

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church
2714 James Street
Marinette, WI 54143
715-735-7898
zion@newbc.rr.com

NEWS

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

November 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
 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

October 22nd was Time-Talent-Treasure Sunday at Zion. Zion members joined their Christian brothers and sisters throughout the Northern Great Lakes Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in processing to the altar and laying their pledge cards before the Lord as a thank-offering, an expression of gratitude, a symbol of faithfulness, and a vow of support of the ministries through which we, as the church, do the work of God in our respective communities and throughout the world. It was a moving worship experience. In response to several requests, and as a concluding thought for our month-long stewardship emphasis, I am going to share a portion of my sermon from October 1st that kicked off our stewardship campaign. The following is my personal reflection:

I have been blessed in life in many ways, but one of the blessings for which I am most grateful is having had parents who were people of faith, who brought me to the baptismal font when I was but a month old where God claimed me as his own and gave me the promise of eternal life in Christ, parents who made good on their promises to bring me up in the faith, who brought me to worship and Sunday School regularly, who set an example of active involvement in the life and mission of the church, and who demonstrated faithful stewardship of time, talents and treasures.

In my childhood and youth, I went through the various steps in the process of growth as a child of God—Sunday School, Confirmation, First Communion, and the like—but here's the thing—I saw these things as rewards for accomplishments on my part. Keep in mind that I grew up in an era when gold stars were awarded for things like regular attendance in Sunday School, memorizing the names of the books of the Bible, and committing Luther's Small Catechism to memory. Being an active part of the church, it seemed to me, was a merit-based system. For example, back in the day we did not

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receive Communion until we were confirmed. We were confirmed on Palm Sunday and received our First Communion on Maundy Thursday. Communion, I thought then, was a reward I received for passing all those tests on the catechism and getting confirmed. In fact, confirmation was an achievement that entitled me to several privileges.



Once confirmed, I could join Luther League, what we called the church's youth program in those days. I earned the right to get to do the fun things.

When I was confirmed, I received my own adult box of offering envelopes. That was a big deal to me. I had earned an advanced status. Before Commitment Sunday in the fall, I sat at the dining room table with my parents and filled out my very own pledge card just like they did. I would have pledged 25 or 50 cents a week of my meager allowance. That couldn't have meant much to the church in terms of supporting its operating budget, but it sure meant a lot to me. It made me feel important and valued. I was learning to practice proportionate giving and first fruits giving before I even knew what that meant.

Another reward confirmation brought me was that I could serve on a committee and attend an annual meeting and vote on church business. I had earned that privilege. All well and good. I got involved. I did my part. When asked, I said "yes" and I showed up. I followed through. But I had the wrong idea. I saw all these things as a series of rewards. I had earned the right. I had achieved the status.

I don't know when the transition took place, but in time I came

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to regard these things, not as rewards, but gifts and blessings from God that gave me joy, purpose and fulfillment. This came, in part, I think, because the church changed its perspective. For example, Communion was seen, not as a reward for being confirmed, but a stepping stone that would strengthen the young believer on the path toward confirmation and, therefore, offered at an earlier age with meaningful instruction. The church, in time, also moved toward involving children in church activities in a variety of ways as early as possible.

Whatever the trends and whatever the reasons, I am grateful that I came to see the church and its functions, not as a merit-based system, but a grace-based system. I am grateful that I came to see the things I have been called to do to serve God and God's people not as rewards, but as gifts and blessings bestowed on me by a gracious God that have enriched my life.

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".

- Nov. 5: All Saints Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Daylight Saving Time ends.
- Nov. 12: 24th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Rev. Nick Johannes.
- Nov. 19: 25th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Singing Through the Church Year.
- Nov. 26: Christ the King Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music by Zion's choir.

Singing Through the Church Year

November 19th will be the last of the “Sundays after Pentecost,” bringing us close to the end of the Church Year. We will mark this day with a special worship experience called “Singing Through the Church Year.” The 9:30 a.m. worship service will take us through the six seasons of the Church Year with hymns and scripture readings reflecting the theme of each season. This will be accompanied by a narrative description of each season. Come prepared to sing, learn and be inspired.

Congregation Council Highlights



The congregational council met October 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Faith Statements:

Nik Williams and Anna Marzhal gave their confirmation faith statements to the council.

Adison Rosenfeldt also completed her faith statement and will

present it at the November meeting. Council voted to approve the three 9th graders for confirmation on October 29.

Pastor's Report: Confirmation Orientation took place this month and is combined with Bethel Lutheran Church. Eight students total, including two new 6th graders from Zion.

September Financial Report

- LeeAnn provided her report, will add the ELCA Grant of \$1,000 for AV equipment to the Capital Improvement Fund.

Committee Reports

- **Property:** Will continue snow removal service with Dave Reek. Mark would like to get pricing on the sign in preparation for spring. Mark will also get pricing on resurfacing the parking lot so we have more accurate numbers to budget for in the future.
- **Stewardship and Generosity:** October is the month for stewardship with an emphasis on time and talents.

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Congregation Council Highlights

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Pledge card mailing went out the week of Oct. 9th which allowed members a chance to commit time and talents. October 22 was Time Talents and Treasures Sunday.

Old Business:

- **A/V Equipment:** At this time, we have enough funds to upgrade the video portion, but not the audio portion. Troy would like to get updated pricing and hold a congregational meeting for informational purposes.
- **Water Fountain in Narthex:** Reviewed quotes from Tri-City Plumbing for a direct supply water bubbler with bottle filler; Team Plumbing for a drinking fountain; and Culligan for a cooler rental. Alternatively, we could remove the bubbler completely and repair the wall. Laura made a motion not to install a bubbler. Discussion was had that bubblers are a dying thing, with COVID precautions in place, we have other uses for the money, could purchase mini bottles of water for the kitchen refrigerator.
- **Best COVID Practices:** Pastor will continue to refrain from handshaking and we will continue to observe touchless sharing of peace

New Business

- **Membership Update:** Transfer membership of Belinda Lemire to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Manawa, WI.

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

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Circle Group will meet November 16th at 3 p.m. in Zion's family room. All are welcome to join!

November Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of November is sponsored by Jim Cook and is in memory of Bob Cook.



November Bowling and December Baking Youth Events



BOWLING

Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 7th-12th grade are invited to go bowling on Sunday, November 19. We will meet at the Dome Lanes (801 University Ave. in Marinette) from noon - 1:30 pm for bowling, pizza, fellowship, and fun!

Football games will be playing on the TVs so you can keep tabs on your favorite teams. There is no cost to attend but reservations are needed. Please RSVP to Stefanie at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org by November 17.

And be sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. for a Baking with the Bishop Christmas Extravaganza! Bishop Katherine will be joining us for cookie baking, games, crafts, and an afternoon of spreading Christmas cheer. Stay tuned for additional details.



COOKIES

Why Do We Fill Out Worship Attendance Cards? _____



ATTENDANCE

Zion does this because it is important on a synod and national level for congregations to keep a somewhat accurate record of attendance on a yearly basis. It's also important to use them when wanting to request prayers, change of address, or a pastoral visit, and it helps to keep track of who does/doesn't attend for membership purposes. So please, take the time to fill them out. Thank you!

November Donation Collection

Zion is Called to Go Where Jesus Leads and our Social Ministry Committee is committed to showing our congregation ways to live out that calling in our community.



During the month of November, we will be collecting items for Biehl Bridges to Recovery.

Bridges to Recovery is a grant-funded, non-profit, community organization that offers support, services, and connections for individuals affected by, seeking or are in recovery from substance use disorder. The individuals served have Substance Abuse Disorders and the services are provided at no cost to the individual. Their Recovery Community Center is open for walk-ins and a safe place for individuals seeking, affected by, or in recovery to spend time during open hours.

Helpful Items to Donate:

- Printer paper
- Totes to organize items
- Cleaning supplies
- Paper towels and tissues
- Men's clothing (especially PJs and sweatpants)
- Deodorant
- Adult Bicycles

You are also invited to view their website (mmbridges2recovery.com) to learn more about them or offer your time and talents.

Becoming a Member at Zion

If you have an interest in becoming a member of Zion, or have questions about membership, please speak with Pastor Doug on Sunday or call him at 906-863-5463.

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.

About two months ago, a friend contacted me about a prayer class which was going to be held at Emmanuel Lutheran. She wanted to know if I would be interested in attending with her. As it turns out we couldn't attend the class together because of our diverging schedules; however, being called by God through her, I decided to attend. After signing up, I began thinking about the prayers that I had been saying. I decided that lately they were mostly by rote; I wasn't feeling totally comfortable with them – I wasn't connecting with God the way I had previously or the way I wanted.

The Prayer Class, led by Emmanuel Lutheran's Interim Pastor Christine Olson, began with the class developing a Group Covenant and a listing of what they hoped to get out of the prayer group. My own personal goals were:

- to develop a better relationship with God through prayer.
- to learn how to focus better when praying and stop my mind from wandering off.
- to learn different ways to pray.

We were instructed to create a prayer spot – a special place in our home that is only used for prayer. It could be as simple as a chair next to a small table or a special room with someplace to sit and a side table. On the table would be a Bible, journal or note pad with pen or pencil, a candle to light or perhaps a cross to view if preferred - but don't clutter the space. We were cautioned that we may need to try a couple of different spots to find the perfect one, especially if we have a spouse or children to distract us.

We would also need a timer or an alarm for our prayer spot. These prayer exercises should last 15-20 minutes, but

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner_____

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no more than 30 minutes each. If we didn't have a timer or an alarm, we would be worried about how much time had passed – too little – too much.

We were to choose a time of day at which to pray every day. This could be a specific time on the clock, 7:30, noon, etc., or a time based upon our own routine, such as with morning coffee, right after lunch, etc. We were advised that establishing the perfect time might take a few days to determine as well.

Then every day, at the established time, we were to go to our prayer spot, get comfortable, and rest in silence for a few moments asking God to be with us and to speak to us through the prayer exercise.

I'm now 4 weeks into it and I'm astounded by what I am uncovering. Starting next month, I will share with you the different types of prayer that I am being taught – each one being vastly different from the other. I thought my prayer life was pretty good, but over time it had evolved into something I think is truthfully - pitiful. I knew in my heart of hearts that I really needed to spend more time in prayer - in conversation with and listening to God, and this provides me that avenue. After these few weeks, practicing what I have been taught, I find myself having more frequent conversations with God. My mind doesn't travel as much as it did, and I can relax in God's presence far better than previously.

I have eight more classes to go, and I'm sure much more to discover and learn. With God's guidance I humbly ask that my prayer life will continue to grow.

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

News from the Synod!

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Grace and peace to you!

As you may know, the work of Christ through the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) is funded by the generosity of our 79 congregations. Mission Support from NGLS congregations, sometimes called Benevolence, is shared with the Churchwide Organization of the ELCA to make wider and deeper AMERICA ministry possible, as well as cover the basic costs of NGLS staff salaries, benefits, and the light bill at the Synod office. Like our congregations, the Synod staff is intentional about being good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. Bills are paid and obligations are met. What if we had the resources to do more?

In conversation with the Synod Council, the hope was expressed that we have an annual fund drive that creates a Synod Ministry Fund. This fund is not an Endowment that creates a corpus from which a yearly disbursement supports ministry. Rather, the hope for the Synod Ministry Fund is that every year it will provide needed financial support for current congregational and Synod ministry efforts. What new thing would your congregation do if it only had the money? What collaborative effort could be possible with adequate financial support? What innovative ministry, event, initiative, or vision could come into being if only the money was there?

On Giving Tuesday (November 28, 2023), our inaugural Synod Ministry Fund Campaign will begin and extend through December 31, 2023. Geared toward the individual giver, the hope is to build up a fund before the end of this year from which monies will be distributed for ministry projects the following year. The goal is for resources that are nimble and accessible; gathered in one year and sent out the next.

Please continue to faithfully support your congregation with your regular giving and make an additional gift to the Synod

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News from the Synod!

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Ministry Fund. Every gift makes an impact.

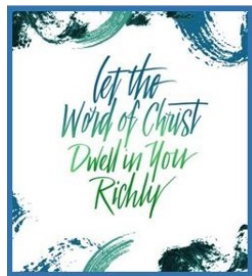
To make a gift, either go to our website, www.nglsynod.org, on Giving Tuesday, November 28, or make your checks payable anytime to: The Northern Great Lakes Synod, with Synod Ministry Fund in the memo line. Send to 1029 North 3d St. Marquette, MI. 49855

Whether you donate \$5 or \$500, your gift will assist in continuing to build the ministries within our synod and sharing the love of Christ in and through our congregations in the U.P. and Northern Wisconsin.

Thank you for supporting this new way to fund ongoing NGLS ministry efforts.

In Christ,
The Council of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Dwelling in the Word



You are invited to join the whole Northern Great Lakes Synod in Dwelling in the Word. Starting in September, our whole synod will dwell in the same scripture readings for each month. You are also welcome to join a Zoom Dwelling in the Word the first Thursday evening of every month at 6:30 p.m. If you would like the Zoom link, contact Zion's office at zion@newbc.rr.com. Let us Dwell in the Word together!

The passage for November is Luke 16: 1-13 "The Dishonored Steward"

Questions to keep in mind while reading are:

- 1.) What catches your attention
- 2.) What questions does this passage raise for you?
- 3.) Where might God's Spirit be nudging you in this passage?

November Birthdays

November 1: Georgann Griffiths
November 2: Jaclynn Knopik, Phillip Strohl
November 3: James Jagielski, Joanne Schutt
November 4: Hope Goes
November 5: John Kloida, Wendy Strutz
November 6: Henry Zuehls
November 7: Niklas Williams
November 9: Sharon Schmidt, Mary Thielen
November 10: Michael Harding
November 12: Lisa Cook, Carol Magnuson
November 18: Kenny Sallee
November 19: Barbara Baumgarten
November 21: Jane Landenberger
November 24: Naomi Dumke
November 25: Susan Fischer
November 26: Bethany Emler
November 27: Karen Sylvester
November 28: Lanse Dill, Alex Gressel
November 29: Carissa Kempka, Sydney Lund, Travis Lund



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

November 1: Carole Boerner, Daniel Lemire, Laura Rowe, Kathi Gutknecht.

November 2: Michael Cook, Georgann Griffiths, Timothy Saxton

November 3: Kensley Renne

November 5: Leah Rose

November 7: Beckham Betts, Donna Dietrich

November 9: Mark Swenson

November 10: Vicki Guay, John Heimbuch

November 11: Alexa Oleson

November 12: Barbara Grom

November 13: Nora Plym

November 15: Chad Francour

November 16: Megan Buenning

November 18: Gary Grom

November 26: Thomas Kaufman, Kaya Lebick

November 29: Kaitlyn Francour, Sharon Schmidt, Joanne Schutt



A Note From The Financial Secretary

If you have changed your donation for 2024 make sure you go to the VANCO website and change it there. You can make a new entry but make sure you have it start 1/1/24 and stop this years by entering 12/31/23.

If you have questions please call our office at 715-735-7898, and I will call you back as soon as I can! This will alleviate any issues for next year. Thank you for your help!

Marissa Tharp, Financial Secretary

Upcoming Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Events _____

Senior Days

Fortune Lake has announced their 2023-2024 Senior Day schedule. There will be a Senior Day on November 13, January 15th, March 11th, and May 13th!

Each Senior Day begins at 10 a.m. and wraps up by 2 p.m. The program varies but generally includes the following:

- 10:00 a.m. – Arrival and check-in, coffee and fellowship time
- 10:15 a.m. – Devotion & announcements
- 10:30 a.m. – Presentation morning session
- 12:00 p.m. – Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. – Presentation afternoon session

A \$10 donation per participant is requested and attendees are asked to RSVP by the Friday before the event to (906) 214-2267 or hospitality@fortunelake.org.



Fortune Lake Fall Fest Update _____

The numbers are in, and we're thrilled to report our Fall Fest 2023 fundraising total of \$23,355!

THANK YOU to all who participated in any way. Your generosity helps sustain outdoor ministry at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, keeping our programs financially accessible. We thank God for you!

Save the date of Saturday, October 5 for Fall Fest 2024, with the Virtual Auction kicking off about 2 weeks before.

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. You may also click on the “Shop Now” button on Zion’s Facebook page!

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!

From Our Families To Yours, Happy Thanksgiving! _____

From all of us in and around Zion; we wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving!

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Doug, Michelle,
Gina, Ann,
Rachel and Marissa



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.