

WE ARE ZION

NEWS

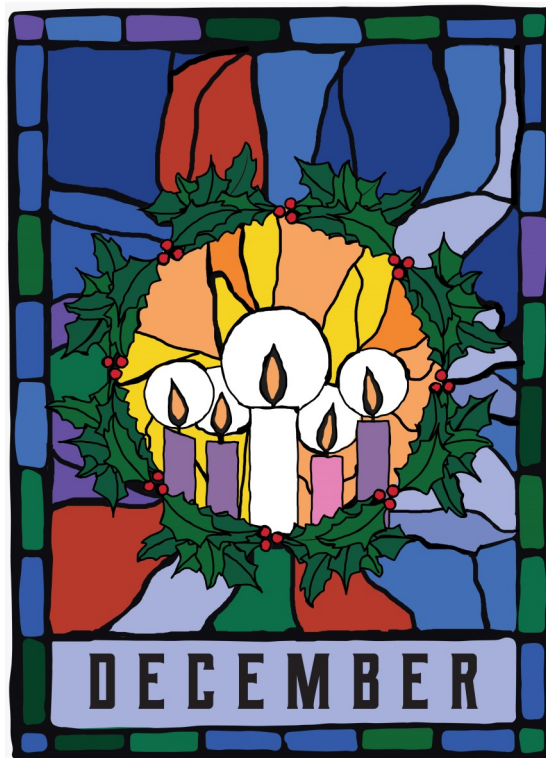


Zion Lutheran Church
2714 James Street
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715-735-7898

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

December 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

Committees/Groups

150th Anniversary Committee — Ann Buscher

Continued....

Who Does What at Zion

...continued

Caring Ministry Team — Karen Sylvester, Judy Stehle, Sarge Rudell

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, Bonnie Schoen, John Radloff

Youth Ministry Treasurer — Karen Dill

Worship and Music — Ann Buscher

Ruth Women's Circle — Jane Landenberg





Nov 8, 2024

Dear Council President Laura Rowe and Zion Lutheran Church.

Grace and peace to you from the One who, like the first apostles, daily breathes the Holy Spirit upon and into us, reminding us that we are his witnesses to the ends of the earth. I am honored you have extended a call to me to serve among and with you as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. Thank you. It is with eager anticipation and joy that I accept the call. I am looking forward to building our partnership in the gospel and exploring the ways the Spirit is leading us to follow Jesus.

Sincerely,

Pastor Amanda Kossow



From the Pastor's Desk

Following the Congregational Call Meeting on November 3, I received a note from Bishop Katherine Finegan thanking me for my service to Zion and my “patience” in waiting through the lengthy call process. She referred to November 3 as a “glory hallelujah” day. It was that, indeed. It was a day on which the members of Zion showed their true colors—participation (27 voting members were needed for a quorum; 80 were present!), faithfulness, unity of purpose and spirit, positivity, forward thinking, hopefulness, joy. All these qualities were evident in the spirit of the meeting and the resulting unanimous vote to extend a call to Rev. Amanda Kossow to serve as Zion’s next pastor. With equal enthusiasm, Rev. Kossow accepted your call (see her letter of acceptance on the preceding page). Rev. Kossow will begin her ministry at Zion right after the first of the year. January 5 will be her first Sunday leading worship.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with the Call Committee chaired so capably by congregation president Laura Rowe. They served their fellow members exceedingly well. I appreciate the trust placed in them by the congregation and the affirmation of their work. I am grateful to Bishop Finegan for working diligently on Zion’s behalf to secure a candidate for call. Mostly, I am grateful to the Holy Spirit for guiding my ministry among you and for leading Zion to this new beginning in your life as a Christian congregation. I will look forward to working with Pastor Amanda as a colleague in ministry in the future.

More immediately, I am looking forward to what we will share together in the remaining months of this year as you prepare to receive Pastor Amanda and begin your ministry together. November 24 will be Christ the King Sunday. We end the church year on a high note by celebrating the good news that Jesus Christ, who died for our salvation and rose victorious over sin and death that we may have eternal life, now lives *...continued*

Continued...

and reigns as Lord forever. While kingdoms, governments and powers of this world rise and fall, Christ the King reigns forever and ever. He lives for us, in us and through us, giving us purpose for daily living and hope for our eternal future.

Then we will move into the season of Advent, the first four Sundays in December, and hear again the wonderful story of Christ's first coming as the incarnate Jesus, born in Bethlehem; his present coming in word and sacrament and the work and fellowship of his body, the church; and, finally, his coming again at the end of time to bring to fulfillment his mission of redemption. Advent is a beautiful, reflective and meaningful season that prepares our hearts and minds for our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. I encourage your presence at worship every Sunday in Advent.

May God continue to bless our time together. To God be the glory in all we do as his people.

In His 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".

- Dec. 1: First Sunday in Advent. 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Dec. 4: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8: Second Sunday in Advent. 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. With guest pastor Rev. Nick Johannes. Hanging of the Greens after worship. Special music by the Zion Choir.
- Dec. 10: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15: Third Sunday in Advent. 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service. SPARK Program.
- Dec. 18: SPARK, 5:30 p.m.; Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.; Choir, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19: Ruth Circle, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent. 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special music by Karen Sylvester and Matt Hellerman. Coffee Hour to follow worship.
- Dec. 24: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
Nativity of our Lord, 8 p.m. worship and via Facebook Live. With candlelight and Holy Communion. Special music by the Zion choir and the Limberg family.
- Dec. 25: Office closed. Merry Christmas!
- Dec. 29: First Sunday in Christmas 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special service based on Carols. Pastor Doug's last Sunday. Coffee hour to follow worship.

Congregation Council Highlights



COUNCIL UPDATES

The Congregational Council met on November 12th at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: October average attendance was 97. Pastor expressed his gratitude for the Pastors that helped with pulpit supply the past 2 1/2 years.

October Financial Reports

- General fund increase of \$8,123; Balance of \$150,518
- Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$84,704

Committee Reports

- **Property and Safety Committee:** Church windows were washed, inside and outside, by Pane to Clean. Johnston Heating and Scott Williams worked on wiring for thermostat and got them fixed. Drees Electric will check all power to the bell and Verdin Bell Company will do a final inspection. Mark Shallow to do fall clean-up and we will be reaching out to Dave Reek about snow removal again this winter.

Old Business

- **AV Equipment:** All new equipment has been installed. Upgrading is complete.

New Business

- **Transition Process:** Pastor Amanda's first day will be January 5, 2025.
- A special coffee hour will be December 29, 2024 as a Thank you and Goodbye to Pastor Schoen

The next council meeting will be December 10th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting place is to be determined.

Hanging of the Greens!



The Hanging of the Greens will take place Sunday, December 8th, after our Worship Service. We are looking forward to a greater number of

members, families, and children participating in the church decorating this year. If you are willing to help, please sign-up on the sheet on the board in the back of Church. Also, please sign-up to contribute to our Potluck Lunch break. We guarantee a joyful and rewarding time that you won't want to miss!

(Note: There is no Packer game this Sunday.)

Please sign up soon so we have an approximate number,

Thanks!!

Beverages and Table Service will be provided.

Christmas Eve Worship



We will celebrate the Nativity of Jesus on Christmas Eve at 8 p.m. The service will be a candlelight service with Holy

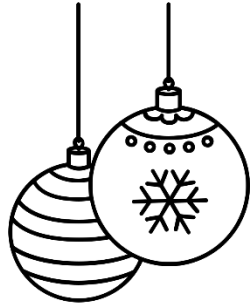
Communion, special music by the Zion Choir and the Limberg Family. Celebrate the Nativity of Jesus with us. Live streaming via Facebook Live will be available!

A Note From The Financial Secretary

If you have changed your donation for 2025 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 1/1/25 and stop this year's by entering 12/31/24.

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



December Conference-Wide Youth Event

Menominee Valley Conference youth between 6th-12th grades are invited to make an ornament that can be given to someone this Christmas season. We will meet at CJ's Glass (802 Main Street) in Marinette on Friday, December 13 from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate, but reservations are needed by December 10. Please email youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org to secure your spot at the table!

Volunteers Needed!

Zion needs your help. We are looking for people who are willing to be trained to set up and clean up communion and to serve as usher. Due to surgery and snowbirds, there are not enough volunteers to fill the slots for this winter. Please contact Ann Buscher at 715-735-3017 if you are interested or to make sure your name is on the list.

Upcoming Coffee Hour



There will be a Coffee Hour on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29! Coffee Hours are held directly after service but are only held if someone sponsors it. If you would like to sponsor or hold a coffee hour, call the office at 715-735-7898 to reserve a date!

December Eternal Light

"May the light of Jesus warm the world with peace and love," is what the Eternal Light for the month of December is in honor of.



Ruth Circle Group



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, December 19th, at Zion at 4 p.m. for our December dinner.

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

The goal of Zion's Stewardship and Generosity Committee 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.

This article was written by Pastor Kely Ylitalo of Mission Unity Lutheran Church in Pelkie, Michigan and appeared in the NGLS Prayfaithfully Devotions. Pastor Kelly has graciously allowed me to reprint her devotion in Zion's newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Thursday, March 7, 2024

**Therefore, God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,
so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

~Philippians 2:9-11

What brings you to your knees?

Babies get on their knees when learning to crawl, and I remember continuing to do so as a small child when I would make-believe that I was a horse and allow my younger brothers to ride upon my back.

I remember getting on my knees to peek under beds and other low-to-the-ground spaces while playing hide-and-seek.

I can remember having fallen to my knees more times than I can count while learning to skate and ski – plenty of times on my backside too!

Continued...

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

...continued

I can remember being on my knees to pull weeds and plant flowers in gardens.

I can remember being on my knees, smashing them to the ground, after tripping down the stairs and turning both black and blue.

I can remember being on my knees in fervent prayer when life felt really hard, when my world and the world of those I loved felt like it might be ending.

I can remember kneeling at the communion rail to receive the holy supper on many occasions.

This past Christmas, the women's barbershop quartet in which I sing sang a version of "O Holy Night," one of my favorite Christmas songs. I am particularly drawn to the lyrics which state, "Fall on your knees. O hear the angel voices. O night divine. O night when Christ was born."

The presence of God has come into the world, born as a baby laid in a humble manger, announced by a heavenly host filling the skies over the fields where the shepherds' tended flocks of sheep. What an astonishing, awestriking sight and experience it must have been, so much so that I can imagine, as does the author of the song, falling to one's knees, humbled by the sight and glory of it all.

Has God ever brought you to your knees? What was your experience like? What did God reveal to you in that moment?

Prayer: *O God, humble our hearts before you. Teach us to fall upon our knees and revere all that you are and all that you do with awe. Amen.*

NGLS Dungeons & Dragons Club Seeking 6th-12th Graders!



The NGLS Youth Ministry Team is looking for young people between 6th-12th grade to join a Synod-Wide Dungeons and Dragons Club.

WHY? Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) is one of the most popular and well-known table-top roleplaying games in the world! **It is a great game for anyone interested in using their imagination for a shared story, while building up social and critical thinking skills.** D&D is a roleplaying game in which players create their own characters and progress them through a story.

Pastor Jack Busche of Grace Lutheran, Gwinn will serve as our Dungeon Master and is excited to introduce this game to interested youth, and use the storytelling, creativity, and teamwork inherent in D&D as a way to have meaningful faith conversations. The club will primarily meet online, with in-person retreat dates determined by club members.

Youth (or parents) are invited to complete this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LP78WPC> to help determine a date and time for an Interest Meeting. You may also email youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org for more information.

Altar Flower Sponsorships



Zion has altar flower sponsorships available. The cost of sponsoring the flowers for one week is \$15.00. Dates are reserved on a first come first serve basis. You can take the flowers home after service! To reserve a date, please call or email Zion's office at 715-735-7898 or Zion@newbc.rr.com. Flower dates are open for the year of 2025 and are reserved on a first-come first-served basis!

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

December 1: Timothy Marzahl, Karen Sylvester
 December 2: Henry Zuehls
 December 4: Sandra Zylkowski
 December 5: Jane Landenberger
 December 6: James Jagielski, Amanda Oleson
 December 10: Amanda Litts
 December 14: Ethan Schomaker
 December 15: Alexandria Cording
 December 17: Nila Krenos
 December 19: Lisa Cook
 December 21: Niklas Williams
 December 23: David Despins
 December 26: Hope Goes, Philip Strohl
 December 28: Gail Melgary
 December 29: Randall Schroeder II
 December 31: Barbara Francour



January Zion News Deadline



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

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). Call the office to see what months in 2025 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.

December Birthdays

December 5: Barbara Francour
 December 9: Kimberly Graf
 December 10: Sally Peterson
 December 11: John Radloff
 December 13: Larry Nelson
 December 15: Rachel Kuhn
 December 16: Dean Schoen
 December 20: Dawn Vincent
 December 21: Carrie Heitmeier
 December 22: Presley Schroeder
 December 26: Jacob Marzahl
 December 31: Eileen Jagielski, Alexis Roth, Gabriel Roth



From Our Families To Yours, Happy Holidays! _____

From all of us in and around Zion; we wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Peace and Blessings,
*Pastor Doug, Michelle, Gina, Ann,
 Rachel, and Marissa*



Letter from Bishop Finegan



So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

-Galatians 6:9-10

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I remember being reluctant to play "Monopoly" with my brothers I had learned that the game quickly became a source of conflict, especially when my competitive siblings did not lose, or win, wit grace. The game would often be fraught with tension and anxiety and end with tears, yelling, and maybe even a punch or two thrown in for good measure. Maybe it only happened once, but I learned not to play that game.

Despite the occasional violence and fighting over a board game, even as children we all knew, without having the language to say so, that our relationship as a family was always the priority. We were not allowed to be angry for long. Often, whatever lingering ill will there was dissipated after a snack, a nap, or shifting to another game that was far more fun.

This priority of relationship over the power of disagreement has continued into our adult life. We do not agree on everything. We have differing views and perspectives...on money, parenting, what shows are worth watching, what sports teams to support, and most markedly of late - politics. While this grieves me, it does not threaten the love I have for my siblings. I know that whoever wins the presidential election, the occupant of the oval office will not stop me from loving my siblings and holding that relationship as a priority.

The same goes for my neighbors and friends. The relationship is the priority, not any disagreement concerning our political opinions or affiliations.

Letter from Bishop Finegan _____

Granted, the relationship can be strained by such disagreements. We can feel sad that people we know and love can have different convictions. When we feel strongly, there is a real challenge as to how to interact, converse, and continue the focus on the relationship and the common ground we do share.

But when the relationship is the priority, the rest feels less important, even as it continues to be important.

I am hopeful that the same can be true of our families of faith. It is worth noting that our congregations continue to be one of the few places in society that continues to hold and defend space to disagree, even as we are unified in our desire and our efforts to serve the work of Christ. Without taking a poll, I would guess that each and every one of our congregations reflects the general division of our nation into the separate groups of Republicans, Democrats, Independents, non-voters, etc. And yet, we continue to gather and be in proximity to each other. As the body of Christ, we worship together, share coffee fellowship, partner in ministry, and get the work of Christ done. In our families of faith, we are reminded again and again how our relationship with a loving God shapes who we are and how we are with our siblings in Christ and community neighbors, even and especially with those with whom we disagree. This is no small thing.

As the election results become apparent, as there may be discord and even violence, as some may not win, or lose, with grace, I put my trust in the power of Christ to bind us together in love. Relationship is the priority. Let us work for the good of all... together, no matter how we have voted or who occupies the oval office. Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, following Jesus our Lord and Savior every step of the way.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

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 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@newbc.rr.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@newbc.rr.com

If you have information to be shared with Zion, please submit it to: Zion@newbc.rr.com The submission deadline for the monthly newsletter is the 21st of every month. The submission deadline for the weekly announcements is every Monday.



Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
 b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
 f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
 y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s
 th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
 r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
 n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV

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Going Where Jesus Leads



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Equipping the Saints for Ministry



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God's work. Our hands.