

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church

2714 James Street

Marinette, WI 54143

715-735-7898

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

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August 2025



Zion's 2025 Congregation Council

Laura Chaltry — 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

Pastor — Amanda Kossow

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

Praise Band 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

Powilaites

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

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."

Romans 12:4-5

Yesterday, I worshipped with the people gathered for the crowning worship of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Baraga. I recognized the same feelings I have when I attend a funeral of a person I didn't know well. Through the beauty of the liturgy, words spoken, stories and food shared, I came to know them better, even at the ending. Locked in my mind is a grandpa holding a little child, carefully helping her receive the bread and grape juice, body and blood of Christ...the last time in that place, but perhaps the first time around God's expansive table of welcome. I shed tears, for my own loss of not knowing Holy Cross better; for them, recognizing they hold the deep pain and deep gratitude together; and for the sheer beauty and wonder for how God is still working among us, in the midst of it all.

There is a children's story in Godly Play, that describes time. It invites children to see how stories have beginnings, middles and endings. The children's story goes on to imagine perhaps the timeline is not that finite, and maybe God's time is an infinite circle of beginnings and endings. Yes, in God's eternity there are still endings, but they become beginnings. And even the beginning of something is often so distant from our memory or awareness it seems old. The church year moves in a circle. The sabbath week moves in a circle. The timeline of our own lives and that of our congregations move in a circle, not a finite line.

Paul writes to the earliest Christian communities in the fullest, kinetic time of their life cycle. They were growing, squabbling, singing, worshipping, dining, and learning the way of Jesus together. We don't have the full story of their closing worship, but we do still feel the impact of those early congregations in our own time. Not being a modern scientist or physician, Paul had the

brilliant insight to describe the church as a body, a gathering of individual parts, unique and interdependent, for health and vitality.

Congregational Vitality is the beginning, middle, ending and new beginnings of communities. It is a whole cycle that can't really be separated. Someone might be imagining a new beginning of ministry that seeks to faithfully respond to loving God and neighbor in their community. There may be a congregation in a stage of vibrant life recognizing this too will end, and this ministry will give way to a new expression that is still a faithful following of Jesus. Congregations slowing down from a vibrant, kinetic ministry may feel they are nearing the natural completion of this expression of their congregation. We might wonder: How will our neighbors miss this congregation when it ends? What parts of the body are being stretched to stress for the sake of the whole? What DNA in the congregational body is informing ministry, that isn't obvious on the surface? Are the individual parts healthy and growing in a life of faith? How can we move through times of vibrant life, while holding with grace the reality that a Good-Friday-ending and Easter-Sunday-beginning is always before us? These are faithful wonders! These are activating, curious, and faithful questions that draw us closer to one another and God, while also sending us out to encounter our neighbor.

In the grace and peace of Christ,

Rev. Sharolyn Swenson, Director of Evangelical Mission and
Assistant to the Bishop with the NGLS of the ELCA

Mental Health Corner

A Prayer to Live With Grace

May we discover through pain and torment, the strength to live with grace and humor. May we discover through doubt and anguish, the strength to live with dignity and holiness. May we discover through suffering and fear, the strength to move toward healing. May it come to pass that we be restored to health and to vigor. May life grant us wellness of body, spirit, and mind. Amen.

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.”

- Aug. 3: 8th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.
- Aug. 4-7: Vacation Bible School, 5-7 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran in Menominee.
- Aug. 6: Praise Band practice, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 10: 9th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Praise Band Sunday.
- Aug. 12: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 13: Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 17: 10th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Erik Breuer.
- Aug. 20: Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 24: 150th Anniversary. 11th Sunday after Pentecost, 10:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special guest pastors and Bishop Finegan. Special music by the praise band, Choir, Jim Cook, and a brass quartet. A dinner to follow the anniversary presentation at noon.
- Aug. 26: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
- Aug. 31: 12th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.

Congregation Council Highlights _____



The Congregational Council did not meet in July. They will meet on August 12 at 6:30 p.m. The August highlights will be published in our September Newsletter.

150th Anniversary

The letters to reserve a spot for the 150th Anniversary dinner and booklet were recently mailed. If you did not receive one, please contact the office to reserve your spot or you can pick up an extra copy of the letter in the narthex. Reservations are due by Aug. 15

God's Work, Our Hands

Zion is partnering with Bethel again for the annual *God's Work, Our Hands* service project. This year we will be putting together sensory bags to be distributed to local first responders. Sensory bags are a tool kit to assist first responders when helping or interacting with people who are autistic (neurodiverse) or have disabilities or special needs. We will get together after worship at Zion on September 7th to assemble the bags and then enjoy a light lunch together. Some items that we will be collecting are:

- 5 lb. weighted blankets
- Noise cancelling headphones for children
- Sunglasses for children
- Sensory toys
 - Rubik's cubes
 - Fidget toys (spinners, cubes, push and pop toys, etc.,)
 - Squishy toys
 - Small stuffed animals

All of these items can be purchased on our [amazon registry list](#), or they can be purchased wherever is convenient for you. You may also donate cash or purchase amazon gift cards and we can do the shopping for you. Thank you for helping us and for your generosity!



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.

The Seven Marks of Discipleship

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

✠Serve

Have you heard of Christian Nationalism? It was a new term for me. When I attended Synod Assembly in June, I saw a workshop about it by Pastor David VanKley and decided to check it out. Pastor VanKley was kind enough to provide me a book, *"Taking America Back for God"* by Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L Perry. I've started reading it and find it quite enlightening.

I spoke with Pastor Amanda about the book, and she sent me an article link she received while she was at Trinity Lutheran in Minnesota. The article that follows comes from that link and is written by Bishop Michael Rinehart. It is an excellent article

and certainly explains Christian Nationalism far better than anything I could put forward. I hope you'll take time to read it and think and pray on it.

Christian nationalism is not Christianity.

"What is Christian nationalism? Christian nationalism is a dangerous political ideology and cultural framework that distorts both church and state by attempting to merge American and Christian identities. It suggests that America is a divinely appointed nation instituted by God. Deifying the American state, it suggests that true Americans are Christians. If you are not Christian, you are not a true American. Seeking to create an Ethno-national identity, Christian nationalism does not point to Christ who transcends national boundaries and ideologies, but to a messianic political figure and ideology. Aligning Christianity with Americanism limits the global nature of the gospel. It also compromises the first amendment's protection of the freedom of religion by attempting to establish

an American state religion. Christian nationalism is a threat to religious freedom for all.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” — First Amendment to the US Constitution

This ideology ignores the fact that the U.S. Constitution never mentions God, the Bible, or the Ten Commandments. Article 6 of the constitution prohibits religious tests for public office. Many proponents of Christian nationalism would be surprised to discover that our first president, George Washington, abstained from taking communion while president. While this is extreme, it conveys how seriously our founders took clarity on this matter. The founders of this country intentionally disestablished religion. They wanted a democracy, not a theocracy.

Church and state can and should talk to each other, but they must also recognize their differing functions. Luther would concur, based on his doctrine of the two kingdoms.

Isn't patriotism a good thing? Indeed, it is. Christian nationalism is not patriotism. Patriotism is a healthy love of country. Nationalism is an allegiance to country that demands a supremacy over all other allegiances.

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations,
A song of peace for their land and for mine.*

—“This Is My Song,” ELW 887 (Finlandia) Jean Sibelius

Sadly, Christian nationalism fosters and even encourages violence to accomplish its goals. One need only to consider the tree of life synagogue in Pittsburgh shooting in 2018, the deadliest antisemitic attack on US soil. Or remember the 2015 killing of nine people at Mother Emmanuel AME in Charleston, perpetrated by a young man raised in a Lutheran church. One of the people killed was Pastor Clementa Pinckney, who received his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary of the South in Columbia, South Carolina. Christian nationalism has resurfaced after years of being a fringe movement, getting not so subtle support in mainstream culture. One cannot miss the incongruity of people on January 6, 2021, carrying “Jesus saves” signs while pummeling police officers, threatening public officials, and vandalizing the capital. This is not Christianity but misguided political power.”

If you would like more information on the subject, I offer comments from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in the following link.

<https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/7996>

Additionally, on March 11, 2025, Bishop Katherine Finnegan, Bishop of the NGLS, along with many other bishops and clergy, affixed their name to a letter asking the President of the United States and all elected officials to protect religious freedom in our country and uphold the constitution of the United States of America. Here is the link to that document along with additional information. <https://nglsynod.org/?s=Christian+Nationalism>

This is but scratching the surface. There is *so* much more to comprehend. To dig deeper, enter Christian Nationalism in your search engine and start exploring the abundance of articles and books.

In God’s peace and love,

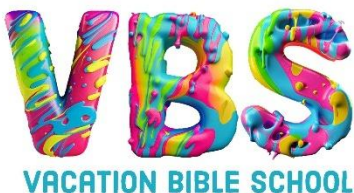
Karen Sylvester

National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools

Sept 28: Wear Orange in honor of National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools. Any orange top or shirt is just fine, or you can purchase t-shirts

here: <https://nabshc.myshopify.com/collections/day-of-remembrance-orange-t-shirts> They are specifically designed for this national recognition and support the ongoing work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). "The first and only national organization whose purpose is to advocate on behalf of Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding school policies. We seek truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings."

Living in Harmony Vacation Bible School



Bethel, Zion, Peace United, First Presbyterian, and Pioneer Presbyterian churches are working together to plan Vacation Bible School for kids and helpers of all ages. VBS will take place Aug. 4-7

from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. Registration forms are available in our narthex and on our website. Contact Stefanie Ehle (sehle@uwalumni.com) or Johanna Zuehls (johannazuehls@gmail.com) with questions or to register!

Volunteers Needed!

Zion needs your help. We are looking for people who are willing to be trained to serve as usher. Please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017 if you are interested or to make sure your name is on the list.





School Food Pantry Collection_____

We're collecting food items to stock the school pantries as they start a new year. 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 beginning of September. 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 between July 6th and August 24th.

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.



August Eternal Light_____

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

GreenTip

At least 112 North American bird species have **lost more than half their populations** in the past 50 years, according to lead scientists with the nonprofit Ducks Unlimited, Cornell University, American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon Society, and the American Ornithological Society. Loss of dabbling and diving ducks is **down about 30% from 2017**, with all waterfowl numbers decreasing by 20% since 2014. There are some **20,000 bird species** in North America, **1/3 of which are rated as high concern** for conservation due to climate change and human encroachment into their habitats. Passed way back in 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of the nation's oldest environmental laws, helped to stop the slaughter of birds for sport or use of their feathers in fashion, and in recent years has been used to hold oil companies accountable after environmental disasters (Exxon Valdez, Deepwater Horizon oil spills). The law has subjected companies to penalties for accidentally killing birds through activities such as **oil and gas drilling, wind energy production, mining or construction**, but recent changes in the federal Interior Department has suspended that and other protections. Speak up for the well-being of our fellow creatures with whom we share our Earth.

Funny Corner!

Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow, plus you have nothing to do today.



August Birthdays

August 3: Andrew Hubbard

August 6: Jackie Hamer

August 7: Dakota Lueskow, Kathleen Lueskow

August 9: Jacob Cording, Laura Peanosky

August 10: Gage Schutt

August 13: Sally Broetzman, Joan Nowakowski

August 15: Fay Brummond, Larry Melgary

August 16: Linda Walker

August 17: Joni Rudell

August 18: Sarge Rudell

August 20: Brooke Rose

August 25: Jordan Lueskow, Tim Marzahl

August 29: Barb Grom, Jared Johnson, Gail Melgary

August 31: Katy Bauer, Sheila Minzlaff

Join us in lifting up our siblings in Christ, in prayer as we remember their baptism

August 1: Michael Jagelski

August 2: Rosalie Settersten

August 7: Mary Bodam, Dale Lueskow and Greg Peanosky

August 11: Brian Swenson

August 13: Traci Olson

August 16: Fyfe Thill

August 19: Mason Krah

August 20: Sam Gressel, Sarah Jagielski

August 21: Allyson Knopik

August 23: Aiden Bailey, Laura Peanosky

August 24: Sally Broetzman

August 25: Jacob Ehle

August 27: Debra Strohl

August 29: Delanie Schroeder



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 has a Google calendar! You can view it by going to our website and clicking the "Calendar" tab.
- ⇒ 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.**