

WE ARE ZION



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

NEWS

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

January 2024



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

"But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days."

Micah 5:2

As our thoughts turn to Bethlehem this Christmas season, we have reason to feel both great joy and deep sorrow. There were no visitors in Bethlehem this year worshiping and celebrating Christmas at the biblical site of our Savior's birth. You see, Bethlehem lies in the West Bank. This was an occupied territory at the time of Jesus' birth. The Roman army kept order through strict, sometimes, harsh control. The West Bank is still an occupied territory today. The mood in Bethlehem is subdued this Christmas as the Christians there, including the congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, are in solidarity with their Palestine brothers and sisters in Gaza who are victims of warfare. Surely, they also grieve with their Jewish neighbors who were victimized by a terrorist attack. The words of the prophet Micah speak to both peoples—"And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth, and he shall be the one of peace." Micah 5:4.

The world has not changed all that much in 2,000 years, has it. Countries and communities continue to be in conflict of religious, racial, ethnic and political differences. We don't need to look outside our own country to see that. Let us take to heart the prophecy of Micah and pray for peace in this troubled world, peace in our fractured society, peace in our communities, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. May the One whom the prophets foretold, "be the one of peace" for you this Christmas and throughout the new year.

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It was with great joy that we gathered for worship on Christmas Eve to hear again the story of our Savior's birth in

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scripture, sermon, hymns and carols and choir anthems. Although Christmas is the shortest season of the church year, it is full of interesting figures. On Christmas Eve, our attention was focused on Joseph, Mary and their infant son. We witnessed the wonder and awe of the shepherds who became the first witnesses to tell the good news of Messiah's birth to others.

This Sunday, December 31, we will hear about two more interesting characters, Simeon and Anna, who were in the temple in Jerusalem that day when Joseph and Mary brought their newborn son there for the rite of purification. We will experience their joy when they see in this child the fulfillment of the hope of Israel. The service on this 1st Sunday of Christmas will reflect the joy of Christmas with favorite Christmas hymns and carols.

Our service on January 7 will focus on three more interesting characters—the Wisemen (sages, astronomers, possibly even kings), who brought their gifts and their adoration to the Holy Family. We will celebrate the Epiphany on this day as we embark on the third season of the Christmas cycle.

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Has it been your experience at times that you attend worship, listen to the scripture readings and sermon, and are left with unanswered questions? Scripture and preaching are meant to not only give information and provide answers, but also to stimulate thinking and, perhaps, raise more questions. Do you wish, sometimes, that you could talk about what you just heard and hear what others think about it? The Stewardship & Generosity Committee had this in mind when they planned a



wonderful way to emphasize the next mark of discipleship—STUDY. They are hosting “The Lutheran Hour” following our worship services on January 7th through February 11th. This will provide an opportunity for worshipers to gather

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after the service for informal, unstructured conversation about the Gospel reading for the day. The discussion will be led by lay members. It will be similar to what the Congregation Council does when they begin their monthly meetings with devotions including Dwelling in the Word. Someone volunteers to read the Gospel text. Then others share their thoughts and questions about what they just heard. Some offer insights, some ask questions. There are no definitive answers, just an opportunity to share thoughts and reflect on how the word of God touches our lives. No one will be put on the spot to say anything. All are free to speak and share as they feel comfortable.

I highly encourage you to consider attending any or all of these sessions. It will be a meaningful opportunity for fellowship and sharing around a cup of coffee.

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".

- Jan. 7: Celebration of Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Jan. 14: Second Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
With guest pastor Rev. Rick DeBenedetto.
- Jan. 21: Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
Contemporary service.
- Jan. 28: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
Annual Meeting to follow.

Congregation Council Highlights



COUNCIL UPDATES

The congregational council met December 12th at 6:30 p.m. at the Railhouse.

Pastor's Report: The average weekly attendance, including Facebook Live viewers, was 73 for the month of November. Zion will be hosting a blood drive on January 5th.

November Financial Report

- **General Fund:** Year to date increase of \$5,340.00
- A motion was made to move \$10,302.00 of the parsonage proceeds to the capital Improvement fund for future use.

Committee Reports

- **Property:** Mark is continuing to finish up the dressing room from a recent sink leak. Dave Reek will do the shoveling along with the plowing.
- **Personnel Committee:** Staff Evaluations were completed December 7, 2023

Old Business:

- **A/V Equipment:** Troy to give talk on December 17, 2023, to inform the congregation of needs.

New Business

- Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday January 28, 2024, immediately following service in the Social Hall

The next council meeting will be January 9th at 6:30 p.m.

January Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of January is sponsored by Carol Magnuson and is to praising God for the gift of the new year.



A Letter From the Office of Veterans of Foreign Wars____

Happy Holidays from the new officers of Menominee VFW Post. We are trying to save our charter. We need new and former Vets of Foreign Wars to join us to support our forefathers charter. To join or help, please call 906-424-4004 and leave a message including your phone number. We will have an update gathering at 10 am on January 6th in Bethel Lutheran Church's Fellowship Room. Coffee and desserts on us.

Thank you.

F. Wells, Jr. Officer

Zion to Host Blood Drive_____



Zion is hosting a blood drive January 5 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](#).

Update on the Annual Report and Annual Meeting!____

If you are responsible for a yearly write up for the annual report, please email it or drop it off at Zion's office by January 15th! Our Annual Meeting will be held January 28th following the service.

The Lutheran Hour_____



"The Lutheran Hour" will take place January 7th through February 11th immediately following worship and will end at noon, if not earlier. Congregation members will lead impromptu discus-

sion about the Sunday Gospel readings. It isn't necessary to attend every session as each will revolve around that Sunday's Gospel reading. There is a signup sheet on the kiosk in the back of the sanctuary. Please sign up by Wednesday, January 3, 2024. There will be coffee!

January 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 January, we will be collecting items to replenish our school's food pantries.



We're asking for 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 end of the month.

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 all month.

Here are some suggestions:

- Meals that are ready to eat such as Chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore, SpaghettiOs, 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, 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.

Recycle Your Sheets!

Did you receive new bed sheets for Christmas? You may bring your old ones to Zion to be recycled into beautiful new patchwork quilts by the Sew for Missions ladies. All material is welcome and put to good use. Thank you!

Lifelong Faith Formation Classes

In its fourth year, Lifelong Faith Formation is one way for people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and beyond, to be church together. Join the conversation. Enjoy the fellowship and discover new ways to share the light of Christ with the world.

Please Register at least one week prior to when your selected class begins. All classes are held online via Zoom. One course is meeting in person, at First Lutheran Church in Gladstone, with an option to “Zoom-in.” Classes are FREE but may require the purchase of textbooks or other materials. See below for details.



Contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org if you have any questions about Lifelong Faith Formation.

Classes that are available are:

- Open to Interpretation: Insights into Translating the Bible.
- Stewardship Of Animals; in person, capacity of 10 people.
- The Way of the Dream: God's Forgotten Language; Capacity of 12 participants.
- Native America and the Stewardship of the Land: Land Acknowledgements and Beyond
- The Book of Proverbs Part One: Donning A Foreigner's Clothes
- Stewards of Children

More information and the ability to register for these classes is available on the [synod website](#)!

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Circle Group will meet January 18th at 3 p.m. in Zion's family room. All are welcome to attend.

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.

This month the committee is concentrating on the Mark of "Study." Zion's Vision Statement for Study is: "In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that studies the Holy Scriptures and the principles of Christian faith in order to fulfill its great desire to learn more about its calling as disciples of Jesus and the gifts that God so graciously provides. Families will regularly use materials provided for Bible study at home, and groups within the congregation will regularly gather to study the Scriptures and these principles."

To fulfill a small part of our vision we are offering "The Lutheran Hour" to those wanting to have an impromptu discussion about the Sunday Gospel readings. These gatherings will take place January 7th through February 11th immediately following worship and will end at 12-noon if not earlier. It isn't necessary to attend every session as each will revolve around that Sunday's Gospel reading.

These sessions will be facilitated by lay leadership. You do not have to be a regular Bible reader; we welcome everyone, even if you have never read the Bible before. Our goal is to make it a comfortable environment for everyone to share their thoughts and questions about the Gospel reading, and even that Sunday's sermon. Did the sermon help you to understand the reading better? What questions did the reading bring to mind that were not answered in the sermon? Pastor Doug has graciously offered to answer questions that may come to light in our

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner_____

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discussions that remain unresolved. Those answers will be provided to the group the following Sunday.

On a personal note. I was born and raised Roman Catholic. My parents, while devote Roman Catholics, did not own a Bible, therefore we did not read the Bible at home. I didn't have occasion to open a Bible until I was in my early thirties. I was a fish out of water in the Lutheran faith. I felt so uninformed, everyone seemed light years ahead of me, but slowly over the years I have learned by participating in various classes revolving around the Bible just like this one.

There will be a signup sheet on the kiosk in the back of the sanctuary. Please signup by January 3. Coffee will be served.

In God's love, joy, and peace
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 715-735-7898 or Zion@newbc.rr.com. Flower dates are open for the year of 2024 and our reserved on a first-come first-served basis!

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). 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

Anna Marzahl:

Good evening members of the church. Today I am here to tell you all what it means to me to be a Christian, and to be a member of the church.

When I think of being a Christian, I think of being baptized, being everlastingly loved by God, believing in Jesus Christ and not being afraid to let people know that I do. What being a Christian means to me is being alive and well because Jesus sacrificed himself for us. He died on the cross to forgive us all of our sins. He suffered, he was crucified and he died all for us.

What does being a member of the church mean to me? When I go to church I feel very close to God. I know he is always with us, but being in church makes me feel closer to him. So being a member of the church is very important because you will always have a place in the house of God.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Deepest Thanks from Zion's Social Ministry Committee

Thanks to everyone who donated clothes and supplies for Bridges to Recovery in November, everyone who gave food items for the pantry at St. Vincent de Paul in December, and all who shopped for an angel from our Salvation Army Angel Tree. We know how busy this time of year can be and we are especially thankful that the people of Zion are so generous with gifts that support our ministry in this community.

THANK YOU!

Letter from Bishop Finegan

*I PLANTED
Apollos WATERED
But God gave the GROWTH.
~1 Corinthians 3:6*



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,
Happy New Year! Welcome to the Year of our Lord
2024! In this new year, I announce our Synod
themes for the next three years, Seed Sowers:

2024: I Planted

2025: Apollos Watered

2026: God gave the Growth

Last year at Synod Assembly, Seed Sowers was the theme for our inaugural Seed Sowers Luncheon that thanked people who had made a planned gift (meaning that they remembered NGLS/ELCA in their will) or were considering doing so. In essence, they were a “Seed Sower,” planting seeds for future ministry, seeds that they knew they would not see grow and bear fruit.

However, being a Seed Sower is not limited to those who have planned a legacy gift. After all, are we not all Seed Sowers? Do we not, all of us, plant seeds for future ministry, even as we enjoy the growth from seeds that were planted generations ago?

We plant seeds as we try and pass the faith on to the next generation. We want our children and grandchildren to be blessed by the community of faith in the same way we have been. We stretch our financial capacity to ensure sustainability for years to come. We build a reputation in our communities that we care, and we’re ready to serve those in need. We raise up leaders for future generations by nurturing their gifts for ministry. We are every day, Seed Sowers.

At this time of great transformation and change in the Church, it is good to be reminded that the Church is about more than what we experience in the here and now. And there are many ways

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Letter from Bishop Finegan

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that a congregation can plant seeds for future ministry.

I think of the faithfulness of St. James in Marinette, WI. Founded in 1918, this community of faith has been hard at work for the sake of Christ for 106 years. This past autumn, the people of St. James discerned that their last worship service will be Sunday April 14, 2024.

While this decision is difficult for all who love St. James, it also witnesses to their faithfulness. As people who believe in a God who brings new life from death and light from darkness, the work of St. James has not been in vain. This community of faith has accomplished that for which it was created and has completed that for which it was purposed. God will bring new life and growth from the seeds that St. James will plant. In the weeks to come, the people of St. James will consider how best to use their assets to support the work of Christ through ministry partners. Their legacy will provide resources to further the purposes of God long after the doors of St. James are closed.

As we focus on Planting this year, we celebrate the history of each and every one of our Northern Great Lakes congregations and the foresight of founding mothers and fathers who by the grace of God, planted our churches. We give thanks for adults who noticed gifts for ministry and planted the idea of future pastoral leadership in young hearts and minds. And we look to see what seeds we can plant today that will bear fruit in a future church, that for now, we can only imagine.

The church of Christ, in every age beset by change, but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

~ELW #729, vs. 1

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

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

January 1: Beverly DeGroot, Alice Larson and Dean Schoen

January 3: Lynn Francour

January 5: Mary Hayward

January 7: Carol Magnuson

January 8: Naomi Dumke

January 9: Jaclynn Knopik and Mary Thielen

January 10: Ainsley Emler

January 15: Susan Fischer

January 17: Addalynn Brown

January 18: Spencer Martin

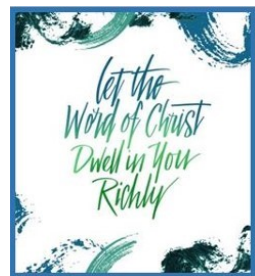
January 20: Karen Dill

January 27: Alexis Roth and Gabriel Roth

January 30: Carissa Kempka



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 January is Psalm 23: "Shepherd's Palm"

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?

January Birthdays

January 2: Debra Harding
January 3: David Francour
January 4: Mary Hayward
January 5: Adison Rosenfeldt and Daniel Zuehls
January 10: Johanna Zuehls
January 13: Oliver Swenson
January 15: Marilyn Gould, Dianne Slack and Bethany Wolf
January 17: Maryellen Radloff
January 18: Gina Boucher
January 20: Kathy Heimbuch
January 21: Sharon Powilaites and Drake Schutt
January 22: Shawn Limberg
January 23: Willow Williams
January 24: Pamela Lund and Tatem Schroeder
January 25: Beverly DeGroot and Denise Despins
January 26: Colleen Madden
January 30: Shirley Kaufman



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.

Radiating Grace: Young Adult Winter Retreat

Fortune Lake invites all adults ages 18-16 to register for our Radiating Grace Young Adult Retreat. This retreat centers around caring for yourself and your body and includes sessions on mindfulness, mental and physical self care, healthy movement, and more. Participants are encouraged to choose their own adventure in hopes that everyone comes away from the retreat feeling rested and ready to return to their busy schedule. Other offerings include a scripture discussion, worship opportunities, arts 'n' crafts, hot saunas, and plenty of other camp favorites. Registration and payment deadline is January 31 by 10 p.m. For more information or to register, people may visit

fortunelake.org.

Winter Wonderland Retreat

FLLC's Winter Wonderland Retreat will be held January 12-14, 2024. The weekend filled with good food, hot saunas, camp games and songs, and time spent outdoors in the snowy northwoods! This event is open to everyone: family/friend groups, youth groups, and individuals of all ages! For more information or to register, people may visit fortunelake.org.

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.