



How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing; you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. -Isaiah 52:7-10

How do my feet look? I hear from this scripture that the feet of those who bring the good news are supposed to be beautiful. Well, I can't say much for my feet. But I do promise to bring the Good News to you every week as your Pastor. (The picture above is of my feet in my questionably beautiful barefoot shoes among the mountains of Holden Village in 2012.)

It was good indeed to finally be installed this last Saturday as we gathered socially distanced in our cars for parking lot worship. We had 45 people attend including several pastors and church leaders from elsewhere in the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA. We heard the same scriptures that were read at my Ordination service back in May of 2016. And Pastor Jim Duehring, assistant to the bishop was the one with beautiful feet bringing the Good News and officiating for the service. I have many people to thank, including the call committee, church council, and everyone who contributed in ways great and small to bringing me here to the U.P. to become your pastor. I particularly want to thank everyone that helped set up before the event, those who participated in the service, and who pitched in to make tearing things down fast and easy. One of the things that drew me to this call is how welcoming and full of life you all are, and the strength of the lay leadership in this congregation. So thank you all for welcoming me into your

midst, it is good to be here as your Pastor, and to hear again the affirmations of that calling.

So thank you as well for trusting me as your leader, and for your willingness to be creative with me during this time of pandemic. I know that Zoom Church and Parking lot worships are both small consolations in a world where we cannot admire each other's feet in person. When O Lord, will we see the restoration of worship to Zion's Church building? Let me be the first to say, I miss our normal worshipping times too. I grew up where the church building was my second home, and gathering in worship, singing with the organ and leading the communion liturgy are rituals close and dear to my heart that I ache for when they are far away. But time and again, I must come face to face with the painful truth that things have gotten worse sense this pandemic started and not better. Not only that, but things may continue to get even worse before they do start to turn around. We at Zion will continue to do our best to honor the safety and wellbeing of the least among us, and for now that means we cannot meet in person. Just last week the Governor Whitmer rolled back gathering sizes back to 10 people or less. And due to an influx in vacationers, cases in the UP are on the rise. So it is, that we will continue to meet only digitally or in our cars.

It remains the case that we are all safer at home than we are together. And so we will continue prayerfully forward, trusting that God is still at work in us and along side us. Trusting that God's faithfulness is strong and enduring, and will get us through this time of distance and anxiety. And how much more beautiful our feet will be when we can finally proclaim that Good News again in person! Grace, and peace be with you and your household.

-Pastor Tommy Richter

Roofing Project Contributors July 2020

Lila Panek
Liz Macklem
Frank & Shirley Leitgeb
James & Ellie Russey
Ruth Jones
Bill & Donna Mott
Sheila Clark
Joanne Nelson

Last month when I included in the *Beacon names of those who purchased Geraniums*, I missed Marlene Peterson who ordered Geraniums in memory of her husband Byron and son Kirk.



Come and join us for Worship!!

Saturdays at 5:00pm in the church parking lot. Worship is broadcast through your radio. Tune your radio to 101.0 FM. Sunday mornings worship is on a ZOOM meeting. You can connect by going to the church's Facebook page.



The Evangelism and Membership Committee will be having a meeting on August 11, 2020, 11:00am, at the Pavilion by the city campground. This meeting will be to set a date for highway clean up. Everyone is invited.

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Robert Panek

Bruce & Rita Rossier—Memorial
Arleen Turan—Memorial
Doug & Heidi Troyer—Memorial
Karen & Mike LaFoille—Memorial
Arliss & Arvid Larson—Memorial
Carol Clohes—Memorial
Russ & Jodie Johnsn—Memorial
Bonnie & Ken Groh—Memorial
Jackie & Phil Villemure—Memorial
Ann Troyer—Memorial
Onalee Panek—Memorial
Kaye & Mike Jarski—Memorial
Mary & James Ansell—Nordic Fund
Donna Barber
Anna Sjogren—BackPack Buddies

Upcoming Scripture Readings

August 2—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5,
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9—Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

August 16—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32,
Matthew [10-20] 21-28

August 23—Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

August 30—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21,
Matthew 16:21-28



Pastor Tommy, Linda & Kay,

It was wonderful to be "back in church"! Thank you for making this possible. All of us look forward to the next time.

Karin & Tom

News from the Northern Great Lakes Synod

The fall **Walking Together Events** will be Online!!

Because of the uncertainty in a Covid future, we will be gathering as conferences through ZOOM instead of in person.

A ZOOM link will be sent via email to every pastoral leader and interim who will then forward it to their own congregation's email list.

Please take note of the password that will come with the link. You will be asked to enter it in order to join the meeting.

The programming portion of the meeting will be about 90 minutes. It will include:

Dwelling in the Word – 15 minutes

What is the "Year of Discovery?" – 30 minutes
including small groups.

A presentation on the new Lifelong Faith Formation initiative.

Group participation in upcoming Synod-wide worship for Reformation Sunday.

State of the Synod update

Delta conference date and times are Thursday Oct. 8, 6-8pm.

Lifelong Faith Formation

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is launching a new series of classes for those who want to grow in spirituality, faith, and knowledge. "**Lifelong Faith Formation**" evolved from our Synod's Lay School for Mission. Classes will meet weekly for 60-90 minutes for four to eight weeks. A complete schedule of classes, times, and dates will be available on the synod website www.nglsynod.org by August 1 as well as registration.

Classes offered this fall, so far, are:

- **Ecclesiastes Bible Study** with Pastor Tommy Richter
Zion, Manistique
- **Introduction to Biblical Greek** with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Salem & Zion, Ironwood.
- **Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America** with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield & Beaver American, Pound

Classes are **free** but may require the purchase of textbook or other materials. Students will receive ZOOM links from their instructor.

This letter was written July 31st after the Governor's announcement.

Dear people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

Grace and peace to you in these glorious summer days! I hope you are finding renewal and refreshment and making time to get outside.

In the last 24 hours, three significant announcements have come from Governor Whitmer of Michigan, Governor Evers of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Today, I will try to offer some clarity as to what these announcements mean for inside in-person worship in our Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations, both in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Firstly, Governor Whitmer's Executive order is linked [here](#).

At first view, the "only 10 people or less" for inside gatherings is the most striking highlight. However, a closer read shows that Region 8, the Upper Peninsula, is not included in this order. Under Section 8c on page 6 of the document, gatherings are allowed inside for up to 25% capacity, with face masks and social distancing. However, if the numbers of Covid-19 cases are rising in your county, I recommend NO inside in-person worship until reported cases are flat or declining for at least two weeks, preferably three.

Secondly, Governor Evers' Executive order is linked [here](#).

With cases spiking in Wisconsin, Governor Evers is doing what he can to keep people safe. What has become routine in Michigan may feel burdensome in Wisconsin.

Please remember that masks and social distancing have been shown to reduce the spread of the virus. This is all about keeping your neighbor safe. While some may see it as a political issue, for us as Lutheran Christians, it is, at its core, about love of neighbor and protecting the most vulnerable among us. Again, if cases are spiking in your county, I recommend a pull back from inside in-person worship until cases are flat or declining for at least two weeks. Inside in-person worship can then resume, but only with face masks and social distancing.

Thirdly, the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) issued an updated [Returning to Worship Recommendations](#).

I have appreciated WCC and their dissemination of solid, science based advice. In this document, the WCC advocates for a complete pull back from in-person worship in all Wisconsin congregations until September when plans for in-person worship can be evaluated and considered. There are several reasons for this - the spiking cases and the exhaustion and decision-fatigue of pastors and leaders being two of those reasons. Again, if your county is experiencing an abundance of cases, do not meet for inside in-person worship. But if cases in your county are flat or declining for at least two weeks, then a plan for in-person worship and a timeline can be considered. If you are unsure, please err on the side of caution. The challenge, of course, is that things can change very rapidly. Councils and pastors would do well to have a plan for communicating last minute adjustments.

Other things that both Michigan and Wisconsin congregations can glean from this WCC Updated Recommendations is to be thinking ahead to Advent and Christmas. Prepare yourselves now, emotionally as well as practically, that our traditional observances and celebrations will have to look and feel differently. We continue to find new ways of doing things: staying connected, prayer and worship habits, devotional resources, Bible study and conversation, crafts and fellowship, Sunday school and youth group.

Understandably, we are sad not to be able to do what we enjoy so much. We can feel bereaved, disconnected, and our spirits heavy with loss. Our grief over not being able to gather, worship, fellowship, and observe our high holy days and traditions in the way we want is real.

But so is the virus. This is our [Wilderness time](#). We are being forged into a new people of faith even as God is close. The Spirit of Christ is with you and will not leave you to walk in the wilderness alone.

Together, we will do our best to meet the challenges ahead.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod



Sherri Krause, past president GFWC Manistique Women's Club presents Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion Lutheran Church with a check for \$1490 for the Back Pack Buddies program. Back in March, pre-covid, the Women's Club had planned a Mystery Dinner Theatre and had sold out of tickets to benefit the Back Pack Buddies Program. Well due to

the virus, the show was cancelled and people were offered the return of their money. Most chose to donate their money to the Back Pack Buddies program anyway and as a result we were able to present them with a check for \$1490. The confirmation class a few years ago took on the Back Pack Buddies program to help feed the needy Emerald Elementary children on the weekends. Now, during the covid-19 virus the food has been going out to any child who needs it. Distribution times are printed in the Pioneer Tribune. We wish to thank those who donated dollars and food items, those who donate their time and those who created the program.

Precision-crafted by the Master

All around us, miracles happen and God empowers life, thanks to exacting conditions. We know of caterpillars and butterflies, but did you know about these details shared by Gayle Boss in *Wild Hope* (Paraclete)?

"For about a month each female [monarch butterfly] plants four hundred or so eggs. ... Ninety-nine in a hundred ... perish. But on the third day, from the one remaining, a caterpillar the size of a rice grain breaks.

"She devours the egg casing, then the milkweed leaves beneath her feet. In those leaves is a steroid that makes her body brightly striped — and toxic to her predators. Ravenous, she eats milkweed unceasingly for twelve days, bulging her skin to splitting. Five skins later, two thousand times her birthweight, she stops. ...

"Crawling to a suitable twig or ledge, she hangs head down, shaping herself into a question mark. One last time her skin falls away. This new one is not a soft, stripy, caterpillar skin but a polished, jade-green shell studded with a gold tiara.

"Because she is enclosed and still, changes that had already begun within her wormlike body erupt outward. Wings! Long, delicate legs! After twelve days in the chrysalis she is a new creature." Praise God!

Learning — and laughing — on the fly

Faced with the sudden move to livestreamed church services, many pastors and worship leaders had to learn new technology quickly during the pandemic. As they were "winging it," bloopers and bobbles added levity to the tense time.

For instance, a fake tree fell on a drummer while a worship song was being broadcast from Georgia. After getting too close to a candle, a vicar in England had to pause to extinguish flames from his sweater. And several preachers appeared on screen with cartoon-like features after inadvertently turning on social media filters.

“This wasn’t planned,” wrote the pastor about the falling ficus, which didn’t cause injury but quickly went viral. “But God used it to bring laughter to the hearts of many. For that, we are thankful.”

CONTACT US:

Zion Lutheran Church
435 Oak Street
Manistique, MI 49854
906-341-5427

www.zionlutheran-manistique.org or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor

Office: 906-341-5427

Secretary: Shirley Leitgeb

shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Sunday School Coordinator: Sheila Clark

Custodian: Pat Toennesen

Congregation Council:

Rick Pink, President

Cathy Knudson, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Marie Bellville, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

John Barry

Jo-Nell Berger

Naomi Fletcher

Linda Levin

Kathy McDonough

Donna Mott

Teddy Nelson

Cindy Olli

Jim Russey



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America