

# WE ARE ZION

# NEWS



**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**2714 James Street**  
**Marinette, WI 54143**  
**715-735-7898**  
**zion@newbc.rr.com**

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

## January 2025



### **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**

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#### **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

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## Who Does What at Zion

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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 — Seeking leadership!

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



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Zion Members and Friends,

When I signed on to serve as your interim pastor in April, 2022, neither you nor I expected that our journey together would last two years and eight months. Nevertheless, it has been a journey for which I feel gratefully blessed. It has been a privilege and joy to serve you, work with you and worship with you. Knowing that an interim period between called pastors can be an anxious and uncertain time for a congregation, and that it is common that worship attendance and financial support during this time may decrease, it was my goal to provide stability and consistency, to work with the lay leadership to keep what is working well going, while establishing new goals. Together I feel that has been achieved. It has been a pleasure working with the committed members of your Congregation Council, and the dedicated, inspired members who served on the Transition Team and the Call Committee, as well as standing committees and other groups who do the work of the church. Zion is blessed with capable and faithful lay leaders. Troy Cording and Laura Chaltry, who served as presidents of the Congregation Council and chairpersons of the Transition Team and Call Committee respectively, made my job easier, as did your most capable and supportive office manager, Marissa Tharp. I am grateful to them and to all who supported me by their service to Zion and to our Lord.

It has been my goal in ministry to affirm, thank and encourage members in their worship, their spiritual lives, and their service to our Lord. As I have done that with you, you have certainly done that for me. You are a cohesive, positive, generous, and loving congregation.

It is a joy to worship with you as your worship is joyful, engaged, and

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Spirit-filled. It has been a joy to serve our Lord with you. I thank you for your support and encouragement, and your expressions of appreciation. I am also grateful to my wife, Marilyn, for her support of my time devoted to serving Zion as an expression of her love for you, as well.

Marilyn and I were deeply touched by your recognition of our time together at today's worship service. The words of appreciation spoken by members of the choir and the beautiful anthem sung by the choir as a benediction will stay with us for a long time. Thank you to Ann and Rachel and all the choir members for that tribute. Thank you to the Congregation Council for hosting the coffee hour and for the generous gifts of certificates to the Scandinavian Lodge and White Gull Inn, our favorite places to stay and eat in Door County. We will enjoy using them in 2025. Thank you for the Remembrance Book that bears photos and written messages from many of you. We will treasure this gift along with other cards and greetings.

We pray God's blessing on the next chapter of your congregational life, ministry and mission under the leadership of Pastor Amanda Kossow. I pray that she will be gifted by the same support and encouragement you gave me, as you will be gifted by her service and devotion to you as your spiritual leader. I leave you with Paul's inspired words in Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

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".

- Jan. 1: Office closed. Happy New Year!
- Jan. 5: Second Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Pastor Amanda's first Sunday. Coffee hour to follow worship.
- Jan. 8: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12: Baptism of Our Lord, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Jan. 14: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m., Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 15: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Blood Drive, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Jan. 19: Second Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Contemporary service.
- Jan. 22: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Third Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Special Music by Anna Marzahl. Annual Meeting to follow worship.
- Jan. 28: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
- Jan. 29: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.

## Update on the Annual Report and Annual Meeting! \_\_\_\_\_



If you are responsible for a yearly write up for the annual report, please email it or drop it off at Zion's office by January 15th! The report will be ready for the congregation by Sunday, January 19th.

Our Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th following the service.

## Congregation Council Highlights



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

**Pastor's Report:** November average attendance was 101. Pastor stated he was preparing his last few sermons and commended the congregation council for their support during his interim period.

### November Financial Reports

- General balance of \$157,635
- Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$85,826
- Boiler loan balance of \$23,413

### Committee Reports

- **Property and Safety Committee:** Verdin Bell Company will be back on January 16th for final measurements for our bell. We are continuing with the same company for lawn care and plowing. The old Christmas trees were sold for \$200
- **Personnel Committee:** A motion was made to accept the Personnel committee's recommendation of a 3.5% increase in wages.

### New Business

- Annual Meeting set for January 26th, immediately following worship.
- Budget: The budget was discussed with the council — it will be voted on at the annual meeting.

The next council meeting will be January 14th at 6:30 p.m.

## January and February 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 January & February 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.

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 until the end of February.

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.

There is also a need for personal hygiene products like shower gel, deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, tampons and pads as well as underclothes for students. We can accept donations of new boys and girls underpants, socks and pajamas for students from K-12. Store-bought or homemade mittens & hats are good too.

Social Ministry members are ready to deliver to MHS at the end of January if the collection area gets too full. We'd be thrilled if you brought so many donations that it threatened to take over the narthex!



## **Pastor Amanda Kassow is Arriving**

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This congregation has been waiting, hoping, and praying for 2 years plus for a new pastor to lead our flock, and finally, on January 5th, Pastor Amanda Kassow will be standing at the altar about to begin our worship service.

Speaking for myself, and possibly the entire congregation, we all want to talk to her and tell her something about ourselves. Those of you who serve on a committee are probably eager to share with her your goals for the year, and perhaps run an idea or two past her.

I know she wants to meet all of us and learn something about us. As a matter of fact, during one of the Call Committee conversations with her she suggested doing a Time and Talents questionnaire which she could use as a learning tool. She is eager to hear about us and learn more about Zion and our dreams and aspirations for Zion.

I would invite you to think back to your first day at a new job. You're excited, nervous and eager all at the same time. So too it will be with Pastor Amanda as she acclimates to a new home, a new community and a new congregational family. Please allow her the time, space, and grace she needs to acclimate.

As a congregation, let's work together to help her feel welcome, while being respectful of her time to not overwhelm her.

I hope you are as excited about January 5th as I am and have already marked your calendar to attend worship in person. If possible, stay for Coffee Time following the service sponsored by the Congregational Council. Thank you for your continued prayers for Pastor Amanda- January 5th is going to be a big day for her and each of us. Thank you for your part in welcoming and supporting her.

Karen Sylvester, on behalf of the Call Committee

### Upcoming Coffee Hour



There will be a Coffee Hour on January 5th to welcome Pastor Amanda. 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!

### January Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month January is in honor of the new year and new beginnings. May God bless us all as we start this new year!



### Ruth Circle Group



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, January 16th, at Zion at 4 p.m. The group will have their holiday dinner that was rescheduled.

### Zion to Host Blood Drive



Zion is hosting a blood drive January 17 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](#).

### 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](mailto:Zion@newbc.rr.com). Flower dates are open for the year of 2025 and are reserved on a first-come first-served basis!

## January Conference-Wide Youth Event



Menominee Valley Conference Youth between 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be meeting at Second Chances Thrift Shoppe (1406 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Menominee) on Saturday, January 11 at 12:00 p.m. We will assist with serving lunch at Abundant Life Mission and help with tasks at the Thrift Shoppe until 3:00 p.m. After volunteering, we will walk over to Bethel Lutheran Church for pizza and games. Parents may pick up youth at Bethel (1309 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Menominee) at 4:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Stefanie at [youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org](mailto:youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) so we know how many volunteers to expect.

## Recycle Your Sheets!

Did you receive new bed sheets for Christmas? You may bring your old ones to Zion to be recycled into beautiful new patchwork quilts by the Sew for Missions ladies. All material is welcome and put to good use. Thank you!

## Our Christian Sympathy

We are saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Maryellen Radloff on December 17th. Maryellen worshiped and communed with us the preceding Sunday as well as hosting a coffee hour offering her incredible baking skills and wonderful Christmas decorations. While we will miss Maryellen's presence with us in worship and fellowship, we thank God for Maryellen's life and faith, and for the promise of eternal life God offers to her and all who live and die in Christ.



## **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.*

Our first Stewardship focus for the New Year 2025 is ENCOURAGE. "In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that: **Encourages** and supports its members and others in the community on their faith journeys by regularly organizing groups that will foster Christian fellowship. Zion will also continually grow in the types of caring ministries offered within the congregation".

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** — *"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."*

I think each of us can agree, there is nothing like being encouraged. It lifts you up. It empowers you. You stand taller and prouder just because someone encouraged you. Sometimes, we go through life thinking of ourselves less able than we really are. We take a few fearful steps forward, and bam, just like that, someone walks up to us or writes a note and encourages us. It doesn't matter what it is, perhaps you were recognized for beautifully decorating our sanctuary, baking delicious Christmas cookies, being organized, playing an instrument, singing a song, being friendly and approachable, or making simple welcoming conversation with a visitor.

Let's face it, in life we sometimes struggle under our own baggage; our perceived lack of knowledge, skills or abilities; our weight; our supposed lack of faith; or our inability to stand up for ourselves or what we believe in. The list could go on and on. But we forget God has gifted us. He doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called, and we have been called!

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## The Stewardship and Generosity Corner \_\_\_\_\_

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Encourage means to give support, confidence, or hope to someone. Just as we need to be encouraged, and in a variety of ways, we also need to be mindful of those who need encouragement from us and to provide that encouragement at every opportunity.

**Philippians 2:4** — *“Each of you, be interested not only in your own things but also in those of others.”*

This is a great poem by the late Spike Milligan. It is certainly one small way to encourage someone without speaking a word.

“Smiling is infectious - you can catch it like the flu.  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.  
I walked around the corner, and someone saw me grin.  
When he smiled, I realized I had passed it on to him.  
I thought about the smile and realized its worth.  
A single smile like mine could travel round the earth.  
So, if you see a smile begin don't leave it undetected.  
Start an epidemic and get the world infected”.

So, let's take a stand in 2025 to infect the world with a smile one person at a time. Let's encourage someone every day. You may never know it, but a simple smile or a few words of encouragement can make all the difference

In God's peace and love,

Karen Sylvester



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

January 1: Beverly DeGroot, Carrie Heitmeier, Jean Hruska, Alice Larson, and Dean Schoen  
 January 3: Lynn Francour  
 January 5: Mary Hayward  
 January 7: Carol Magnuson  
 January 8: Naomi Dumke  
 January 9: Jaclynn Knopik and Mary Thielen  
 January 10: Ainsley Emler  
 January 11: Barb Bereza  
 January 15: Susan Fischer  
 January 17: Addalynn Brown  
 January 18: Spencer Martin  
 January 20: Karen Dill  
 January 27: Alexis Roth and Gabriel Roth  
 January 30: Carissa Kempka



**February Zion News Deadline**



Please note, the deadline for submitting articles, information and all tidbits to be published in the February issue of the Zion News (letter) is Tuesday, January 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](mailto: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.

## January Birthdays

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January 2: Debra Harding

January 3: David Francour

January 4: Mary Hayward

January 5: Adison Rosenfeldt and Daniel Zuehls

January 10: Johanna Zuehls

January 13: Oliver Swenson

January 15: Marilyn Gould, Dianne Slack and Bethany Wolf

January 18: Gina Boucher

January 20: Kathy Heimbuch

January 21: Sharon Powilaites and Drake Schutt

January 22: Shawn Limberg

January 24: Pamela Lund and Tatem Schroeder

January 25: Beverly DeGroot and Denise Despins

January 26: Colleen Madden

January 30: Shirley Kaufman



## Letter from Bishop Finegan

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*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,

Grace and peace to you in this new year of our Lord 2025. I remember as a senior in high school, we were asked to write an essay describing ourselves ten years in the future. I imagined myself as a single woman working as an English teacher, living in some small town in Wisconsin or Minnesota.

My real life-ten years out of high school-looked very different. By then I had moved away from any aspirations that involved teaching high school English. I was living in East St. Paul and going to seminary while serving as a Youth Director at a church. I was married, with a new baby, and considering where a seminary education might lead.

My high school essay was not meant to be a future plan or an exercise in goal setting. I was not striving to make what I had imagined into a reality. However, considering that my real life unfolded so differently than my imaginings makes me wonder about our imaginings, and even our future goal setting, as a church.

I think it used to be that the church of my youth thought that church was always going to be the way we were experiencing church then. Church councils developed five, ten, even twenty year plans with no imaginings that culture would shift, that worship attendance would decline, that the classroom and fellowship additions to their buildings would not always be

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## Letter from Bishop Finegan \_\_\_\_\_

*...continued* full of Sunday school children and adults in Bible study.

We know better now. Our current reality is not something we imagined. Plans and goals are well and good, but I think we have learned that being able to adapt to what is, rather than holding out hope for what was, is a far more realistic approach to the changes we are experiencing.

The emerging model for some of our congregations is Lay-led and Pastor- supported ministry. Effective adaptation would then include:

- Equipping lay people, not only for ministry, but for leadership. This includes education, support, and accountability.
- Encouraging attendance at Lay School. Both the East Central Wisconsin Synod and the Northwest Wisconsin Synod offer in-person and online education opportunities. In addition, Faith+Lead through Luther Seminary and our ecumenical partners. NGLS scholarship funds are available.
- Some adjustment of congregational expectations. In many of our congregations, small teams of people are being trained to bring communion to shut-ins, offer hospital visits, provide crisis care, lead Bible studies, and more. What was considered the sole realm of the pastor is being shared among the priesthood of all believers, that is, people willing to contribute in new ways.

As our three-year theme of Seed Sowers continues, we focus this year on "Apollos watered." We not only water seeds of faith in people, but we water talent for ministry, nurturing spiritual gifts that give glory to God and further the work of Christ.

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## Letter from Bishop Finegan ---

*...continued*

And as so often happens when the Spirit gets involved, we find ourselves doing something we never thought we would do, beyond our previous imaginings. From reading the lessons in worship to preaching, from having conversations of faith to leading Bible Study, from greeting someone at church to holding their hand before surgery, God is at work in you, and through you, the Spirit moves in your congregation, and through your congregation, God is present in your community and the world.

I pray God's blessings upon your efforts as Together we meet the challenges of our time and adapt to being Church for future.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

## Fortune Lake Senior Days ---

Fortune Lake has announced their 2025 Senior Day schedule. There will be a Senior Day on January 13th, March 10th, and May 12th!

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](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org).



## 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.



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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.**