

WE ARE ZION

NEWS

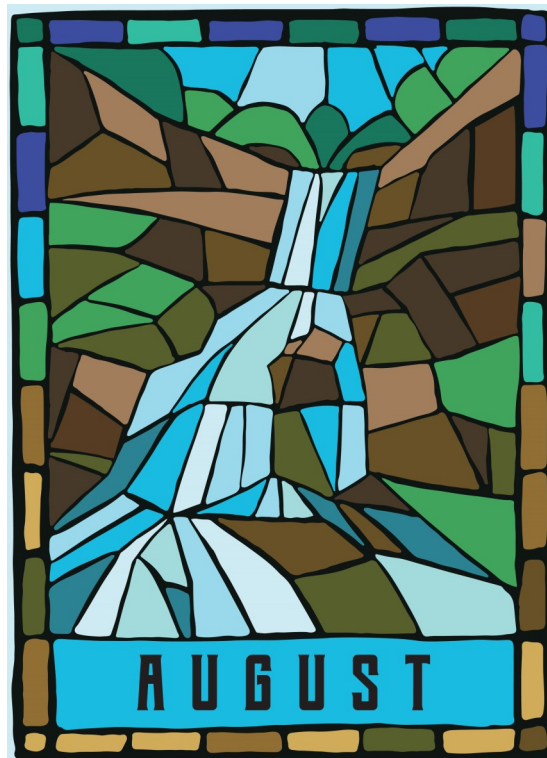


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August 2024



Zion's 2024 Congregation Council

Laura Rowe — President	Dean Schoen — V.P.
Michelle Larson — Secretary	LeeAnn Limberg — Treasurer
Tatem Schroeder	Phil Strohl
Brad Nelson	Mark Swenson
Jonah Zuehls	
Sophie Limberg, Youth Member	

Zion Staff

Office Administrator and Financial Secretary — Marissa Tharp
 Choir Director and Organist — Ann Buscher
 Accompanist for Choir and Organist— Rachel Rosenfeldt

Who Does What at Zion

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) — Michelle Larson
 Contemporary Worship — Bill Tipple
 Hymn Selection — Ann Buscher
 Wine and apple or grape juice — Michelle Larson

Building Maintenance – Interior/Exterior

Supplies — Gary Grom
 Handyman — Jack Heimbuch

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Who Does What at Zion

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Committees/Groups

Caring Ministry Team — Karen Sylvester
 Equal Exchange Items — Heidi Beland
 Confirmation Classes — Pastor
 Funeral Luncheon Teams — Ann Buscher/Carol Johnson;
 Michelle Larson/Sue Baxter; and Karen Sylvester/ Cheryl
 Maxwell
 Harvest of Hope Community Garden — John Radloff
 Kitchen Supplies — Nora Plym
 Mission Endowment Comm. — Phil Strohl
 Money Counters — Karen Dill, Bonnie Schoen and Pat Mittag
 Nominating Comm — Sue Baxter
 Personnel Comm. — Troy Cording
 Property Comm. — Mark Swenson
 Sanctuary Arts — Barb Grom, Karen Dill, Carol Johnson and Ann
 Buscher
 Sew for Mission — Carol Magnuson
 Social Ministry — Heidi Beland & Michelle Larson co-chairs
 SPARK — Johanna Zuehls
 Stewardship & Generosity — Karen Sylvester
 Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen Dill
 Worship and Music — Ann Buscher
 Ruth Women's Circle — Jane Landenberg



From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Readers,
 Due to responses I have received from my sermon on July 7th, and requests for copies and/or printing it in the ZioNews, I have decided to offer excerpts of my sermon in this month's Pastor's article. I pray that my thoughts and words will be helpful and informative and will elicit further conversation. The sermon entitled "Two Kingdoms" was based on Ezekiel 2:1-5 and Mark 6:1-13. I encourage you to read these texts before reading my article.

It was a joy and inspiration to begin our service this morning by singing "America the Beautiful" in honor of our nation's birthday that we celebrated last Thursday. As I reflected on our country's heritage in celebration of our national holiday, I thanked God for the privilege of being born a citizen of the United States of America where I benefit from the freedoms for which this country was founded. In so doing, I rededicated myself to promoting and defending the "liberty and justice for all" that we proclaim in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Now I am here in this house of worship to be reminded that I am a citizen of another country, a kingdom, if you will, the kingdom of God. In hymns, liturgy, prayers and creed, I pledge allegiance to this kingdom. In this kingdom I enjoy another, even greater freedom—freedom, as Martin Luther put it, from "sin, death and the power of the devil" – freedom that is ours as expressed by Jesus when he said, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." "...everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:31-36).

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As an American and as a Christian, I am a citizen of two kingdoms. One is temporal, i.e., of this time and this world; the other is eternal. One is of human design and therefore, in spite of its best intentions and highest achievements, is still flawed and sinful; the other is perfect in so far that it is ruled by God and led by the Spirit. I am a citizen of one by birth; I am a citizen of the other by my rebirth in baptism.

My understanding of this kingdom is expressed by God speaking to Moses on Mt. Sinai where he said, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: “... if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation” (Exodus 19); it is expressed by Jesus as he sent his disciples forth into the towns and villages to carry out his mission saying, “As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons” (Matthew 10); and it is expressed by Peter, who declared in his 1st Epistle, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (2:9).

On the 4th of July, you may have celebrated your citizenship in the United States of America with flag displaying, fireworks, picnics and backyard B-B-Qs with family and friends. Today, as we gather for corporate worship, we celebrate our citizenship in the kingdom of God with hymn singing, prayer, the proclamation of God’s word, and the sharing of a sacramental meal. These two citizenships are not exclusive of each other. Both define who we are and should influence how we speak and act.

When I was growing up, I often heard it said that there are two things one should not talk about in public: religion and politics. I am convinced that this statement is conditioned by people who, in talking about either religion or politics, do so in an argumentative manner and with the intention of converting others to their way of thinking. I am equally convinced that both religion and politics have a place in public discourse, but in a non-

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offensive way that simply gives witness to what one believes and has meaning for oneself, while, at the same time, shows respect for what others think or believe. Again, it was Peter who said, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15).

I also think it is important that our politics are informed by our faith and not based simply on party allegiance or personal bias. For this to happen we need to be acquainted with the teachings and examples of Jesus. Spend some time reading the Gospels and notice who Jesus reached out to, spent time with and advocated for—not the elite, the wealthy, the power structure, but the poor, the downtrodden, the disenfranchised, those pushed to the margins of society, those deemed unacceptable and unwelcome. Read the Sermon on the Mount. See how Jesus turned social standards and societal attitudes upside down, thereby drawing the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. Read Jesus’ inaugural address in Luke 4 where he applies the prophetic words of Isaiah to himself, declaring: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” The point is, as Christians, as followers of Jesus Christ, we speak for Christ, we represent Christ in the world around us. Colin Yuckman of Duke Divinity School put it this way: “We are expected to resemble [Jesus] in word and deed. To be sent by Jesus is, in some sense, to be sent as Jesus.”

As Jesus’ modern-day disciples, we are called by God to witness to the sovereignty of the kingdom of God, starting with the example of our own lives of faith and devotion to God, and to speak and act with care and kindness in ways that bring healing to broken lives and relationships. In essence, we are called by God to be his present-day prophets.

When we think about prophets and prophecy, we tend to think that it is about predicting the future, but an examination of

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the writings of the prophets in the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus in the New Testament reveal that prophecy is much more about speaking the word of God to present situations and issues. In ancient days, there were actually schools of prophecy and kings employed many prophets. It became a lucrative practice and, therefore, was self-serving. These “house prophets,” as they were called, would go through a variety of rituals and procedures to advise the king, but the bottom line is that they were expected to tell the king what he wanted to hear, often resulting in disaster and defeat. The true prophets of God like Ezekiel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and all the minor prophets, were called and commissioned directly by God and told by God what to say to kings and peoples. Their messages always began with, “Thus says the Lord.” Their prophetic proclamations were generally not well received as they spoke truth to power and truths the people did not want to hear and usually called for repentance and allegiance to God alone.

The challenge for us today as citizens of the kingdom of God, called to be prophets in our own time, is to speak and act with courage, conviction and integrity. In seminary, we were told that prophetic preaching means to “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.” That certainly is representative of Jesus’ own ministry and message.

When our Founding Fathers established this great nation of ours, they understood that the Europeans who first settled here came to experience religious freedom and that the citizens of the various states practiced a variety of religions and spiritual beliefs, or none at all. Therefore, they wrote into the First Amendment of the Constitution “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free expression thereof.” This is the basis for the “separation of church and state” and reflects an understanding of the nature of the kingdom of God independent of nationalism. There is a movement afoot in our country now called “Christian Nationalism” that is more reflective of the politics of our times than the spiritual nature of the church. Its proponents want to blur the lines between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world. They reject the idea of the separation of church and state thus violating both the Con-

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stitution of the United States and the gospel. They want to make Christianity the official national religion and use it as a weapon to enforce their particular brand of Christianity and their interpretation of scripture. We see this being played out in places like Louisiana where the governor signed a bill to mandate the placement of the Ten Commandments in every classroom, and in Oklahoma where the state Director of Education has ruled that the Bible must be present and used to teach in every classroom. Under this ruling, who is going to teach the Bible in a secular setting and how are they going to teach it? The proponents of Christian Nationalism want to make the Bible and Christianity subservient to their particular political, social and cultural views.

The important point to keep in mind is that the church, in being prophetic, should address the civil and political issues of the day, not reflect them, or be absorbed by them. There is a difference. The church is not called to take sides in a political sense. The only “side” the church is called to be on is the side of Jesus Christ.

There are no easy answers or simple solutions to how to be prophetic in our day. I would only suggest that in every situation we face, in every need we encounter, in every opportunity that is placed before us, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in representing Jesus Christ, free from our own biases, prejudices and self-serving tendencies. Let us be, as Martin Luther suggests, “little Christs” to one another. Then, let us celebrate, not only on the 4th of July, but every day, what it means to be a citizen of the United States of America, and keep in mind, every day and in every circumstance, that we have a higher calling, that of being a citizen in the kingdom of God.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Doug



What's Around the Corner?

Zion is buzzing with worship, service, and fellowship opportunities coming up at Zion! Below is a brief outline of what is "around the corner".

- Aug. 4: 11th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music by Barb Akins on violin.
- Aug. 11: 12th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Rev. Nick Johannes. Special music by Eric Breuer on alto saxophone.
- Aug. 13: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Aug. 15: Ruth Circle Group, 1 p.m. picnic at Red Arrow Park.
- Aug. 18: 13th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service.
- Aug. 19-22: "Created in God's Image" Vacation Bible School at Zion, 5-7 p.m.
- Aug. 25: 14th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music by Jane Landenberger on clarinet.

Anniversary Committee



Zion's 150th Anniversary Committee has begun to meet and exciting plans are underway for a meaningful recognition and celebration next year of Zion's 150 years of faithful witness and service to the Marinette community and beyond. Thank you to Ann Buscher and Don & Judy Limberg for getting the ball rolling and to several others for signing up to serve on the committee. More offers to serve on the committee or help in other ways, as well as questions and suggestions, may be directed to Marissa at the church office or to Ann or Don directly.

Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregational Council did not meet in the month of July.

The next council meeting will be August 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Created in God's Image VBS August 19-22



Bethel Lutheran, Zion Lutheran, First Presbyterian, Pioneer Presbyterian and Peace UCC churches are working together to plan Vacation Bible School for kids and helpers of all ages. This year, Vacation Bible School will take place **August 19-22 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran**

Church. Campers are invited to join us each evening for a free family supper, games, songs, crafts, and Bible stories to remind us that we are all **Created in God's Image**. Registration forms are available at the congregations listed above. We hope you can join us! Contact Stefanie Ehle (sehle@uwalumni.com) or Johanna Zuehls (johannazuehls@gmail.com) with questions or to learn how you can volunteer!

Did You See Our New Sign?



Have you noticed the new church sign at the entrance to the circular drive adjacent to the bell tower? It is a thing of beauty! The old sign was weather worn, faded, some of the wood rotted. The new sign is a gift from Randy & Tatem Schroeder and their son Randall and his wife Mariah, through their company, Schroeder Construction. They arranged for the design and provided materials and labor. We thank Randy & Tatem for their generosity in providing this much needed gift to the church. We also thank Mark Swenson and Dean Schoen for identifying the need and overseeing the project.

School Food Pantry Collection



We're collecting food items to stock the school pantries as they start a new year. The kind of items that can be sent home with even the youngest kids to prepare for themselves. Your Social Ministry Committee will split the food between the Marinette and Menominee

School Districts at the beginning of September.

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 narthex by the collection baskets between July 7th and August 25th.

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.

August Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of August is sponsored by the Nuemann-Boerner families and is "in loving memory of our dad."



Join the AV Team!

We are in need for volunteers to help our AV team. The hope is with enough people, volunteers would only have to be available once a month. If people have any questions, they can reach out to Troy Cording. Thank you for your consideration!

THANK YOU!

Notes of Thanks!

Zion Endowment Committee,

Thank you for the generous support and assistance you have provided. Your donation of \$1,000 enables Bridges to Recovery to continue serving those struggling with substance use and supporting recovery efforts in the communities of Marinette County, Wisconsin and Menominee County, Michigan.

Bridges to Recovery is here to help and guide those in need through connections with the area community support services, and the guidance of our talented peer staff. We understand that recovery looks different for everyone. Meeting people where they are allows them to recognize their own strengths, so they can begin to create a new life with meaning and purpose. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely Yours,

Kayla Steeber and the Biehl Bridges to Recovery Team

Ruth Circle Group



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, August 15, at Red Arrow Park for a picnic at 1 p.m. for our monthly Bible study. All are welcome to attend!

September Zion News Deadline



Please note, the deadline for submitting articles, information and all tidbits to be published in the September issue of the Zion News(letter) is Wednesday, August 21st. Thank you for your assistance!

Join us in lifting up our brothers and sisters in Christ, in prayer as we remember their Baptism

August 1: Michael Jagelski
 August 2: Rosalie Settersten
 August 7: Mary Bodam, Dale Lueskow and Greg Peanosky
 August 11: Brian Swenson
 August 13: Traci Olson
 August 16: Fyfe Thill
 August 19: Mason Krahl
 August 20: Sam Gressel, Sarah Jagielski
 August 21: Allyson Knopik
 August 23: Aiden Bailey, Laura Peanosky
 August 24: Sally Broetzman
 August 25: Jacob Ehle
 August 27: Debra Strohl
 August 29: Delanie Schroeder



August Birthdays

August 3: Andrew Hubbard
 August 6: Jackie Hamer
 August 7: Dakota Lueskow, Kathleen Lueskow
 August 9: Jacob Cording, Laura Peanosky
 August 10: Gage Schutt
 August 13: Sally Broetzman, Joan Nowakowski
 August 15: Fay Brummond, Larry Melgary
 August 16: Linda Walker
 August 17: Joni Rudell
 August 18: Sarge Rudell
 August 20: Brooke Rose
 August 25: Jordan Lueskow, Tim Marzahl
 August 29: Barb Grom, Jared Johnson, Gail Melgary
 August 31: Katy Bauer



ELCA Mission Support Memo: June 2024

Congregation With Birch Trees and Squawking Geese *A story from the Northern Great Lakes Synod*

Do you feel a deeper connection to God when you're outdoors? People in the town of Marquette, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, have been inspired by the stunning nature that surrounds them to create U.P. Wild Church, an exciting movement of “wild” outdoor worship communities. The church holds its worship and prayer services outdoors and hosts nature walks, wilderness reflections and field trips to explore God's creation amid the scenic beauty of the peninsula. Started in 2019, U.P. Wild Church is an ecumenical ministry of the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan. Initially created to gather younger people and those not engaged in traditional church, it has grown into a ministry that fosters deep spiritual connection within God's great outdoors.

The NGLS recently held its synod assembly and, through mission stories, shared how U.P. Wild Church has staked its claim on the peninsula as a “church outside the box.” The mission story for U.P. Church on the Episcopal Asset Map describes it as “a means of encountering the actively Living God, based on shared values of faith, connection, and nature. Deep within the Christian tradition there hides a wealth of wisdom on how to cultivate a culture of compassion.” The U.P. Wild Church site calls it a community for everyone: “You are welcome whether you are a part of a Christian faith community already, questioning your faith, in recovery from wounds inflicted by religious trauma, simultaneously receiving nourishment from other faith traditions, or simply seeking to go deeper.”

The movement is growing, and through dedicated efforts U.P. Wild Church has a new branch in the Keweenaw Peninsula. Rob Bishop, an assistant dean at Michigan Tech University, shares his experience with the ministry:

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ELCA Mission Support Memo: June 2024

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“In October of 2022, I saw an announcement for a nature hike and prayer service that was being put on by a group called U.P. Wild in the Keweenaw. It piqued my interest because I have always found a closer connection to God when I am in the outdoors.

"I saw that the group was connected to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I immediately reached out to the Rev. Bucky Beach, a retired pastor in the synod, and asked him about the group. He was familiar with Lanni Lantto, who was leading the U.P. Wild Church in Marquette. He said it looked like it would be a perfect opportunity for me to get reconnected to my faith.

In January of 2023, I was invited to a Zoom meeting for those interested in starting the branch in the Keweenaw. A launching team was formed, and I volunteered to be in charge of communications. We agreed [that] our first official U.P. Wild in the Keweenaw would be Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at the [Nara Nature Park, in Houghton, Mich.]. Fast-forward to the last day of February 2024. We have held eight services in eight different locations across the Keweenaw, with eight different service leaders. I have been fortunate to have attended seven out of eight services. Each one has connected me closer to my faith in God and my love of the outdoors. I have found a new calling and look forward to continuing my journey.”

U.P. Wild Church wants to share this space with others, so feel free to explore virtual walks and a cemetery stroll, to pray by the beach, to follow deer tracks, to find Christ in the compost, and so much more at upwild.org.

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