

BAPTISMS

On January 23, 2022 we were very happy to add a new member to Zion through Holy Baptism. **Zephyr Wimsae** is the daughter of Pastor Tommy Richter and Ann Stromgren. **We WELCOME you** and look forward to watching you grow up.

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Marijene Swanson

Betty DeSautel & MerryJo Brandimore—Memorial

Joanne Nelson—Floral Fund

William Holm

Myrna Wells—Memorial



Zion's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, February 13th in person and on Zoom following worship. Annual reports may be picked up (one per family) February 5 & 6 or you can call the office to have one mailed to you.



Sunday, February 13th is **Scout Sunday**. Scouts from Troop 400, 401 and Cub Pack 402 have been a part of Zion for many years. Thank you to the leaders and boys and girls who continue to serve their community through Scouting.

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays . Pr. Richter will be leading John. 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.



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



William Holm. Mr. Holm was the brother-in-law of Carol Carlson and attended Zion several years ago. Our prayers are with his family.

Those Who Serve In February

Readers: 2/6	Ken Groh
2/13	Bonnie Groh
2/20	Teddy Nelson
2/27	Jo Nell Berger

Usher Jo-Nell Berger & Janet Krueger

Altar Flowers: February 6-Shirley Leitgeb

Bulletin, Bread and Wine:

February 6 –David & Gloria McGuire

February 13 –

February 20 –

February 27 –

Circle News

The Circles are continuing 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—Bonnie Groh & Donna Mott

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 **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

February 6—Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

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

February 13—Sixth Sunday After Epiphany

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

February 20—Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

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

February 27—Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2, Psalm 99
Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

Offering Envelopes for 2022 are here. If you haven't picked yours up yet, you can do so on Mondays or Wednesdays from 9-12:00pm. Year end statements are available in the Narthex. Please help save postage by picking yours up.

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
December 4/5	16	28	8
December 11/12	Snowstorm	23	14
December 18/19	12	45	9
December 24	4:00 57		
	6:00 31		
	7:30 31		10
December 25	9		
December 26		17	9
January 1	14		
January 2		24	15
January 8	5		
January 9		46	12
January 15	10		
January 16		22	17
January 22	14		
January 23		35	15
January 29	16		
January 30		36	10



Dear People of Zion Lutheran in Manistique,
 We are living at a time that challenges our faith even as our hope in Christ continues to sustain us. I am grateful that despite the uncertainties of "things not seen", your congregation has remained committed to the work of Christ that we do together.

Thank you for your faithful financial support of our partnership. Your generosity makes it possible for Synod staff and leadership to provide resources, conflict

resolution, support for congregations in pastoral transition, continuing education for pastors and training for congregational leaders, a deeper connectedness to the ministry efforts of the wider church, each other, and more. Gifts received in the last half of 2021 include:

8/30/21	World Hunger	\$1,983.05
10/31/21	World Hunger	\$1,005.10

Your Mission Support to the Synod, and by extension the whole ELCA, bears witness to your commitment to make a meaningful and positive difference in the world more than any one congregation can do alone. May God continue to bless your efforts.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

From the Northern Great Lakes Synod



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,
I had the honor of installing Pastor Catherine Ford at Faith Lutheran Church in Three Lakes, WI on Sunday, January 9. Not only was this a long-awaited event for Faith because they had been without a pastor for more than two years, but the event needed to be rescheduled because of weather. So it was with great joy that the congregation gathered, both online and a few in person, masked and spread out in the pews, to celebrate this new partnership of pastor and congregation. In the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we schedule our installations of new pastors in the afternoon so that neighboring clergy can also attend, offering their support and a visible reminder that the church is more than one congregation, so that as a whole synod we rejoice together. The color of the day is always red in acknowledgement of the work of the Spirit that forged the new partnership and brought us all to this moment of celebration. And just after the Installation Rite is completed, I present the new pastor to the congregation. When the applause has faded, I invite the pastoral leaders who are present to introduce themselves and offer a word of greeting. At the installation of Pastor Ford, her mentor, Pastor Kari Vadis, was the first to speak. And into this moment still glowing warmly with good wishes and fresh from enthusiastic applause, Pastor Vadis recounts what was said at her installation. To the newly installed Pastor Ford, she says, "Here is your congregation." And as everyone smiles, she adds, "They will disappoint you. They will let you down." I confess this is not what I was expecting. I wondered where she was going with this. It was like a bucket of cold water being dumped on the good

feels and warm happiness of the moment. But then, she went on. “Yes, they will disappoint you. But love them anyway. Forgive them, anyway.” And then she added as she addressed the congregation, “Here is your pastor. She will let you down. She will disappoint you. Love her anyway. Forgive her anyway.” I do not know who said this to Pastor Kari at her installation, but these wise words continue to resonate. The relationship of pastoral leader to congregation, and congregation to pastoral leader, indeed any relationship that we are in, cannot move forward without forgiveness and love. And in our current times, this has never been more true. We have all suffered disappointments. Between adaptations and adjustments, pandemic protocols and sickness, loss of traditions and loss of loved ones, we are weary. And the reality is, we are not done with this yet. I believe congregations are well practiced now at making decisions together. You know your context, your vaccination rate, and the rate of compliance when it comes to wearing a mask. If I can provide any more clarity to what you already know, I offer this:

- Continue, if possible, with an online worship option.
 - Stay home if you feel sick, even if you only have a cold.
 - Get vaccinated, if possible. While it will not prevent a person from getting COVID-19, it will diminish the possibility of hospitalization and death.
 - Decide together if in-person worship is advisable, given vaccination rates in the congregation and the burden on the local healthcare system.
 - Continue to love and forgive each other, even as we are weary and disappointed.
- As the year of our Lord 2022 continues, we find our strength from the presence of Christ in each other. God gives us what we need for the challenges we face now, and the challenges ahead. And together we move forward, one step at a time.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

“Churches are Changing—Sometimes for the Better”

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all aspects of our lives. Our churches and our lives of faith most certainly have been affected. One is tempted to view the pandemic as only having negative impacts. There is no denying the death toll and ubiquitous stress are not positive outcomes. But one can legitimately see the work of God in the midst of it all. Many Christian congregations (estimated at 175,000 congregations nationwide) have stepped up to “be the church” for not only their own people but for the larger community. More than one half of American Christian congregations have started a new ministry or expanded an existing ministry during the pandemic. And, on average, these congregations have expanded three or more outreach activities. One fifth of congregations had ministries related to the pandemic—vaccine clinics, mask making, etc. Additional evidence of adaptability is shown by the survey result of now 86% of churches being willing to change to meet new challenges as opposed to only 73% just prior to the pandemic. The Hartford

Institute for Religion Research summarized recent research by saying, “The level of new and intensified social outreach and community ministry undertaken by the nation’s churches is monumental.”

- Do you see God at work in new and faithful ways in your congregation these last two years?
- Is your congregation offering online streaming services? • Is your congregation now asking question about how to reach out to those folks who are viewing online worship services?
- Did your congregation host a vaccine clinic?
- Did your congregation engage in a study and reflection on systemic problems in our society?
- Did your congregation host a food pantry or feeding program?

It seems to me that when we are under great stress, we are naturally drawn to the deeper existential questions. What is the purpose and meaning of my life? And the parallel existential questions of Christian communities: What is the purpose of my congregation? Most congregations in the ELCA worship on average 100 or fewer people a week. Most congregations in all denominations tend to be rather small. But small can be beautiful. Small can be powerful. Small can allow you to pivot more quickly. Small can still be very significant. The metaphor of the “remnant” is part of the Old Testament narrative. When the faith community was fractured and broken up because of many factors including disobedience as well as outside forces, a small and faithful remnant remained. God wasn’t through bringing life out of death dealing situations. The prophet Ezekiel was asked by God in Ezekiel 37, “Shall these dry bones live?” You and your congregation might feel pretty stressed and dried up. God is still God. God is not through with us. The Sovereign God has power to add sinew and life to bones that seem useless and dead. As one church member from our synod said, “We’re still here.” (Note: Much of the information for this article was taken from a new report by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, “Congregational Response to the Pandemic: Extraordinary Social Outreach in a Time of Crisis” as cited in an online article by Adelle Banks in Ministry Watch, December 22, 2021.)

Pastor Jim Duehring,
Assistant to the Bishop/DEM

Disappointment & Opportunity Announcing a Hybrid Synod Assembly for 2022!

The Synod Council has voted in support of a hybrid Synod Assembly for 2022. Much as we would all like to gather together at Finlandia, which has been the plan since 2019, the uncertainties of the future spurred the council to consider other options.

While disappointed in yet another change, this move presents the synod with new opportunities. The vision of a hybrid assembly includes the following:

- Each conference designates a host church that has a large space and screen/technology/ wifi capacity.
- Voting members from that conference meet in person at that church on Saturday May 14.
- Coffee, snacks and lunch will be served.
- Each conference's host church will be connected to a Synod "base of operations" and to each other through Zoom.
- Each voting member needs to have a smart phone, tablet, or laptop in order to vote electronically.
- The Synod Assembly planning team, along with Synod staff and conference leaders, will strategize all the necessary details of food, technology, host church duties, voting, worship, voting member engagement, and more.
- Like last year, workshops will be online the week prior to assembly and open to all.

By meeting in host churches, we can still be in person, but not in such a large group. We save on travel and hotel costs and still get our work done. And should circumstances require it, we can more easily pivot to an online only assembly. Watch for more information as it becomes available.

Upcoming Events at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp

Nurturing Wholeness: Young Adult Retreat (Ages 18-26), February 11-13

Building on Faith: Youth Retreat (Grades 3-6), February 25-26 •

<http://fortunelake.org/event/building-on-faith-youth-retreat/>

- This exciting retreat features a building theme, including snow fort building, group building challenges, and the faith building that will occur during Bible Study. Kids will have the opportunity to play in the snow, make friends, and sing favorite camp songs around a campfire. Registration closes February 17th.

Summer Camp 2022 Registration is OPEN!!!

- <http://fortunelake.org/summer-camp/>

• This summer brings back classic youth camp programs: Mighty Ones, Minis, Villager, Vagabonds, Venturers, and High School Week. Intergenerational Camps allow families of all types to come to camp together. Additionally, specialty programs like Art Camp and Night Owls make a return. We are especially excited to welcome back Victory Camp for adults with developmental disabilities. And new this year: LEGO Camp and Musical Theatre Week! Programs are filling quickly, so

don't wait to register!

- We are still mindful of Covid and will continue to respond appropriately by leaning into our cabin groups and beautiful outdoor space and implementing best practices for mitigation.

Love and laughter go hand in hand!

Share these jokes with your beloved on February 14 — or whenever some humor can brighten a day!

Q: What valentine did the French chef give his wife?

A: A hug and a quiche

Q: What did the paper clip say to the magnet?

A: "I find you very attractive."

Q: What did the pencil say to the paper?

A: "I dot my i's on you!"

Q: How did the phone propose to his girlfriend?

A: He gave her a ring.

Q: What do you call a very small valentine?

A: A valentiny

Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine's Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit. Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE

CHAPEAU

TRANQUILITY

BECOME MATURE

RESPOND

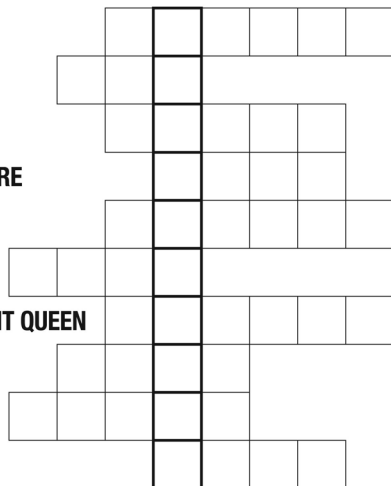
SPHERE

OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN

DISCOVER

CONFIDENCE

ALWAYS



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Musician: Linda Levin

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Custodian: Pat Toennesen

Congregation Council:

Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness

Rick Pink, President
Cathy Knudson, Vice President
Kay MacGregor, Secretary
Jo-Nell Berger
Naomi Fletcher
Ruth Jones
Janet Krueger
Peter Mattson
Kathy McDonough
Teddy Nelson
Cindy Olli
Rebecca Peterson



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