

# WE ARE ZION



**Zion Lutheran Church**

**2714 James Street**

**Marinette, WI 54143**

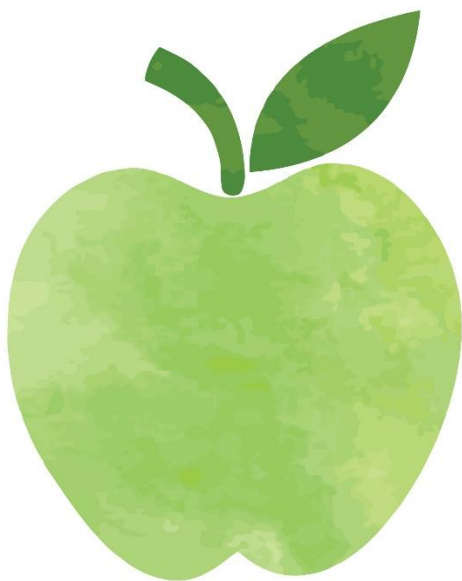
**715-735-7898**

**zion@newbc.rr.com**

**[www.zionlutheran-marinette.org](http://www.zionlutheran-marinette.org)**

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## September 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**

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#### **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

Ruth Women's Circle — Jane Landenberg

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



## Reflections

### **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 generations?

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. Sign up to join the discussion and learn more about what you can do to answer God's call. *(See the list of Faith Formation classes on page 15 of this newsletter.)*

## **Mental Health Corner**

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"There have been so many times I've wished my mental illness had a visibly physical component so people would actually believe that I'm sick. A little blood, maybe a cast and crutches. Because the minute I smile people assume I'm better, but I actually feel like I'm dying inside."

*(Originally posted on the ELCA's Suicide Prevention Ministry FB page on Dec 5, 2022)*

## **Pastor Amanda on Vacation**

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Pastor Amanda will be on vacation from Sept. 29 to October 14<sup>th</sup>. During this time, Pastor Scott Ehle will be on call for emergencies. Pastor Scott can be reached at 906-863-2066.



## **Zion to Host Blood Drive**

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Zion is hosting a blood drive Friday, Sept. 26 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](#).

## **Choir to Start Practicing Again!**

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Zion Senior Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. Rehearsals are only an hour. We would love to have you join us! If interested please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017.

## upcoming events

## 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.”

Sept. 1: Labor Day. Office Closed.

Sept. 7: 13th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Baptismal Affirmation for people baptized in July, August, and September. Coffee hour after worship.

Sept. 9: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 10: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 14: 14th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Praise Band Sunday.

Sept. 17: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 18: Ruth Circle, 3 p.m.

Sept. 21: 15th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.

Sept. 23: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.

Sept. 24: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 26: Blood Drive, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sept. 28: 16th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.

## **Congregation Council Highlights**

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The Congregational Council met on August 12, at 6:30 p.m.

**Pastor's Report:** June 2025 average attendance was 78 and the July 2025 average attendance was 77. During the month of June, pastor presided over a memorial service for Elisabeth Babcock and a funeral for Bruce Oleson, 10 home visits, 1 hospital visit, and was in various committee meetings. For July, pastor made 12 home visits.

### **June Financial Reports**

- Balance of the General Fund: \$162,521
- Balance of Capital Improvement: \$95,934
- Deposits: \$18,267.66
- Disbursements \$27,564.89
- Large Disbursements:
  - \$549 Sunday's and Season's subscription
  - \$620 for lawn care

### **July Financial Reports**

- Balance of General Fund: \$163,468
- Balance of Capital Improvement: \$101,907
  - Additions \$5,000 for AV.
- Boiler Loan Balance: \$14,734
- Deposits: \$26,405.46
- Disbursements: \$17,714.85

A motion was made by Kathy/Pastor Amanda to change name of Scholarship Fund to College Scholarship Fund.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Mission Endowment:** An Ad Hoc committee was formed to review by-laws and guidelines. The committee will consist of Peggy Miller, John Radloff, Troy Cording and Pastor Amanda
- **Property and Safety Committee:** Bill Tipple offered to purchase and install 2 fans for air circulation; Mark will coordinate with Bill to complete. Three dehumidifiers

## Congregation Council Highlights

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were purchased earlier this summer and they are working well to remove excess moisture from the building. M&M Trucking will remove old tiles in the back hallway for \$4500-\$6000 for our flooring project; we are looking at starting that early next year. Hobart serviced our dishwasher in July and Tri-City ran a dedicated line to the dishwasher. Verdin and Drees Electirc started assembling the bell on August 19<sup>th</sup>. We will get a group together for training with Verdin on operation of bell.

- **Personnel:** Met to approve the updated administrative secretary job description.

### New Business

- A motion was made by Pastor Amanda/LeeAnn to accept into membership by Affirmation Of Baptism to Ellen Basak.
- Purchase of new speaker: A quote was given by NSV for \$2,700 to repair the 23-year-old speaker. It was decided to purchase a new one for \$3800 and it was installed within 2 weeks.
- Insurance Notification: Zion was notified that there will be a price increase to our insurance and we will know how much mid-September
- Adult Day Services- Pastor Amanda had conversation with council that there is a need in Marinette-Menominee areas for this service. She would like to reach out to a few organizations to see what is needed and if our unused space at Zion could be utilized.

### Tabled Business

- Kitchen Floor
- Website Redesign
- Vanco App and Online Giving
- Adult Day Services

The council will meet again September 9 at 6:30 p.m.



## Confirmation

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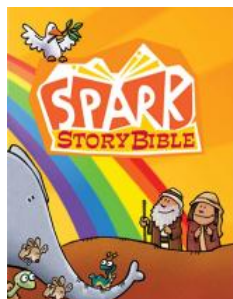
Confirmation classes for 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning September 24 with orientation for students and parents/guardians at Zion's church

building. Confirmation classes will continue to be a shared ministry between Bethel and Zion congregations with classes held at Zion. New 6th graders who would like to be in confirmation should please contact the church office at 715-735-7898. A registration form will be sent to you, or you may pick one up at the church office.

## SPARK

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This fall, SPARK, our elementary-aged, (3 years old – 5th grade), education program resumes! Classes will begin on Wednesday, September 10th starting at 5:30 p.m. All children in our congregation, as well as friends or family of the members, are welcome to attend. Simply contact our church office, 715-735-7898, to let us know so that we can



prepare the materials for the classes. SPARK classes last one hour and contain a connection with one of the Bible lessons for the upcoming Sunday. There's time for stories, prayer, crafts and music. We pray that all of it helps our young people grow in faith.

## Upcoming Coffee Hour

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There will be a coffee hour on Sept. 7 for baptismal remembrances. Coffee hours are held directly after service; if you would like to sponsor a coffee hour, call the office at 715-735-7898 to reserve a date!

## God's Work, Our Hands

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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 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

## Concert on the Farm

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There is a Praise & Worship Picnic appearing at Concert on the Farm, W1955 Bruette Road, Wausaukee, on Saturday, Sept. 6. The concert will includes seven Christian music acts: Jack Gafford, Johnny O'Brien, Holt & Co., Monday, The Gospel Grass Guys, The Kidzridge Puppet Show, Menominee River Chorus, Porterfield Lutheran Gospel Band. Gates open at 9 a.m. with the concert beginning at noon end ending at 6 p.m. Event admission is free and wristbands are available on our kiosk.

## 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

### **Acts 2:46-47**

*Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

On January 29, 2009, Zion's congregation adopted a Vision Statement for its Seven Marks of Discipleship: Pray, Worship, Study, Invite, Encourage, Give, and Serve. We believed this vision was about God's dreams, desires, and aspirations of what could be.

We envisioned becoming a thriving, vibrant model of Lutheran ministry both within our community and the world. God's greatest gift to us was the waters of Holy Baptism where we became Jesus' disciples. He also gave us each other - a most precious gift, so that we could support and help each other grow in our faith practices through our everyday lives.

For September, the Stewardship and Generosity Committee's focus will be Worship. Zion adopted this Vision Statement for "Worship" - *We envision a congregation that worships enthusiastically and is so hungry to praise and worship God that at least half of its baptized members are present for worship on a weekly basis.* Sixteen years have now elapsed since the adoption of this Vision Statement. How do you feel we are doing as a congregation?

**Matthew 18:20.** *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*

I have been told more than once that true worship cannot be done alone. Sure, we can set time aside to show our love, appreciation, and devotion to God, but we cannot truly worship alone; we were never meant to. Just look at the early church and their experience with faith and what God had done in their lives. They met daily, they ate together, and shared their experience regularly with one another, and even carried each other's burdens together. In worship, with and through others, we encounter God in our midst, hear his promises, experience his grace in the sacraments, and support one another in this life. In worship, we meet God face to face through the presence of other congregants.

The early church certainly set an example for us, and yet, in many ways, we cannot imitate what they have shown us. But we can build up each other's Christian belief by sharing our own faith experiences. We can help to lessen someone's burden by supporting them, whether financially or physically assisting them with whatever might be needed. We can pray for them, the congregation, and Pastor Amanda as together we try to be faithful Christians.

Just like the early church, we need each other. We need to worship God together. For as we gather God is truly among us and in us.

*Lord God, help us to prioritize/find time this month to truly worship you by attending worship services to feel refreshed, empowered, renewed, and carried through the days and weeks ahead. Amen*

In God's peace and love,  
Karen Sylvester

## **National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools**

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On September 28, Native and non-Native people across the United States and Canada pause to remember that from the years 1819-1969, countless Indigenous children were taken from their homes and placed in boarding schools, operated either by the US government or as mission schools partially funded by the government, by various Christian denominations. One of the government funded mission schools was operated by the Norwegian Lutheran Church—a predecessor body to the ELCA—Bethany Indian Mission at Wittenberg, Wisconsin.

Indian children often were placed in schools far from their families and their tribes in an effort to assimilate them to the dominant culture. They were forced to have western haircuts, made to wear clothing unfamiliar to them, and forbidden to speak in their native language. They were made to learn the cultural and religious values of white settlers and were not allowed to engage in any of the ceremonial or religious practices of their elders. Unable to learn practices germane to their tribal way of life, like ricing, maple sugaring, hunting and fishing, they were instead taught how to sew, cook, clean, and work on farms, trained to be a kind of servant class in white United States.

The boarding school motto was “Kill the Indian and Save the Man (sic).”

Often, boarding schools were also places of strict discipline. Racism was endemic. Physical and sexual abuse were common. Many children tried to run away. Others died while at boarding schools. The burial sites of a large number of children still have not yet been identified.

In recent years, we’ve come to recognize that we, in the Christian church, either condoned or actively participated in operating these boarding schools, which have led to so much suffering. But in fact, the damage inflicted on our Indigenous neighbors because of the boarding schools is incalculable.

Generations have struggled to regain their sense of worth and identity as Native people. As they go about their healing, it is our calling as people of God to support them.

To that end, we will be observing Remembrance Day on Sunday, Sept. 28, by including prayers for the survivors and those who have gone missing in the worship liturgy and wearing orange. Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors, a synod task force, is encouraging all congregations within the synod to participate in some fashion either that weekend or one near it.

Orange is the color of Remembrance Day. So you are invited to wear orange in solidarity with our Indigenous neighbors. 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."



### September Eternal Light\_\_\_\_\_

The Eternal Light for September is sponsored by Carol Magnuson and is in honor of Pastor George during his birthday month.

### Ruth Circle Group\_\_\_\_\_



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, September 18th, in the family room at Zion at 3 p.m. for our monthly Bible study. All are welcome to attend!

## Faith Formation Classes

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Registration is open for the fall classes offered by the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The Lifelong Faith Formation program provides a variety of classes for shared listening and learning via Zoom. With a special thanks to our fall teachers, here are the classes they will teach this fall:

- **Caring for Creation – A discussion study of the theological, societal, and scientific reasoning of the ELCA Social Statement** with Chuck Thomas, NGL Synod Vice President
- **Feeding your Soul - practicing spiritual practices** with Pastors Terry Cathcart, Terry Frankenstein, Lee Goodwin, Grant Van Lishout, and Deacons D’Etta Broam, and Noreen Stevens
- **In the Beginning: The first 11 Chapters of Genesis** with Pastor Tommy Wimsae
- **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew** with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn
- **Recognizing, Responding, and Re-Visioning Discipleship in an age of Christian Nationalism** with Pastor David Van Kley



Courses are free but may require the purchase of books or other materials. **Please register by September 15!**

For more detailed information and to register, visit the synod website *Resources* page: <https://nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation/>

Contact Sister Noreen Stevens with your questions: 651-815-1145 or [nstevens@nglsynod.org](mailto:nstevens@nglsynod.org)

## Note of Thanks!

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Dear beloved people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

We have done something amazing together, and we want to celebrate this generosity. The congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod have gathered together \$40,664 for ELCA World Hunger so far in 2025. Of that, \$24,873 came through World Hunger offerings for Synod Assembly alone. You should be so proud to be a part of this movement to end hunger, both immediately and systemically, and both locally and globally, through ELCA World Hunger. We are grateful for your commitment to this seemingly impossible task, and in the midst of likely other voices clamoring for your attention. Just now, as the berries are ripe in the patch, and we gather the harvest, we can trust in God's providence there is always enough to share, so no one goes hungry. People can learn more about World Hunger at [elca.org/worldhunger](https://elca.org/worldhunger).

With gratitude,

The Synod World Hunger Team

## Funny Corner!





## GreenTip

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A new study published in *Science* shows a staggering loss in soil moisture, a result of **climate change, prolonged droughts, and pervasive draining of land-based waters** that eventually flow into the oceans. Research from the team of scientists worldwide, together with satellite observations from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment, found that from 1979 to 2016 the rate of dumping water into the oceans from terrestrial land storage was greater than the melting of Greenland, with the biggest drops in soil moisture occurring in large regions in East and Central Asia, Central Africa, and the Americas. The melting of glaciers and ice sheets, and water leaving the continents, together with prolonged droughts and climate change that prevent soil moisture from bouncing back, have long-term impacts on water availability affecting **agriculture, ecosystems and human societies**. Use your voice to support efforts to **practice smarter and sustainable water resource management**.

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

September 2: Allie Buenning, Elsa Emler, Skyler Emler, Andrew Hubbard, Patricia Peterson

September 4: Jacki Renne

September 6: Sarge Rudell

September 7: Roxanne Bowdin

September 10: Becky Davis

September 11: Vern Cramer

September 13: Brooke Rose

September 14: Brittany Renne

September 16: Jo Rudell

September 17: Rick DeBenedetto, Alex Gressel, Sandy Gressel

September 18: Bill Magnuson

September 19: Dennis Mullen

September 22: Keaton Emler, Joe Griffiths

September 27: Jared Johnson

September 28: Lori Despins, Larry Nelson, Linda Walker



## September Birthdays

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September 1: Karen Dill

September 2: Thomas Kaufman

September 4: Diane Beattie

September 10: Bradley Nelson

September 12: George Olson

September 13: John Powilaites, Jacob Rose

September 14: Peggy Miller

September 16: Vicki Guay

September 20: Amanda Ross

September 21: Donna Dietrich, Joe Griffiths

September 25: Mary Bodam

September 26: Dorothy Bretl, Addalynn Brown, Godfrey

Heitmeier, Daniel Johnson, Kaya Lebeck

September 29: Kathi Gutknecht



## 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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**Going Where Jesus Leads**



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**Equipping the Saints for Ministry**



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**God's work. Our hands.**