

WE ARE ZION

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Zion Lutheran Church
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April 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. — 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



Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may know, I spent some time travelling during my sabbatical. My husband and I began a month-long trip beginning in Vietnam, then Cambodia, and finally Thailand to visit our former foreign exchange student. We had never been to that side of the planet before and found

the food, the people, the scenery, and so much more to be unique, beautiful, and a completely new experience. We visited the Revolution Museum in Hanoi, north Vietnam, the Hoa La prison (known in the U.S. as the “Hanoi Hilton”), and learned the Vietnamese perspective on “The American War”. As you might imagine, the experience and conclusions about that war were from a different perspective, one that I had not been exposed to previously.

From Vietnam, we traveled to Cambodia. During our time there, tensions flared over disputed territory with Thailand. We heard from the Cambodians how this was Thailand’s fault. After crossing the border into Thailand, we heard from the Thai’s how the trouble was Cambodia’s fault. As peace talks continue, I wonder if anyone has the capacity to look at the situation with an unbiased lens.

Narrative matters, meaning that the lens through which we interpret things shapes our opinions and informs our actions. Also, facts can be told in such a way as to influence the hearer’s opinion. It matters how the story is told and how the facts are relayed in order to produce a desired result, and how, at its worst, facts are ignored or denied if they challenge or do not support the narrative or lies are told in order to create an illusion of truth that supports the narrative.

How are we to know what to believe is true in the face of competing narratives? In Vietnam, I could not dismiss their narrative as invalid because first and foremost, it was their experience. And then, there were the facts that were still

observable...of Agent Orange still in the soil and ongoing birth defects even to the second and third generation, of the pain and destruction caused by the conflict, of the exploitation of labor and resources by outside actors, of the deep resolve of the Vietnamese people for self-rule being underestimated by both the French and the U.S. Fifty years later, any scholar of this conflict largely agrees on what were the missed opportunities for peace, the hubris that blinded, and the missteps that harmed, on both sides. What we see in hindsight can be heart breaking from any perspective. And after 50 years, that there is healing and a warm joyful welcome for former enemies is a gift.

Whatever your narrative, whatever conclusions you are drawing about current events, whatever your predisposition that shapes what you hear and how you hear it, I ask you to pray; for safety, for clarity, for wisdom, for courage, and for what is lifegiving for all concerned.

In this Lenten Season we remember our baptismal promises and the threefold renuncements that precede the Apostles Creed in our baptismal liturgy.

- “Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?”

As people of faith, my hope would be that our narrative would be guided by the light that Christ shines and by the cross that bears witness. Jesus calls us to lift up the lowly and have compassion for the neighbor. Whatever your narrative, your baptismal promise is to work for justice and renounce the forces that defy God.

Together, we work to make a positive difference in the world and my hope is that at the very least, within the community of faith and through it, we always extend warm and joyful welcome.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine F.

Mental Health Corner

(Originally shared on <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/NAMI-FaithNet/Inspirational-and-Healing-Prayers/An-Advocate-s-Prayer>)

An Advocate's Prayer

O God of Light and Knowledge—we pray that darkness, fear and ignorance about serious mental illnesses might be dispelled by the light of knowledge.

We pray for Peace and Wholeness—for those with troubled minds and hearts, that broken lives and relationships might be mended.

We ask for Understanding—that the walls of stigma, labels, exclusion and marginalization might be broken down through education and advocacy.

We pray for Healing—for [people] living with mental illness, for better treatment, for steadier recovery, for greater opportunity to work and serve.

We ask for Faith and Hope – for those who feel no one cares. Dispel their despair through a cup of cold water, an outstretched arm, a listening ear, a committed advocate.

We offer our Thanks—for new discoveries in medical research, for faithful caregivers, for dedicated mental health professionals and persistent researchers.

Most of all, O God of Steadfast Love, we thank you for your Love—that sustains the weary, that defends the weak, that sets the lonely in families, that brings beauty out of ashes, that brings a song in the night; that inspires courage to hope, to watch, to work for a new and brighter Day. AMEN.



Pastor on Vacation!

Pr. Amanda will be taking time off from April 6-13. Please call Pr. Scott E. at 906-863-2066 if there is a pastoral emergency.

Easter Vigil

You are invited
to take part in
the Great Vigil of Easter
at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
917 Church St., Marinette
on Saturday, April 4
beginning at 6:30 pm



“Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation...”

-from the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

This ancient worship event marks this holy night when Jesus passes from death to life. We hear the great proclamation of Easter, listen to ancient stories of God's saving work among the people, and affirm the gifts and promises of our baptism, all in anticipation of the first celebration of Holy Communion on Easter morning.

The service is filled with contrasts of darkness and light, of silence and story, all as we keep watch, waiting for the earth-shattering resurrection.

Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, April 16, 3 p.m. for bible study in the family room. They will be studying Ester. All are welcome to attend.



April Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for April is in honor and celebration of Pastor Amanda! We are blessed to have a thoughtful, empathetic, and caring pastor.

Zion to Host Blood Drive

Zion is hosting a blood drive April 10 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the social hall. To make an appointment, people may call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or schedule an appointment online.





Good Friday Community Worship

Presented by the Twin County Ministerial Association

April 3, 2026, Noon to 3:00

Pioneer Presbyterian Church

1947 Riverside Avenue, Marinette

Love Poured Out: *The cross as radical, costly love.*

12:00-12:30 p.m.

Self-Giving Love – Preacher: Pr. Keith K.

12:30-1:00 p.m.

Love That Endures Betrayal – Preacher: Pr. Scott E.

1:00-1:30 p.m.

Love Without Retaliation – Preacher: Pr. Christine O.

1:30-2:00 p.m.

Love for Enemies – Preacher: Pr. Linnea E.

2:00-2:30 p.m.

Theme: Love in Silence – Preacher: Pr. Gordon G. III

2:30-3:00 p.m.

Theme: Love to the End – Preacher: Pr. Keith S.

You are welcome to attend any or all of the half-hour segments.
There will be a brief interlude between each one.

Free will offerings will be used for a designated community ministry, which will be announced that day.

Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregational Council met on March 10th, at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: February 2026 average attendance was 78. During the month of February, pastor made 10 home visits, 3 hospital visits, and had one other visit.

Pastor also gave two updates. First on the situation with the car in the parking lot. At last month's meeting, it was noted that on Feb. 5 a person across the street talked with pastor about calling and reporting the car. Pastor asked for time to talk with the people who were assumed to be the owners. Approximately two weeks later, a complaint had been filed with the city who called the church office. Pastor explained the situation, noting a concern about potential backlash if the owners believed the church filed the complaint. The clerk said she would notify the owners and let them know it wasn't coming from Zion. As of March 23, the car is still in the parking lot and we have not heard back from the city

Second was on the blue cross on the top portion of the outdoor sign. A few months ago, she had mentioned removing it as it is the official cross of the LCMS. While she was waiting to find out if it was a decal or painted, She received an email on March 9 from Bonnie Parker, the Office & Business Coordinator for LCMS, noting that it was their "legally registered and trademarked" logo and were requesting removal as soon as possible. Pastor called Boyle Design Group and eventually talked with Cindy who was going to find the dimensions of the cross from the record and let us know the cost of printing a new decal to put over top of it.

Committee Reports

- **Mission Endowment:** There was a \$10,000 donation.
- **Property and Safety Committee:**
 - Bell Update Verdin will be coming sometime after Easter to install motor.
 - A committee visited Macco's and chose 2 colors for the floor, old floor seems like it will come up well,

but Macco's would like to come check out the flooring area.

- Tri-City plumbing made repairs to men's bathroom to repair leak.
- Shallow lawn care will be handling the lawn care services and fall cleanup.

Tabled Business

- Adult Day Services: More will be discussed later in the year.
- Vanco App & Online giving: Waiting on more information will be discussed later this year.

New Business

- Boy Scouts Lock
- April Blood Drive

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

April Collection

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 April, we will be collecting items for Rainbow House.

Always Welcome:

- Gift Cards for Walmart, Amazon, Jack's, Aldi; Gas Cards; Postage Stamps; Envelopes.

Immediate Needs:

- Cereal, apple sauce, juice (apple, grape, etc.), granola bars (after school snacks)
- Flavored ready rice mix (like Ben's Original), Hamburger Helper, salt and pepper (table size)
- Windex, toilet paper (4-pks), paper plates (50 or less in a package), plastic forks/knives/spoons

You are also invited to view their website which gives other needed items as well things that they are not currently able to accept. Go to therainbowhouse.us, select Give Help, then select Current Wish List.

Missing And Murdered Indigenous Women And Relatives (MMIWR)



National Awareness Day of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives

May 5 is the National Awareness Day of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives (Native people, especially Native women, go missing and/or are murdered at an alarming rate—on some reservations, ten times the national average. These disappearances and murders are often linked to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, and the longstanding effects of colonization on Native people. Nor is this problem limited to the United States; it is a global phenomenon affecting indigenous communities everywhere. In 2021 organizing efforts led to the National Week of Action. So on **Sun May 3 you are invited to wear red in honor of MMIWR** as we pray for Native communities, especially families directly impacted by the disappearance or loss of loved ones and acknowledge the role of the church in the boarding school movement and other aspects of colonization that have led to generational trauma for our Indigenous neighbors. We recognize that all are equally beloved children of God and devote ourselves anew to the work of healing through love, compassion, and advocacy. Check out <https://www.niwrc.org/mmiwr-awareness> for more ways you can support this essential work of awareness and action alongside our Indigenous neighbors.

Meals with a Friend

Are you and/or someone you know seeking both a nourishing meal and friendly visit? Check out this community ministry developed by our brother in Christ, Chad F., <https://www.mealswithafriend.com/>. Whether as a client or volunteer, it's a great opportunity for creating connections

World Hunger Focus for Lent: Love Your Neighbor _____

Zion's World Hunger theme this year focuses on Matthew 22:34-40: 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 in our world are hungry. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are called to respond. Please help us go where Jesus leads by giving to this year's ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

It's easy to give. Give whatever amount suits you. Just designate the amount you want to give to World Hunger and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to Zion.

We're keep track of our progress on the cry-room windows. For every \$10 given to ELCA World Hunger from now through April 26th we'll add one heart. Let's find out if we can fit 500 hearts around the hands. So far we've collected \$7,442!

The total amount collected will be presented at Synod Assembly on May 16th and sent on to the ELCA to help ease hunger around the world. Thank you!

Grant Application from Zion's Mission Endowment Fund _____

The application and Endowment Fund Brochure are available on the table in the front hall and on Zion's [website](#). Please take one and share it with another one of your favorite organizations. Applications need to be received at Zion by June 1.

Helping Dale! _____

Dale P. collects tabs from soda cans. Pam from Enjoy Gifts has Dale as her helper putting the tabs into giant jars. The money they receive from collecting the tabs goes to the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. In the narthex, you will find a pail where you can donate your tabs from cans. Thank you for helping!

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.

Our April focus is Study, and we are excited to offer you an opportunity to attend a book study on ***“Everyday Spirituality: Discover a Life of Hope, Peace and Meaning”*** by James Hazelwood. It's a wonderfully enriching, easy to read short book that is thought provoking and filled with stories from everyday people like you and me. The three one-hour sessions will be held in the Cry Room after worship starting April 12th and continuing the 19th and 26th everyone is welcome.

New and used books are available at Thrift Books and on Amazon for purchase, but please be aware of and avoid similar titles such as “Everyday Spiritual Practice” or “Spirituality for Everyday Living.” Zion will have five copies available for those who would like them. Please contact the church office to obtain one.

We encourage you to consider this or other group studies because we learn from one another, gaining new insights and perspectives. In addition, our understanding of God, the Bible, faith, and life can be and is often expanded. If we consider the first disciples, they were always being formed intellectually and spiritually, together.

If a book study holds no appeal, perhaps you'd prefer to do your studying in the quiet of your own home. Let us offer you these possibilities.

Zion has a wonderful devotional study booklet, “The Word in Season” which is available throughout the years in the lobby and is free.

“Mornings with Jesus” is a daily devotional book offered by Guideposts and can be ordered through Amazon, or through Guideposts' website. online by subscription.

Read the Book of Psalms - one chapter per day. The Psalms express our praise to God for who the Lord is and what the Lord

does. They also express our need of God in times of trial, our confidence that God will help, and our thanksgiving to God. Read the Book of Proverbs - one chapter per day. Proverbs are filled with advice on life and living. They are practical, not theoretical, and point the way to godly character and a fulfilled life. They focus on this life, not the next.

Become more familiar with the Lutheran faith by delving into Luther's Small Catechism. Read one part per day, for example, one Commandment, one article of the Apostles' Creed, one petition of the Lord's prayer, etc. Contemplate Luther's explanations and think about what they mean for your life.

You can also study scripture via the next three recommendations that come in the form of a daily devotion.

1. "God Pause" a Daily Devotion from Luther Seminary. Subscribe, to it as I did, by entering "Luther Seminary" on the search engine line and then pick "God Pause." When you subscribe it will arrive in your inbox daily. It includes commentary and prayer. No more searching for links.
2. Pray Faithfully from the Northern Great Lakes Synod. Go to NGLSynod.org and look for the "Pray Faithfully" link. This will not arrive in your inbox daily.
3. Go to the ELCA.org and then pick "Daily Bible Reading" on the website. Subscribe and this provides you a daily Bible verse mailed directly to your email address. It does not include commentary.
4. Go to "Enter the Bible" an online resource from Luther Seminary at enterthebible.org. This resource offers a summary, outline, background, introductory issues, and theological themes for each of the books in the Bible.

We all want to have a closer walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Studying is a way of making that a reality.

In God's peace and grace,
Karen S.

April Birthdays

- April 1-5: Cheryl M., Don P., Sue P., Jacob S., Carol J.
- April 6-12: Elsa L., Sandra G., Judith L., Steve B.
- April 13-19: Allie B., Matthew H., Theresa K., Hannah O., Jakob C.-R.
- April 20-26: Easton B., Tyler L., Michelle L., Ruth O., Justin W., David J., Diane L., Katelyn S., Richelle V. Clark K., Shirley E., Roger D.
- April 27-30: Sophie L., Kim S., Sandra T., Adam T. Lori D., Bonnie S. and Judy S.



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

- April 1-5: Janet C., George I., Gerald S., Julie W., Drake S.
- April 6-12: Duane C., John B.
- April 13-19: Eric B., Jacqueline H., Susan G., Matthew H., Alexis R., Winnie W.
- April 20-26: Gerald P., Sue P., Kurt O., Denise D., Brycen B., Judith L.,
- April 27-30: Troy C.



Funny Corner!

I GET MOST OF MY EXERCISE
THESE DAYS FROM SHAKING
MY HEAD IN DISBELIEF

Note of Thanks

Dear Friends at Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, and clients of Rainbow House Domestic Abuse Services, I want to extend our sincere gratitude for your in-kind donation to our organization.

In January 2026, you generously donated food items to Rainbow House. Food donations are always deeply appreciated. A well-stocked pantry means we can direct our limited resources toward other pressing needs for the families in our care.

Rainbow House serves survivors of domestic violence and their children in Marinette, Oconto, Florence, and Menominee counties. Donations like yours are essential to our mission and help us provide shelter, safety, and support to those who need it most.

Thank you again for your kindness and your commitment to our community. We could not do this work without supporters like you.

With Gratitude,
Cortney Olson, Executive Director

THANK YOU!
thank you!

Hands & Feet: Jr/Sr High Retreat @ FLLC

Registration Deadline: April 3rd @ 11:59 pm

Price: \$90

Current 7th-12th graders are invited to our upcoming Hands & Feet: Jr/Sr High Retreat set for April 10th-11th, 2026! This one-night experience is the perfect chance for returning campers to get their fill of camp before summer and for new folks to try things out. Attend with a group, bring a friend, or come on your own!

Our theme, Hands & Feet, will center around our call to serve. Together we will complete a service project as a group, engage in conversations that ground our work in Scripture, and debrief what it means to serve others. Our schedule will feature camp favorites such as campfire worship, hot saunas, games, songs, arts 'n' crafts, and more.

Cost of attendance includes lodging, meals, and programming. Full retreat registration payment will be charged when you register. Cancellation requests received by the posted Registration Deadline will be refunded minus a \$25 administrative charge. Registration fees are non-refundable after the Registration Deadline of April 3, 2026. This allows camp to do the best planning for staffing, meals, and programming for the correct number of attendees.

Attendees are asked to bring comfortable weather-appropriate clothing (we will be spending time outside) and footwear, personal toiletries, flashlights, and Bibles are all suggested packing items. Please do not bring valuables or personal electronic devices – including phones. A full packing list will be sent out with pre-retreat communications via email.

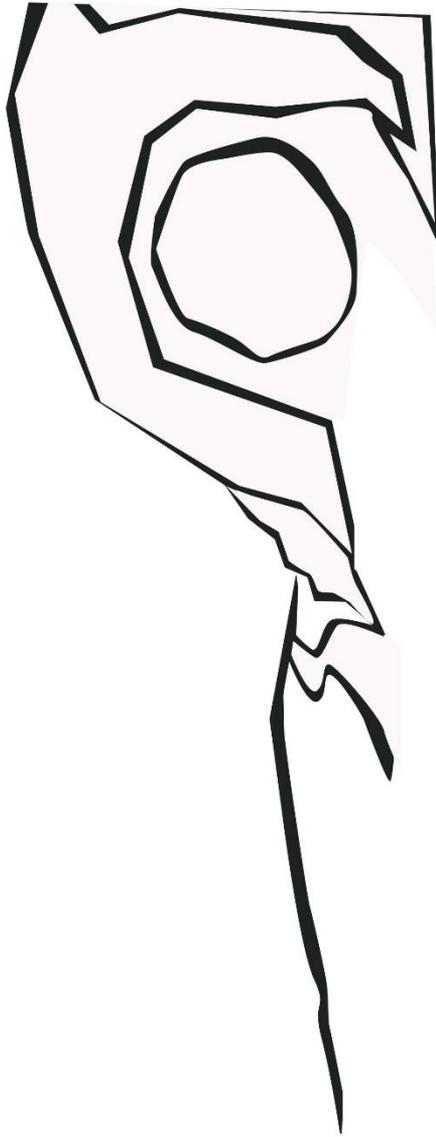
To learn more and to register, people may visit

<https://fortunelake.org/event/hands-feet-jr-sr-high-retreat/>

Surprising Sunday

Imagine how surprised Jesus' followers must have been when they found Jesus' tomb empty. Draw the surprised men and women outside the tomb.

Kid's Activity!



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Going Where Jesus Leads



Northern Great Lakes Synod
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Equipping the Saints for Ministry



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bishop Yehiel Curry
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God's work. Our hands.