



The church office will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00am-12:00pm starting November 30, 2020 until further notice. All other days, if you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care, please contact Pastor Richter at 286-4383.

New Offering Envelopes will be available for parking lot. Letters A-M will be Monday, 12:00pm. Letters N-Z will be Wednesday, 12:00pm. If you are unable to come on your and leave a message and Shirley will call you arrangements for you to get them.



pick up in the church
December 7th, 9:00am-
December 9th, 9:00am-
day, please call the office
back to make

Holy Communion will be offered each week at the Saturday parking lot. If you are interested in helping defray the cost of the individually packaged communion sets, please call the office. The cost is \$71.00.

To join the Zoom Worship go to our Website and click on Covid Info. There is a big blue button that says "Join our Zoom worship" click on it. Click **Open** on the dialog shown by your browser. If you don't see a dialog, click **Launch Meeting**. You can also join by phone by calling 929-205-6099 and entering the following ID # 9063415427, Passcode 49854.

Dear friends,

Our ministry is partnering with ELCA World Hunger to raise funds for Backpack Buddies. With the spread of COVID-19 in the United States and around the world impacting how we address hunger in our communities, we need your support now more than ever. Will you make a donation today to support our congregation's feeding ministry? We aim to raise \$500 or more for our ministry from friends and supporters such as you, to match the \$500 Daily Bread Matching Grant we will receive from ELCA World Hunger, and we have only two weeks to do it. This will help our ministry serve our neighbors and truly provide daily bread.

Please [visit our fundraising page](#) on our website and donate today. Every gift makes a difference.

Thank you for your support!

Until all are fed,
Pastor Tommy Richter

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to everyone who provided the items needed for the Thanksgiving baskets. We were again able to fill six baskets for families in need. A special **Thank you** to Jo Nell Berger and Janet Krueger for delivering the baskets.



Dear Shirley,
I wanted to formally thank you and the group of members from Zion Lutheran Church who came together in kindness to donate hygiene items for our middle and high schools students here at Manistique Schools. As we discussed, too many of our students here struggle to have their tangible

needs met. This will be a great help and resource!

Thank you again for your efforts and support!

Best wishes,

Trisha McEvers, LMSW

(If anyone would like to help with this mission, please call the church office.)

A most sincere Thank You for your Saturday evening services. It's tough to sit in a warm car watching you out in the cold air and sometimes high winds. Let it be known I Truly Appreciate you being there. The 40 mile round trip is worth every minute of travel, the shot of energy to get through the coming week.

Thank you to you all, you are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Betty Denessen

Thank you to Lila Panek and Joel and Sherri Krause for purchasing the individual packaged communion sets.



Association.

Merle Sellers is once again offering Christmas Wreaths. If you would like to order one contact the office or call Merle directly at 286-4041. The wreaths orders are due by December 5th and you will be able to pick them up outside the back door. The cost is \$20.00 and all monies goes to the Manistique Ministerial

We will not be using the Poinsettias to decorate our church this year, but we will be ordering them. If you would like to order form printed in *The Beacon* and note "*In Honor Of*" or "*In Memory Of*" special occasion, or if you are making Fund. You can call the office with your in the locked mailbox. Orders need to be December 14th. You will be able to pick them up in the parking lot on Wednesday, December 23rd, from 9:00am-12:00pm or Christmas Eve.



a plant, please use the whether your gift is someone, if it is a your gift to the Floral order, mail it or put it in by Monday,

CHRISTMAS EVE



Christmas Eve worship will be at 5:00pm in the church parking lot. Range Street will be blocked off between Oak and Arbutus Streets. St. Albans will be joining us for worship (and of course anyone else who would like too). There will be two bonfires going for those who are willing to brave the cold. A live Nativity will be at one side of the parking lot. We will be able to sing Christmas carols as along as you are in your vehicles or socially distanced outside. Communion will be served and all are welcome. This is a Candlelight Service and you are asked to bring your own candle and a way to light it for the singing of *Silent Night*.

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays. Pr. Tommy will be leading Ecclesiastes. We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. Be sure to wear your mask and social distance. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office. *We will be meeting December 14th and meeting again on our regular days starting in January.*



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd
our study on the book of

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Dawn St. John

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Cushion Fund

Shawn Snyder

Joel & Sherri Krause—Pew Cushion Fund

Gay Waldvogel

Joel & Sherri Krause—Communion Cups

Don DeSautel

Julie Ann Cyrus—Roofing Fund

Merry Jo Brandimore—Roofing Fund

Circle News

The Circles are able to start their monthly meetings. If you are not a member of a circle and would be interested in joining one, please contact any one of the following ladies for more information:

Sarah Circle—Liz Macklem

Joy Circle—Donna Gauthier

Ruth Circle—Verda Kreuzwieser

Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** meets on Mondays at 1:00pm

The **Joy Circle** meets on the second Thursday at 10:00am.

The **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Wednesday at 11:30am.

The **Hope Circle** meets on the third Thursday at 6:00pm.

Be sure to check with your Circle Leader to find out if and where your circle will be meeting.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

December 6 —Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

December 13—Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Psalm 126, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,

John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20—Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Psalm 1:46b-55, Romans 16:25-27,

Luke 1:26-38

December 24—Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 27—First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-4

From the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Synod-Wide Christmas Eve Worship Broadcast

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is hosting a Christmas worship service that will be televised on WLUC and FOX-UP! The *tentative* days and times of the broadcast are listed below, but please be sure to check the Synod website, Facebook page and E-Notes for updates leading up to Christmas. Gather your household in the living room and enjoy this special event!

Christmas Eve

WLUC: 4-5 pm ET

FOX-UP: 7-8 pm ET

Christmas Day

WLUC: 12-1 pm ET

FOX-UP: 9-10 am ET

Winter Class Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for the winter schedule of Lifelong Faith Formation, a program of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The classes provide fun and interesting opportunities for

people to connect with each other online, via Zoom, during these challenging times. The following classes begin in January:

- **Introduction to Biblical Greek II**
- **Reflections on Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*, While We are Apart**
- **The Doctrine of Discovery: From Myth to Reality**
- **Bias in Our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America**
- **Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania**
- **The Gospel of John**

For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact Deacon-Elect Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org.

COVID-19 Response Fund

The ELCA provides ministry to its members, to those who are hurting and searching for peace, and to those in need. We see rising demands on our food pantries, homeless shelters and social services. Around the world, millions of people living in poverty are facing this pandemic without reliable access to sanitation and health care. You can help the ministries of the ELCA during this time of uncertainty by supporting your local congregation and making a gift to the ELCA's COVID-19 Response Fund. Go to the Northern Great Lakes Synod's website to donate.

On Sunday, November 15th we had four third grade students make their First Communion. They were joined by their immediate families. They received a Bible that their family at Zion provides them. **Congratulations** to Nicholas Gauthier, Courtney Larson, Zane Demars, and Aiyonna Swisher.



The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ... Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ...Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.'

~Genesis 32.22 ff

Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you seen those social media memes about the year 2020? There's a picture of an outhouse on fire and the caption reads, "If 2020 were a scented candle...". 2020 is the year your peanut butter toast falls face down, your

pizza loses its toppings in the oven, and your keys are locked into your running car. Between the pandemic, killer hornets, early snow, a divided country, and an election year, you are not alone if you think you've had just about enough of 2020.

Jacob of Genesis in the Bible has also had enough. He has had enough of being estranged from his brother, Esau, enough of being considered a cheat and a heel (which is what the word "Jacob" means), just enough. So he is on his way home to make amends, and he's worried. He knows his brother has every right to kill him, every right to still be angry (Feel free to read the whole story in Genesis). So Jacob sends all his wealth, his family, everything he owns across the river, Jabbok, and he's left alone.

Until, that is, a man, presumably a very earthy angel, comes and wrestles with him. All night long they struggle. Talk about a dark night of the soul. As Jacob wrestles with this stranger, he also wrestles with his fears, his doubts, his guilt, his hopes of reconciliation, every instance of where he really has cheated someone or been less of the man that he wants to be. And then as dawn breaks, the stranger seeks to break Jacob's hold and leave. But Jacob will not let him go, not until he receives a blessing.

This is where I think we are, in so many ways. We have been wrestling with our hopes and fears, struggling with an uneasy estrangement from neighbors, friends, and family that we either disagree with or that we miss terribly. As the election results are delayed, as the pandemic continues and case numbers rise, as the days grow shorter and the dark nights lengthen, remember Jacob, remember to hold on, remember to hold on for blessing.

Jacob holds on and receives the blessing of a new name. No longer will he be named cheat and heel, but rather Israel and the father of a nation. I encourage you too, to hold on for blessing and receive the name "Resilient," "Peacemaker," "Survivor of 2020."

Because our night isn't over yet. We are still wrestling with fears and uncertainties, struggling with divisions and the need for reconciliation. Election results will take some time. Please wait. A vaccine will take some time. Try to be patient and be your best self. And just hold on, hold on for blessing. The day will come when our dark night will be over. We might, like Jacob, be a bit bruised when the new day dawns. But our journey towards making amends will continue. I pray that friendships will be renewed, divisions reconciled, and we will all emerge as a better version of ourselves.

Hold on for blessing.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

More Valuable Than Gold

by Janet Dellaria, Ph.D. of Trinity Lutheran Church, Trout Creek, MI. A poem offered in response to her experience of ringing the church bells and remembering her own loved ones on All Saints' Day.

Tears in our Eyes
Heaviness in our Hearts
We Rang the Church Bells
Honoring ...
Honoring ...
Honoring those we Love
Our Dearly Beloveds
Who have Gone On ...
Leaving that hole in –
In Our Hearts
That Hole ...
That Hole which was created
When Their Physical Presence
Was Gone ...
Was Gone ...
Was Gone ...
Love and only Love
Can fill that Emptiness –
Our Continuing to Love them
Our Rejoycing in having
All that Love and Happiness
In our Daily Lives
And Blessing those Memories ...
Memories ...
Memories ...
Like those Church Bells
Ringing ...
Ringing ...
Ringing ...
More Precious than Gold
To Love and Be Loved
And to Be Remembered
Remembered ...
Remembered ...
Remembered ...

With the Joyous Sound
Of the Church Bells –
More Precious than ALL
The Gold in this World!
Our Love Never Ends ...
Never Ends ...
Never Ends ...
Never Ends ...

Giver _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

DONATION OF \$ _____ (any amount) To the Floral Fund Donations to the Floral Fund will support the beautification of the sanctuary and narthex throughout the church year.	PLANT PURCHASE TO TAKE HOME _____ Poinsettia(s) \$10.00 \$ _____
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If you are ordering a plant please have your orders in by December 14th.

CONTACT US:

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

www.zionlutheran-manistique.org or find us on facebook.com

Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor

Office: 906- 341-5427 Home 286-4383

Secretary: Shirley Leitgeb

shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Sunday School Coordinator: Sheila Clark

Custodian: Pat Toennessen

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.