



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

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www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

April 2025



Zion's 2025 Congregation Council

Laura Rowe — President Michelle Larson — Secretary Tatem Schroeder Sarge Rudell Kathy Heimbuch

Dean Schoen — V.P. LeeAnn Limberg — Treasurer Phil Strohl Mark Swenson

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

Zion Ministry Contacts_

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 and Sharon Powilaites

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Zion Ministry Contacts_

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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 — Ann Buscher Personnel Comm. — Troy Cording Property Comm. — Mark Swenson Sanctuary Arts — Barb Grom, Karen Dill, Carol Johnson, Sally Broetzman, 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



Reflections



"What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who is against us?" ~Romans 8: 31

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this article, we are still in a flurry of executive orders and declarations that give rise to a host of emotions. While some are cheering campaign promises kept, others fear for those most impacted and question the constitutional integrity of actions and orders. My own heart feels heavy as funds have been paused for humanitarian aid. I know the work of Lutheran Social Services makes a compassionate difference in the world and frankly, US AID funds make America look good. (It was through US AID grants that the NGLS was able to help build Kisarawe Junior Theological Seminary in Tanzania.) As we consider our theme of Seed Sowers and planting seeds of faith, the seeds that are now being sown by these actions are unclear. Within that space of planting and growth is the tension between border security and a compassionate immigration system that works, between excessive spending and effective stewardship of federal resources, between legal processes and getting things done. What then shall we say to this?

There is much that I disagree with, and much that provokes concern. But my understanding of the example and call of Jesus to be his disciple brings me back to what I can do, what I should do, and what lies beyond my reach (although not beyond my grief and disquiet.)

I can call my congressional representatives to work to restore funds, and in the meantime, I can encourage congregations to gather in their Synod Assembly offering for World Hunger. I can support local and global efforts to address issues of poverty. I can participate with the efforts of our synod to make a difference with the people who are in our reach and continue to educatecontinued

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around international issues even as we pray for peaceful resolutions and just action.

And I can remember, and remind you and myself, that the God we proclaim is one who promises new life from death. The Savior we serve is one who bids us to "go and do likewise," not seeking to condemn but inviting us into a deeper understanding of how it is that the least are the greatest. God is for us and working through us to be the presence of Christ. What that means for us in these days, we figure out together. I find that the words of ELW Hymn #705 speak to me with new resonance:

> God of grace, and God of glory On your people pour your power. Crown your ancient church's story. Bring its bud to glorious flower. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways. From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to your control; Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your Kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore; Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore. 5

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Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore.

Grant us wisdom. Grant us courage.

In Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan

Mental Health Corner

A Prayer to Live With Grace

May we discover through pain and torment, the strength to live with grace and humor. May we discover through doubt and anguish, the strength to live with dignity and holiness. May we discover through suffering and fear, The strength to move toward healing. May it come to pass that we be restored to health and to vigor. May life grant us wellness of body, spirit, and mind. And if this cannot be so, may we find in this transformation and passage Moments of meaning, opportunities for love

and the deep and gracious calm that comes when we allow ourselves to move on. ~Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro

We're Streaming on YouTube!



Check us out on our new YouTube Channel, Zion Lutheran Marinette (Our profile picture is our sign)! A link to the stream will be posted

on our Facebook page! If you want, you can also subscribe to make sure you don't miss a stream!

Midweek Lenten Services & Soup Suppers at 5:30

- April 2: Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 1947 Riverside Ave., Marinette.
- April 9: Zion Lutheran Church, 2714 James St., Marinette.

upcoming events

What's Around the Corner?_____

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

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April 2:	Lenten Service and Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m., Pioneer Presbyterian Church, 1947 Riverside Ave., Marinette.; Choir rehearsals, 7 p.m.
April 4:	Blood Drive, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stewardship and Generosity meeting, 10 a.m.
April 6:	Fifth Sunday in Lent, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Zion's choir.
April 8:	Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.; Church council, 6:30 p.m.
April 9:	Lenten Service and Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.; Choir rehearsals, 7 p.m.
April 13:	Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Reading of the Passion. Contemporary service.
April 17:	Ruth Circle Group, 3 p.m. Maundy Thursday, 6:30 p.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube.
April 18:	Good Friday Community Service, noon to 3 p.m. at Community Covenant Church, Menominee.
April 20:	Easter Sunday, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. Special music by Zion's choir.
April 22:	Sew for Missions, 9 a.m.
April 27:	Second Sunday of Easter, 9:30 a.m. worship with Holy Communion and via YouTube. With guest pastor Rev. Rick DeBenedetto.

Congregation Council Highlights_



The Congregational Council met on COUNCIL March 11, at 6:30 p.m.

UPDATES Pastor's Report: February average attendance was 67. Confirmation classes are paused during the Lenten Season. Discussion of a chancel ramp were

had with Mark Swenson saying he will look into a portable aluminum ramp for the baptismal font for portability and accessibility.

February Financial Reports

- General Fund: balance decrease of \$2,261. Disbursements of \$1,500 for installation dinner (from Call Fund) \$4,768 for A/V (covered by A/V money in Capital Improvement Fund. Current General Fund Balance is \$166,624.
- **Capital Improvement Fund:** Additions of \$2,000 for A/V, \$55 for the boiler, and \$185 unrestricted. Overall balance decrease of \$1,808. Balance of \$80,049
- Boiler Loan: Balance \$20,191

Committee Reports

- Anniversary Committee: Postcards are going to be printed with "Save the Date" information.
- **Property and Safety Committee:** Mark Swenson stated that we are waiting for Johnstons to come check the hot water booster in the kitchen.
- Mission Endowment: Stephanie Ehle will give temple talk on March 23 on how monies received from Mission Endowment were used for youth ministry.

Old Business

 Bell Project: Mark Swenson received an email from Verden Bell Company on the bell project progress. The email stated that the project is about 45% complete as of March 4, 2025, the production of parts is anticipated to be complete at the end of April beginning of May with completion of the project anticipated to be early June.

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Congregation Council Highlights_

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• Scholarship Guidelines: A motion was made to accept the guidelines as proposed for non-member youth.

New Business

- YouTube Reporting: We will use the following criteria for gathering the number of viewers: 1. Subscribers; 2. Returning Viewers; 3. Average viewers during live; 4. Views since published (collected 1 week after service).
- **Request for use of outdoor space:** Stephanie Ehle has asked to use the outdoor space at Zion June 1, 2025, for a youth gathering.
- **Cancellation of worship**: Pastor Amanda, the Council President, and Mark Swenson will determine if worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather. If cancelled, information will then be put on Facebook page, an email will be sent and the phone answering message will be changed.
- Synod Assembly delegates: At the time of the meeting, to voting members needed for Synod Assembly in May, Nominating Committee will be contacted.

Tabled Business

Social Hall Floor

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Amanda on Vacation!_____

Pastor Amanda will be taking time off Apr 21-May 6. Please contact Rev Linda Forray at 906-374-0159 for pastoral emergencies.

Grant Application from Zion's Mission Endowment Fund

The application and Endowment Fund Brochure are available on the table in the front hall and on Zion's <u>website</u>. Please take one and share it with another one of your favorite organizations. Applications need to be received at Zion by June 1.

Good Friday Community Worship

Friends in Christ,

On behalf of Community Covenant Church, I welcome you to this special Good Friday Community Service. It is our honor to host this year. Thank you to the area clergy who will deliver the messages today as readers and preachers, and to the choirs, soloists, and musicians who bring God's word to us in song. Special thanks to Laurie Buyarski for serving as organist and to our Community Covenant volunteers for covering other duties as assigned.

The theme is **The Cross and the Cries of Our Neighbors' Needs.** Worshipers may attend any or all of the segments. There will be a brief interlude between segments. An elevator is available for those needing mobility assistance. Worshipers may enter through the parking lot doors and exit through either the parking lot doors or the doors facing the street. Free will offerings may be placed in the offering plates. They will be used to support the Abundant Life Homeless Shelter in Menominee.

One new element to our service this year is the stripping of the altar. The stripping of the altar symbolizes the stripping away of all comforts and earthly supports for Jesus as he prepares for his day of crucifixion. This will take place slowly throughout the day, culminating in our singing, "Were You There?" at the end of the three hours. When our time together is finished, the front of the church will be transformed from being a place of holy worship amid beauty, to what now appears quite like a tomb. In that transformation, we see a great truth: the joy we typically experience in our worship came at the cost of the death of the One we worship. After our song is finished, we will observe a moment of silence. You'll then hear three bell tolls symbolizing the three days Jesus was in the tomb and breaking the silence. Following the bells, you are dismissed.

Rev. Linnea K. Ek Community Covenant Church



Good Friday Community Worship Sponsored by the Twin County Ministerial Association April 18th, 2025, Noon to 3:00 Community Covenant Church 1123 13th St., Menominee, Michigan

12:00-12:30 p.m. <u>The Cry of Despair: The Cross Means Hope</u> Preacher: Pr. Amanda Kossow, Zion Lutheran Church, Marinette.

12:30-1:00 p.m. <u>The Cry of Fear; The Cross Means Security–</u> During a time of Grieving

Preacher: Rev. Nick Johannes, Good Shepherd, Peshtigo retired ELCA pastor

1:00-1:30 p.m. The Cry of Death: The Cross Means New Life

Preacher: Pastor Keith Schroeder First Presbyterian Church - Menominee/Pioneer Presbyterian Church-Marinette

1:30-2:00 p.m. <u>The Cry of Estrangement: The Cross Means Rec-</u> onciliation

Preacher: Rev. Gordon Grigg III First United Methodist Church -Menominee, and Stephenson United Methodist Church

2:00-2:30 p.m. The Cry of Loss: The Cross As Fulfillment

Preacher: Fr. Glenn Kanestrom, St. Paul's Episcopal Church , Marinette

2:30-3:00 p.m. <u>The Cry of Desolation & Impasse: The Cross as</u> <u>Dark Night</u>

Preacher: Pr. Lee Goodwin

Stripping of the Altar

The public may attend any or all of the half-hour segments. There will be a brief interlude between segments. Free will offerings at the door will be used to support Abundant Life Homeless Shelter

World Hunger Drive

Cast out your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will get it back. Divide your means seven ways, or even eight, for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth. -Ecclesiastes 11:1-2



Here at Zion we will be "casting our bread" during the season of Lent to raise money once again for ELCA World Hunger. The money we collect will be presented at the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly in May. Here's all you need to do: Give what you can, as often as you'd like. Use any envelope. Be sure to include your name so we can record the gift on your statement. Drop it in the offering plate any Sunday until May 4th.

You'll be able to watch how much we raise by the display in the back of the Sanctuary. Look for the "river" across the windows of the Cry Room. For every \$10 donated to ELCA World Hunger during this time, we'll "cast a loaf of bread" upon that river. <u>So</u> far, we have raised over \$6,000! Thank you so much for Going Where Jesus Leads.

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! Visit <u>Fortunelake.org</u> for more information or registration!



The Stewardship and Generosity Corner____

<u>The Seven</u> <u>Marks of</u> Discipleship ^G Pray	The goal of Zion's Stewardship and Generosity Com- mittee is to help God's people grow in their relation- ship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.
₽ Worship	This month's article will focus on Pray, one of the
₽Study	Seven Marks of Discipleship. Here is Zion's Vision
₽ Invite	Statement for Pray. "We envision a congregation that prays regularly and embraces prayer as being
∄ Encourage	central to all that it does and habitually listens for
₽Give	God's call and guidance not only in all areas of
† Serve	congregational ministry, but in our personal lives as well. "

At one point in time our congregation started intercessory prayer at worship by taking a deep breath to quiet ourselves and focus. I liked that practice and have continued to use it when praying. It helps me to concentrate on what I want to pray for and to whom I want to pray. That might be a very strange thing to say – "and to whom I want to pray," but for me the Triune God and my understanding of it, evolved after reading <u>"The Shack."</u> The book, while a work of fiction, helped me to come to terms with the "three persons in one."

Do you like me find yourself praying to one or the other being of the Triune God; the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit depending on the focus of your prayer? I pray to God the Father when I'm thanking him for the creation that surrounds me and all that God has made and gifted me. I pray to Jesus Christ when I want help with my daily life. Who better to pray to than the person who lived as a human being just as I have, and I pray to the Holy Spirit when I need inspiration and guidance to do what Jesus Christ puts on my heart to do. I may have already told you, but I pray to the Holy Spirit every month to guide and enlighten me when writing this article.

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner_

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My absolute favorite place to pray is while I walk out in nature. There is so much to be thankful for. Right now, it's the trees budding, birds singing, sun shining, warmer weather, and the list could go on and on. I also pray throughout the day over a variety of things that come to mind. As Christians we can pray anywhere and at any time, and thankfully our prayer will be heard. The plug on our phone line to Heaven doesn't get unplugged at 11pm or even midnight. What a comfort that is when we struggle with our lives. We can always turn to prayer.

I found a great acronym for PRAY. Some of you may already know it, but it is new to me, and I want to share it.

<u>Praise:</u> Prayer should begin with genuine praise towards God. Prayers of praise involve thanking God for who God is, and what God has done for us. As we spend time praising God, we should reflect on the Holy One's character and the good gifts the Spirit has given us.

<u>Repent:</u> Repentance is the act of turning away from sin and turning towards God. It is changing our way of thinking. As humans we have a sinful, fallen nature. We can't seem to help ourselves, and because of that we should continually have an attitude of repentance.

<u>Ask:</u> God wants us to humbly and persistently ask for what we need and want, not only for ourselves but also for others. Asking means we admit we can't do these things on our own. We need God's help and guidance.

<u>Yield</u>: Yield means to sit quietly before God and listen. As we listen to what God tells us; we should resolve to be obedient to whatever next step God may be calling us to take.

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner_

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I want to take a moment to tell you about two initiatives our committee is beginning. Starting April 6th, multi-colored strips of paper will be in the pews at worship. You are invited to write your prayers on one and place it in the basket as you exit the sanctuary. Those prayer requests will create a chain which will be hung from the lobby ceiling. As we walk under the chain, we ask that you pray for the requests already made. Each week new prayer requests will be added when received.

I personally know how important it is that someone in their hour of need is praying for you. It is very uplifting. It creates courage and hope when it is desperately needed. Over the years I've heard congregation members say, "I wish I could help, but I'm just too old, or I'm not physically able to help, but I wish I could." Here is an opportunity for you to be involved in a very special group called "Prayer Partners." This group will be a vital link to the congregation as they pray for others who have requested prayer. The details of this group are still in development, but if you are being called by God to participate, please contact Marissa at Zion's office and let her know you'd like more information about Prayer Partners. Someone will call you back as soon as possible.

In God's grace and love, Karen Sylvester

Ruth Circle Group_



The Ruth Group will meet Thursday, April 17th, at Zion at 3 p.m. for bible study. All are welcome!



April Eternal Light_____

The Eternal Light for the month April is sponsored by Carole Boerner and is in loving memory of Bill Boerner.

April Collection

Zion is Called to Go Where Jesus Leads and our Social Ministry Committee is committed to showing our congregation ways to live out that calling in our community. During the month of April, we will be collecting items for Dorothy's Haven of Hope Homeless Shelter.



Immediate Needs:

- Laundry Pods
- Dryer Sheets
- Dish Soap
- Disinfecting All-purpose Cleaner
- Toilet Cleaner
- Glass Cleaner
- Bleach
- Spray Furniture Polish
- Garbage Bags
- Aluminum Foil
- Paper Towels
- Zip Top Bags, Gallon & Quart sizes (regular & freezer)
- Washcloths
- Shower Gel or Bar Soap
- Deodorant
- Razors and Shaving Cream
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Pillows
- Taxi, Inc Ride Coupons
- Non-perishable Foods / Coffee / Tea / Hot Chocolate

You are also invited to view their website to learn more about the shelter: <u>dorothyshoh.com/about/</u>. Or find them on Facebook where they often post emergency needs and list needed fresh food items for special meals for residents such as Easter.

April Birthdays

- April 1: Cheryl Maxwell
- April 2: Don Phillips, Sue Poquette and Jacob Swenson
- April 3: Carol Johnson
- April 9: Elsa Limberg
- April 10: Sandra Gressel
- April 11: Judith Limberg
- April 12: Steve Bromund
- April 13: Allie Buenning
- April 15: Matthew Hellerman
- April 17: Theresa Kloida and Hannah Oleson
- April 19: Jakob Callaway-Ross
- April 20: Easton Buenning and Tyler Lund
- April 21: Michelle Larson, Ruth Olson and Justin Williams
- April 22: David Johnson, Diane Lynch, Katelyn Sylvester and Richelle Vincent
- April 23: Clark Kehoe
- April 24: Shirley Enderby and Calista Thill
- April 25: Roger DeGroot
- April 27: Sophie Limberg, Kimberly Swenson and Sandra Tessmer
- April 28: Adam Thill
- April 29: Lori Despins, Bonnie Schoen and Judy Stehle



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

April 1: Janet Cook, George Ihler and Gerald Sylvester

- April 2: Julie Williams
- April 4: Drake Schutt
- April 6: Duane Clarke
- April 9: John Bowdin
- April 11: Eric Powers
- April 13: Eric Breuer and Jacqueline Hamer
- April 15: Susan Goldsmith
- April 17: Matthew Hellerman, Alexis Rosenfeldt, and Winnie Wortner
- April 20: Gerald Poquette and Sue Poquette
- April 21: Kurt Oleson
- April 22: Denise Despins
- April 24: Brycen Buenning
- April 25: Judith Limberg
- April 30: Troy Cording



Funny Corner!



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Zion Newsletter Deadline



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

Designate Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

Do you have Thrivent Choice Dollars? Did you know that *you need to designate them each year* or they will not get used? Last year over \$60,000 of Thrivent Choice Dollars went undesignated in our area! That is a lot of money that could benefit a nonprofit of your choice. You have the power to recommend where Thrivent Financial gives back.

Two great designation options are Zion Lutheran Church and Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp. There are two easy ways to designate your dollars.

<u>Online</u>

- 1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
- 2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click "Get Started Now."
- 3. Log in with your user ID and password.
- 4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
- 5. Choose the organization(s) you wish to donate your dollars to.
- 6. Enter the number of dollars you wish to designate and click "Direct Now".
- Follow the confirmation prompts and you're done
 <u>By Telephone</u>
- 1. Call **800-847-4836** and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
- 2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
- 3. A <u>live representative</u> will work with you to direct your Choice Dollars!

Zion Lutheran Church Rev. Amanda Kossow 2714 James Street Marinette, WI 54143 zion@newbc.rr.com Phone: 715.735.7898 www.zionlutheran-marinette.org Going Where Jesus Leads



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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Bishop Elizabeth Eaton 8765 W Higgins Road Chicago, Illinois 60631 <u>www.elca.org</u> God's work. Our hands. 20