

WE ARE ZION

NEWS



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

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

February 2025



Zion's 2025 Congregation Council

Laura Rowe — President	Dean Schoen — V.P.
Michelle Larson — Secretary	LeeAnn Limberg — Treasurer
Tatem Schroeder	Phil Strohl
Sarge Rudell	Mark Swenson
Kathy Heimbuch	
Adison Rosenfeldt, 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

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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 — Michelle Larson

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

Greetings in the blessed name of our Illumination,

To those of you who I have been honored to meet already, hello again. To those I eagerly await to meet, greetings in the name of Christ. As I contemplated what to write in my very first newsletter article, I thought about where I've been and where I am now, specifically the faith communities with whom I've had the privilege of worshiping.

I am but one person; however, over the years I have developed connections to various churches: First Lutheran, St Peter's, Messiah, Luz Y Vida, Azania Front Cathedral, Trinity, and most recently the blessed call to this delightful congregation we call Zion. The Spirit has brought me into others' lives and others into my life. And through these relationships, our individual and communal lives have experienced the life-giving gift of Jesus Christ.

Now reflect for a moment, on the impact and connections that each person in each of the five previously mentioned faith communities has in their respective towns. From there we spread out to the interactions that individuals and groups have beyond the city limits. And so on and so on. As the image correctly portrays, there is a ripple effect in the things that we say and do through the relationships we have with one another. And as faithful servants of God, we are called to spread the good news of Jesus' saving act and share his love with all in need.

Now I don't know about you, but I get goose bumps, in a good way, when I think about how vast and active the Holy Advocate is throughout the universe. All in order to restore creation to right relationship with the Creator and with each other. It is amazing and inspiring to think of the depth of our

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Savior's love for us and for all of earth. Jesus' gift of saving grace is a treasure beyond words that extends to the entire world and has an everlasting influence that transforms you and me as children of the Holy One.

So as we discern how to integrate this wonderful gift God has granted us with the bonds we share beyond ourselves, I am excited for the ministry and work we will be doing together in the name of our Lord and Savior. And I thank you for the opportunity to share this mission with all of you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Amanda



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".

- Feb. 2: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Coffee hour to follow worship.
- Feb. 5: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8: Menominee Valley Conference Youth Event, 163 S. Stephenson Ave. in Peshtigo, 1– 4: p.m.
- Feb. 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Feb. 11: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Council, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 12: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Pastor Amanda's Installation, 3 p.m. service with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. A dinner to follow the service.
- Feb. 18: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 20: Ruth Circle, 3 p.m.
- Feb. 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. 150th Anniversary committee to meet after service.
- Feb 23-24: Pastor Amanda at Theological Conference
- Feb. 25: Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Pastor's day off
- Feb. 26: SPARK, 5:30 p.m., Confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 28: Boy Scouts Lockdown

Mark Your Calendar's for Pastor Amanda's Installation!

We will be having a special service on Sunday, February 16th at 3 p.m., for Pastor Amanda's installation. There will be special music and we will be hosting a free dinner following the service. Dinner will consist of Chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, roast vegetables, Lasagna with meat and red sauce, Lasagna with vegetables and white sauce, Gluten free pasta bake.

Congregation Council Highlights



The Congregational Council met on January 14th, at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report: December average attendance was 88.

December Financial Reports

- General fund balance of \$164,031
- Capital Improvement Fund balance of \$88,916
- Budget: A motion was made to accept the 2025 budget

Committee Reports

- **Property and Safety Committee:** Had Johnstons in for a furnace check — everything is good except for one of the tanks looks to be deformed. Johnston's will try to get a replacement at no cost to us. Verdin will be here on January 16th for final measurements with the hopes the bell will be completed before Easter.

Old Business

- **Transition Process and Mutual Ministry Committee:** Per Pastor Amanda, the committee is not needed at this time, we can revisit at a later date if she feels it necessary.

New Business

- There is an issue with measuring Facebook live peak viewers. Troy is exploring You Tube for live streaming.
- Annual Meeting and Pastors Report: Pastor Schoen has declined writing a report for the annual meeting, Pastor Amanda will write a greeting and share last year's statistics.
- Bulletin: It is recommended that we go back to the regular, small bulletins with the order of service and announcements as the screen has been replaced.

Tabled Business

- Member Fortune Lake Scholarship Guidelines

The next council meeting will be February 11th at 6:30 p.m.

February and March Conference-Wide Youth Event



Menominee Valley Conference youth between 6th-12th grades are invited to create their own pottery on Saturday, February 8. We will meet at 163 S. Stephenson Ave. in Peshtigo (the small building next to Hunter's Choice) from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Youth will learn how to hand-build and have the chance to try throwing clay on a potter's wheel! All supplies and instructions will be provided. There is no cost to attend, but please RSVP to Stefanie at youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org.

After the pottery has set, we will have a follow up gathering on Saturday, March 15 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. to put glaze on the dried clay.

Upcoming Coffee Hour



The social ministry committee is hosting a coffee hour on February 2nd! Be sure to join us!

Coffee Hours are held directly after service but are only held if someone sponsors it. The Coffee Committee will make coffee and handle the cleanup when someone sponsors the treats. If you would like to sponsor or hold a coffee hour, call the office at 715-735-7898 to reserve a date!

Our Christian Sympathy

We are saddened by the sudden and unexpected death of Don Limberg and Debra Harding on January 17th. While we will miss Don and Debra's presence with us in worship and fellowship, we thank God for Don and for Debra's life and faith, and for the promise of eternal life God offers to them and all who live and die in Christ.



ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Forty-three voting members attended the Annual Congregational Meeting in Zion's Social Hall on January 26th. As a first order of business, the members elected the following persons to leadership positions: Kathy Heimbuch, Sarge Rudell, and Michelle Larson to 3-year terms on the Council; and Adison

Rosenfeldt to a 1-year term as youth member; Julie Williams to a 3-year term on the Personnel Committee; Don Phillips to a 3-year term on the Mission Endowment Committee; Ann Buscher, Michelle Larson, and Carole Boerner for two-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Outgoing Council members Brad Nelson, Jonah Zuehls and Sophie Limberg were thanked and commended for their service.

The members adopted an operating budget of \$246,562 for 2025. This includes \$17,340 (which includes the balance due when the project is complete and estimated costs to Drees for electrical work) for repairing our bell tower. We currently have \$10,444 in Capital Improvement to help cover the cost. This project will reach fruition due, in large part, to generous donations from Zion members. The budget also includes \$9,000 (based on quotes) to upgrade our floor in the Social Hall. We currently have \$5,635 in Capital Improvement to cover this cost.

Various committee and financial reports were presented and accepted. The meeting concluded with the installation of the newly elected Council members. Following the meeting, the Council met to elect officers for 2025. Elected were the following: President-Laura Rowe, Vice-President-Dean Schoen, Secretary-Michelle Larson. LeeAnn Limberg will continue as Treasurer.

Save the Date for 150th Anniversary of Zion

The service is set for Sunday, August 24th and will feature Bishop Finegan as our speaker. We will also have a historical presentation and display and a dinner.

The committee is currently working on choosing a themes, planning the service, things pertaining to the dinner (menu, decorations, etc.), a display in the narthex of historical photos, and a booklet of the history of Zion. We will need volunteers to help with the dinner! If anyone has any items from Sweden, booklets, or other pieces of history we could use for our presentation, that would be helpful! We also humbly ask for donations to help with the cost of the booklet, dinner, mailing, advertising, decorations, etc.

The committee's next meeting will be February 23rd, after the service.

FLLC Summer Camp Registration is Open!

It's time to start planning for Summer 2025, and Fortune Lake has a program for you and your family! Register early for the best prices and best selection. Visit Fortunelake.org for more information or registration!

WEEK	DATES	CAMP PROGRAM & AGE/GRADE COMPLETED	COST
Week 1	June 8-13	Victory Camp (Adult 18+ with disabilities)	\$645
Week 2	June 15-20	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Treehouse Adventures (Grades 7-12)	See website \$490
Week 3	June 22-27	High School Week (Grades 9-12) LIT Training Week (Grades 10-12)	\$490
Week 4	June 29-July 2	All Staff Reunion 3-night Event (with Special 1-day Event June 29!)	See website
Week 5	July 6-11	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) Venturer (Grades 7-8) LIT #1 Option (*No charge)	\$460
	July 13-15	Mighty Ones (Grades 1-2)	\$230
Week 6	July 13-16	Mini Camp (Grades 2-3) MashUp (Grades 4-8)	\$320
	July 13-18	Villager (Grades 3-4) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #2 Option (*No charge)	\$460
	July 20-25	LEGO® Camp (Grades 3-9) Jr High Night Owl (Grades 6-8) Art Camp (Grades 3-9) Dungeons & Dragons Camp (Grades 6-9)	\$460 \$490
Week 7	July 21-24	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
	July 27-Aug 1	Intergenerational Week (all ages) Vagabond (Grades 5-6) LIT #4 Option (*No charge)	See website \$460
Week 8	July 28-31	Onsite Day Camp (Grades K-5)	\$135
	July 29-Aug 1	Intergenerational Half Week (all ages)	See website
Week 9	August 4-7	Evergreen Camp (ages 55+)	See website

*LIT program requires an application process. Week #1 has a fee; subsequent weeks do not.

2025
SCHEDULE

More info at Fortunelake.org

Scholarships
Available

Everybody is welcome
at camp regardless
of ability to pay!

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!

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.

As we begin a new year these words, by an unknown author, hold real value. "As members of the body of Christ, we come to rely on the shared variety of the gifts and strengths of one another."

Isn't that true?! Almost everything Zion does requires using the gifts and strengths of others. Imagine this. You arrive at Sunday Worship Service. Pastor Amanda and Ann Buscher are there, but no volunteers; no one to read the lessons, usher, or work the AV system, no Contemporary Worship Service. There will be no coffee hours, or special celebrations. There would be no World Relief quilts, SPARK for our children, no choir, no special music, and the list could go on and on.

Each of us has been gifted by God with certain talents. Some of God's gift boxes have already been opened, discovered, and utilized while others are still waiting to be opened. You may not see the gifts you have been given but others certainly may. It is then, when you are asked, that you are given the opportunity to open that gift box God long ago prepared for you. Don't fear the unknown. Trust in him. Take that step. Remember, God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called.

As you read this newsletter, you may have already received an envelope in the mail from Zion asking you to fill out a new Time and Talents questionnaire. Please fill it out. This document will be serving multiple purposes.

- 1) To determine who has gifts we don't know about,
- 2) How your gifts could be utilized at Zion,
- 3) As a tool for Pastor Amanda on "getting to know her congregation."

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner _____

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We promise the information provided will be turned over to those who could utilize assistance now or in the future within their respective areas.

Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622), Bishop of Geneva, is credited with saying, "Bloom where you are planted." With God's help you have been planted at Zion. May you always be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make for this congregation, the community, and most especially yourself.

Dear Lord, I know you long ago called me to be your disciple. As I begin this new year, help me to overcome my own fear and step up to what you are calling me to do in your name. I want to trust you to lead and guide me, I really do. I pray that you will strengthen my faith in you even when I am fearful of where it may lead. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

In God's peace and love,
Karen Sylvester

Ruth Circle Group _____



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, February 20th, at Zion at 3 p.m. All are welcome!

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 that need sponsoring are March 2nd, 16th, 23rd, and 30th!

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

February 1: Sarah Marzahl and Johanna Zuehls

February 6: Daniel Zuehls

February 7: Randall Schroeder

February 8: Jordan Lueskow

February 9: Barbara Baumgarten

February 12: Donald Boerschinger, Bethany Emler and Presley Schroeder

February 14: Everett Schoen and Rhoslyn Schoen

February 15: Sydney Lund and Travis Lund

February 16: Pamela Lund

February 17: Shawn Limberg

February 19: Kathy Heimbuch

February 20: Colleen Madden

February 22: Anna Marzahl

February 25: Justin Williams

February 26: Joyce Johnson

February 28: Fay Bromund



March Zion News Deadline



Please note, the deadline for submitting articles, information and all tidbits to be published in the March issue of the Zion News (letter) is Friday, February 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.

February Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month February is in honor of the new council members and new committee members! May god bless them on their journey.



February Birthdays

February 1: Wendy Ihler

February 2: Randall Schroeder

February 6: Heidi Beland

February 9: Donald Boerschinger

February 10: Sue Baxter and Janet Cook

February 11: Erik Breuer

February 12: Troy Cording and LeeAnn Limberg

February 13: Emily Limberg

February 14: Bryce Buenning

February 16: Thomas Hayward

February 18: Maxwell Albert, Gerald Poquette and Fyfe Thill

February 19: Bill Tipple

February 21: Beckham Betts

February 22: Nick Kehoe and Laura Kulinski

February 26: Barbara Clarke and Rachel Rosenfeldt

February 27: Scott Gressel

February 28: Pete Cramer



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Going Where Jesus Leads



Northern Great Lakes Synod
Bishop Katherine Finegan
1029 N. 3rd St. A
Marquette, Michigan 49855
www.nglsynod.org
Equipping the Saints for Ministry



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631
www.elca.org
God's work. Our hands.