

WE ARE ZION

NEWS



Zion Lutheran Church
2714 James Street
Marinette, WI 54143
715-735-7898

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

August 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 and Financial Secretary — Marissa Tharp

Choir Director and Organist — Ann Buscher

Accompanist for Choir and Organist— Rachel Rosenfeldt

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

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ ‘Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’ ... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

These triumphant words form the climax of the 15th chapter of Paul's First letter to the Corinthians. The whole chapter is a proclamation and explanation of the resurrection. Earlier in this magnificent chapter Paul states, *“If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”* Then he goes on to say, *“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.”*

Paul wrote the verses at the beginning of this article to take away the doubt, uncertainty and fear associated with death. I have spoken these words at many funerals and at nearly every graveside committal service throughout my ministry. I have conducted more funerals in the past year than I had in the first nine years of my retirement combined. Every funeral is an opportunity to pay tribute, with thanksgiving to God, for the life that has been lived in our midst; to acknowledge the reality of the death that has occurred and, in so doing, share our loss and grief honestly with one another; and, at the same time, to affirm our faith in the resurrection to eternal life for the person who has died and for all who are within the Communion of Saints by faith and baptism. It concerns me that it is becoming more and more commonplace that obituaries in the newspaper state that it is the wish of the person who has died that there will be no funeral, or that there will be a celebration of life at some unspecified future date, often at a favorite bar. In such cases, an opportunity is missed to hear the comforting and reassuring words of hope that in the death and resurrection of

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Jesus Christ, God has defeated death and made eternal life available to everyone.

A friend and colleague, Rev. Richard “Dick” Hueter, died on July 15th at the age of 88. His obituary included the following witness shared frequently by Dick: “I like being a Christian. I don’t have to wonder if I’m good enough or if my excuses should be better. I am condemned; but this same Judge offers to forgive me and welcome me to Heaven. What a great blessing!”

It reminded me of something I read about Andrew Johnson who was Abraham Lincoln’s successor in the presidency. Shortly after Johnson died in 1875, his family found a memo in his handwriting. In it he wrote, “I have nothing to fear in approaching death. To me it is the mere shadow of God’s protecting wing.” The article stated, “Here was a man who understood God’s promise to be with us always, even when we do not necessarily discern his presence.”

Last Sunday and this coming Sunday (July 23 & 30), my sermons are focusing on the Epistle readings from Romans 8, another great chapter written by the Apostle Paul. In last Sunday’s reading, Paul writes, *“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.”* He goes on to say, *“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”* God’s Spirit, working faith in us, enables us to look forward with hope to the resurrection to eternal life in Christ. This enables us to endure the difficulties life can send our way. Next Sunday we will read the assuring and triumphant words Paul wrote

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in concluding this great chapter. After listing all the powers that can cause suffering, fear and distress, including death itself, Paul writes, *“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

What a joy and a privilege it is to preach this good news, not only at funerals, but every Sunday in our services of worship, as well as in personal conversation with individuals needing a word of hope and encouragement. I look forward to seeing you in church this Sunday.



In Christ's Service,
Pastor Doug

What's Around the Corner?

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

- August 6:** 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Piano solo by Anna Marzahl.
- August 13:** 11th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Nick Johannes.
- August 20:** 12th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service.
- August 27:** 13th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Vocal duet by Barb Grom and Karen Sylvester.

Congregation Council Highlights

The congregational council had a special meeting Sunday, July 9th at 10:30 a.m.



New Business

- **Following a recommendation by the Personnel Committee, a motion was made by Mark Swenson to hire Marissa Tharp as Zion's financial secretary with a start date of August 1, 2023. Motion was seconded and approved.**

The next council meeting will be August 8 at 6:30 p.m.

School Food Pantry Collection

We're collecting food items to stock the school pantries as they start a new year. The kind of items that can be sent home with even the youngest kids to



prepare for themselves. Your Social Ministry Committee will split the food between the Marinette and Menominee School Districts at the beginning of September. Please donate items that can be eaten as is or can be prepared using only water.

Microwavable meals are good. Place your donations in the narthex by the collection baskets between July 2nd and August 27th.

Here are some suggestions:

- Meals that are ready to eat such as Chef Boyardee; Dinty Moore; Spaghetti O's; canned fish, chicken, ham; cracker or pretzel snack packs; Pop Tarts; granola bars; breakfast bars, fruit roll ups; beef jerky; trail mix; nuts; dried fruit; and fruit and vegetable juices.
- Meals that just need water and a microwave: soups, cereals, oatmeal cups. Many companies make individual serving cups like: A Taste of Thai Noodles, Rice-A-Roni, Idahoan potatoes, Minute Rice.



Zion supports MMACF Future Fund

Zion has pledged its support for local youth by making a \$24,000 multi-year donation to the M&M Area Community Foundation's (MMACF) Future Fund children's savings account program.

The contribution from Zion Church is on behalf of the Ken & Thea Swenson Youth Fund. Over the next three years, the contribution will be used to "adopt" the incoming fourth-grade students across Marinette and Menominee Counties by providing an additional yearly financial incentive into their savings accounts. These fourth-grade pioneers are the original class to receive a dedicated post-secondary savings account.

"Zion Church is proud to invest in the future of children across Marinette and Menominee counties," said Troy Cording, Zion's Council president. "We know this program encourages all children to dream big! We are excited to play a role in making their educational goals a reality."

The Future Fund began when the Community Foundation established \$50 savings accounts for area kindergarten classes. Each year until graduation more money is added to every child's account. These additions are made possible through the financial "adoption" of classes by area supporters. Research has demonstrated that children's savings accounts help children begin to develop the knowledge and skills needed to navigate educational and financial institutions – now and in the future.

The MMACF encourages community support for the growth and expansion of the Future Fund program. For more information on how to give back to our communities via the Future Fund, please contact MMACF Executive Director, Paula Gruszynski, at 906-864-3599. Checks for this fund may be mailed to the Foundation at 1110 10th Avenue, Suite L-1, Menominee, MI 49858 or made online at www.mmacf.org.

Our Christian Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Debra Mylener whose husband, Terry, died on July 5th at the age of 74. The funeral service for Terry was conducted by Pastor Schoen. Debbie worships with us regularly and will soon be received into membership at Zion.

Our sympathy is extended to Congregation Council President Troy Cording at the death of his mother, Deanna "Sue" Cording on July 20th at the age of 76. Her funeral was held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Galena, IL where she was an active member. Sue was an English teacher at the high school and college level and was also a community leader serving on the Galena City Council and in other civic organizations.

May the hope of the resurrection and the assurance of God's abiding presence give comfort and consolation to Debbie, Troy and their families.



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 715-735-7898 or Zion@newbc.rr.com. Current dates that need sponsoring are: August 20th and 27th; and September 3rd, 10th and 17th!

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.

My hope is that this newsletter article will prove to be informative regarding what is involved in the calling of a new pastor.

Zion Transition Task Force and the Church Council worked very hard over many weeks to answer the multi-page Ministry Site Profile (MSP) document which was needed to start the search for our new pastor. That information was then provided to Northern Great Lakes Bishop, Katherine Finegan.

I was not on the Church Council 23 years ago when Pastor Keith came to us, so I had to ask Pastor Doug what typically happens during the call process. This is what he told me. "The normal procedure is for a candidate to decide to interview based on the MSP. The bishop sets up a meeting with the council to present a name. The council then decides to interview the candidate giving both the council and candidate the opportunity to get to know each other. Even before the interview, the candidate will be sent a copy of the MSP containing information about Zion and the community." I'm told the bishop will provide the council the name of one candidate at a time. If all goes well the council will move forward; however, if the candidate or the council feels it isn't a good fit, the process begins again. (Zion had two candidates which were turned down by the council/ congregation before we received Pastor Keith's name.)

Fast forward many months. While attending Synod Convention in May, I had occasion to speak with Bishop Finegan about how the call process was going. She told me she is working tirelessly to find us a great candidate for the position, but she said, it's

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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made more difficult with all the recent pastor transfers and retirements. She did ask me to relay to all of you the need for consistent prayer on the matter.

So, I ask you, please pray daily so that Bishop Finegan can find a candidate for the position of Zion's future pastor.

Please pray daily that should Bishop Finegan reach out to a potential candidate he or she will feel God's call to give Zion a chance.

Please pray daily that the candidate continues to feel the Holy Spirit's call and to be pulled to have an interview with our council.

Please pray daily that the council be filled with discernment from the Holy Spirit to ask the right questions, create a great impression, and make the best decision for the future of Zion.

A wise person recently told me, as a congregation we need to trust in the process. Most importantly, we need to remember that God is preparing someone for Zion just as God is preparing Zion for her or him! So, pray, pray, and pray some more!!

Bishop Finegan requested that we pray and there are many things to pray about concerning the call and a new pastor. Thinking about it could easily cause anxiety and forfeiting of our peace, but God is always with us just as the first verse of "What A Friend We Have In Jesus" says.

"Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh what needless pain we bear. because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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Through August and into September, we are focusing on INVITE as a mark of discipleship. We have long considered ourselves a warm and welcoming congregation. Saying that, it's the responsibility of each of us to be just that. Therefore, if you should see a visitor(s) at worship, please smile and warmly welcome them to Zion. If you are able, approach that person and introduce yourself. If there is coffee hour Sunday, and you are comfortable, please ask them to accompany you to coffee. If you don't feel comfortable doing that, speak with someone you think could - they may not have spotted the visitor. It is vital we all make a good first impression as we may not be given a second chance.

In God's peace, grace, and love,
Karen Sylvester

Synod Office is looking for an office administrator! _____

Are you or someone you know looking for a job? Well, our Synod office, The Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is looking for a new office administrator.



This is a full time (37½ hours per week) in-office position in Marquette, MI.

Compensation will be commensurate with skills and experience and include health and pension benefits.

The full job description can be found on their website, nglsynod.org.

Interested persons can send resume and cover letter to ngls@nglsynod.org or mail them to:
1029 North Third St., Suite A
Marquette, MI 49855,
Attn: Bishop Katherine Finegan



Zion received the following thank you notes:

Marinette and Menominee Area Community Foundation:

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Thank you for sharing in our drive to make our corner of the world a better place! We have directed your gift of \$6,000.00 to our Future Fund children's savings account program.

The program is designed to encourage hope, build savings, assist with career training/post-secondary education expenses, and increase financial literacy. The Future Fund provides an automatic \$50 savings account to kindergarten students throughout Marinette and Menominee Counties. Savings accounts grow by additional deposits from the Community Foundation during each year of the students' K-12 career.

We believe an investment in our kids is an investment in our community's future. Your impact on our children will extend well into the future!

Sincerely,
Paula Gruszynski

The DAR Boys and Girls Club:

Dear Friends of Zion Lutheran Church,

You have a heart of gold! Thank you for believing in the children in our community. Your passion to give them a fun and safe place to receive a healthy meal, learn new life skills, and enjoy time with friends and adult mentors does not go unnoticed. Thank you for trusting the DAR Boys & Girls Club to be that place for the Club children and their families.

Thank you so much for your donation. Your donation of \$241.40 will allow us to continue serving the youth of our community.

Sincerely,
Koreen Gardon, CEO

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THANK YOU!
thank you!

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Northern Great Lakes Synod:

Dear People of Zion Lutheran in Marinette:

Grace and peace to you in these glorious summer days!

In this season of growing, I am grateful for the fruits of ministry that you make possible with your mission support and designated giving. As our year focusing on Love continues, our partnership together bears fruit that will last - not only through our Synod's efforts, but also through the ministry of the greater church, combining the resources of the many congregations of the ELCA to get the work of Christ accomplished.

The Synod has received the following designated gifts from your congregation since January 1, 2023:

- Disaster Relief, Turkey: \$3,136
- World Hunger: \$5,330
- Fortune Lake Camp: \$1,029.18
- Lutheran World Relief: \$20

May God continue to bless your congregation, and your contributions of time, talents, and resources that will bear fruit locally, synod-wide, and globally...to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,
 Bishop Katherine Finegan



From the Office Secretary

My first day at Zion was on August 17th, 2021; so we're coming up on my two-year anniversary and some of you might not really know me since I am not a member of the congregation.

So, hi! I'm Marissa and I'm 26 years old and I live in Marinette with a roommate and we both have a cat. I went to Stephenson High School in Michigan and I have an associates degree from UW-Marquette (When it was still called UW-Marquette and not University of Green Bay– Marinette campus; that sure is a mouthful). My associates is not in anything specific (everyone who graduated from UW-Marquette got the same degree — an Associates of Arts and Sciences). I intended to get my bachelor's in history from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay but I had to put that on hold. Recently, I have been looking into paralegal classes at NWTC or getting a degree in education and teaching license with a supplemental license in teaching English as a second language. I think it would be neat to go to different countries to teach English; going to Thailand and teaching there especially interests me.

Anyway! I also read a lot and I like to play video games for fun and I do a lot of recreational writing; both fictional and nonfictional stories.

Thank you to every single member here at Zion for making my first two years here a most enjoyable experience and here's to many more with you all!

*Me and my cat, Loki,
who I have had since
2017.*



Accurate contact information?

CONTACT information



Have you or a family member recently had a change of address or phone number?

Have you or a family member moved? Not sure if Zion has accurate information on file (mailing address,

phone number, email)? Zion is striving to have current information on file. Please call or email Zion's office to verify what is on file (715-735-7898) or zion@newbc.rr.com). Thank you for your assistance!

August Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of August is sponsored by Jim Cook and is in memory of Hillive and Bill Cook.



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

August 1: Michael Jagelski

August 2: Rosalie Settersten

August 7: Mary Bodam, Dale Lueskow and Greg Peanosky

August 11: Brian Swenson

August 13: Traci Olson

August 16: Fyfe Thill

August 19: Mason Krah

August 20: Sam Gressel, Sarah Jagielski

August 21: Allyson Knopik

August 23: Aiden Bailey, Laura Peanosky

August 24: Sally Broetzman

August 25: Jacob Ehle

August 27: Debra Strohl

August 29: Delanie Schroeder



August Birthdays

August 3: Andrew Hubbard

August 6: Jackie Hamer

August 7: Dakota Lueskow, Kathleen Lueskow

August 9: Bill Boerner, Jacob Cording, Laura Peanosky

August 10: Gage Schutt

August 13: Sally Broetzman, Joan Nowakowski

August 15: Fay Brummond, Larry Melgary

August 16: Linda Walker

August 17: Joni Rudell

August 18: Sarge Rudell

August 20: Brooke Rose

August 22: Gary Houdek

August 25: Jordan Lueskow, Tim Marzahl

August 29: Barb Grom, Jared Johnson, Gail Melgary

August 31: Katy Bauer



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.



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Going Where Jesus Leads



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Equipping the Saints for Ministry



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God's work. Our hands.