

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church

2714 James Street

Marinette, WI 54143

715-735-7898

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

**E
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December 2025



Zion's 2025 Congregation Council

Laura Chaltry — President

Dean Schoen — V.P.

Eric Morois — Interim 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) — Deb Mylener

Praise Band Worship — Bill Tipple

Hymn Selection — Ann Buscher

Wine and apple/grape juice — *In need of someone to do!*

Building Maintenance – Interior/Exterior

Supplies — Gary Grom

Handyman — Jack Heimbuch

Committees/Groups

150th Anniversary Team — Ann Buscher and Sharon Powilaite

Caring Ministry — Karen Sylvester, Judy Stehle, Sarge Rudell

Confirmation Classes — Pastor

Funeral Luncheon — Ann Buscher, Carol Johnson, Karen Sylvester and Cheryl Maxwell

Harvest of Hope Community Garden — John Radloff

Kitchen Supplies — Marissa Tharp

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

SPARK — Johanna Zuehls

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

Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen Dill

Worship and Music — Ann Buscher



Reflections

(A letter from Bishop Finegan, written for the Synod Nov. & December Newsletter.)



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I make final preparations to leave on sabbatical, I feel it keenly that even if my desk will be clear, there is much in the world that remains messy. As people of faith, we are being challenged in new ways that we may feel illequipped to handle.

I see, and feel with increasing pressure, the world trying to divide us and tear us apart. I encourage you to make your community of faith, that is, the body of Christ which you help to animate, your priority. Political divisions are real, but the demonization of those who disagree with you has been brought to a new level. Do not lump people together and join the bandwagon that would declare them to be “of the devil”. As we look at our world through the lens of the open tomb, we cannot look at another and not see someone for whom Jesus died. This includes MAGA, the immigrant, the liberal, the refugee, the transgender individual, those on the other side of the political aisle, your neighbor, and those who get their news from only one source. In times of disaster or civil unrest, you will need your neighbor and your community of faith to meet the challenges.

Remember the flooding in the Copper Country not so long ago? And how the larger community rallied to provide water and supplies to those impacted? Or the ice storm that knocked out power to so many for too long? With winter around the corner, you may well need the help of the neighbor you disagree with to plow your driveway. With troubles always around the corner, you may well need the pastor whose sermon and leadership you criticized to proclaim a word of hope and hold your hand in comfort. Now is not the time to be burning bridges, even as we,

each of us, are called to work and advocate for justice.

Write your congressional representative and extend grace to your disagreeable neighbor. Carry signs in protest and forgive those you consider misinformed. Be generous in your giving to those organizations that are on the ground, feeding the hungry, advocating for the immigrant, welcoming the stranger. Try not to be quick to criticize, to judge, to respond in anger or indignation. These are emotionally provoking times which make people vulnerable to manipulation and impulsive actions. Keeping a level head allows for creative solutions and conversations that deepen understanding, even as common ground may still be elusive.

As I write this, common ground regarding immigration policies continues to elude all of us. By the time you read this, our own Pastor Rita Chirala and her son will have left her congregation, and the country, despite our best efforts. Even as immigrants seek to follow good law and order, the system is designed to fail them. And more than a few U.S. Citizens have been swept up unlawfully. Even if our own Pastor Rita were to be able to fulfill all righteousness per a system that is stacked against her, I have no confidence that given a Supreme Court's decision that allows for racial profiling that she and her son would be safe, even if citizenship were secured.

I call out this gross injustice. It is indefensible that people of color should be afraid every day of being arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant, that they should have to carry a copy of their passport to prove citizenship should the arresting agent even take the time to check. Or that immigrants who are striving to "follow the rules" and show up for their scheduled court date are summarily deported, and not necessarily to their country of origin.

I am grateful to our Canadian partners that a call has been secured for Pastor Rita so that she has a livelihood, and I continue to pray that the Canadian immigration lawyer will be able to secure the necessary visa in time. The work of providing comfort

and support to Faith, Sault and to Pastor Rita's colleagues and friends continues as they have suffered this abrupt separation even as it was necessary to keep Pastor Rita and her son safe.

I do not believe extending grace to people with whom we disagree means acquiescing to systems that are unjust. I pray for affection that transcends political division, for unified mission and purpose that binds us together in the face of all that tries to divide us, and for local community interdependence that is more reliable, generous, and available than government support.

I leave you, for now, with this blessing:

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

(ELW, Service of the Word, p. 221)

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

Christmas Eve Worship



We will celebrate the Nativity of Jesus on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. with a candlelight service, Holy Communion, and special music. Join us as together we worship Emmanuel! Live streaming via our YouTube channel will be available.

Pastoral Emergencies

Pr Amanda will be taking time off Thursday, Dec. 25-Tuesday, Dec. 30. She will respond to emergencies during this time, but will otherwise be unavailable.

Mental Health Corner

(First posted by Joy Hensel, part-time Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness, on the NEMN Synod FB page on May 4, 2023)



Hanging of the Greens

The Hanging of the Greens will take place after worship on Dec. 7. Everyone is welcome! If you are willing to help, please sign your name and what you would like to contribute to our potluck lunch break. We guarantee a joyful, rewarding time that you won't want to miss! Please sign up soon on the kiosk at the back of church so we have an approximate number. Thanks!! Sloppy joes, buns, beverages and table service will be provided.

Greeters

“Welcome!” One little word that can make a difference. If interested in serving as a greeter (opening the door and welcoming people as they come for Sunday worship) please let Ann Buscher know.

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.”

- Dec. 3: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 7: Second Sunday in Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by the Zion Choir. Hanging of the Greens after worship.
- Dec. 9: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 10: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14: Third Sunday in Advent. 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Praise Band Sunday. SPARK Program.
- Dec. 17: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 18: Ruth Circle, 1 p.m. @ Perkins
- Dec. 21: Fourth Sunday in Advent. 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Adison Rosenfeldt.
Caroling Youth Event @ The Luther Home, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 24: Nativity of our Lord, 8 p.m. worship and via YouTube Live. With candlelight, special music and Holy Communion.
- Dec. 25: Office closed. Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 26: Office closed.
- Dec. 28: First Sunday in Christmas 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube Live. With guest Pastor Rick DeBenedetto.
- Dec. 30: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.

Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregational Council met on November 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: October 2025 average attendance was 79. During the month of October, pastor made 8 home visits, 3 hospital visits, 1 office visit, and was in various committee meetings.

October Financial Reports

- Capital Improvement: Balance: \$75,369
- The Draft of the budget was reviewed, along with the explanation of the draft presented by LeeAnn.

Committee Reports

- **Property and Safety Committee:**
 - Bell is working sporadically; Verdin Company will be coming Dec. 9th and Mark will let them know that we would not provide the lift this time.
 - WPS was contacted on why there was a jump in our budget plan price.
 - Flooring Project: We are waiting to get a quote from Macco's. Mark will be calling to follow-up. H.J. Martin quote was a total of \$34,000 for the Social Hall and \$4,500 - \$6000 for the hallway outside of the offices. The work in the hallway would include tear-up and dispose of carpet and glue.
 - Discussion on Handicap and visitor parking by main door. Mark made a motion to remove visitor signs and replace with Handicap Signs for more parking. The motion was passed.

Old Business

- **Vanco App & Online giving:** Vanco app and online giving was discussed, Venmo was brought up as another possible solution for online giving. More research needs to be done before moving forward with going with Venmo payment(s).

- Need go get more information on the DAR funds given out, Kathy discussed possibly splitting the monies with Northland Lutheran Home. Need to get more information from DAR and NLH on what the money is used for and how it is used.

Tabled Business

- Website Redesign: Discussion was had to contact Pastor Keith and his son, Jake, to see if Jake can help with making some minor changes to the site since he was the one who built it. Marissa was able to contact him after the meeting was held and she and Jake worked on fixing the site.

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

A Note From The Financial Secretary

If you give online and want to change your donation for 2026, make sure you click on the donate button on our website to be brought to our pink donation page. From there, you will log in to your account to change your offering. You only need to do this if you set an END DATE on your 2025 offering. If you have questions or need help with how to change your offering, please call our office at 715-735-7898, and I will call you back as soon as I can!

Marissa Tharp, Financial Secretary

We Have Angels!



Your Social Ministry Committee has the Salvation Army Angel Tree up and decorated! Please bring the gifts (unwrapped) to Zion before or on Sunday, December 7. Please label the bags with the tag number (especially if you're giving more than one bag). Date the log when you return your gifts so we know they're here. Thank you so very much!

December 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 December, we will continue our three-way food collection for Dorothy's Haven of Hope, Rainbow House, and the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. We also want to collect paper products!



Ideas for items to donate this month:

- Cereal, rice, dry pasta, Ramen noodles, instant mashed potatoes, oatmeal, raisins, nuts, dry beans, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, macaroni & cheese, granola bars, apple sauce, cooking oil, sugar, flour.
- Canned items: vegetables, fruits, soups, sloppy joe starter, pasta, pasta sauce, chicken, fish, meat.
- Paper toweling, toilet paper, tissues, waxed paper, parchment paper, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, plastic storage bags, garbage bags.

December Youth Event



"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" – Buddy the Elf

Youth between 6th-12th grade and their friends and families are invited to sing Christmas Carols and eat cookies at the Luther Home (831 Pine Beach Road, Marinette) on Sunday, December 21 at 2:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Pr Amanda at pramandak3@gmail.com or via FB.

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.

December tends to be a lot!! There's the tree, the baking, the decorating, the cards and letters, the parties, the shopping, the Christmas outfits, the menu, the wrapping and the budget to consider. The holiday season should be a time filled with joy and celebration, but it can also be a significant source of stress for many people. Stress arrives in a variety of packages including grief when we remember those who have passed, the desire to create the "perfect" Christmas, loneliness when separated from loved ones and fatigue from the demands of gift giving and hosting gatherings.

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Too blessed to be stressed"? This phrase reminds us to see our blessings and to find the joy in the hustle bustle of this Christmas season. God sees us when we are stressed and fatigued. He tells us in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens." As God's children, it is important to approach holiday stress with faith, intentionality, and a focus on God's love and purpose. God is right there with us.

See your blessings and find the joy! Baby Jesus is right there in the middle of the stress..."For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish." (John 3:16) Best Christmas gift ever! Best blessing ever!

But we are blessed with so many other gifts too! See the blessings and find the joy at this busy time. The holiday season gives us the opportunity to strengthen relationships with our family, friends and the broader community as we gather for worship, dinners, gift-exchanges and parties. Soak in the laughter. Savor the smiles. Hug your loved ones. See your blessings and find the joy!

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner_____

Dear lord, I am weary and stressed, but I know you are my strength. Please renew my spirit and help me to see my blessings and to find the joy in the hustle bustle of this Christmas season. Thank You for the best Christmas gift ever, Your precious Son born to us. In His name I pray. Amen.

In God's Christmas love and grace,
Bonnie Schoen and Karen Sylvester

Worship Canceling Procedures_____

With winter here and snowstorms around the corner, we wanted to remind the congregation about how we let you all know that worship is canceled. In the event that there is extreme weather that could make it unsafe for people to travel to the church building for worship, we will follow the steps outlined below.

1. The pastor and either the council president or property person will consult with each other Sun morning to determine if there is a need to cancel. If two of these three people are not available, then the second person to be consulted and help make the decision will follow as such: vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
2. If it is deemed necessary, then the following will occur:
 - a. One of the two who makes the decision will contact the office administrator to change the answering machine announcement, send out an email blast, post it on the church's FB page and website, and contact available news stations (WLUK-Fox 11 and WFRV-CBS, Channel 5). Both will split responsibility for getting in touch with the worship leaders for the day.
 - b. You are asked to check one of those five options beforehand and pass the word along however you see fit.
3. If worship is canceled, then so will all other scheduled ministry activities that day.

Note of Thanks!



On behalf of the Rosenfeldt's and Team Alexis, THANK YOU!

As October, the month of Down Syndrome awareness fades further into the memory book, and the season of giving thanks makes way for celebrating the greatest gift the world has ever received, we wish to thank you all for your generosity and support of Team Alexis.

The 17th Annual Down Syndrome Awareness Walk was an unforgettable day! There were over 800

attendees including several members from Zion who volunteered at the walk, donated baskets and participated in the walk itself.

The event was filled with activities for all ages including yard games, face painting, balloon artists, an obstacle course, bounce houses, resource tables, special mascot appearances including princesses and stormtroopers just to name a few. One of the highlights of the day was the 21 Showcase, where individuals with Down syndrome had the chance to be cheered and celebrated as they walked the red carpet.

For our family, the highlight was Alexis' message as the 2025 Walk Ambassador, where she shared her love of Jesus, His love for everyone along with her message to follow your passions and heart. Alexis then had the honor and privilege of leading the walk along with the 35 members of Team Alexis who all donned "Team



Alexis" capes and super-hero masks. Watching the sea of gold capes circle the field is a sight I won't soon forget.

Together we raised \$98,296.00 to support programs, outreach and resources for individuals like Alexis with Down syndrome and our families in Northeastern Wisconsin. The special collection from Zion raised \$445.00 bringing Team Alexis' fundraising total to almost \$1,700.00.

We're already looking forward to next year's walk!

Thank you again for your generosity, your support of Alexis and being an integral part of our lives.

With appreciation, love, thankfulness and God's blessings to you all,

The Rosenfeldt's



December Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for November is sponsored by David and Lori Despina and in celebration of the birth of Jesus and all who have birthdays this month

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, December 18, at Perkin's in Menominee at 1 p.m. for their annual Christmas party and lunch.

December Birthdays

December 5: Barbara Francour

December 9: Kimberly Graf

December 10: Sally Peterson

December 11: John Radloff

December 13: Larry Nelson

December 15: Rachel Kuhn

December 16: Dean Schoen

December 20: Dawn Vincent

December 21: Carrie Heitmeier

December 22: Presley Schroeder

December 26: Jacob Marzahl

December 27: Brian Krah

December 31: Eileen Jagielski, Alexis Roth, Gabriel Roth



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

December 1: Timothy Marzahl, Karen Sylvester

December 2: Henry Zuehls

December 4: Sandra Zylkowski

December 5: Jane Landenberger

December 6: James Jagielski, Amanda Oleson

December 10: Amanda Litts

December 15: Alexandria Cording

December 17: Nila Krenos

December 19: Lisa Cook

December 21: Niklas Williams

December 23: David Despina

December 26: Hope Goes, Philip Strohl

December 28: Gail Melgarey

December 29: Randall Schroeder II

December 31: Barbara Francour



We're Hiring!

Custodian – Zion Lutheran Church (Marinette, WI)

Help us keep our church building clean and welcoming!

- ✓ About 4 hours per week
- ✓ Flexible schedule
- ✓ Pay to be based on experience
- ✓ Reports to the pastor

We are seeking a reliable, self-starting and detail-oriented person to maintain cleanliness and order in the Education, Office, and Fellowship Hall areas as well as portions of the Worship space. This role is essential in ensuring our facilities, which have been entrusted to us by God, remain in good condition to serve the congregation and wider community.

Generally, what you'll do:

- Clean office bathrooms
- Empty trash and recycling
- Vacuum and mop floors

A complete job description is available upon request.

 Apply at Zion Lutheran Church, 2714 James St, Marinette, WI or email us zion@newbc.rr.com. *Please return your application no later than **Dec 31, 2025**.*

 Call 715-735-7898 for details



From Our Families To Yours...



To you who celebrate Christmas and New Year's, may they be safe and happy. To you who struggle during this time of year, may your truth be acknowledged and affirmed. To you who find yourselves in both realities, may you have the space and place to

be your whole self. And to all, may you perceive Emmanuel abiding in and with you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Amanda, Gina, Ann, Rachel, and Marissa

Altar Flower Sponsorships

Zion has altar flower sponsorships available for 2026. The cost of sponsoring the flowers for one week is \$15. Dates are reserved on a first come first serve basis so it's never too early to reserve a special date! 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.

Funny Corner!





Joy to the
WORLD

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

In Luke 2:10, the angels share good news that continues to bring great joy today.

Directions: Circle all the complete small “joy” words — forward only. Count the total. Bonus: See if you can find “Jesus” amid all the joy!

[illegible]

TOTAL JOY=_____

Answer: 36 (10 in the J, 15 in the O, 11 in the Y); Jesus is at the bottom of the large O

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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.