

WE ARE ZION



Zion Lutheran Church

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February 2026



Zion's 2026 Congregation Council

Laura C. — President

Troy C. — Vice President

Eric M. — Secretary

LeeAnn L. — Treasurer

Tatem S.

Phil S.

Sarge R.

Jane L.

Kathy H.

Nik W., Youth Member

Zion Staff

Pastor — Amanda K.

Office Administrator and Financial Secretary — Marissa T.

Choir Director and Organist — Ann B.

Accompanist for Choir and Organist — Rachel R.

Custodians — Sarah S. and Gina B.

Zion Ministry Contacts

Worship

Worship Leadership Scheduling — Ann B.

Assistants — Ann B. (Ushers, readers, acolytes, communion assistants, set up/ clean-up communion)

AV Team — Troy C., coordinator

Banners — Karen D.

Bulletin and Newsletter Assistance — Marissa T.

Candles (eternal and oil) — Deb M.

Praise Band Worship — Bill T.

Hymn Selection — Ann B.

Wine and apple/grape juice — Gary G.

Building Maintenance — Interior/Exterior

Supplies — Gary G.

Handyman — Jack H.

Committees/Groups

Caring Ministry — Karen S., Judy S., Sarge R.
Confirmation Classes — Pastor
Funeral Luncheon — Ann B., Carol J., Karen S. and Cheryl M.
Harvest of Hope Community Garden — John R.
Kitchen Supplies — Gary G.
Mission Endowment Comm. —
Money Counters — Karen D., Bonnie S. and Pat M.
Nominating Comm — Ann B.
Personnel Comm. —
Property Comm. — Mark S.
Ruth Women's Circle — Jane L.
Sanctuary Arts — Barb G., Karen D., Carol J., Sally B., and Ann B.
Sew for Mission — Carol M.
Social Ministry — Heidi B.
SPARK — Johanna Z.
Stewardship & Generosity — Karen S., Bonnie S., John R.
Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen D.
Worship and Music — Ann B.

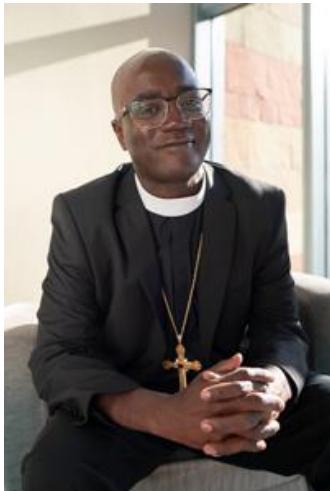


Change of Announcements and Newsletters

Due to the recent scam attempt, Zion is taking measures to protect the congregation and their information. As you will see in this newsletter, the names of people have been shortened to their first name and last initial. This will be a change we will use going forward in public communications. We also will not be listing specific dates for birthdays and baptismal birthdays; the list will just include the names of people whose birthday is the upcoming week.

Reflections

A Letter from the ELCA Presiding Bishop, Rev. Yehiel Curry A Message on the Tenth Anniversary of the Paris Climate Accords



“The good work of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, caring for the stranger, and announcing good news to the poor and oppressed depends on a healthy planet. If we claim to be Christ’s church, we can do no other than to make our stand with God’s planet, God’s people and God’s creatures, so help us God.”

This statement by the Rev. Baird Linke, a young adult who is pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Bonner,

Mont., and a board member of Lutherans Restoring Creation, expresses the faith and passion of many young adults in the ELCA. They want to be part of a church that cares for God’s creation through stewardship and courageous action. I do too. Our social teaching spells out this responsibility beautifully: “Humans, in service to God, have special roles on behalf of the whole of creation. Made in the image of God, we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth” (*ELCA social statement, Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice*, 1993, p. 2).

Ten years ago, the ELCA expressed its support for the Paris Agreement, an ambitious global covenant to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, encourage development of low-carbon technologies, and support the ability of countries to cope with the effects of a changing climate, building resiliency for a sustainable future. World leaders meeting now in Belém, in Brazil’s Amazon, are called to take concrete steps to keep that covenant. Lutheran leaders are also there, witnessing to the urgency and possibility of this moment.

A decade later, we face a kairos moment. Jesus used the word “kairos” to communicate both crisis and hope when reading the signs of the times. The signs today tell us that the nations, including our own, have not achieved ambitious targets to blunt climate impacts that are driving increased conflict, hunger and migration. The signs may include climate anxiety and grief. But these signs also stir us, as God’s beloved, to continued hopeful witness and action.

It is not too late to protect our climate. With God, it is never too late. “Kairos” means that this is an opportune and urgent time to address earth’s climate crisis. I am calling this church to be more connected and sustainable. This includes stewarding God’s creation as an expression of faith and seeking sustainability rooted in ways of living that honor everything God has called “good,” including learning from and following the leadership of Indigenous communities. I commend to you the social message [“Earth’s Climate Crisis.”](#)

Nov. 11 marked the baptismal anniversary of Martin Luther, whose life and legacy witness to God’s renewing action. God promises a renewed earth. We live and serve God’s renewing purposes. We have the resources and responsibility to act together for the common good, especially alongside those who are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Connected in Christ, we pray, Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us coworkers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence to use the resources of nature so that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (*“Prayer for Stewardship of Natural Resources,” ELW, p. 80*)

In Christ,
The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome Sarah!



Zion recently hired Sarah S. to be our new custodian! If you see her around, give her a warm welcome!

Hi! My name is Sarah and I live in Marinette. We are blessed with 5 grown children and 4 grandchildren, to date. Most of my time is focused on family. Some of my current hobbies are braided rug making and I also make jewelry, often using the stones that I collect on my many adventures to Lake Superior. I am happy to be of service by providing a clean environment to be enjoyed by the congregation. Take care, -Sarah



Mental Health Corner

“Mighty God, in Jesus Christ you deal with forces that trouble our minds and set us against ourselves. Give peace to those who are cast down, beset by anxiety, or torn by inner conflict. By your great might, drive from us the powers that shake confidence and shatter love. Bring us into the light of your truth, and give us your strong assurance that we are your beloved children in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

(from the ELCA’s Pastoral Care handbook)

Education scholarships available!

Last year it came to the council’s attention that we, Zion, have funds intended to assist students with their education. High school seniors pursuing a post-secondary degree, certificate, or technical diploma or students enrolled full-time in a college, university or trade school are eligible to apply for a scholarship. You must either be a member of Zion or a child/grandchild of a Zion member. Please contact the office for the guidelines and application. Any questions, please see Pr. Amanda.

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.”

Feb. 1: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.

Feb. 4: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 8: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.

Feb. 10: Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 11: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 15: Transfiguration of Our Lord, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Praise Band Sunday.

Feb. 18: Youth event at First Presbyterian Church from 1-3 p.m.

Feb. 19: Ash Wednesday, 6 p.m., worship with Holy Communion, the imposition of ashes, and via YouTube.

Feb. 22: Ruth Circle, 3 p.m.

Feb. 25: First Sunday in Lent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Barb Akins on violin.

Feb. 25: Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, 5:30 p.m.

February Eternal Light



The Eternal Light for February is in honor and celebration of the new members of Zion's council and nominating, personal and Mission Endowment committees! Thank you for serving Zion with your talents and time!

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, February 19, 3 p.m. for bible study in the family room. They are starting the book of Ruth. All are welcome to attend.

Annual Meeting Highlights



Twenty-eight voting members attended the Annual Congregational Meeting in Zion's Social Hall on January 25th. As a first order of business, the members elected the following persons to leadership positions: Jane L., Troy C., and LeeAnn L. to 3-year terms on the Council; Eric M. was elected to finish a vacant 3-year term; and Nik W. to a 1-year term as youth member; John R. to a 3-year term on the Personnel Committee; Troy C. and Dan J. to a 3-year term on the Mission Endowment Committee; Brad N., Peggy M., and Sally B. for two-year terms on the Nominating Committee; and Jo S. and Rachel R. for one-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Synod Assembly voting members are Karen S. and Troy C. Outgoing Council members Dean S. and Mark S. were thanked and commended for their service.

The members adopted an operating budget of \$240,732.67 for 2026. The members also adopted a resolution to repair and replace the social hall floor and the office hallway, of which the cost is approximately \$42,0000 of which we already have \$22,000 in capital improvement fund set aside for this purpose.

Various committee and financial reports were presented and accepted. The meeting concluded with the installation of the newly elected Council members. Following the meeting, the Council met to elect officers for 2026. Elected were the following: President-Laura C., Vice-President-Troy C, Secretary-Eric Morois. LeeAnn L. will continue as Treasurer.

Thank you everyone who braved the cold and stuck around for the meeting. A special thank you to those who were elected for serving Zion with your time and talents.

Congregation Council Highlights



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

Pastor's Report: December 2025 average attendance was 89. During the month of December, pastor made 10 home visits, 2 hospital visits, 1 office visit, and had two other visits. She participated in a book study with other synod clergy and was on call as Chaplain for 5 days at the hospital.

Committee Reports

- **Property and Safety Committee:**
 - Floors: A donation was made to have the kitchen floor deep cleaned and stripped and wax. The bathrooms were included at no extra charge. This cleaning was done at the end of December.
 - Updated quotes on the Social Hall and office hallway floor project. A motion was made to bring the project to the congregation for approval. A motion was also made to increase the budget for the project from \$39,775 to \$42,000 to provide cushion in case of unforeseen costs. Seconded. Passed.

New Business

- Jan. 25 Annual Meeting
- Quote for document destruction through County Mile Destruction. Motion was made to approve changes as discussed. Seconded. Passed.

Tabled Business

- Adult Day Services
- College Scholarship Fund: Guidelines from 2019. Motion was made to approve changes as discussed. Seconded. Passed.

The council will meet again February 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Services & Soup Suppers

5:15 p.m. Soup Supper and 6:00 p.m. Worship Service.



Feb. 25: Zion, 2714 James St., Marinette.

March 4: Emmanuel, 2901 13th St., Menominee

March 11: Our Savior's, 1600 University Dr., Marinette

March 18: Site to be Determined

March 25: Pioneer Presbyterian, 1947 Riverside Ave., Marinette

February Conference-Wide Youth Event



Youth between 6th-12th grade are invited to Share the Love on Sunday, Feb. 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church (923 5th Street in Menominee). We will make homemade dog treats and dog toys to donate to the Menominee Area Animal Shelter. There will also be snacks, games, and a devotion. Friends are welcome! Please RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 12 to Pr. Amanda at pramandak3@gmail.com or on Facebook.

Diverse in viewpoints, united in Christ

Due to circumstances, in our individual and collective lives, there is stress and/or heaviness that is hard to bear at times.

While it doesn't necessarily fix the situation, I know personally that talking with someone can be helpful. So I want to let you know that whether we agree on a topic or not, my ear is available. Whether in person, on the phone or by messaging, I am willing to be a listening presence for you. I know we are still working at building trust in our relationship so there may be some hesitancy. Especially these days when it feels less safe to open up to people. Part of that building of trust, though, comes through working at communication and having conversations. No matter your stance on various things, you are my sibling in Christ. You are not alone.

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

- February 1-8: Sarah M., Johanna Z., Daniel Z., Randall S. and Jordan L.
- February 9-15: Barb B., Don B., Beth E., Presley S., Everett S., Rhoslyn S., Sydney L. and Travis L.
- February 16-22: Pamela L., Shawn L., Kathy H., Colleen M., and Anna M.,
- February 23-28: Justin W. and Fay B.



EcoFaith Summit



Our world today is filled with fear and anxiety; deeply concerning events occur that affect our lives and communities. The Easter Season begins in a place of fear and gloom but the news of the Resurrection starts sparking courage. We gather on April 18, in the middle of the Easter Season,

to live into a Gospel courage; to proclaim that the fires of destruction do not have the final say; to burn with God's fire of courage, justice, and new life, igniting community for a planet in peril. You can attend either in person or online. If interested in joining via Zoom with Pr. Amanda, please let her know.

February Birthdays

- February 1-8: Wendy I., Randall S., and Heidi B.,
- February 9-15: Donald B., Sue B., Janet C., Erik B., Troy C., LeeAnn L., Emily L. and Bryce B.
- February 16-22: Thomas H., Maxwell A., Gerald P., Fyfe T., Bill T., Beckham B., Nick K. and Laura K.
- February 23-28: Barbara C., Rachel R., Scott G., Chris St. V. and Pete C.

February 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. Zion is participating in the Help

For the Homeless Hygiene Drive again! The drive is in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, Marinette. For the month of February until March 15, we will be collecting hygiene items for local Marinette, Menominee and Peshtigo crisis programs through SVdP of Marinette. There is a box in the narthex where donations can be dropped off. Thank you for your generosity!

Most needed items include:

- Soaps: laundry, dish, soft, shower gel, 2-in-1 shampoo
- Trash bags (shelters especially need these for bedrooms)
- Diapers (sizes 3-6 and Pull-Ups)
- Deodorant (unscented)
- Wet wipes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Disposable razors
- Tampons and maxi pads

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

The goal of Zion's Stewardship and Generosity Team 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 following is an excerpt from the book "The Christmas Box Miracle" by Richard Paul Evans.

"I believe the most important thing that we can learn in our divine educational process is how to love. To love God and to love others. They are the same thing, really. We cannot love God without loving his children. Neither can we love God without serving his children. Love without service is as dead as faith without works."

This month's mark is "Serve." Did you ever stop to wonder how the altar linens stay pristine? Someone must care for them, but who? Who sharpens and/or replaces the pew pencils? Who made and installed the labels on the kitchen cabinets? How is it that the eternal candle never goes dark? Who changes the light bulbs in the building when they go dark? These are the people serving behind the scenes doing ordinary things that make a big difference. There are many more ways to serve just at a worship service alone.

Several months ago, Pastor Amanda asked if the Time and Talents booklet our team developed could be updated to reflect what's currently happening at Zion. That and a new inquiry/interest sheet has been revised. As Pastor announced last month at worship service there are myriad ways of serving at Zion. If you'd like to know more, call the office and ask for a copy of the booklet. You may spot something that beckons you to utilize your gifts from God.

Each of us is a servant all the time, perhaps without realizing that we are. But why do we do these things for others? We do it because of love – the love that God placed in our hearts when we were conceived – the love that grew over the years – the love that

spews forth from us because of all that Jesus Christ has done. We are Easter people. We have joy, compassion, and God's love within us. We share – we serve because we are blessed!

Tony Sims is a 14-year-old young man who was confirmed last year. He recently wrote an essay on what serving means to him. That essay can also be found in this newsletter on page 15. Give it a read, I'm sure it will be inspirational to you.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." – 1 Peter 4:10

In God's peace and grace,
Karen S.

Funny Corner!

**I'M NOT
CLUMSY**
**IT'S JUST THE
FLOOR HATES ME,
THE TABLES AND
CHAIRS ARE
BULLIES & THE
WALL GETS IN
THE WAY**

My Community Service by Tony S.

Community service has always been an important part of my life, and much of it has taken place at my church. Volunteering there has given me the chance to help others, grow in my faith, and make a positive difference in my community. Through the projects and events I've been involved in, I have learned the true meaning of service and teamwork.

One of the main ways I have served at my church is by helping with food drives and charity events. Our church often collects canned goods and clothes for families in need, and I have helped organize, pack, and distribute these donations. It feels good knowing that the time I spend sorting boxes or carrying bags directly helps people who are struggling. Seeing the gratitude on their faces reminds me why helping others is so important.

I have also volunteered to. Working with younger kids has taught me patience, leadership, and creativity. I helped set up classrooms, plan lessons, and lead games and songs. Watching the children learn and have fun in a safe, caring environment made me realize how much impact a few hours of volunteering can have.

In addition to those activities, I've taken part in cleaning and maintenance days at the church. From sweeping floors to fixing the garden, these simple jobs help keep the church looking welcoming for everyone who visits. Even though these tasks might seem small, they show pride and respect for our place of worship and the people who gather there.

Overall, my community service has been a meaningful experience. It has helped me grow as a person, strengthen my faith, and understand the power of giving back. Serving others has shown me that when we work together for a good cause, we not only help those around us but also become better versions of ourselves.

Fortune Lake Summer Camp Schedule!

It's time to start planning for Summer 2026, and Fortune Lake has a program for you and your family! Visit Fortunelake.org for more information or registration! You get the early bird discount if you register by March 5. Zion also has scholarships available for students grades 2-12. Please contact the church office to learn more!



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED
Week 1	June 7-12	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)
Week 2	June 14-19	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)
Week 3	June 21-26	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)
Week 4	June 28-July 1	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages) Vagabond Half Week (Grades 5-6) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)
	July 5-7	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)
Week 5	July 5-8	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) MashUp (Grades 4-8) LIT #2 Option (*No charge)
	July 5-10	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6)
Week 6	July 12-17	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #3 Option (*No charge)
Week 7	July 19-24	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9) Dungeons & Dragons Camp (Grades 6-9) LIT 4 Option (*No charge)
	July 20-23	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)
Week 8	July 26-31	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) LIT #5 Option (*No charge)
	July 27-30	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)
Week 9	August 3-6	Evergreen Camp (ages 55+)

*Scholarships Available
Everybody is welcome
at camp regardless
of ability to pay!*

*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

Note of Thanks!

Thank you from the bottom of my newly repaired heart for your thoughtful messages, caring cards, and especially your prayers before, during, and after my recent successful open heart surgery. I am grateful for and richly blessed by my Zion family. God is so good!

Dean S.

THANK YOU!

Kid's Activity!

The Transfiguration

Can you find these transfiguration-themed words in this word search?

**Jesus
Peter
James**

**John
Moses
Cloud**

**Elijah
Mountain
Beloved**

**Vision
Disciples**

w	e	u	o	p	l	h	e	f	b
s	v	j	a	m	e	s	l	b	e
h	j	i	g	f	d	m	i	h	l
k	e	r	s	d	c	r	j	k	o
j	s	p	h	i	l	b	a	m	v
r	u	e	n	s	o	q	h	e	e
e	s	t	d	c	u	n	w	d	d
t	r	e	a	i	d	j	t	n	w
y	g	r	s	p	y	w	o	p	e
n	f	b	w	l	u	i	p	h	f
v	m	o	s	e	s	j	j	m	n
s	g	e	r	s	g	h	j	k	l
e	n	m	o	u	n	t	a	i	n



Kid's Activity!

Healing Math

Jesus healed a man with an unclean spirit. Solve these math problems to find out what Jesus had to say!

A=8

B=15

C=10

D=7

E=2

F=14

H=1

I=4

L=11

M=12

N=6

O=5

S=13

T=9

U=3

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline 15 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ - 2 \\ \hline 2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 11 \\ + 2 \\ \hline 13 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 4 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 8 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 11 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 3 \\ + 3 \\ \hline 6 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 9 \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ - 1 \\ \hline 5 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 1 \\ \times 3 \\ \hline 3 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 5 \\ + 4 \\ \hline 9 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 15 \\ \div 3 \\ \hline 5 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 7 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 14 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2 \\ - 1 \\ \hline 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \times 1 \\ \hline 4 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

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.lutheran.marinette@gmail.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.lutheran.marinette@gmail.com

If you have information to be shared with Zion, please submit it to: Zion.lutheran.marinette@gmail.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**



**Northern Great Lakes Synod
Bishop Katherine Finegan
1029 N. 3rd St. A
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www.nqlsynod.org**

Equipping the Saints for Ministry



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God's work. Our hands.**