

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church

2714 James Street

Marinette, WI 54143

715-735-7898

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www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

**E
W
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October 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

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 Gifts: Trees

By: Chuck Thomas, NGLS Vice President

In the [June] Northern Light newsletter, we unpacked Genesis 2:15, which calls us to care for God's creation. In this issue, we will explore the marvel of trees and why we need to nurture this gift and thank God for trees. From Genesis 2:9:

"Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." (NRSV)

The tree of life was not just another part of the garden; it symbolized the everlasting life that God intended for all of humanity; a relationship of life and abundance.

Abundance, yes! God's awe-inspiring wonderful gifts of trees are all around us. Answering God's call to be good stewards of this gift is imperative for this gift to still be present for future generations. A fruit or nut-bearing tree gives us food, and if we care for it, the tree will continue to provide food year after year. Maple trees have long been a source of sweet syrup and if tapped with care, will do so for many years. Trees have always been and, if proper sustainable harvesting practices are used, will continue to be a renewable source of raw material for building materials, paper products, and firewood. Trees also provide a great habitat for God's creatures of the forest.

In Revelations 22:2 we hear more about the tree of life.

"through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of nations." (NRSV)

In scripture, the tree of life is not only a source of sustenance but also a powerful symbol of healing and restoration.

Wait though! Trees are not just a symbol of healing; trees really do provide environmental healing. Through the miracle process

of photosynthesis, trees are instrumental in restoring the atmospheric quality in their immediate vicinity. During the photosynthesis process trees absorb climate-changing carbon dioxide, sequester the carbon, and give off live-sustaining oxygen. When the roots of a tree take up water from the ground, impurities in the water are filtered out. So, when a tree transpires water vapor into the air around it, that water vapor is free of impurities.

The last line in the well-known poem, “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer, “But only God can make a tree”, says it all. Who but the Creator could have designed such a marvel as a tree!

Mental Health Corner

Need Help? These Resources Are Just a Call or Text Away.



24/7

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health, substance use or suicide crisis:

988 is now available **24/7** nationwide and staffed by trained crisis counselors who are just a text or call away.



If you are not experiencing a crisis, but seeking information, resource referrals and support:

NAMI HelpLine at 1-800-950-6264 is a free, peer-support service. Available M-F from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET.



nami
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Pastor Amanda on Vacation

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

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.”

- Oct. 1: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5: 17th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Guest Pastor Rick DeBenedetto.
- Oct. 8: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 11: Boxcar Loading for Lutheran World Relief, 9-11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 12: 18th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Guest Pastor Rick DeBenedetto. Praise Band Sunday.
- Oct. 14: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 15: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 16: Ruth Circle, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 19: 19th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Ecumenical (Inter-Christian) Youth Group Gathering, First Presbyterian Church, Menominee from noon to 2 p.m.
- Oct. 22: Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.; SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 26: Reformation and Confirmation Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.
- Oct. 28: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 29: Bible Study, 5:00 p.m.; SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregational Council met on September 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: August 2025 average attendance was 103.

During the month of August, pastor presided over a funeral for Rosalie Settersten and made 12 home visits, 1 hospital visit, and was in various committee, synod, and other group meetings.

August Financial Reports

- A motion was made and passed that the leftover funds from the 150th Anniversary Fund will be used for general fund expenses.
- Laura will write a message for the newsletter/bulletin sharing an update with the congregation as to the status of the projects, which are complete and which still could use donations. This message was displayed in the September 14th and 21st bulletins and announcements.
- WPS bill is not budgeted accurately. LeeAnn will look into it.
- Bell Project: A motion was made and passed that any outstanding bills related to Bell project should be paid for with unrestricted capital improvement funds.

Committee Reports

- **Anniversary Committee:** We had 164 RSVP's for the anniversary dinner — only a few seats were empty.
- **Mission Endowment:** An Ad Hoc committee meeting was planned for Sept. 10th.
- **Personnel:** Met Sept. 8 and approved new job description for office admin. Working on salary increase ranges. Planning annual reviews. Meeting in October.
- **Property and Safety Committee:**
 - Bell project had additional fees. Verdin bill had additional \$1,300. At the time of the meeting, the Drees Electric additional bill amount was unknown. There was a bill to use Frank's Trucking lift. The bell is supposed to ring for a minute, but only rang on

Sept. 7. Mark talked to their tech rep and they are looking into it.

- Donation coming in for new refrigerator for kitchen from Grom's.
- Fans were purchased/donated by Bill Tipple for sanctuary and were mounted.
- Next project will be social hall floor project which Mark is getting requested for and the council wants him to get quotes with and without the hallway outside pastor and admin office. Installation window for the new floor be roughly March 1-25, 2026. We would need approval for the expense at the annual meeting.
- **Stewardship and Generosity:** The question was posed how would the council feel about the Stewardship and Generosity Committee not utilizing pledge cards for this year's Stewardship Drive? Discussion was held but ultimately the council does not utilize the info. The council will allow the committee to utilize those efforts for a different form of outreach.

Old Business

- **New Speaker:** Done and installed. It involved more time and labor without extra cost.
- **Social Hall Rentals:** Updated application voted and approved by email.
- **College Scholarship Fund:** Guidelines from 2019 were found. Need to review them before we decide to advertise them. Phil suggested we look it over and review it next time with changes that we want. Committee will return next month with suggestions. Item tabled.
- **Insurance Notification:** New annual premium \$8,020. Plus approx. \$900 worker's compensation premium for the year
- Vanco App & Online giving - Tabled

New Business

- **New Member request by Affirmation of Baptism:** Gary Maske.
- **Health Insurance:** LeeAnn presented three options, A, B, and C. Proposal to offer package C: Value HDHP 4000 with difference between Select HDHP 2000 and HDHP 4000 with \$600 HSA used to determine final HSA contribution as written and explained with final amount contingent on what Personnel committee decides for salary increase Motion by Mark, second by Phil to accept as presented based on the proposed salary increase and the difference between the packages.
- Blood Drive on September 26, 2025, 11 am -4 pm

Tabled Business

- **Kitchen Floor:** \$20,000 will be transferred in November when Unused pastor salary CD matures.
- Website Redesign
- Unused Pastor's Salary matures in November — the council will discuss at the next meeting about what to do with the balance.
- Mission Endowment By Laws. The Ad Hoc Committee met on Sept. 10.
- Revisit percentage formula of general fund transfers from congregation donations - LeeAnn and Pastor will meet to propose ideas.
- Adult Day Services/community outreach

The council will meet again October 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Bible & Book Study

Every Wed from **Oct 22-Nov 19 at 5 pm** we'll be exploring chapters from Revelation alongside the book *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the book of Revelation* by Barbara R. Rossing. You can either order your own or pick up one of the ten available in the main office. Please read chapters 1 & 2 of *The Rapture Exposed* for Oct 22.



October 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 October, we will be collecting food items to help people celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Everything we collect in October will be split up and delivered to THREE locations: Dorothy's Haven of Hope, Rainbow House, and the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

By collecting in October, we can get these items delivered EARLY in November and help everyone plan for their holiday meals.

Ideas for shelf stable items for a Thanksgiving meal are:

- Instant potatoes, stuffing mix, biscuit mix, gravy mix or jarred gravy
- Cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, French fried onions,
- Canned pumpkin/pie filling, shelf stable pie crust
- Shelf stable milks such as almond, rice or soy
- All other non-perishable food items such as canned fruits and proteins, especially chicken or turkey, are certainly appreciated also!

Boxcar Loading for Lutheran World Relief

The annual Boxcar loading for the Lutheran World Relief will be on Saturday, October 11. We will be loading quilts, school supplies, and baby kits onto the boxcar for Lutheran World Relief between 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. The boxcar will be stationed at 906 State Street, just south of Walgreens. Extra assistance is usually needed between 10:30-11:30 a.m. as that's when the trucks from Gladstone and Iron Mountain come full of materials that need to be transferred to the boxcar. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Brenda Greenwald at 720-989-8218 or at pastor@gsslutheran.org.

Meals With a Friend

We humans were made for connection. In the rhythm of life, people flourish when someone shares time, attention, and a seat at the table. Meals With A Friend (MWAf) grew from that simple conviction: showing up regularly for unhurried conversations (e.g., a meal) so people feel known. I've learned that loneliness plagues everyone at different rates and degrees—there's no way to avoid it—but a steady, caring presence can often soften its edges and remind people they belong.

What is MWAf:

- One-on-one meals or friendly visits—at home, a café, or a church hall. Each session is at least 55–60 minutes.
 - Unhurried conversation, encouragement, and (if welcomed) a brief prayer.
- Regular, scheduled check-ins that build trust and reduce isolation.
 - Check-ins other than the two listed above are: a brief midweek phone call (5–10 minutes), an encouraging text message or photo, a handwritten note or card, or A quick check-in after church (with consent, a short update to a caregiver)

What are friendly visits:

- Purpose: steady companionship between Sundays—someone who shows up, listens well, and reminds people they're not alone.
- What a visit can include: conversation over tea, a short walk, reading a favorite book or Scripture, playing a simple game, writing a note to a loved one, looking through photos, or light help like tidying a table or setting out a snack.
- Rhythm and length: visits are at least 55–60 minutes (and can go longer when helpful), offered weekly or biweekly to fit needs.
- Boundaries and safety: this is non-clinical, non-transport, non-medical support. I maintain clear boundaries, uphold confidentiality, and will loop in pastoral care (with

permission) if someone could use extra support.

- Communication: with consent, I or someone on our team offers brief check-ins to caregivers or pastoral staff so the church can respond if needs surface.

Why I'm passionate: I've seen how attentive presence can lift a spirit. Much of Jesus' ministry took place in ordinary places with ordinary people; these visits are my way of practicing hospitality and embodying the church's care throughout the week.

How it's structured: It feels like friendship, but it's intentionally organized as a small business so it can be dependable and sustainable—clear scheduling, professional standards, and consistency that people can count on.

Who it serves: Older adults, widows and widowers, new parents, college students far from home, people in transition or recovery—anyone who would be blessed by a steady, caring presence. If this resonates with your pastoral care vision, I'd love to share more and hear how Meals With A Friend might complement what you're already doing.

If you'd like to hear more, to sign up as a volunteer or client, please contact me. Also, please share information about this opportunity with someone you know who might benefit from a meal with a friend.

Warm regards,

Chad Francour, Founder of Meals with a Friend
(715) 923-7716 or Mealswithafriend1@gmail.com
<https://www.mealswithafriend.com/>

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 2, during worship we will be remembering and lighting candles for members and wider community people connected with Zion who have died since the beginning of Nov last year. If there is someone else you would like to also include, please let the office know **by no later than 10 a.m., Friday, Oct. 31.** Thank you.

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

This month Zion's stewardship focus will be GIVE. Our Vision Statement for GIVE reads: "In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that GIVES generously of time, talents, and treasures for the work of Jesus in our community and around the world and encourages others to be generous with their gifts as well."

What is this thing called stewardship? At its heart, stewardship is about soundly managing or caring for what God has entrusted or given to us. When most people hear the word stewardship, their mind automatically thinks about money. Yes, it is about

money, but it encompasses so much more. It's about using the skills and abilities God gives to each of us for good. It's about sharing God's love and caring with others just as God gives love and care to us. It's about supporting your congregation and its mission and ministry, but it's also about giving to the larger church in our community and even the world.

First and foremost, we are the caretakers of the one and only body God has provided us. He entrusts us to take good care of it: to nourish it with nutritious food, to keep it in reasonably good shape through daily activity, and to get enough sleep so that it can rejuvenate itself.

God provides much to us each day, and we're often too busy to take the time to notice. Look at the beautiful Autumn colors on the trees, blooming Fall flowers, the feel of the breeze and sunshine as it falls upon your face when outdoors. We are blessed to have food to eat, somewhere to live, things to entertain us, and

a place to lay our head at night. We have clothing and shoes to wear. We have a means of transportation, whether it's a bike, motor vehicle, a taxi, someone to drive us, or our own two feet. We are provided with work and a paycheck which comes with a fiduciary responsibility to manage those funds responsibly.

What about your family, however you define it. Have you ever considered where that love had its beginning? It's a gift from God. Does God expect us to love at the same depth, and is it possible? We have a beautiful building in which to worship and praise God. We have a congregation and a pastor who care about us and our well-being, and most important of all, we have eternal salvation which is the largest and best gift God has given us through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection.

How can we express our thankfulness for the numerous blessings bestowed on us? We can through stewardship and freely giving of our bountiful blessings. Giving is both an obligation and an expression of thanksgiving.

We have been entrusted with so much to invest in God's work in the world. We don't own any of it. It is always God's, placed under our care, and we call that care stewardship. It's our privilege and calling to share that which God has entrusted to us with others in some meaningful way.

James 2:26 "For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead."

In the coming weeks, short articles will appear in the announcements about what Zion has been up to in 2025 to fulfill its ministry. Without your active participation, none of it would have happened. So, thank you from all of those who have received your blessings in whatever form they took.

In God's grace and love,
Karen Sylvester

Ecumenical (Inter-Christian) Youth Group Gathering_____

All young ministers from Zion in grades 9-12 and friends are invited to gather with others from local churches to connect over food and faith. It's taking place at First Presbyterian Church, Menominee, Sunday, Oct. 19, 12-2 p.m. Plenty of time to still watch the Packer game afterward!

Menominee Valley Conference Annual Meeting_____

Sunday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m. at Bethel in Menominee, our conference will be gathering for worship, fellowship, and a short business meeting. Don't worry, everyone will be able to get home in time for the Packers game or a Sunday nap. 😊

GreenTip_____

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 is one of the most important and effective conservation laws in history, preventing the extinction of roughly **291 species and saving 99 percent of species listed for protection**. The ESA is currently helping protect more than **2,000 species of plants and animals** that are threatened or endangered, including the estimated 26,000 polar bears alive in the wild today, divided into 19 subpopulations in the Arctic and Subarctic regions of Canada, Greenland, Norway, Russia, and the United States. Yet fossil fuel exploration and extraction in the Arctic threaten the habitat of both polar bears and Indigenous communities in the region, according to a 2024 study published in *Biological Conservation* that also warns that the climate crisis - from **melting ice to rising tides to wildfires** - is widespread and growing in intensity. Turning away from fossil fuels, increasing the use of renewable energy, and expanding science-based climate solutions will be a necessary part of our work to **preserve and protect our public lands, air, water, wildlife, and communities, as well as ensure a livable future for all of us**.



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Fall Events at Fortune Lake

- Fall Fest

Fortune Lake's annual Fall Fest will be Oct. 4. This event features a live auction of handmade quilts, a continental breakfast, handcrafted items for sale, and a drawing-raffle. The event starts at 9:30 a.m. with breakfast and the auction will begin at 11. You can also join in online for the virtual auction. The virtual auction will be at www.auctria.events/fortunelake. More information can be found by calling the camp office at 906-214-2267 or emailing officemanager@fortunelake.org. People may also visit the camp's website at www.fortunelake.org.

Funny Corner!

**9 out of 10 times
when I lose
something...
it's because I put
it in a safe place.**

October Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for October is sponsored by Debbie Mylener and is in loving memory of Terry Mylener.



Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, October 16th, in the family room at Zion at 3 p.m. for our monthly Bible study. All are welcome to attend!

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

October 1: Godfrey Heitmeier, Kimberly Swenson

October 9: George Olson

October 10: Katy Bauer

October 12: Sally Peterson

October 14: Madelyn Krah

October 15: Dakota Lueskow

October 21: Ann Buscher, Dan Johnson

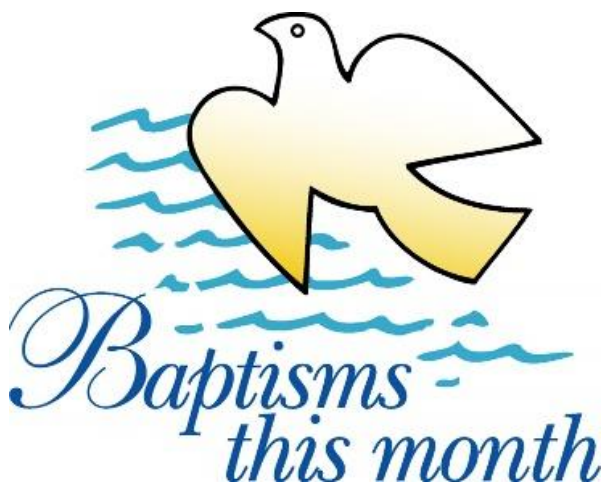
October 22: Laura Lee Kulinski

October 23: Bradley Nelson

October 24: Candace Minzlaff

October 30: Sheila Minzlaff, Samantha Schroeder

October 31: Jacob Cording



October Birthdays

October 4: Kathy Saxton

October 5: Pam Goes

October 6: Al Peterson, Timothy Saxton

October 7: Chad Francour

October 8: Sandra Zylkowski

October 9: Anna Marzahl

October 10: Nila Krenos

October 11: Nora Plym

October 13: Lynn Francour

October 15: Gary Grom, Mark Swenson

October 17: Megan Buenning, Eric Morois

October 18: LouAnn Bates

October 19: William Beattie

October 20: John Heimbuch

October 21: Ainsely Emler, Nicole Oleson

October 22: David Depsins

October 23: Kurt Breuer

October 26: Carole Boerner

October 28: Alexandria Cording

October 29: Melanie Bennett, Terry Laundree

October 30: Randall Schroeder II, Jean Hruska

October 31: Laura Chaltry



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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www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

Going Where Jesus Leads



**Northern Great Lakes Synod
Bishop Katherine Finegan
1029 N. 3rd St. A
Marquette, Michigan 49855**

www.nglsynod.org

Equipping the Saints for Ministry



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631**

www.elca.org

God's work. Our hands.