

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church

2714 James Street

Marinette, WI 54143

715-735-7898

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

NEWS

December 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 — Sharon Powlaites
 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

Last Sunday we sang through the church year using a litany that included scripture readings and narratives that expressed and explained the theme and message of each of the six seasons of the church year. We then sang one or two hymns that are representative of each season. It was good to do this at the end of the church year, for it gave us an opportunity to reflect on the flow of our worship experience throughout the past year. The current church year ends on November 26th with Christ the King Sunday. The church year ends on a high note as we celebrate Christ's eternal reign as Lord and King.

A new church year will begin on December 3rd with the First Sunday in Advent. The four Sundays in Advent prepare us for celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ in the Christmas season in the same way that Lent prepares us for celebrating Christ's resurrection in the season of Easter. But Advent has its own theme expressed in the phrase—Christ has come, is come, and will come again—that makes Advent a rich and meaningful season of worship. I can guarantee you that worshipping every Sunday in Advent will make your Christmas celebration all the more meaningful and fulfilling. The Fourth Sunday in Advent happens to fall on December 24th this year. We will observe it at our regular 9:30 a.m. service, then celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season that same evening at 8:00 p.m. with our traditional Christmas Eve service.

Reflecting on the themes of the last few Sundays of the church year and anticipating the Sundays in Advent, I am reminded of a scene near the end of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. The local Russian magistrate has just notified the residents of the small Ukrainian Jewish village of Anatevka that they must pack up their belongings and leave their village by order of the Tsar. A group of men are standing together mulling over their options. One says defiantly,

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“We should band together and fight them, “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth!” to which Tevye, the milkman, responds, “If we lived by that principle, the whole world would be blind and toothless.” As they stood there with heads bowed in dejection, one man plaintively says, “Wouldn’t this be a good time for the Messiah to come.”

There are times in most everyone’s life when we might utter the same lament. This may be in response to a difficulty one is currently experiencing, or a general expression of lament over worldly events or conditions. For people of faith, it is also an expression of hope (assured trust) in God’s promise to send a Messiah. Our Jewish brothers and sisters lived then and continue to live with the hope that the Messiah will come in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. We Christians believe that the Messiah has come in the person of Jesus the Christ. We look back to Christ’s life, death and resurrection as the fulfillment of God’s promise to redeem his people.

This belief in the Messiah lies at the core of our church year observance. The church year begins with the hope that the Messiah will come and ends with the celebration of his eternal reign. Everything in between proclaims the fulfillment of God’s promise to send the Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ, then through the church, his body. Advent expresses the hope-filled longing that God will come to us in the person of the Messiah. Christmas celebrates our belief that God did come to us in the birth of Jesus. Epiphany presents Christ to the world proclaiming that the baby born in Bethlehem is the promised Messiah. Lent draws us to the cross where God’s promise of salvation is



worked out through Christ’s atoning death. Easter celebrates Christ’s victory over death and the grave and his ascension into heaven. Pentecost shows us how Christ continues to live and work in the world through the church which is

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his body, directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do Christ's kingdom work in the world. So, our worship experience through the church year offers us a meaningful and fulfilling reenactment of the life of our Messiah, Jesus Christ, and shows us how to be his people in the world in which we live and in the world to come.

"Wouldn't this be a good time for the Messiah to come?" The good news is that the Messiah has come, is come, and will come again. He is with us everywhere and every day. This we celebrate every time we gather for worship. This we can also celebrate, as people of faith, at all times and in every circumstance.

I look forward to joining you in worship on Christ the King Sunday and throughout the Advent season.

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".

- Dec. 3: First Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Dec. 10: Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Rev. Gene Wickman. With special music by Barb Grom and Karen Sylvester.
- Dec. 17: Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary Service. SPARK program.
- Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Dec. 24: Nativity of our Lord, 8 p.m. worship and via Facebook Live. With special music, candlelight and Holy Communion.
- Dec. 31: First Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.

Financial Update

As we approach the last month of the year, our church treasurer and Congregation Council are preparing an operating budget for 2024. It is a good time to review how we have done as a congregation in supporting God's work through our church this year. Here are a few basic figures: The total operating budget for 2023 is \$237,259. Total amount of income received as on October 31 is \$163,073. The difference is \$74,186 with two months to go. The amount pledged by Zion members for 2023 giving totaled \$129,365. Total giving on these pledges to the General Fund is \$119,899 as of October 31. The difference is \$9,466 with two months to go. Note: The amount pledged does not include those who give electronically through VANCO. We are grateful to all who faithfully support the mission and ministries of our church through their financial stewardship. As you consider your year-end charitable giving, we ask that you make every effort, so far as you are able, to fulfill your pledge or intended level of giving 100%. We also ask that you consider an additional year-end gift to help us meet our budget and enter the new year in a strong financial position. Above all, we thank God for his abundant giving to us and his grace that knows no limits.

Congregation Council Highlights



The congregational council met November 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Faith Statements: Adison Rosenfeldt presented her faith statement for confirmation.

Pastor's Report: The average weekly attendance, including

Facebook Live viewers, was 97 for the month of October.

October Financial Report

- **General Fund:** increase of \$8,509

Congregation Council Highlights ---

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- **Capital Fund:** increase \$1,053
- A motion was made to transfer \$38,000.00 of unused Pastor salary to a one year CD

Committee Reports

- **Property:** Office A/C units were taken out and winter windows were put in. Randy S will take out bubbler in narthex. Work needs to be done in the pastor dressing room from a leak. A quote was received from Boyle Design Group to redo the church sign out by road.
- **Stewardship and Generosity:** November and December initiatives will be focusing on Praying; January will focus on Study.

Old Business:

- **A/V Equipment:** Zion received an updated AV quote. Council President Troy Cording will be speaking to congregation to explain all details.

New Business

- **Membership Update:** Transfer of membership for Lori Kirt to Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Wallace, Michigan.

The next council meeting will be December 12th at 6:30 p.m. with the location to be determined.

A Note From The Financial Secretary for VANCO Users

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

Baking with the Bishop



Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 7th-12th grade are invited to Bethel Lutheran Church, 1309 14th Ave., Menominee, on Sunday, December 10 from 3 to 6 p.m. for a Baking with the Bishop Christmas Extravaganza! Bishop Katherine Finegan of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be joining us for cookie baking, games, crafts, and an afternoon of spreading Christmas cheer. Please RSVP to Stefanie at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

Decorate the Church



Hanging of the Greens!

We are decorating the church for Christmas on Tuesday, December 5th at 9 a.m. and need your help! A sign up sheet will be on the corkboard that is set up by the door of the worship area. After decorating, we will have chili for lunch. Please bring an item to share! Thank you for your consideration!

Christmas Eve Worship

There will be two worship services on Christmas Eve. We will be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 9:30 a.m. and then we will have the Nativity of Jesus Christmas Eve service at 8 p.m. The 8 p.m. service will be a candlelight service with Holy Communion, special music by the Zion choir and many Christmas carols. Celebrate the Nativity of Jesus with us. Live streaming via Facebook Live will be available!



Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Circle Group will meet December 19th at 1 p.m. at the church to carpool to their annual Christmas luncheon at Luigi's Pizza and Pasta in Peshtigo.

December 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 December, we will be collecting items for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.



St. Vincent de Paul Society's food pantry is located in their thrift store on Main Street in Marinette. They are the largest pantry in our area and serve both Marinette & Menominee counties. Their weekly food distribution is each Wednesday from 10 am to 4 pm. The food pantry is always happy to gain new volunteers. Stop by the store to pick up a volunteer application today or learn more about our local St. Vincent de Paul Society here: <https://www.svdpmarinette.com/>

Most Needed Items after the Holidays are:

- Jarred spaghetti sauce
- Jams & jellies
- Pancake syrup
- Cornbread / corn muffin mix
- Boxed stuffing & cranberry sauce (yes, even after the holidays!)
- All other non-perishable food items are most certainly welcome as well!

God provides opportunities for us to grow in faith from one another.

The Lutheran Hour, starting after worship service January 7th is one such opportunity.

Please join us.

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.

Last month, I shared the preliminary work of setting up your prayer spot and importance of getting comfortable and resting in silence for a few moments asking God to be with you and to speak to you through the prayer exercise.

This article will delve into the different types of prayer that Emmanuel Lutheran Interim Pastor Christine Olson has taught me and members of my Prayer Group over the last nine weeks. There are two more classes remaining, but they will be offered after the newsletter publication date.

Week One; The Gospel of Mark. We were told to read specific sections each day and to reflect on the answers to provided questions as or after we read the section. After reflecting, we were told to give our questions to God in prayer and remain open to an answer. It is in quietness and with stilled minds that we best allow Jesus to speak to us.

Week Two; Praying Through Your Day. We were told to pray through the events of the day, looking for the presence of God that we may have noticed at the time. These events were written down during our quiet time. As we reflected on them, we were told to remember a moment we may want to relive or one we would want to change. Was there a high or low point when we felt ourselves moving toward or away from God, when we felt closer or most distant from God? As we thought about these times, did we feel God saying something to us or trying to teach us? I really liked this prayer. The entire week I felt closer to God because of what I wrote down.

Week Three; Praying in Gratitude. We began this session like all the others by going to our prayer spot, getting comfortable, and resting in silence for a few moments asking God to be

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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with us and to speak to us through the exercises. We were told to begin this session by acknowledging all of God's gifts in our life with an opening prayer. Then, through reflection, we wrote down 5 SMALL, unique things we were thankful for throughout the day. At the completion of the week, we had 35 different things we were thankful to God for. We were asked to try not to repeat them. One of mine was smelling the coffee brewing before rising. Another was my thankfulness for my fuzzy warm robe that engulfed me on a very cold morning. I loved this prayer as well and frankly was quite surprised how easy it was to come up with 5 small but unique things to be thankful for.

Week Four; Compassion Prayer. Start as usual, breathing gently, sitting quietly, and recognizing God's love and compassion for all of creation, including ourselves. We were to offer these six grateful, heartfelt prayers for each of five prayer categories: May you be well – May you be happy – May you be filled with joy – May you be peaceful and at ease – May you be healthy – may you know the God who loves you.

The first prayer category was: 1) someone you care about – spouse, kids, etc. 2) Others you know – a member of Zion, neighbor, etc. 3) Yourself. 4) A neutral person – mailman, street cleaner, grocery store clerk, etc. 5) Difficult people, people who irritate or frustrate you - even an enemy or someone who has grievously hurt you. Go through all five categories, praying the compassion prayer for each as you begin to feel a sense of peace. Conclude the prayer by giving thanks to God for God's compassion and the opportunity to grow in compassion to others. I think this prayer will serve me well as I go through life.

Week Five; Praying a Psalm. We were provided seven Psalms with these instructions – read the Psalm slowly the first time, and spend a moment or two letting it sink in. Read the Psalm again paying attention to the rhythm of the words (poetry) and

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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the tone (it's mood). Again, spend a moment in thought. Read the Psalm a third time. Stop after each section and join the Psalmist in prayer using his thoughts and prayers to frame your own OR use the Psalmist's words to inspire your own prayer, even if it goes in a completely different direction. We could write our prayers in our journal if we choose. I did write mine down and I found that very therapeutic. To close we were told to spend a few moments in silence, searching our heart and mind for anything else we needed to say to God or anything God may be saying to us, and remembering to thank God for speaking to us through the Psalm and for any other way God spoke through this time.

Week Six; Prayer through Chanting. Chanting is an ancient Christian practice. We were provided three hymns, all of which I knew. We had to set the timer and sing a hymn for 8-10 minutes straight-out loud and silently. During this time, the mind should quiet and be ready for some fruitful silent listening for the final 5-7 minutes. I thought this would be easy because I love music and singing, but it proved the most difficult. I simply could not sing the same hymn over and over again for that length of time. We were also given two short prayers which could be prayed silently in our head. These proved to be much more fruitful for me. I use them throughout the day and at bedtime and they do quiet my mind.

Weeks Seven and Eight; Prayer for a Zion Ministry and for a community activity. Are we praying seriously for each other? In week seven, I was to begin by asking God which ministry I should pray for as I looked at Zion's newsletter. Once found, set the timer for 15-20 minutes and hold that ministry and the people involved in it "in the light" of my mind and heart as I prayed, surrounding them with God's love and blessings. I was to let my mind wander as God put different people into my consciousness and into the light of his spirit. As the prayer ended, I was to ask God *Continued...*

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

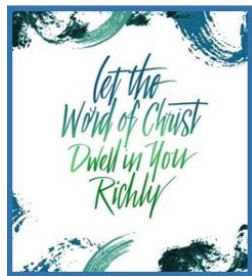
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is there was anything else I could do – pray, volunteer, donate funds, send notes of encouragement, or something else. I was to end the prayer by thanking God for the privilege of prayer and for working in and through the ministries. Week eight was the same, except now I would be praying for a ministry organization or a community activity using the newspaper, email, or go online for a ministry to hold in prayer.

I have four more classes to go, and I'm sure I have much more to learn. Some of the different types of prayer resonated with me, while others were not as meaningful, but the experience of trying them will remain with me for a very long time. With God's guidance, I humbly ask that I use what I have learned to continue to grow my prayer life.

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

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 December is Acts 16:6-15: "Paul's Second Missionary Journey"

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?

December Birthdays

December 5: Barbara Francour
December 9: Kimberly Graf
December 10: Sally Peterson
December 11: John Radloff
December 13: Larry Nelson
December 15: Rachel Kuhn
December 16: Dean Schoen
December 20: Dawn Vincent
December 21: Carrie Heitmeier
December 22: Presley Schroeder
December 26: Jacob Marzahl
December 31: Eileen Jagielski, Alexis Roth, Gabriel Roth



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). All months in 2024 are available for sponsorship! 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.

Faith Statements from this year's confirmands

Adison Rosenfeldt:

Hello, my name is Adison Rosenfeldt. I have been attending Zion since I was born. One of the biggest parts of getting where I am today has definitely been the church and the people in it. They have led by example and they have showed me what God's love means to them by showing up Sunday after Sunday and just being there, or setting up communion, singing in the choir, or serving in other ways.

Every Sunday when we say the Apostles' Creed and we say "I believe in God the Father, the creator of heaven and earth," when we say this it's reminding me that this is God's creation, he made this Earth for us. Being a Christian has really shown me the true love of God, that it's ok to go out into the world and spread the word of Jesus.

One of the main things I learned in confirmation was the true meaning of what it means to be a part of the church. What I have learned is that the church isn't the building, it's the people. What I mean by that is the church is made up of the people God adopted into his arms to be his children.

Being a confirmed member of the church excites me because then not only will I be God's forever, I'll be able to vote and have a say in things and to me that's super important because then I can have more of an understanding on other people's opinions and how they see things. Being a confirmed member of the church now for me opens a lot of new doors and closes others. It opens a ton of new opportunities for me to get involved with the church such as being on council, helping plan things and so on. Thank you for listening.



Faith Statements from this year's confirmands

Nik Williams:

As a Lutheran I believe that my salvation is a gift from God, received through faith alone. Although having faith can be difficult sometimes, I know I have been gifted everlasting life through the Holy Spirit. Through baptism I was already welcomed into God's family, but through confirmation I am affirming my faith in Christ. We are all called to be a servant to God through acts of love, service, and witness. By doing these acts we are the light of Christ in the world.

Throughout my faith formation years, I have learned that the Ten Commandments should be the guiding principles in my life. Through the Apostles Creed I have learned that daily God forgives my sins and on the last day he will raise me and give me eternal life in Him.

My Confirmation years weren't typical. With COVID-19, my first two years of class were done online. I didn't have the experiences that others who have been confirmed had.

During my middle school years, I attended St. Thomas Aquinas Academy. I had 45 minutes of a religion class every day. It was very interesting to hear what they believed in. When I would come to our confirmation class, it gave me a good understanding of how the two religions differed in their beliefs and teachings. It made me appreciate my relationship with God, through my faith formation, as many times I did not agree with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Even though Confirmation looked different for me, I was still gifted with many opportunities to understand better what it means to be a Lutheran in today's world.



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

December 1: Timothy Marzahl, Karen Sylvester

December 2: Henry Zuehls

December 4: Sandra Zylkowski

December 5: Jane Landenberger

December 6: James Jagielski, Amanda Oleson

December 10: Amanda Litts

December 14: Ethan Schomaker

December 15: Alexandria Cording

December 17: Nila Krenos

December 19: Lisa Cook

December 21: Niklas Williams

December 23: David Despins

December 26: Hope Goes, Philip Strohl

December 28: Gail Melgary

December 29: Randall Schroeder II

December 31: Barbara Francour



December Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of December is sponsored by Dave and Lori Despins and is to praising God for the gift of his son Jesus, the light of the world.



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. Flower dates are open for the year of 2024 and our reserved on a first-come first-served basis!

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 January 15th, March 11th, and May 13th!



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

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.

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!

From Our Families To Yours, Happy Holidays! _____

From all of us in and around Zion; we wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. We are looking forward to spending 2024 with you!



Peace and Blessings,

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

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Going Where Jesus Leads



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Equipping the Saints for Ministry



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