follow the vision of those in the community it serves. “The most important thing about NAM is that we center the leadership and visions of those who are most impacted by systemic oppression. I am here as a gatherer and a nurturer, and to empower people and recognize their gifts, but not necessarily to determine the vision.”

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Where to find Zion's Information _____

Zion has a gauntlet of places where you can stay current with the happenings within Zion!

- ⇒ We publish a weekly Announcement sheet that includes, but is not limited to: the schedule of events for the upcoming week, Birthdays, special announcements and members to lift up in prayer.
- ⇒ Zion also has a Facebook page, that contains pictures of various activities, events that will take place (Sew for Missions & Blood Drives—just to mention a few).
- ⇒ Zion's website (<http://www.zionlutheran-marquette.org/>) has a link to display a Google Calendar—at the very top of the Home page, on the upper right.
- ⇒ We also publish a monthly Newsletter; you're reading it right now! It is available in print, on the website, and via email. If you have not received a notification via email and would like to, please email your request to:
Zion@newbc.rr.com
- ⇒ Occasionally reminders and/or the weekly announcement sheet is sent via email. If you have not received any of these messages and would like to, please email your request to: Zion@newbc.rr.com

If you have information to be shared with Zion, please submit it to: Zion@newbc.rr.com The submission deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 21st of every month. The submission deadline for the weekly announcements is every Monday.



Happy Easter!

From our families to yours,
Happy Easter!

Peace and Blessings,
*Pastor Doug, Karen H., Michelle, Gina,
Ann, Rachel and Marissa*



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