

WE ARE ZION

NEWS



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

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

May 2024



Zion's 2024 Congregation Council

Laura Rowe — President	Dean Schoen — V.P.
Michelle Larson — Secretary	LeeAnn Limberg — Treasurer
Tatem Schroeder	Phil Strohl
Brad Nelson	Mark Swenson
Jonah Zuehls	
Sophie Limberg, Youth Member	

Zion Staff

Office Administrator 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. — Phil Strohl
Money Counters — Karen Dill, Bonnie Schoen and Pat Mittag
Nominating Comm — Sue Baxter
Personnel Comm. — Troy Cording
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



On April 7, the Second Sunday of Easter, the worship service at Zion was not able to be posted on Facebook Live. The upgrading of our audio-visual system was in progress and the new cameras were not yet installed. As a result, I have received requests from some who were in church that day as well as some who were not, to reproduce my sermon for the benefit of those who did not hear it or would like to reflect on it. For that purpose, I am offering a longer-than-usual pastor's article this month. Before reading it, I encourage you to read the gospel for that day, John 20:19-31, the story of "Doubting Thomas."

The One Who Wasn't There

I find it interesting that on the Sunday after Easter Sunday, we always talk about the one who wasn't there. I mean, on Easter Sunday, when the pews are full, we take note of who is there—a blend of those we regularly meet and greet Sunday after Sunday, and those who attend worship less regularly. But on the Sunday after Easter Sunday, traditionally referred to as "low Sunday," when worship attendance returns to normal, or often is lower than normal, we take note of who is not there. But with Thomas, it was just the opposite. Thomas was not there on that first Easter Sunday when all the other disciples were together in that room in Jerusalem on the evening of the day when Christ Jesus rose from the dead and came into their midst. But Thomas returned the following Sunday to join their fellowship and encounter the risen Lord.

This begs the question, Why do people, to use the common parlance, "go to church," i.e., attend worship on any given Sunday? What motivates people to do that? People of my generation reflect on the heyday of church attendance in 1950's, 60's and 70's when churches tended to be quite full. We bemoan the trend of declining membership and worship attendance across denominational lines in recent decades as societal standards and values have shifted.

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Then came the COVID-19 pandemic exactly four years ago, when separation and absence from corporate worship became necessary to save lives and prevent the spread of that disease. What we hoped would be weeks turned into months and we found out what it meant to be separated and isolated from Christian fellowship. We looked forward to the day we could return and be in fellowship again, anticipating that people would flock back to church. That didn't happen. Worship attendance has not returned to pre-pandemic levels for a variety of reasons.

The concern that most pastors and church leaders express now is, what will be the new normal? While we wrestle with these questions, we would do well to consider why people attend worship in the first place. With this in mind, I found it interesting to re-read an article I had in my files that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel several years ago. The article talked about people who not only attend church on Easter Sunday, but whose faith keeps them going to church week after week. In most cases, those interviewed were people who had fallen away from church for a while and now have returned to regular attendance. Here is a sampling of what they said:

This from a man who is a member of Gesu Catholic Church near Marquette University: "I was a once-a-year, Easter Sunday Catholic for a long time, but when we had children, it dawned on me that if I'm going to teach them religion, I was going to have to practice what I preach. I get something out of it, too," he said. "At the Sunday night service at Gesu you get a real diverse crowd. There are students, there are the wealthy, there are some who are not so well-off, and there are the middle-class families. You feel part of a community. I come from a generation in which a lot of people said you don't have to go to church to be a good person, and, conversely, there are racists and others who go every week. And that's true, but I think it's important to be with a community of people who believe with you."

This from a woman who attends Ascension Lutheran Church in

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Waukesha: “I went there when I was growing up. Then I went to college and stopped, except for major holidays and sometimes when I was spending the weekend with my parents. What changed was having a child reach Sunday School age and having a father move in with us who wanted to go to church. Church is one of the ways you can instill values in your children. It’s not the best way – that’s the family – but it helps to have that reinforcement. And there have been unexpected benefits for me. It’s the only time all week I have an excuse for some reflective time; time for personal reflection. Ever since Caitlyn was born, I’ve had a little different view of the spiritual. I felt closer to God even before going back to church. But the structure and the ceremony adds life to that feeling, and the sense of community, of being with other people, is real important. I’m glad I went back. It really adds something to my life, and I would miss it if I didn’t go.”

This from a professor of communications at UWM and a member of a Baptist Church: “The worship service is one of the places God’s business gets done. God has things for me to do. I teach Sunday School and sometimes help with Communion. But I also go to find out what God is going to do in my life. Church reminds us of our relationship with God. One of the ways to get focus on that relationship is through ritual. It helps us connect with God.”

This from a woman who is a member of Ebenezer Church of God in Christ who explains why she has always gone to church regularly and has never stopped: “As a Christian, it’s important because of what I believe. Knowing Christ is personal. I have a relationship, and it’s important to celebrate that in the company of others who believe like I do. I go to church to experience the community, to hear God’s word, to hear the testimonies of others. I find that only in church. When I’m sad or down, I always get a lift out of church. And that’s not by accident.”

Notice the common bond in these witnesses of faith: they need to be in fellowship with people who believe as they believe. They learned, in most cases from their time away from the church, that faith is difficult to sustain away from the community of faith, and

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Continued... that something essential and meaningful is missing from their lives when they are not in fellowship with the church. What's more, faith in Jesus Christ as our crucified and risen Lord and Savior is simply not something you can keep to yourself. If it is true faith it is something you want to share in community.

This is evidenced in the New Testament. See how the disciples needed to be in community with one another, first to share their grief after the death of Jesus, then to share their joy after Jesus' resurrection. They couldn't keep it to themselves. They needed and wanted to share it and talk about what it meant to them.

See how Thomas was left to struggle with his doubts because he had not been in fellowship with the other disciples on that first Easter evening. It was in that fellowship, that community of believers, that Thomas encountered the risen Christ the next Sunday and his faith was affirmed.

Make no mistake about it: the church was brought into existence for this fellowship. This is why the Apostles' Creed describes the church as the "communion of saints," another way of saying "fellowship of believers. Similarly, the Augsburg Confession, which sets forth Lutheran doctrine, defines the church as the "assembly of believers" among whom the word of God is preached and the sacraments are administered. Jesus Christ instituted the church because he knew that those in every generation who would believe in him could not hold that belief alone, but would need to share that faith in community.

Isn't that why you are here this Sunday after Easter Sunday? The texts that proclaim God's word to us today speak to our belief that the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead empowers us to experience new life in him and assure us of our own resurrection to eternal life in the world to come. They also witness to the importance of gathering regularly for worship with the community of believers where the risen Christ comes to make himself present in word and sacrament and in the fellowship of believers which is his body in the world.

There is an old story about a minister who served a rural parish. Back then he would probably have been referred *...continued*

Continued... to as a “country parson.” There was an old man who attended worship every Sunday, usually sitting in the front. Then, without a word of explanation, he suddenly stopped attending worship. After several weeks went by, the pastor decided to call on the man at his humble cottage. Upon entering the home, the pastor found the man sitting in front of his fireplace. In those days, a fireplace was a large open hearth used for everything from cooking to heating the house. The pastor grabbed a chair and sat down next to the man. For a while they did not speak, just sat looking at the fire. After a while, the pastor got up and grabbed a pair of tongs. With the tongs he picked up a burning ember from the fire and placed it on the outer edge of the hearth by itself. The two men sit for several minutes watching the ember lose its glory, growing dimmer and dimmer until all that was left was a cold, dead shard. Finally, the old man looked at the pastor and said, “I’ll be back in church next Sunday.”

My dear friends, it is good that you are here today. May you continue to be among those who seek the fellowship of the church regularly, and may you continue to be among those who believe in the risen Lord Jesus Christ, “that through believing you may have life in his name.”

Let us pray: God and Father of us all, thank you for the faith you have inspired in us through the Holy Spirit, and thank you for bringing us together as people of faith this morning. Thank you for the fellowship that enriches and sustains us in faith. Thank you for your presence with us in word and sacrament. Continue to inspire us and strengthen us in faith through these means of grace. Enable us to witness to others about the importance of Christian fellowship in worship that we may grow together as your people, your witnesses, and your servants, and that your church may grow through us. In the name of our ever-present Savior and Lord, we pray. Amen.

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Doug

Congregation Council Highlights



The congregational council met April 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: March
Average attendance 106.
We received a request from Stefanie Ehle for use of Zion to host the Youth Bonfire again this year. Received applications for Fortune

Lake from the Tafelski family and had a preliminary discussion and tabled until May council meeting.

March Financial Report

- General Fund \$129,885
- Capital Improvement: \$77,946
- Boiler Loan Balance: \$33,562

Committee Reports

- **Property:** Mark Swenson ordered a Key Box for the Fire Department to gain access in an emergency — this will be placed outside of front door. He also received a quote from Maccos for flooring in Social Hall (\$21,801) gave our input on the design for the sign out by the road.
- **Mission Endowment:** Articles will be published in the Eagle-Herald and the Peshtigo Times; 1 application has been received.

Tabled Business

- Camper Fund

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

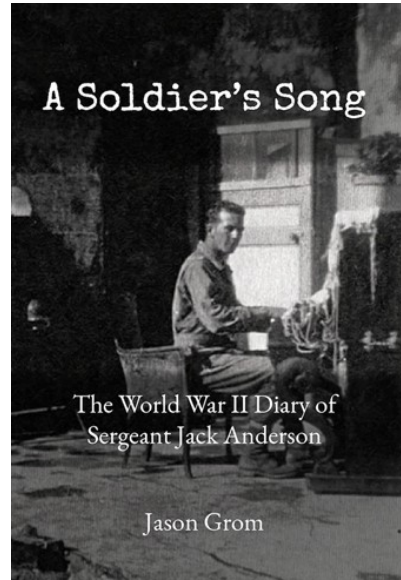
Book signing for book about a Zion member

From the early 1930's through the early 2000's, Jack Anderson's voice could be heard almost every Sunday in the Zion Lutheran Church choir, pews singing hymns and special music including many weddings and funerals.

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My mom, Annette, husband Gary, and our whole family are thankful to have recordings like the one from my cousin Lori's wedding many years ago, but even without the recordings, his voice and music will live on in our hearts forever. Outside of spending winters in Arizona during retirement, the only time Jack was away from Zion for an extended period was during his service during World War II in the US Army's 451st Anti-Aircraft Artillery. My dad kept a diary of his experiences for his parents who were also members of Zion.



Years ago, my brother Steve, son Jason, and I worked with my dad to transpose his hand written diaries to an electronic format that I put into a binder that we shared with family and friends over the years. I always thought his diaries could be made into a book, but I put that idea to rest after after my dad passed away in 2009. My son Jason rekindled the idea through publishing "A Soldier's Song: The World War II Diary of Sergeant Jack Anderson."

If you are interested in World War II, knew Jack or have any interest in learning about a special man who made a positive impact on everyone he met, purchase your copy today on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Soldiers-Song-World-Sergeant-Anderson/dp/B0CZPKH4Z5> and join us on May 19th at 2 p.m. at the Marinette County Logging Museum where our son Jason will talk about the book and then sign books purchased at the museum, or bring your pre-purchased book with for signing. This event will follow a museum community open house 12-2.

Barb Grom

Our Christian Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Carole Boerner whose husband and fellow member of Zion, Bill Boerner, passed away Sunday, April 21st. We pray that Carole and her family will be comforted by God's loving embrace and by the hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Information on graduates needed!

Do you know a person who is a member of Zion and is graduating either from high school or college? If you do, let us know! We are holding Graduation Sunday on May 19th. Please contact the office at 715-735-7898 or at zion@newbc.rr.com; or you can contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017.

Synod-Wide Spring Hike May 19



The Northern Great Lakes Synod and U.P. Wild Church invite you to participate in a Synod-Wide Hike this spring. There will be multiple hikes taking place throughout the synod between May 11 and May 19 to coincide with this year's hybrid Synod Assembly activities. Each hike will showcase the beauty of God's creation and include an outdoor prayer service.

The Menominee Valley Conference Hike will start at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 19 at the Wickman Family Farm located at W4410 Panske Rd., Porterfield, WI. This family-friendly event is free, and all ages and abilities are welcome (you do not need to be attending Synod Assembly to participate in a hike). Trail snacks will be provided and participants are asked to bring their own water bottle. Questions can be directed to Karen Anne Hanson (hansk@northlandlutheran.org).

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

Light the Fire for Fortune Lake Bonfire



The ministry of Fortune Lake is a shared endeavor between our association congregations and the camp. Our mission to provide a “welcoming space for all people to experience God, community, and nature” reaches beyond our shores to the natural surroundings of families and churches.

You are invited to Light to Fire for Fortune Lake by participating in a community bonfire near you. On the evening of Friday, May 31, we will all be in the great outdoors, praising God, feasting on s’mores, building community, and supporting Fortune Lake. Campfires will be hosted throughout the Northern Great Lakes Synod, at Fortune Lake, and virtually for those who cannot attend in person.

Zion is the host of one such community bonfire at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 31st. Grab your friends and neighbors, your singing voices, and your sweet tooth! They’ll be favorite camp songs, skits, lots of smiles, and sticky sweets that can be cooked over the fire. Camp will provide s’more kits, songbooks, and some nice little surprises.

If you are unable to attend an event but would like to give a donation in support of Light the Fire for Fortune Lake, please visit <https://auctria.events/LIGHTTHEFIREFORFORTUNELAKE2024>. Online donations will be accepted from May 24-31.

Reserve Your Garden Spots Now!

If anyone is interested in participating in the garden this year, please let me know at 715-732-0161. There is very limited space available at this time. We may be able to build a few more beds yet this spring depending on interest and level of participation.

John Radloff

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.

Serving others has long been a hallmark of Christianity. Jesus Christ, himself showed us how to serve in a variety of ways by teaching the gospel, feeding crowds of hungry people, washing his disciples' feet, healing the sick, and even raising the dead.

Mark 10:45 — *"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."*

This month the Stewardship and Generosity Committee, in conjunction with the Council, Property Committee, and Sanctuary Arts will be undertaking a service project here within the walls of Zion. It is our hope to establish a large walk-in closet for items which are currently housed in every corner, hallway, and small closet at Zion.

Our goal is to involve the entire congregation in this project working to house like- items together in one location: Christmas and Easter decorations, band equipment, and so much more. For those not physically able to participate, funds will most likely be needed to purchase shelves and plastic tote bins. We would also covet your prayers for a successful project and many hands volunteering to make it light work. We feel confident that, like the sacristy remodeling project, we will succeed with your help.

1 Peter 4:10–11 — *"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through*

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

Dear Lord, we undertake this project to bring glory to your name. Organization and cleanliness are good and worthwhile traits which you would have us utilize. Help us Lord to work in harmony with one another to accomplish this task. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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

Anniversary Committee Needs to be Formed _____

2025 will mark the 150th anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church. We would like to form an Anniversary Committee that will plan some significant events to celebrate this milestone in the history of this congregation. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please tell Pastor Doug or notify our Office Administrator, Marissa.

May Eternal Light _____

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



Ruth Circle Group _____

The Ruth Circle Group will meet Thursday, May 23th at 3 p.m. in Zion's family room. All are welcome to attend.

Zion to Host Blood Drive _____



Zion is hosting a blood drive Friday, May 10th 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.](#)

Grant Application from Zion's Mission Endowment Fund

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

May Birthdays

May 5: Debra Strohl
May 6: Jacob Buenning and Spencer Martin
May 11: Lisa Knopik and Dennis Mullen
May 14: Taylor Ehle and Vallery Krah
May 15: Macy Bodam and Samuel Gressel
May 22: James Martin
May 23: Charlotte Bauer
May 24: Skyler Emler
May 27: Michael Jagielski
May 28: Margaret Williams



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 Monday, 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.

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 that need sponsoring are May 5, 12 and 19 and June 9, 16, and 23.

Note of Thanks!

Dear Zion funeral committees, What a beautiful meal you provided in honor of our father! It was so perfect in so many ways — a true church potluck in spite of a power outage.

Your smiles, kind words, and fellowship meant a lot and is deeply appreciated.

Blessings,

Jean Monson, daughter of Dick Francour

THANK YOU!
thank you!

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

- May 1: Carol Johnson, David Johnson and Michelle Larson
- May 3: Shirley Kaufman
- May 6: Cassandra Bauer
- May 7: Oliver Swenson
- May 8: Diane Race
- May 12: Nicole Oleson, John Powilaites and Marlea Wienandt
- May 15: Elsa Limberg and Bonnie Schoen
- May 24: Troy Schutt
- May 25: Sophie Limberg
- May 26: Easton Buenning and Judy Stehle
- May 27: Willow Williams
- May 29: Ruth Olson



FLLC Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Registration for Summer Camp 2024 is now open! There are so many exciting program options for people of all ages. Register early for the best prices and best selection. Visit Fortunelake.org for more information or registration!

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 9-14	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$625
Week 2	June 16-21	Intergenerational Week (all ages) New! Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$475
Week 3	June 23-28	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$475
	June 30-July 2	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$225
Week 4	June 30-July 3	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) MashUp (Grades 4-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$305 No charge
	July 7-10	*Mini Camp (Grades 2-3)	\$305
Week 5	July 7-12	^Villager (Grades 3-4) ^Vagabond (Grades 5-6) ^Venturer (Grades 7-8) Camp ACTS (Grades 3-12) LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$445 \$475
Week 6	July 14-17	New! Evergreen Camp (Adults 55+)	\$260/\$305/\$405
	July 21-26	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8)	\$445
Week 7	July 22-25	Art Camp (Grades 3-9) LIT #3 Option (*No charge)	\$475
	July 22-25	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$130
	July 28-Aug 2	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$445
Week 8	July 30-Aug 2	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9	August 4-7	^Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) ^Villager (Grades 3-4) ^Vagabond (Grades 5-6) ^Venturer (Grades 7-8)	\$305

2024 SCHEDULE

More info at Fortunelake.org

Scholarships Available

*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

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).
- ⇒ 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



Northern Great Lakes Synod
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Marquette, Michigan 49855
www.nglsnod.org
Equipping the Saints for Ministry



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
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God's work. Our hands.