

In his commentaries, Martin Luther wrote about his sense of vocation, a word that stems from the root word that means “calling.” Luther believed that all of us are called by God to care for our neighbor and world, and anything that we do toward that end, is holy work.



Few people doubt that ministry is a calling. In our Lutheran tradition, seminarians go through years of education and a separate candidacy path in order to discern and affirm their calls. It is a rigorous process, and for those going into ministry of word and sacrament, it typically leads to a congregational call and ordination. Such is the path I have followed, one that began with God’s call in 2012 and resulted in a call to Zion in early 2017.

As the pastor of Zion, I have been able to work in an occupation where faith and work blend seamlessly. It has been a simple matter to make the direct connection between what I do and what I believe. In recent weeks, though, I’ve been struggling with my call to Zion because of an evolving personal situation requiring my attention. Intellectually, I understand that I am freed by justification to serve my neighbor, but it has not been a simple matter to discern “who” to serve and “where” to serve in the coming months. I have relied on God to provide needed direction.

On March 1st, my call to Zion will end, and a copy of my resignation letter follows. Though my choice may appear to be something less than a holy calling, I ask for your acceptance of this decision and for your understanding that holy work can take many forms. Yours in Christ, Pr. Terry

Pr. Terry's Resignation Letter

January 25, 2019

Dear Members of Zion Lutheran Church,

It is with great sadness today that I announce my upcoming resignation as Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church. This resignation will take effect on March 1, 2019.

In the weeks since I requested a leave of absence, and especially since beginning my leave on January 1st, I have been struggling with the question: Am I called to continue on as Zion's pastor? In my search for clarity, I have spent a good deal of time in prayer, spoken with my spiritual director, talked with Bishop Katherine Finegan, and had conversations with my husband. I believe that through prayer and through these conversations, I have discerned God's new call for me at this point in life: to care for my youngest brother in his time of need. As a loving sister, I cannot *not* answer this call. Every person lives with limits to their time and energy, and I have come to understand that I cannot be both pastor of a thriving congregation and a care-giving sister. For this, I am sad. But God has given me the grace of understanding that if I tried to be both pastor and caregiver, I would do neither of them justice.

I will be continuing on my current sixty-day leave of absence, but please know that I will be present at Zion on a number of occasions, including the Annual Meeting on February 10th and leading worship on February 16th/17th.

I have been truly blessed to serve as your pastor the last two years, and I am grateful to God for our ministry together. Saying goodbye in the weeks ahead will be difficult, and I ask for your prayers and understanding.

In Christ, Pr. Terry

Amended Constitution

Each of the expressions of our ELCA Lutheran Church – local congregations, synods, and churchwide – has a constitution. Constitutions are typically updated and amended after churchwide assemblies. The last churchwide assembly was held in 2016.

In 2018, we used the ***Guide for Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations*** as a reference for reviewing Zion's constitution. Those working on updating our document included Clyde Johnson, Linda Levin, Linda Mason, Larry Peterson, and Pr. Terry. We submitted a revised version to the Northern Great Lakes Synod Constitution Committee in October and received word in December that we were close to receiving approval. After making a number of additional adjustments, we received Synod approval for our amended constitution in January!

At our Annual Meeting on February 10th, the congregation will vote on Zion's amended constitution. Copies of the document will be available at this meeting. Should there be any questions beforehand, please contact Linda Levin.



Thank you to John Barry, Jim Russey, Kay MacGregor, Mike Columbus for taking down the Christmas tree and organizing so it will be easier to put up next year. Thanks go to Mary Ansell and Carla Flodin for taking down the rest of the decorations and getting them put away. This is always a big job, and we have wonderful people who are willing to get it done!

We received several "Thank You" notes from the Christmas Giving Program. They will be posted on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall. Please take a moment to read them.

Dear Zion Lutheran Church,
What a gift you've given! Thank you for your recent gift of \$870.00 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

Your Good Gift is a very good gift, indeed. With resources like seedlings and seminary courses, vaccinations and vegetable gardens, Bibles and blankets, you're equipping God's people around the world and around the corner—with what they need to live abundant lives.

Thank you for your support of the vital ministries that we do together—and for your very good gift.

In God's abundant grace,
Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission Advancement

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$156.75 to the Salvation Army. As you read this, your donation is working to help members of our community with food, shelter, and clothing. But your generosity also offers something more—hope. Your kindness and compassion help light the way for people in the midst of crisis and despair.

These are tough times for many of our neighbors. Families are often faced with hard choices or devastating news. Your support show them that a crisis doesn't have to lead to hopelessness. You are so vital to all that we do. Our programs and services wouldn't exist without friends like you who make the needs of others a priority in your life.

Thank you, and God bless you for your kindness.

Sincerely,

Major Ralph Hansen

Corps Officer



Sunday February 10th is **Boy Scout Sunday**. Scouts from Troop 400 will be at Zion for worship, they will be our greeters and Pr. Levin will give a brief history of the connection between Zion and the Scouts.



Darren Hicks' Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held at Zion on Saturday February 2nd at 2:00pm. Please plan to join Darren and his family for this important occasion!

*Gifts to our congregation have been given
in memory of*

Virginia Russey

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Cushions

Helen Hill

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Cushions

Join us for Bible Study and Conversation

The Wednesday morning Lectionary conversation continues at 10:30am.



The Monday night group will be meeting at 6:30, every 2nd and 4th Mondays. Members are studying the Book of Revelation.

If you have questions about either of these opportunities, please call the church office or see Pr. Ellie.

NOISY OFFERING

January 2019	\$133.76 Backpack Buddies
December 2018	\$156.75—Salvation Army



Zion's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 10th following worship and a Potluck meal. Annual reports may be picked up (one per family) after worship the weekend of February 2-3 for your review. Please bring your copy back, along with a dish to share and your table setting, and join us for the Annual Meeting.

Circle News

The **Sarah Circle** will meet Monday, February 4th, in the conference room at 1:00pm.

The **Joy Circle** will meet on Thursday, February 14th, in Augustana Hall.

The **Priscilla Circle** will be going to lunch at Big Boy on Tuesday, February 19th at 12:15pm, weather permitting.

The **Ruth Circle** will be meeting on Wednesday, February 20th at 11:30am at Big Boy weather permitting .

The **Hope Circle** will meet on Thursday, February 21st at 6:00pm.



There are **several opportunities** to help with Flowers for the Altar, Bulletin, Bread, & Wine, Coffee-Fellowship Hours and greeters. Please check the sign-up sheets posted in Augustana Hall.

Congregation Council Highlights – January

+The Finance and Stewardship Committee presented a proposed budget in the amount of \$158,442. It was approved and will be submitted to the congregation at its Annual Meeting.

+The work in Augustana Hall is continuing. The work in the old nursery room will be done in January. Painting will also be done in the counters' room.

+The Nordic Historic Spaces Committee has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$10,500.

+Zion's Constitution Committee has worked on updating our congregation's constitution. The Northern Great Lakes Synod Constitution Committee approved the revisions. The Council adopted the Constitution and will present it to the congregation for approval at its Annual Meeting.

+Check out Zion's new website! It was recently revamped and updated. If anyone is interested in taking pictures or writing stories about events going on at Zion, please talk to Pastor or Linda Levin.

+Zion's Annual Meeting will be held on February 10, 2019.

+The resignation of Julie Malloy from the Congregation Council was accepted with thanks for her service.

+The Council agreed to charter Scouting BSA Troop #401, an all-girl troop.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

February 3 —Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30

February 10—Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13], Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

February 17—Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

February 24—Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Looking for a good Devotional Resource? Check out our synod website and "Prayfaithfully Resource". People from our synod write weekly devotionals. Go to www.nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully to explore this resource. Make daily devotions a part of your routine. You'll be blessed by this inspiring discipline. Maybe God is inspiring you to write for this synod devotional resource. If interested, contact Betsy Koski in the Synod Office, 906-228-2300 or bakoski@nglsynod.org.

Confirmands: Mark Your Calendars!!

The 2019 Marked! Event for our Confirmation class will be Sunday, March 17, 2019, hosted by Our Redeemer, Newberry from 4:00-7:00pm. The Marked! event includes music, service projects, worship, learning, food and fun. Confirmands will participate by:

Collecting financial donations for Lutheran Disaster Response. We will join a friendly competition to see which church can raise the most financial donations (prorated by average worship attendance).

Collect items for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We will bring donated items to our MARKED! Event and assemble the kits together.

Each kit needs:

- **1 light-weight bath-size towel** (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- **2 or 3 Bath-size bars of soap** equaling 8 to 9 oz., **any brand**, in original wrapper (please, **NO mini soap bars from hotels**)
- **1 Adult-size toothbrush** in its original packaging
- **1 Sturdy comb**
- **1 Metal nail clippers** (attached file optional)

The March Marked! Event takes place during regular confirmation class time, and two drivers/chaperones will be needed.

Mission Interpreters from the Northern Great Lakes

Synod

Pastor Jim Duehring is looking for people who are interested in being a Mission Interpreter!

What do Mission Interpreters Do?

Mission interpreters, volunteers from congregations in each synod of the ELCA, tell the story of how our offerings and the gifts are transformed into effective ministries. They remind us of how we make a difference in Christ's mission and the work of the church, and they thank our people for their faithful giving.

Can You Be a Mission Interpreter?

Yes!

Is Training Offered?

Yes! There are two training opportunities for people interested in learning more information about being a "Mission Interpreter."

Saturday, February 16, 2019

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. ET

at Zion, Manistique

Saturday, March 2, 2019

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT, at Bethany, Norway

For more information about the Mission Interpreter Training, contact Pastor Jim Duehring at jduehring@nglsynod.org or call the Synod Office at 906/228-2300.

Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly 2019

Bethany Lutheran Church and Bay College Escanaba, MI

Thursday, May 16—Saturday, May 18, 2019.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp News:

Zion has received information regarding summer camp. You will find it posted on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall. You can also check out their website at www.fortunelake.org. Fortune Lake is also looking for Summer Staff. Application materials are also available on line. Young adults looking for a summer job should consider applying to join the staff for the BEST SUMMER JOB EVER!! For additional information please call (906) 214-2267 or email Mary Ryan, the office manager at officemanager@fortunelake.org.

**Serving Zion with Altar Flowers,
Bulletin, Bread & Wine, & Fellowship**

	Altar Flowers	Bulletin, Bread & Wine	Fellowship Hour
Feb 3	Naomi Fletcher	Carole Johnson	Art Restoration Committee
Feb 10	****open****	Carole Johnson	Annual Meeting Potluck
Feb 17	Wayne & Brenda Fleck	Carole Johnson	****open****
Feb 24	****open****	Carole Johnson	Priscilla Circle