

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church

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NEWS

June 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 Powlaite

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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

As most of you know my name is Carole Boerner and I have been a member of Zion for something like 20 years. I enjoy staying active in the church as I believe it makes me feel closer to Our Lord. When Karen Sylvester asked if I might be interested in attending our synod assembly meeting it took me off guard. But my second thought was YES, it would be enlightening and educational, something I need in my life. Well, it was exactly that and much, much more (thank you Karen).

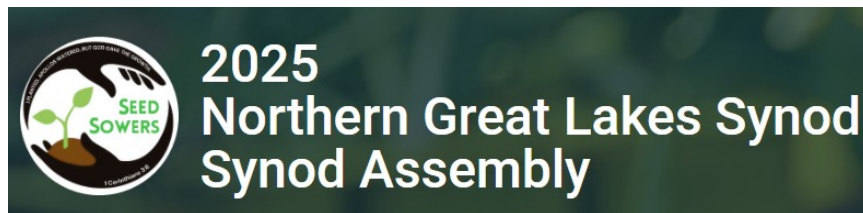
Thursday night services at Bethel-Ishpeming were awesome. The band and choir, the procession of the Pastors, Bishop Finegan (who is a wonderful speaker/preacher), communing with all was so heartfelt it brought me to tears, literally.

Friday found us a little slow in our get-go but we made it on time. There was so much information provided during the entire day and into evening, I had to pick and choose as this old brain works in slow mode. I was touched by the talk about folks in Tanzania being in desperate need of water. They are asking for donations to make it a reality. If you remember, this is the country in Africa where Pastor Keith took his sabbatical. This is where my heart told me to help.

My first workshop was centered around "Wild Church." Holding services in the woods rather than indoors, truly connecting with nature. It sounds good in warm weather but not the cold, cold of winter. The second class was Christian Nationalism and its impact on neighbors and the globe. It was quite interesting particularly with all that has been going on in this crazy world.

The title of the Assembly was "SEED SOWERS" and indeed many, many seeds were sown. Bishop made a statement: PLANT FOR A FUTURE WE DON'T KNOW. Think about it.

Thank you for allowing me this privilege.



2025 Synod Assembly Overview

By Karen Sylvester

This is the third Synod Assembly I have attended over the years, and I thought it was exceptional. I'm going to let Carole Boerner share her experience with you, while I concentrate on a brief overview of what transpired.

- The Synod Constitution was changed to aid in lowering cost for the synod's annual financial audit.
- The 2026 compensation guidelines were set to include a 2-1/2% increase. A copy of the document is available at Zion.
- The following Indian Boarding School Resolution was approved. RESOLVED, that the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly memorialize the 2025 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to address the legacies of our church's role in Indian Boarding Schools through the following actions:"
 - ⇒ Actively invite and equip all congregations...to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Board Schools annually on or near Sept 30th.
 - ⇒ Broaden and deepen awareness of Christian and Lutheran roles in Indian boarding schools through classes and publications.
 - ⇒ Provide on-going recognition of and support for the growing network of lay people and clergy volunteering their time in the work of Truth-Seeking and Truth-Telling about Indian Boarding Schools.
 - ⇒ Encourage ELCA affiliate ministries to commit to learning the truth of their involvement with Indian boarding schools to create paths to healing and repair.
 - ⇒ Organize and care for all information in the ELCA's

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- possession that was recorded about Indian boarding and day schools and the students who attended them. This information belongs to and is a source of healing for student survivors, their families and communities and should be accessible to them, and
 - ⇒ Identify sources of funding to support research, and the organizing, digitization, and labeling of the ELCA Indian boarding school archival records.
- Adopted the amended 2025 budget of \$1,239,142 and the 2026 proposed budget of \$1,225,948.
- Recognized these individuals whom Zion knows that are celebrating ordination anniversaries: Reverend Keith Kolstad, 40 years; Reverend Nicholas Johannes, 55 years; and Reverend George A Olson, 70 years.
- Pastor Scott Ehle, who began serving as our District 5 Menominee Valley Conference President in 2024 and is also Pastor, at Bethel Lutheran Church in Menominee presented these highlights.
 - ⇒ St. James Lutheran made the faithful decision to conclude their ministry in the Spring of 2024.
 - ⇒ Vicar Dan Moschea began serving Porterfield and Beaver American Lutheran Churches through the Wartburg Seminary Collaborative learning program.
 - ⇒ Pastor Amanda Kossow began serving Zion on Jan. 1st.
 - ⇒ Good Shepherd, gifted \$3,000 from the proceeds of their chicken Booyah meal to No Girl Without-To End Period Poverty.
 - ⇒ Our Savior's, served 400 community members at their annual free Thanksgiving meal.
 - ⇒ Bethel, supplied area schools with food and hygiene products and had a successful book study of "Ask, Thank, Tell."
- It was announced that Pastor Dave Murphy has been called to active military duty as a Chaplain in San Diego and will be on leave from Our Savior's and Good Shepherd beginning Oct 25, 2025 through November 26, 2026.



Our Christian Sympathy

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Art and Deborah Babcock and family with the recent death of their daughter, Elizabeth. 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.

Mental Health Corner

Dementia-Part 2:What are the causes?

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

Dementia is the result of changes in certain brain regions that cause neurons (nerve cells) and their connections to stop working properly. Researchers have connected changes in the brain to certain forms of dementia and are investigating why these changes happen in some people but not others. For a small number of people, rare genetic variants that cause dementia have been identified. Although we don't yet know for certain what, if anything, can prevent dementia, in general, leading a healthy lifestyle may help reduce risk factors.

(<https://www.alzheimers.gov/life-with-dementia/can-i-prevent-dementia>)

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."

- June 1: Seventh Sunday of Easter, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Baptismal Affirmation. Special music by Karen Sylvester and Barb Grom. Coffee hour afterward.
- June 1: Light the Fire Bonfire at Zion at 6 p.m.
- June 3: Mission Endowment meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- June 8: Day of Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Graduation Sunday. 150th Anniversary Committee meeting after worship.
- June 10: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- June 15: The Holy Trinity Sunday/First Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Praise Band. Father's Day.
- June 19: Ruth Cricle Group, 1 p.m. at City Park in Marinette with a brown bag lunch.
- June 22: Second Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Jim Cook. Coffee hour afterward.
- June 24: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
- June 29: Third Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Hymn Sing. Coffee hour afterward.

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 June 8th. Please contact the office at 715-735-7898 or at zion@newbc.rr.com; or you can contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017.

A Blessed Father's Day

Gracious God, we come from different spaces and places on this day. Thank you for the gift of caring fathers and father 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 fathers due to abuse or death. And thank you for the gift of your fatherly presence and consolation to those of us who have ached to be fathers, but cannot for one reason or another. Amen.

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@nglsynod.org with any questions.

Living in Harmony Vacation Bible School



Bethel Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, Peace United, First Presbyterian, and Pioneer Presbyterian churches of Marinette and Menominee are working together to plan Vacation Bible School for kids and helpers of all ages. Vacation Bible School will take place August 4-7 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church (1309 14th Ave. Menominee). Campers are invited to join us each evening for a free family supper, games, songs, crafts, and Bible stories that will teach us to Live in Harmony with the world and with each other. Registration is encouraged to help us secure enough supplies. Registration forms are available at the congregations listed above. We hope you can join us! Contact Stefanie Ehle (sehle@uwalumni.com) or Johanna Zuehls (johannazuehls@gmail.com) with questions or to learn how you can volunteer!

Congregation Council Highlights



The Congregational Council met on May 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of April Minutes

Pastor's Report: April 2025 Average Attendance was 98. During the month of April Pastor presided over 2 funerals, 5 home visits, 1 hospital visit and attended various committee meetings.

April Financial Reports

- A motion was made to transfer the remaining balance of the call fund, which has \$8,106, to the following 3 funds: 150th Anniversary, Helping Hand, and Kitchen Floor Funds.
- **General Fund:** Current balance: \$171,887
- **Capital Improvement Fund:** Current balance: \$91,357
- **Boiler Loan:** Balance \$17,995.

Committee Reports

- **Mission Endowment:** Received 6 applications so far. The group will meet in June .
- **Property and Safety Committee:**
 - Bell: The electronics have been shipped and received- turned over to Drees Electric to be completed in May Looking at July for the parts to be shipped
 - Chancel Ramp: Mark contacted our insurance carrier, going to continue to look at a portable ramp
 - Floor: A quote was received from HJ Martin \$28,905 for the social hall. There are concerns of asbestos in the hallway when removing the carpet so looking into options. Maccos did not return updated quote prior to meeting
 - Mark and Dean are working on the new water hose in the kitchen
 - Air Conditioners for offices: We are no longer able to remove windows to install units and are looking at

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Congregation Council Highlights

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new portables with dehumidifiers that are about \$500 each. Pastor Amanda stated she did not feel the need for one in her office.

- Old AV screen: reached out to Eva at the synod office to see if any congregations could make use of it.

New Business

- Soup Supper Report: Served about 110 total cost only \$69.00 due to donations. Took in \$305.05. Leftovers went to Haven of Hope
- Duck Race Ad: Placement for an ad on the annual DAR Duck Race placemats for \$125 was approved.
- Selfie Station: Pastor Amanda will meet with the youth to brainstorm ideas for a selfie station
- Ways to give: We are looking at more ways to make giving easier

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m.

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 article was taken from the May-June 2025 edition of the "Northern Light" newsletter published by the Northern Great Lakes Synod. I feel it is a timely article given the clean water concerns so many have regarding the prevalence of PFAS in our water.

GOD'S CALL TO CARE FOR CREATION: ADVOCACY

By: Chuck Thomas, NGLS Vice President

It says in Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. God gave us this wonderful earth and made us its stewards. Are we adequately responding to the call to keep or nurture creation for future gener-

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

ations? I had the privilege of attending the 8th EcoFaith Summit at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota on April 5, 2025. I was honored to be a co-presenter at one of the Summit's break-out sessions. During the break-out session I highlighted the Marquette-based InterFaith Water Stewards' actions to increase awareness of drinking water issues. And I talked about humankind's failure to answer God's call to care for creation and provided some real-world examples of neglect, especially regarding water resources. Finally, I provided examples of actions people can do to nurture the environment both individually and as a congregation.

Advocacy was a main theme throughout the day. After hearing the Summit's eloquent, inspirational, and informative keynote speakers, I quickly realized that I have not been adequately answering God's call and have not been an active enough advocate.

Did you know that our Church, the ELCA encourages advocacy on a variety of social issues, including the environment? Information about environmental advocacy endeavors and what you can do is available at: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/advocacy/environment>.

There is no better time than now to stand up and advocate for creation care! Our Church also has strong social teachings about our need to answer God's call. The Social Statement Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice, established in 1993, is as relevant today as it was 32 years ago. You can download it from: <https://resources.elca.org/faith-and-society/environment/>. I plan to lead a deep-dive study of this still relevant ELCA Social Teaching. I am not sure during which upcoming Lifelong Faith Formation session this class will be offered but watch for it either in the upcoming fall or winter class schedules and sign up to join the discussion and learn more about what you can do to answer God's call.



June 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 June, we will be collecting items for the Recovery Coaching Program at Biehl Bridges to Recovery.



The Recovery Coaching program is where individuals meet with coaches to assist in their recovery journey. After three years of serving the community through programming, the Marinette County Group Home Association Board of Directors is taking steps to list the building that currently houses the programs at Biehl Bridges to Recovery for sale. This is due to a number of factors, including a significant operating loss in 2024, the recent loss of much-needed federal funding, and continued building operating costs. As a result, the Board of Directors has scaled back their programming to exclusively conduct their Recovery Coaching program.

Going forward, the location and needs may change but for now we can help with these donated items.

Helpful Items to Donate:

Journals and Pens, Recovery Books, Backpacks, Taxi Cards, Adult Bicycles, and Cleaning Supplies, Printer Paper, Paper Towels, and Toilet Paper.

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Group will meet at City Park on June 19 at 1 p.m. They will be having a brown bag lunch. All are welcome. The Ruth Group will not meet in July or August and will start meeting again on September 18, at Zion in the Family Room at 3 p.m.



June Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of June is sponsored by Jim Cook and is in memory of Elaine Saxton.

Recipe Corner



When Maryellen and John Radloff sponsored Coffee Hours, the congregation knew they were in for a treat. Maryellen was known as an exceptional baker. There didn't appear to be anything she could not whip up in the way of tasty treats. This year, for one of the funeral lunches, John baked and donated a chocolate cake that Maryellen had perfected over the years. Here is her recipe. We've had many requests for the recipe, and here it is. Enjoy!

Maryellen's Deep Dark Chocolate Cake and Frosting

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Sift dry ingredients into a mixing bowl:

- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cocoa
- 1-1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1-1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt

Add to the above dry ingredients and mix until smooth:

- 1 cup milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla

Continue mixing the above.

- ⇒ Mix 1 cup boiling water and 1 to 2 tsp instant espresso coffee crystals. Slowly add to the above mixture until well blended.
- ⇒ Grease 9x13 pan and pour batter. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 -35 minutes, until toothpick or cake tester poked into center comes out clean.
- ⇒ Cool thoroughly before frosting. This cake is quite dense. It is not unusual for the center to drop a little.

Frosting

Melt together until smooth:

- 12 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips

- ½ cup light cream or half-in-half
 - 1 cup butter
- ⇒ Blend 2-1/2 cups sifted powdered sugar into the above mixture, place container into ice water and beat. Frosting may turn thick and grainy. If it does, let it sit and soften out of the ice water.

Notes:

As Papa John says, "better ingredients, better pizza."

e.g. European style Dutch processed cocoa is better than Hershey cocoa. Penzey's Madagascar vanilla. Land of Lakes or Kerrygold butter

Communion

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people." (Acts 2:46-47a) Starting Mar 9, we started using gluten free bread for communion. This is one loving way to extend care and hospitality to our neighbors with dietary needs. Some for whom cross-contamination could be lethal. For instance, dipping regular and gluten free into the same wine/grape juice. It eliminates the need for assistants to take extra steps when setting up the Lord's Supper. Lastly, using bread is a meaningful way that one or more siblings in Christ can share their God-given gifts and serve the church. *It has come to our attention that a few folks have concerns about swallowing issues, so there will now also be a few gluten free wafers available for those needing them.*

Sew for Missions and the Lutheran World Relief

Each year Zion's Sew for Mission group works diligently to make as many quilts as they can for Lutheran World Relief. In the Synod Pre-Assembly material provided to me from the NGLS I saw this article and thought it vital I share this good news. It warms my heart, and I hope it warms yours as well. The next two pages will be the Annual Report written by Lutheran World Relief.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT FOR CONGREGATIONS



80 YEARS.

That's how long congregations like yours have shined Christ's light in the world through Lutheran World Relief. What started as a response to World War II has grown into an outpouring of love for every neighbor in need, everywhere in the world.

Wherever there is war, disaster or poverty, your compassion is there to offer help and hope. And in 2024, our ministry together has expanded to reach our neighbors here in the United States. Thank you for making history with us!

Watch the 80th anniversary
video at lwr.org/80



IN TIMES OF CRISIS: TÜRKİYE 📍

SITUATION: In February 2023, massive earthquakes **destroyed 90% of the buildings** in the city of Antakya. More than **50,000 people died**, and nearly **2 million became homeless** in what survivors called an "apocalyptic" disaster.

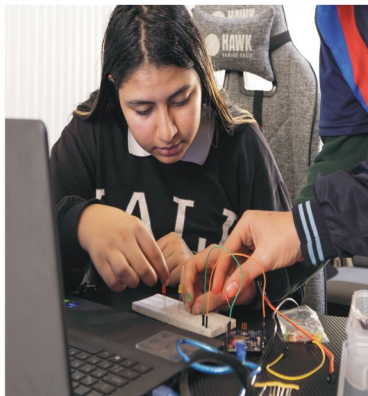
IMPACT: Your congregation's generosity meant emergency supplies reached the epicenter in record time. Since the quakes, you have provided **hot meals, clean water, LWR Quilts & Kits, temporary shelter** and even longer-term container homes to help families get back on their feet.

For a tragedy of this magnitude, the scars of emotional trauma run deep. In a matter of minutes, our neighbors lost their homes, jobs and loved ones. Schools were destroyed, and playgrounds were filled with rubble and broken glass. As families work to rebuild their lives, you are helping them heal.

Seventeen-year-old Dilan Cabiçoğlu's family was grateful to move into their new container home, built with your support, after losing everything. But she soon grew bored and listless. She watched her father fall into depression. Dilan still attends school online, because hers is too damaged to open in person.

Everything changed when she started hanging out at a **youth-friendly community center** that — through your generosity — offers **games, sports, activities, classes and counseling** for teens. The goal is to help youth process the disaster and find hope for the future. Today, Dilan has a new outlook. She's attending counseling to address her trauma and, inspired by the opportunities you've provided, is dreaming of being a nurse.

"Here, I learn new things and meet new people, my head is cleared, and I become more energetic," she said. "If it wasn't for this place, I would probably still be experiencing the shock of the earthquake."



Dilan Cabiçoğlu working on a robotics project at the youth center.

Header Photo: Mary Nyajurk lives in a displacement camp in South Sudan. Your congregation's love taught her how to grow nourishing foods to keep her family healthy.

QUILTS & KITS: UNITED STATES 📍

SITUATION: In September, Lutheran World Relief announced that the Quilt & Kit Ministry was expanding to reach our neighbors in the U.S. Unexpectedly, hurricanes Helene and Milton ravaged communities in North Carolina, Florida and beyond just days later.

IMPACT: Thanks to the quilters and kit makers who faithfully fill our shelves, LWR began packing trucks before the storms reached land. An initial shipment of **10 truckloads of Quilts & Kits** were distributed in hard-hit communities in North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. Immediately after the storms, your generosity also made it possible to rush bottled water and other essentials to western North Carolina and Florida. Then we provided cash grants to our local partners to **distribute food, water and other urgently needed supplies** to provide comfort and dignity to families in their time of need.



Edward Lynch lives at a shelter for homeless veterans in Asheville, North Carolina. After Helene flooded their home, all 165 residents were moved to a hotel until the shelter can be rebuilt. Edward was excited to pick out his LWR quilt. "I'd just like to say thank you to the people that put their time and love and patience in making these beautiful blankets for everybody," he said. "It is going to remind me where I've been and where I'm going. **I can say I got this when I lost everything, and this is one of the first, nicest things I got.** And it gave me something to hold on to in the midst of a crisis."



Gabriel Gatluak, who is disabled, and his family received seeds and support when they arrived at the camp. Today, Gabriel works for LWR to support other new arrivals to the camp. Watch a video about him at lwr.org/gabriel

FOR THE LONG TERM: SOUTH SUDAN 📍

SITUATION: Violence, grinding poverty and four years of extreme flooding have uprooted over 4 million people. While this is an urgent crisis, you are helping families learn skills to thrive in difficult circumstances.

IMPACT: Your compassion has traveled to the hardest-to-reach displacement camps, where exhausted families arrive starving, traumatized and empty-handed after walking for days.

When they arrive, your love greets them with a medical screening to check for malnutrition. Parents with malnourished children receive nutrition counseling and support, along with seeds and training on how to grow a variety of nourishing foods in their home gardens.

Congregations like yours have also made it possible for 10,000 people — primarily widows and single mothers — to receive **livelihoods training** in fishing, raising poultry or vegetable farming. They also learn the basic business and financial skills needed to launch small businesses to sell their products. Thanks to your enduring compassion, food security has increased by 50% among camp residents. Malnutrition has significantly decreased, and thousands of people have lifelong skills and stable ways to feed and support their families.

Your compassion makes all of this possible. THANK YOU!
Until **your love** reaches every **neighbor**.

Letter from Bishop Finegan



Jesus answered them,
 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat
 falls into the earth and dies,
 it remains just a single grain;
 but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
 Those who love their life lose it,
 and those who hate their life in this world
 will keep it for eternal life.

~John 12: 24-25

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, As I write this, we are in the midst of spring in the U.P. I daresay that even spring in northern Wisconsin cannot compare as the residents at the southern edge of our Synod will welcome tulips and daffodils weeks, weeks! before their northern siblings.

Spring in the U.P. is characterized by heavy, wet, snow – frozen mud - dirty snowbanks – sap buckets hanging off of dead looking trees – and weather whiplash as temperatures vacillate between the arctic cold of January and the tease of sunshine warmth that has the power to thaw. But just as Easter follows Good Friday, so also will spring eventually make a solid appearance (by summer). The sleeping earth will awaken. And what had been dormant and quiet within the darkness of snow and frozen dirt will once again grow and be green in the longer light of summer days.

I do love it that the light lingers longer. But let us not forget the value and blessing of darkness. In darkness, there is rest. When we finally get to plant seeds in warm soil, there is anticipation and hope for new life. It is in darkness that a seed gathers what it takes to grow. It is in darkness that its energy coalesces in preparation for change. Plant a seed in rested, thawed, and warm dirt....add water and Ta Da! In due time, the seed sends forth a shoot which grows exponentially - to become a potato

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Letter from Bishop Finegan

Continued...

plant or a tomato bush or a watermelon vine – something incredibly larger than the seed itself. It is miraculous even as it is ordinary.

When we plant seeds in our gardens, we have an expected timetable. We generally know how long a seed will lie in dark earth before we can predict when we will see the first signs of growth. Knowing the length of time helps us be patient even as we are expectant.

However, the germination of seeds of faith or the expectant hope of when some effort of ministry will bear fruit is a complete unknown. There is no timetable to which we can refer to bolster our patience. We cannot predict the future. We cannot even know for certain whether the seeds that have been planted will grow. It may well be that given the uncertainty of these days – both in and out of the Church, that it feels like we are “in the dark”.

But again, let us not forget the value and blessing of darkness. What if the darkness, or this time of expectant hope, need not be a time of anxiety or fear but rather a time of coalescing our energy in preparation for future change? What if we are receiving now, when we cannot see the future, all that we need for the challenges ahead? The value of darkness can be in the waiting, in the hopefulness, in the preparation, in the being watered so that we have what we need for future growth. As we focus this year on “Apollós watered”, we think of what seeds of faith and ministry need in order for growth and new life to happen, not only for what we contribute to nurture seeds, but also in what we receive for new life to grow in and through us.

Jesus was planted in the darkness of a tomb for three days. While in that darkness, perhaps he rested, or perhaps God gave him what he needed to prepare him for transformation, or perhaps something coalesced in him so that he could burst forth from the tomb with light and life. Whatever his

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Letter from Bishop Finegan

Continued... time in darkness looked like and felt like, it gives us hope that darkness and waiting, death and dormancy, are not the enemy.

In the pattern of the Christian life, we loose our grip on what we love: familiarity, certainty, what we think we need - and instead open our hand to receive what is good from God – even if it is only, at least for now, the gathering energy in preparation for change, for transformation, for the new life that will come...unexpectedly... from darkness.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

June Birthdays

June 4: Matthew Swenson
June 6: Brittany Renne and Delanie Schroeder
June 9: Victoria Johnson
June 14: Daniel Lemire
June 15: Robert Lund and Randall Schroeder III
June 18: Mary Belisle and Keaton Emler
June 20: Allyson Knopik
June 22: Gloria Breuer and Greg Peanosky
June 23: Rosalie Settersten

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

June 1: Roger DeGroot
June 2: Macy Bodam and Jacob Marzahl
June 4: Lisa Knopik
June 6: Sharon Powilaites
June 13: Adam Thill
June 16: Robert Lund
June 18: Bruce Oleson
June 20: Diana Harper
June 21: Joan Nowakowski



Zion Newsletter Deadline



Please note, the deadline for submitting articles, information and all tidbits to be published in the July issue of the Zion News(letter) is Saturday, June 21st. Thank you for your assistance!

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 June 1st, 15th, and 22nd!**

Funny Corner!





Teach us to pray

In Luke 11:1-13 (NIV), Jesus teaches about prayer.

Directions: Add or subtract the letters indicated and unscramble the letters to form a new word, using hints from the passage. Then unscramble the circled letters to answer the question below.

party - t = p r a y (v. 1)

lady + i = _ _ _ _ (v. 3)

drab + e = _ _ _ _ (v. 5)

rod + o = _ _ _ _ (v. 7)

bask - b = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

keeps - p = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

define - ee = _ _ _ _ (v. 9)

shift - t = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sneaky - y = _ _ _ _ (v. 11)

sift + g = _ _ _ _ (v. 13)



What will the Father give to those who ask of him?

_ _ _ _ _ (v. 13)

Answer: pray, daily, bread, door, ask, seek, find, fish, snake, gifts, Holy Spirit

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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God's work. Our hands.