

# WE ARE ZION

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**Zion Lutheran Church**

**2714 James Street**

**Marinette, WI 54143**

**715-735-7898**

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

## March 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**

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### **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. — Karen D.

Money Counters — Karen D., Bonnie S. and Pat M.

Nominating Comm — Ann B.

Personnel Comm. — Troy C.

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., Joe G.

Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen D.

Worship and Music — Ann B.



## Reflections

### *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 (MWF) 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 MWF:**

- 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](mailto:Mealswithafriend1@gmail.com)  
<https://www.mealswithafriend.com/>

## Mental Health Corner

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(by Joy Hensel, Northeastern MN Synod Minister for Mental Health and Wellness)

### Breath Prayer

Holy Spirit,

Make your presence known, (inhale)

Fill me with your peace (exhale)

Amen

*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14:27*

In John 14:27 Jesus prepares his disciples for a change. The disciples are filled with uncertainty, questions, and because they cannot fully grasp what this change will mean they feel afraid and out of control.

Can you connect with the disciples and their feelings of overwhelm, uncertainty, lack of control and change?

Summer is nearing its end and as a new school year begins, it is time to prepare for new schedules, new routines, and new opportunities. Though there is excitement for all the newness, feelings of grief, heaviness, and dread may also be present for all that is to change.

- What do you notice about yourself when you encounter change?
- What happens in your body, your mind, and your spirit during times of uncertainty?
- How do you respond to change?

During times of uncertainty and change 12 Step Recovery slogans can be simple and powerful reminders of what is in one’s control. When practiced, Recovery slogans can be encouraging, motivating and help individuals stay in the present moment.

### **Keep it Simple:**

Name and acknowledge all that is changing. Simplify the first few weeks or month(s) during times of change. Give yourself extra time, space, and grace to settle into all that is new.

### **First Things First:**

Tend to you first. When we best tend to ourselves, we then can better tend to and serve others. During transitions and change a variety of feelings, both expected and unexpected, comfortable, and uncomfortable may surface. Focus on developing self-care practices that are doable and learn coping skills that help calm.

### **Easy does it:**

Be gentle and loving with yourself. Self-Compassion is the process of treating yourself like you would treat your best friend. During this time of change, what do you need to hear from your best friend?

The Holy Spirit is present, active, and at work in all the change, in all that is new and in you. Thanks be to God!

### **Choir Rehearsals to Start Back Up! \_\_\_\_\_**



## **Choir Rehearsals**

Zion Senior Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, March 4th at 7 p.m. (note time change due to soup suppers). Our first performance will be Sunday March 29th . All are

welcome to come and try the choir. Our rehearsals are an hour and include fellowship, prayer and song. For information please contact Ann B.

### **Sew for Missions \_\_\_\_\_**

Sew for Missions is resuming their work starting March 10. The group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. for work and fellowship. All levels of fabric handling are welcome! Please join us.

## **Our Christian Sympathy**

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Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Ruth O. and her family with the passing of Pastor George and Steve H., with the passing of his sister. We thank God for these people's life and faith, and for the promise of eternal life God offers to them and all who live and die in Christ.

## **What's Around the Corner?**

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Zion is buzzing with upcoming worship, service, and fellowship opportunities! Below is a brief outline of what is coming up!

- March 1: Second Sunday in Lent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.
- March 4: Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, 5:15 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Menominee; Choir, 7 p.m.
- March 8: Third Sunday in Lent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Praise Band Sunday. Daylight Saving Time starts.
- March 10: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council, 6:30 p.m.
- March 11: Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, 5:15 p.m. at Our Savior's, Marinette; Choir, 7 p.m.
- March 15: Fourth Sunday in Lent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Barb G. and Karen S.
- March 18: Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, 5:15 p.m., site is TBD; Choir, 7 p.m.
- March 19: Ruth Circle, 3 p.m.
- March 22: Fifth Sunday in Lent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.
- March 24: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
- March 25: Midweek Lenten Soup Supper and Worship, 5:15 p.m. at Pioneer Presbyterian, Marinette; Choir, 7 p.m.
- March 29: Palm Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Zion's choir.



## March Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for March is in honor and celebration of our Social Ministry team and all of the work they do for our annual world hunger drive.

## Ruth Circle Group

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

## Congregation Council Highlights



The Congregational Council met on February 10h, at 6:30 p.m.

**Pastor's Report:** January 2026 average attendance was 78. During the month of January, pastor made 9 home visits, 1 hospital visit, 3 office visits, and had one other visit.

### Committee Reports

- **Property and Safety Committee:**
  - The men's bathroom in the narthex was leaking. Tri-City plumbing was contacted and they had fixed the leaking urinal and replaced some pipes under the sinks.
  - A new motor for the bell tower will be installed once the vendor receives it.
  - Macco's flooring was chosen as the vendor for the social hall floor.

### Old Business

- Vanco App & Online Giving: Different ways for online giving was discussed. Waiting on more information from Vanco.

### Tabled Business

- Adult Day Services: Pr Amanda mentioned this service and would like recommendations on if the council would like to approach this. More to come about the Adult Day Services

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

## Midweek Lenten Enrichment

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



March 4: Emmanul, 2901 13<sup>th</sup> 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

## March Conference-Wide Youth Event



Try something new! Youth between 6th-12th grade are invited to exercise their mind and body with a unique drumming class led by a guest instructor. All equipment will be provided, and NO prior experience is needed! Drumming will be followed by

dinner and a devotion. We will meet at Bethel Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. Friends are welcome! Please RSVP to Stefanie Ehle at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) by Thursday, March 26 to ensure enough equipment.

## 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.

## World Hunger Focus for Lent: Love Your Neighbor \_\_\_\_

<sup>34</sup> When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, <sup>35</sup> and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” <sup>37</sup> He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

-Matthew 22:34-40



Zion’s World Hunger theme this year focuses on these verses. The greatest commandment and the second, that is like it. Love God. Love Neighbor. That’s what we’re called to do. Everything else is included in these two commandments.

According to the United Nations, one out of every 11 people – as many as 720 million – in our world are hungry. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to respond. You can find statistics and facts about hunger around the world and right here in the United States by visiting [elca.org](http://elca.org). You can also find out what we can do when we join with other congregations to go where Jesus leads.

At the beginning of Lent, Zion’s Social Ministry team members added a bunch of hands to the cry-room window. We’re going to add hearts around those hands to track our progress. For every \$10 given to ELCA World Hunger from now through April 26<sup>th</sup>, your Social Ministry team members will add one heart. Let’s find out if we can fit 500 hearts around the hands.

*Continued...*

The total amount collected will be presented at Synod Assembly on May 16<sup>th</sup> and sent on to the ELCA to help ease hunger around the world.

It's easy enough to give. Give whatever amount suits you. A dollar or thousand. Whatever you give, we'll pass along. Just designate the amount of your gift and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to Zion.

Our team is thrilled to let you know that Zion is one of eight out of 77 congregations in the Northern Great Lakes Synod who was recently recognized for quietly and steadfastly contributing generously and regularly to support the efforts of World Hunger, to feed hungry people at home and around the world. You have made such a difference over the years. Every year you step up and meet our challenge. Thank you!

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

- March 1-8: Barbara C., Kenny S., Lawrence M., James M., Rachel K., Heidi B., LeeAnn L., Gage S., Scott G.
- March 9-15: Dawn V., Marilyn G., Melanie B., Rachel R., Jon S., Caleb W.
- March 16-22: Randall S. III, Tatem S., Emily L,
- March 23-29: Adison R.



### **March Birthdays**

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- March 1-8: Gerald S., Rhoslyn S., George I., Michael B., Diane R., Troy S., Julie W.
- March 9-15: Susan G., Cassie B., Steve H.
- March 16-22: Pat P., Elsa E.
- March 23-29: Kurt O., Craig B.
- March 30-31: Alexis R., Everett S., & Winnie W.

## March Collection

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Zion is Called to Go Where Jesus Leads and our Social Ministry Team is committed to showing our congregation ways to live out that calling in our community. During the month of March, we will be collecting items to replenish our school's food pantries.



We're asking for the kind of items that can be sent home with even the youngest kids to prepare for themselves. Your Social Ministry Team will split the food between the Marinette and Menominee School Districts after the end of the month.

Please donate items that can be eaten as is or can be prepared using only water. Microwavable meals are good. Place your donations in the collection baskets in narthex all month.

Here are some suggestions:

- Meals that are ready to eat such as Chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore, SpaghettiOs, canned fish, chicken, ham, cracker or pretzel snack packs, Pop Tarts, granola bars, breakfast bars, fruit roll ups, beef jerky, trail mix, nuts, dried fruit, fruit and vegetable juices.
- Meals that just need water and a microwave: soups, cereals, oatmeal cups. Many companies make individual serving cups like: A Taste of Thai Noodles, Rice-A-Roni, Idahoan potatoes, Minute Rice.



## Thank you Soup Supper Volunteers

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Thank you to everyone who helped set up, clean up, and serve for our soup supper. Special thank you to Clark and Rita K. for cooking the soup. Your help is greatly appreciated, and we are so thankful!

## EcoFaith Summit

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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.

## Hygiene for the Homeless Drive

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We are still collecting items for the Help For the Homeless Hygiene until March 15. We are 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 article comes from an ELCA publication written by Reverend Tim Brown, Director of Congregational Stewardship Support.

### **It all begins and ends with Stewardship.**

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”

-Matthew 6:21.

### **Stewardship of Voice: Won't You Be (a) Neighbor?**

When I talk to leaders and congregations about stewardship, one of the first things I try to impart is that my work isn't just about financial stewardship.

Yes, Jesus mentions economics 288 times in the Gospels (roughly one out of every 10 verses), so that absolutely means finances and economics have an impact on our spiritual health.

But Jesus talked about other things too—and did other things too. Jesus called the disciples toward stewardship in other ways, and we so often forget that (or simply ignore it) because, well, if I'm perfectly honest with you, seeing the totality of our life through a stewardship lens can be pretty inconvenient.

Jesus invited the disciples to steward their time and their anxiety (Luke 12:27), which calls me to reflect on how I use my time and monitor my worry. I can't just do anything that I want to do and honestly try to keep my mind from being cluttered with anxiety. Jesus invited the disciples to steward their egos (Luke 18:9-14) and to keep guard against looking down on others and elevating themselves. This means that, though I can be proud of what I do, I can never have my pride place me over others. Comparison and competition are the thieves of not only joy but of honor, and they betray a self-reliance that is just not possible in this imperfect world.

Jesus invited the disciples to steward their relationships, asking them to think deeply about not only who their neighbor is but to also think honestly about how they treat their neighbors and advocate for them (Luke 10:25-37). Remember, the Samaritan doesn't just help the wounded victim but also advocates for them with the innkeeper to continue their care and heal them — and even offers compensation for that healing should it become a burden.

This, Beloved, is stewardship of voice and action. Or, in other words, advocacy.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and reflect on it.

*God of goodness and life, grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days – and the giving of ourselves for your sake, whatever our callings and commitments within our common commission. Amen*

In God's grace,

Zion Stewardship and Generosity Team

Pr. Amanda Kossow, Joe G., John R., Bonnie S., Karen S.

### **Funny Corner!**



## 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](http://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!

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)
	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)
Week 7	July 20-23	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)
	July 26-31	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8)   LIT #5 Option (*No charge)
Week 8	July 27-30	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)
	August 3-6	Evergreen Camp (ages 55+)

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

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

More info at [FortuneLake.org](http://FortuneLake.org)

## Notes of Thanks!

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,

Your gift of \$2,800.00 means the world to the survivors and children we serve. Thank you for standing with Rainbow House during a critical time in our community.

Domestic violence service providers across Wisconsin are facing an unprecedented funding crisis. Federal VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) funding has been reduced by 70% statewide. This devastating loss has forced some regional agencies to reduce services or cease operations temporarily. Survivors from areas that have lost services are now reaching out to us for help, expanding our

service area at precisely the moment when resources are most constrained.

Like agencies throughout the state, Rainbow House has had to make difficult choices to continue serving survivors in Marinette, Oconto, and Florence Counties. We've reduced staff hours and implemented pay cuts to keep our doors open. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to providing the free, confidential services that survivors depend on: emergency shelter, legal advocacy, crisis intervention, counseling, and 24-hour support.

This is why your local support is more essential than ever. When federal funding fails, community donors like you bridge the gap. Your contribution ensures that survivors have a safe place to turn when they need help most—that they can access an advocate to navigate the legal system, find safety for themselves and their children, and receive the support that helps them rebuild their lives.

Your compassion and generosity sustain our work when it matters most. If you have questions or would like to learn more about how we're responding to these challenges, please reach out.

With deep gratitude,  
Courtney Olson, Executive Director

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Thank you all so much for holding a food drive to support the Peshtigo Food Pantry! Your efforts resulted in 117 pounds of food for our clients! We are so very grateful for your support as we continue to see more and more need in our community. Thank you again for your support! God bless!

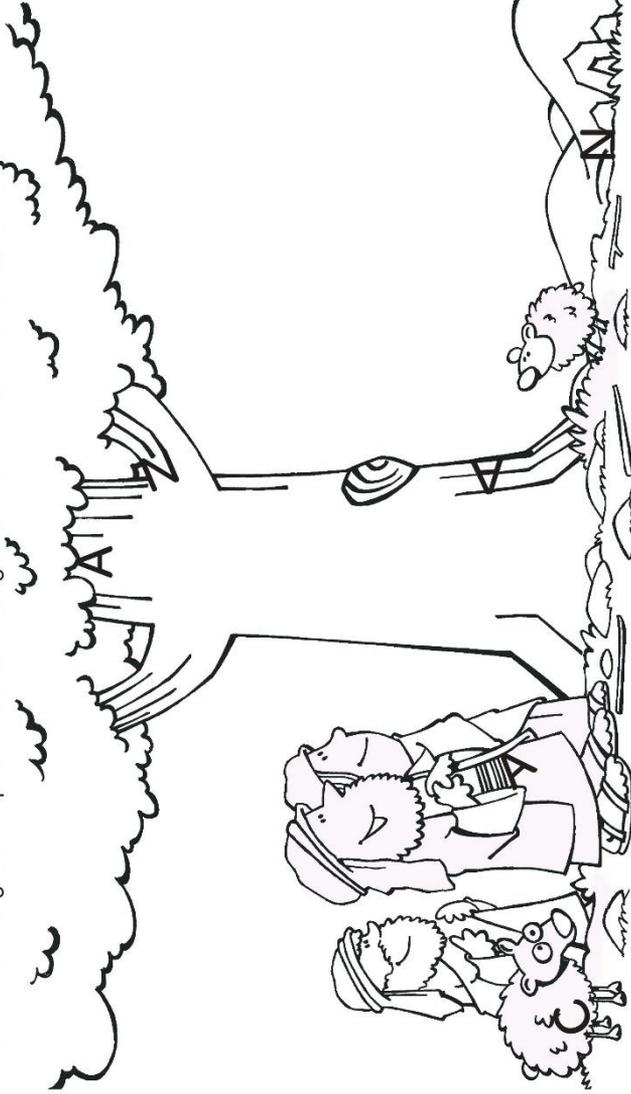
Peshtigo Food Pantry

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

## Kid's Activity!

### Missing Home

God sent Abram on a search for his new home. Can you help Abram figure out where he's going? There are six letters hidden throughout this picture. Find them to figure out the name of Abram's new home!



Grades 1-2, Abram's Call Activity Page, Sparkit<sup>SM</sup> Sunday School © 2010 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May be reproduced for local use only.

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Going Where Jesus Leads



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God's work. Our hands.