

In Our Prayers This Week

It is so important that we remember one another in prayer. During this week, please focus your prayers on the following members who were picked randomly: Janet Cook; Godfrey and Carrie Heitmeier; Dakota Lueskow; Pat Rondeau; Johanna, Henry and Daniel Zuehls.



Flowers

The flowers for Sunday are in honor and love for all those who have lost family and loved ones during the holiday season.

Please call Zion's office (715-735-7898) or send an email (Zion@newbc.rr.com) if you would like to sponsor the flowers for a specific Sunday. The cost is \$15.

What's Around the Corner?

- Dec. 17: Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary Service. SPARK program.
- Dec. 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With Special music by Johanna Zuehls
- Dec. 24: Nativity of our Lord, 8 p.m. worship and via Facebook Live. With special music by Zion's choir, candlelight and Holy Communion.



Birthday Blessings to You

- December 20: Dawn Vincent
December 21: Carrie Heitmeier
December 22: Presley Schroeder

Thank you to our Worship Assistants!

Thank you to Karen Dill for serving as our lector, communion assistant, and for setting and cleaning up communion; to Deb Mylener for serving as our usher; and to Nik Williams for serving as our acolyte on Sunday.



The volunteers for the 9:30 a.m. service on December 24th are Johanna Zuehls as our lector and communion assistant; Carol Johnson will be setting up and cleaning up communion; Karen Sylvester as our usher; and Daniel Zuehls as our acolyte!

The volunteers for the 8 p.m. service on December 24th are Dave Johnson as our lector; Johanna Zuehls as our communion assistant; Barb Grom will be setting up and cleaning up communion; Mark Swenson as our usher; and Daniel Zuehls as our acolyte!

If you'd like to volunteer to serve as lector or usher please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017. The readings for the particular Sunday will be shared with you days in advance and a copy will be printed for you to use. Thank you for your consideration!

A Note From The Financial Secretary for VANCO users!

If you have changed your donation for 2024 make sure you go to the VANCO website and change it there. You can make a new entry but make sure you have it start 1/1/24 and stop this years by entering 12/31/23.

If you have questions please call our office at 715-735-7898, and I will call you back as soon as I can! This will alleviate any issues for next year. Thank you for your help!

Marissa Tharp, Financial Secretary



Christmas Eve Worship

There will be two worship services on Christmas Eve. We will be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 9:30 a.m. and then we will have the Nativity of Jesus Christmas Eve service at 8 p.m. The 8 p.m. service will be a candlelight service with Holy Communion, special music by the Zion choir and many Christmas carols. Celebrate the Nativity of Jesus with us. Live streaming via Facebook Live will be available!

Pledge Card Reminder!

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee along with Pastor Schoen wants to thank all those who have returned your financial Pledge Cards to date. It is our hope that before the end of December we can receive those that are still outstanding. Feel free to place them in the offering plate at worship or mail them to the church office.

Keeping the Light Burning



If you feel inclined to sponsor the Eternal Light for one month, please notify Zion's office which month you'd like to sponsor (715-735-7898 or zion@newbc.rr.com). All months in 2024 are available for sponsorship!

The cost of sponsoring the Eternal Light for one month is \$13.00. Payment of your sponsorship can be mailed to Zion or placed in the offering plate after Communion.

January Newsletter

A friendly reminder that articles and information for publication in the January Newsletter are due to Zion's office by Thursday, December 21st. Thank you for your assistance!



Zion to Host Blood Drive

Zion is hosting a blood drive January 5 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.](#)



December Donation 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 be collecting items for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

St. Vincent de Paul Society's food pantry is located in their thrift store on Main Street in Marinette. They are the largest pantry in our area and serve both Marinette & Menominee counties. Their weekly food distribution is each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The food pantry is always happy to gain new volunteers. Stop by the store to pick up a volunteer application today or learn more about our local St. Vincent de Paul Society here: <https://www.svdpmarinette.com/>

Most Needed Items after the Holidays are:

- Jarred spaghetti sauce
- Jams & jellies
- Pancake syrup
- Cornbread / corn muffin mix
- Boxed stuffing & cranberry sauce (yes, even after the holidays!)
- All other non-perishable food items are most certainly welcome as well!



Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays this Week

December 19: Lisa Cook

December 21: Niklas Williams

December 23: David Despina

SPARK Bible Story

The SPARK Story Bible reading for Sunday is found on page 234; "John the Baptist Proclaims Jesus is coming" based on the reading from John 1:6-8, 19-28.



Ruth Circle Group

The Ruth Circle Group will meet December 19th at 1 p.m. at the church to carpool to their annual Christmas luncheon at Luigi's Pizza and Pasta in Peshtigo.



Tithes & Offerings for Dec. 4-11

General Fund: \$4,033

Altar Flowers: \$15 Christmas: \$25 Advent: \$10

Boiler Fund: \$5 Bell Fund: \$5

Special Offering: \$75

Thank you so very much for your continued giving and generosity. Every little bit helps. You are making a difference! Again, thank you!

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

- Senior Days

Fortune Lake has announced their 2023-2024 Senior Day schedule. There will be a Senior Day on January 15th, March 11th, and May 13th! Each Senior Day begins at 10 a.m. and wraps up by 2 p.m. The program varies but generally includes the following:

10:00 a.m. – Arrival and check-in, coffee and fellowship time

10:15 a.m. – Devotion & announcements

10:30 a.m. – Presentation morning session

12:00 p.m. – Lunch

1:00 p.m. – Presentation afternoon session

A \$10 donation per participant is requested and attendees are asked to RSVP by the Friday before the event to (906) 214-2267 or hospitality@fortunelake.org

- Winter Wonderland Retreat

FLLC's Winter Wonderland Retreat will be held January 12-14, 2024. The weekend filled with good food, hot saunas, camp games and songs, and time spent outdoors in the snowy northwoods! This event is open to everyone: family/friend groups, youth groups, and individuals of all ages! For more information or to register, people may visit fortunelake.org.

- Radiating Grace: Young Adult Winter Retreat

Fortune Lake invites all adults ages 18-16 to register for our Radiating Grace Young Adult Retreat. This retreat centers around caring for yourself and your body and includes sessions on mindfulness, mental and physical self care, healthy movement, and more. Participants are encouraged to choose their own adventure in hopes that everyone comes away from the retreat feeling rested and ready to return to their busy schedule. Other offerings include a scripture discussion, worship opportunities, arts 'n' crafts, hot saunas, and plenty of other camp favorites. Registration and payment deadline is January 31 by 10 p.m. For more information or to register, people may visit fortunelake.org.



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

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A member of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America