

WE ARE ZION

NEWS



**Zion Lutheran Church
2714 James Street
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www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

May 2025



Zion's 2025 Congregation Council

Laura Rowe — President	Dean Schoen — V.P.
Michelle Larson — Secretary	LeeAnn Limberg — Treasurer
Tatem Schroeder	Phil Strohl
Sarge Rudell	Mark Swenson
Kathy Heimbuch	
Adison Rosenfeldt, Youth Member	

Zion Staff

Office Administrator and Financial Secretary — Marissa Tharp
 Choir Director and Organist — Ann Buscher
 Accompanist for Choir and Organist— Rachel Rosenfeldt

Zion Ministry Contacts

Worship

Worship Leadership Scheduling — Ann Buscher
 Assistants — Ann Buscher (Ushers, readers, acolytes, communion assistants, set up/ clean-up communion)
 AV Team — Troy Cording, coordinator
 Banners — Karen Dill
 Bulletin and Newsletter Assistance — Marissa Tharp
 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
 Handyman — Jack Heimbuch

Committees/Groups

150th Anniversary Committee — Ann Buscher and Sharon Powi-
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Zion Ministry Contacts

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Caring Ministry Team — Karen Sylvester, Judy Stehle, Sarge Rudell

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 — Michelle Larson

Mission Endowment Comm. — Phil Strohl

Money Counters — Karen Dill, Bonnie Schoen and Pat Mittag

Nominating Comm — Ann Buscher

Personnel Comm. — Troy Cording

Property Comm. — Mark Swenson

Sanctuary Arts — Barb Grom, Karen Dill, Carol Johnson, Sally Broetzman, and Ann Buscher

Sew for Mission — Carol Magnuson

Social Ministry — Heidi Beland & Michelle Larson co-chairs

SPARK — Johanna Zuehls

Stewardship & Generosity — Karen Sylvester, Bonnie Schoen, John Radloff

Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen Dill

Worship and Music — Ann Buscher

Ruth Women's Circle — Jane Landenberg



Reflections

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry, but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."

~Ephesians 4:15-16, 25-26; 5:1-2a

A friend from seminary once noted when he moved from California to Iowa that the different seasons of the Mid-West were attractive because it made you appreciate the nice weather that much more. I agree. Dare I say it, without the cold in winter, the warm summers would not be enjoyed as much. And without the humidity of summer, the cooler temperatures of fall and winter would not be as welcome.

A comment in a colleague's newsletter article a few years back had struck me as I was reading it. He pointed out how sometimes we may not like Lent because of "all the talk about sin and mortality," and yet it still happens, calling "us to take seriously our brokenness and mortality and renew our faith through repentance and service." It got me to thinking about the fact that without Lent and the Three Days, without the recognition of our own death, Easter would lose its meaning and effectiveness; it would truly be just another holiday, not a holy-day. And in the same way, if there was no Easter, Lent would merely be another exercise in self-discipline with no hope-filled and transformed life.

In both of these observations, without one aspect, the worth of the other is not as visible or respected. Now I realize that these are very simplified examples, but it seems that many things in our world today are so divisive rather than complimentary,

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Continued... which is disheartening. Many times, rather than seeing the value that the opposite can bring into our lives, we immediately move into our defensive positions and cut off any possibility of growth and renewal. I am not advocating this should always be the way. There are times when we need to stand our ground. But this begs the question, what are we truly praying for and proclaiming when we say Christ makes us one? Is it just lip service? Is it more homogeneity, with others conforming to be like us, that we're seeking? Or maybe, truthfully, we don't desire unity. As Paul stresses in his letters and as my colleague had noted, we are called to be an alternative community. Jesus Christ has died and rose for us, forgiving us for our sins and setting us apart for the work and mission of God to share the Lord's love and grace freely granted to all. Hallelujah!

Your sister in Christ, Pr Amanda

Mental Health Corner

Dementia-Part 1 (from the National Institute on Aging, <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/alzheimers-and-dementia/what-dementia-symptoms-types-and-diagnosis>)

Dementia is the loss of cognitive functioning— thinking, remembering, and reasoning —to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities. Some people with dementia cannot control their emotions, and their personalities may change. Dementia ranges in severity from the mildest stage, when it is just beginning to affect a person's functioning, to the most severe stage, when the person must depend completely on others for basic activities of daily living, such as feeding oneself. Dementia affects millions of people and is more common as people grow older (about one-third of all people age 85 or older may have some form of dementia) but it is not a normal part of aging. Many people live into their 90s and beyond without any signs of dementia. There are several different forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common.

What's Around the Corner? _____

Zion is buzzing with upcoming worship, service, and fellowship opportunities! Below is a brief outline of what is "around the corner."

- May 4: Third Sunday of Easter 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. With guest pastor Rev. Nick Johannes.
- May 7: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Mother's Day.
- May 13: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- May 14: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- May 15: Ruth Circle Group, 3 p.m.
- May 15-17: Synod Assembly in Marquette.
- May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Contemporary service. Graduation Sunday.
- May 21: Choir, 6:30 p.m. Worship and Music committee meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.
- May 26: Memorial Day, office closed.
- May 27: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
- May 28: Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Amanda on Vacation! _____

Pastor Amanda will be taking time until May 6. Please contact Rev. Linda Forray at 906-374-0159 for pastoral emergencies.

Extra Tupperware? _____

If you have any extra leftover dishes or empty cottage cheese, ice cream, sour cream, tub butter, yogurt containers, etc., we could certainly use them! Thank you.

Light the Fire for Fortune Lake



You are invited to Light the Fire for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Sunday, June 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church (2714 James St., Marinette). Join us for songs, stories, skits, and s'mores around a campfire. Bring your own blanket or lawn chair to sit on. There is no cost to participate, but donations for FLLC are welcome. Contact Stefanie Ehle at youthcoordinator@nclsynod.org with any questions.

New Welcome Cards

You may notice that we are no longer using the little white welcome and prayer sheets in the bulletin. In place of those, you are encouraged to lift up names aloud or in your heart during the same time in worship. If you would like to be added to the church's public prayer list, please let the pastor know. We have also placed green "Welcome" cards in the pews for visitors and guests or that you can use to update your contact information.

A Blessed Mother's Day



Gracious God, we come from different spaces and places on this day. Thank you for the gift of caring mothers and mother figures. Thank you for the gift of your companionship which comes through other people and creation when we don't have those nurturing bonds with our mothers due to abuse or death. And thank you for the gift of your motherly presence and consolation to those of us who have ached to be mothers, but cannot for one reason or another. Amen.

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 18th. Please contact the office at 715-735-7898 or at zion@newbc.rr.com; or you can contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017.

Congregation Council Highlights ---

The Congregational Council met on April 8, at 6:30 p.m.

Approval Of March Minutes: Pastor Amanda and Mark Swenson (amended) a motion that was made by Laura Chaltry to allow online access for the Mission Investment Fund to LeeAnn Limberg and Kim Swenson (Treasurer of Endowment Committee) seconded by Pastor Amanda passed via online vote.

Pastor's Report: March 2025 Average Attendance was 69. We will be phasing out the current welcome and prayer slips; new welcome cards will be put in the pews for visit requests, change of address etc. Prayer requests will either be welcomed aloud or quietly in the heart. Pastoral Acts in March include the death of Marilyn Gould, 10 home visits, and various committee meetings.

March Financial Reports

- A motion was made regarding the Ken and Thea Swenson Fund/Future Fund, because the M&M Community Foundation decided to stop the Future Fund, the title will now just be The Ken and Thea Swenson Youth Fund and Community Camper Scholarships will come from that.
- **General Fund:** Balance increase of \$4,452. Disbursements: \$906 for snow removal; \$3,137 for insurance; \$5,101 sent to NGLS. Current balance: \$171,075
- **Capital Improvement Fund:** Additions \$2000 for A/V; \$5 for boiler; and \$360 unrestricted. Disbursements Payment to Franks \$100. Overall decrease for March \$1,097. Balance is currently \$90,146.
- **Memorial Fund:** Transfer of \$1666.45 to SPARK from Agnes Bennett Fund.
- **Youth Ministry Fund:** A motion was made to put \$8000 of the Youth Ministry money into a CD as determined by LeeAnn based on current rates.
- **Boiler Loan:** Balance \$19,088

Committee Reports

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Congregation Council Highlights ---

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- **Anniversary Committee:** Save the date postcards being readied to go out. The official letter and RSVP's will go out after July 4th. Ann is working on the history booklet. A selfie station will be made, and in lieu of a gift to the congregation, a gift will be made to the ELCA good gifts in honor of Zion's 150th Anniversary.
- **Property and Safety Committee:** The hot water in the kitchen is working at this time and we will revisit if problems occur again. Mark Shallow will continue doing summer yard care. Mark will be getting an updated cost for Social Hall flooring from Maccos and HJ Martin. A permanent chancel ramp needs to be ADA compliant which means we need eighteen feet of space and will cost \$5000. No portable ramps are ADA compliant — we will check with our insurance company to find out any liability issues if we go forward with a portable ramp.
- **Personnel:** Laura will be reaching out to Bishop Katherine on the protocol for the coterminous evaluation process.

Old Business

- **Bell Project:** No current update.
- **Synod Assembly Delegates:** Karen Sylvester and Carole Boerner will be our delegates for Assembly in May

New Business

- **Time and Talent Survey Results:** The council was encouraged to use the results to better serve the congregation.
- **To God Be the Glory Praise and Worship Picnic:** Laura mentioned this event will be held on September 6, 2025, in Wausaukee. More information will be coming.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m.



May Eternal Light ---

The Eternal Light for the month of May is in celebration of the upcoming summer!

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

The Seven Marks of Discipleship

#Pray

#Worship

#Study

#Invite

#Encourage

#Give

#Serve

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.

Our focus in May is Invite. Zion's Vision Statement for "Invite" is: "In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that invites others to participate in the life of the congregation by training its members to actively encourage those who are not connected with a congregation to participate in what Jesus is doing through Zion, warmly welcoming them and enthusiastically involving them in the mission work we do together as God's children."

I believe we can all agree that inviting others to come to an event is easy. You pick up the phone or send a text and ask them. Most of the time it doesn't take a lot of forethought. That cannot be said for inviting someone to attend a worship service. An astute person told me a few years ago, "Invitations are just the beginning of planning for an event...it should be the easiest part, but we often make inviting hard...there is always a fear of rejection for a variety of reasons...we should think of inviting someone to Zion as the easiest part...that's all we have to do... just invite and then Let Go and Let God!...the Holy Spirit does the rest of the work."

And so, it is with these sage words of advice that the Stewardship and Generosity Committee, with the blessing of Pastor Amanda, is once again initiating Baptismal Anniversary recognitions for members beginning in June and continuing quarterly. There are few of us that can remember being baptized as we were usually less than a month or two old at the time. What is this thing called baptism, what does it mean, and why should I care?

Continued...

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

...continued Here is my personal story. Several years ago, I had yet another epiphany while sitting in a pew and listening to a sermon. I honestly don't understand how I didn't make this connection before, but I confess ashamedly I didn't. As I listened, it occurred to me that what was being said about Jesus and Jesus' relationship to God, and how that relationship came to be, applied to me as well. This was my epiphany. Let me explain.

There is a huge gap in what we know about Jesus' life. He was born, at age 12 his parents thought him lost, but found him in the synagogue preaching, and still much later John the Baptist baptized him. It is at this point, where Jesus' ordinary life turned extraordinary. It is at this very point in his life, at his baptism, when God tells Jesus that he is his son. It is at this pivotal point where God tells Jesus that he is loved because of who he is and not what he has done or is about to do. He is loved simply because he is God's son.

Something clicked! My epiphany happened! I understood, even before the words were spoken, that the very same thing that happened to Jesus at his baptism happened to me – happened to you. We probably don't remember our baptism, but God does. Baptism is our pivotal point just as it was for Jesus. Like Jesus, we were declared children of God, the Holy Spirit took up residence within us, Heaven was open to us, and the love of God dwelt and still dwells within us each day. Yes, because God the Holy Spirit is within us right now, he lives every moment of our life with us, the good and bad, he is completely one with us. That Holy Spirit is supporting us and surrounding us with God's comfort.

Heaven is right here, right now, because we have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The next life will be very different to this one. God isn't at a distance with us until we die. No, he is right here with us... At our baptism God said he is well pleased with us simply because of 'who' we are. We are children of God, and he loves us.

Continued...

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner ---

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And so it is that we should recognize this great event in our lives – our baptism. Galatians 5:22 tells us we are God’s children gifted with the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In Holy Baptism the Triune God delivered us from evil, put our sinful self to death, gave us new birth, adopted us as children, and made us members of the body of Christ, the church. It is good that we should remember and recognize this life-changing experience yearly.

Dear Lord, many of us go through life not truly recognizing all that our baptism means. We know we are baptized and yet we don’t often consider what that means. Our hope is that these quarterly recognitions of this life-changing event will help us to center on its importance in our life. Amen

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

Baptismal Affirmation ---

The ancient service of Holy Baptism that Luther translated from Latin also included a section in which the pastor meets the baptismal party at the door of the church and commands the devil to leave the child alone. This was not mere superstition but a clear confession by Luther of the evil in which we all live and of the power of God to use Holy Baptism and its promises to rescue us. Holy Baptism is central to our faith; it pronounces us children of God. For that reason, and in remembrance of all that our baptism means, a quarterly baptismal affirmation will be held on the first Sunday of the last month of each calendar quarter. The first affirmation will be held during the regular worship service on June 1st. For this first affirmation, those who have had a baptismal “birthday” in April, May, or June will be invited to approach the altar for a brief ceremony. The ceremony, led by Pastor Amanda, includes prayer, scripture reading, baptismal candle lighting, and laying on of hands. Coffee-hour fellowship will be held after the service.

May 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 May, we will be taking up a collection for Emergency Rescue Squad, Inc.



This month's collection will be different than usual. We will have a board with squares numbered 1-100. Each square will have one or more envelopes equaling the number of the square. For example, square #37 might have three envelopes: \$20, \$10 & \$7. You are invited to take an envelope and give that amount. Fill it with the amount indicated, include your name and/or envelope number and put it in the offering plate or mail it to Zion. You are most certainly welcome to take as many envelopes as you would like. If we fill all of the envelopes on the board we will be able to give a gift of \$5,050 to Emergency Rescue Squad next month.

On Sunday, April 27th we will have a guest speaker at Zion to tell us all about this organization of first responders. Please join us to learn about the important services they provide in Marinette and Menominee Counties.

Ruth Circle Group



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, May 15th, at Zion at 3 p.m. for bible study. All are welcome!

Our Christian Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Annette Anderson, Don Schutt, and Pat Rondeau, who passed away March 16, April 12, and April 21, respectively. We pray that all those grieving will be comforted by God's loving embrace and by the hope of the resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing of the Seeds and Gardeners _____

Holy Creator of sun and soil,
We gather at the edge of a new season—
hands open, hearts hopeful,
cradling these tiny promises of life.

Bless these seeds, O God—
each one a whisper of resurrection,
a quiet echo of your first breath over the earth.
May they sink into the soil with purpose,
held in the mystery of your nurturing love.

Bless the hands that scatter and sow—
tired hands, tender hands,
hands that know both loss and growth.
Let them trust what they cannot see—
that what dies in the ground will rise with grace.

Bless the waiting.
The watering. The weeding. The wondering.
And when harvest comes,
let us remember your goodness in every leaf and root and
bloom.

May this planting season draw us closer
to the rhythms of your mercy,
to the patience of your Spirit,
and to the hope that always grows—
even from the smallest of seeds.
Amen.

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: Vallery Krah
 May 15: Macy Bodam and Samuel Gressel
 May 17: Blane Betts
 May 22: James Martin
 May 23: Mackenzie Andrist and Charlotte Bauer
 May 24: Skyler Emler
 May 26: Deb Mylener
 May 27: Michael Jagielski
 May 28: Margaret Williams



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



Funny Corner!

When I was in elementary school we learned about a shape called a rhombus and that was the last time I ever heard about that shape.

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