



# Zion Lutheran Church

435 Oak Street  
Manistique, MI 49854  
906-341-5427



## The Beacon

June/July 2021 Newsletter

**Saturday** 5pm Parking lot, **Sunday** 10:30am Hybrid  
[www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](http://www.zionlutheran-manistique.org)

Pastor Tommy Richter    [Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com)

## Contact Us

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### **Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

Office: 906-341-5427

Home: 906-286-4383

### **Secretary:** Shirley Leitgeb

[shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org](mailto:shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org)

**Musician:** Linda Levin

**Choir Director:** Rebecca Peterson

**Custodian:** Pat Toennesen

### **Congregational Council:**

Rick Pink, President

Cathy Knudson, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Marie Bellville, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Naomi Fletcher

Ruth Jones

Janet Krueger

Peter Mattson

Katy McDonough

Teddy Nelson

Cindy Olli

Rebecca Peterson

## From the Pastor's Desk

*Thus says the LORD: "As the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I send it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; and the mountains and hills before you shall clap their hands." -Isaiah 55:10-11*

I often think of this passage from Isaiah in the springtime. As things begin to sprout and bloom, lawns become unruly with new growth, and the weather becomes something I'm sure the mountains would clap for. It's a great comfort to know that God's verdant Word does not fail or fall to the earth empty. Human promises, like the ones we make, and the words that we say are not always so fruitful. I know some of the things I said this morning when I was having technology problems were not so life giving, and I am glad they did not accomplish the true vitriol with which I sent them. But Isaiah says: the Word that God speaks is a creative Word, and it brings joy and peace without fail. God will not stop speaking and making things spring forth in the Earth, and God will be faithful even when we are not.

As our due date in the early days of July get closer, and Ann and I count the weeks until our new family member will be born, there are plenty of reasons for the mountains to clap! I keep thinking about all the new things growing within and ready to blossom into our family. And I am grateful to all of you as you have been so supportive and nurturing to us, for throwing us a baby shower and for all your words of congratulations, peace, and joy that you have shared. Thanks be to God that we have such a wonderful Church village to help us raise our family!

New things are beginning to sprout and grow at Zion too, and I'm not just talking about the tulips out front.

We have been experimenting with hybrid on-line and in-person worship on Sunday mornings, and so far you all have been really great and compassionate with us as we work out technology glitches and as we iron out the details of what it means to be a community in this new way. We are looking forward to adding community singing back into our Sunday morning services, which is one of the reasons why we continue to ask you to wear masks even though there is no longer a mandate to do so for those who are fully vaccinated. Continuing to wear masks and observe social distancing sends a message of welcome and a life-giving word to those who are not vaccinated in our midst, and it gives us the bonus blossom of being able to sing together, if quietly. So really, it's a win-win when you wear your mask in church. Thank you for your understanding and compassion! These thoughtful precautions help us to follow God's creative word that makes us to go out in joy and be led back in peace. Amen.

-Pastor Tommy.



The church office will be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am to 12pm. Pastor's office hours are Wednesdays 9am-12pm and Thursdays 9am-21pm. All other times if you have questions, concerns are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Richter at 906-286-4383.

## Join us for Worship!

**Saturday 5pm** Worship is in the parking lot. Tune your car radio to 101.1FM and join us for holy communion.

**Sunday 10:30am** Worship is now a hybrid service. You can join us in person or over Zoom. Masks and social distancing are still required for in-person indoor worship. Thank you for observing the mask and distance requirements, as it allows us to incorporate some singing into the service. Holy Communion is served for those joining us in person.

To join Sunday worship over **Zoom**, go to our church website and click on COVID Info. There is a big blue button that says "Join our Zoom Worship" click on it. Click Open or Open Link in the dialog box that pops up to join the call. If you don't see a pop-up dialog box, click the blue Launch Meeting button. You can also join by phone. No computer or tablet necessary! Call 929-205-6099 and enter the following id# 9063415427, Passcode 49854.



## Baby Shower

**Attention** Ladies of Zion!

We are planning a Baby Shower for Pastor Tommy and Ann on Thursday June 17, 2021 at 7pm in Augustana Hall. We hope you will join our social and help celebrate with Pastor Tommy and Ann in the birth of their first child.

Out of an abundance of caution for the safety for the baby-to-be and the parents, we will not be serving refreshments for this indoor event, and masks are required to be worn the whole time. But each attendee will leave with a delicious cupcake to-go!

The expectant parents are registered at Amazon and Target. They are keeping the gender of the baby a secret, so buy whichever items the most awesome.

Any questions, please call Donna Mott (341-6414) or Pastor Ellie Russey (341-2786).

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,  
Ladies of Zion.

# Picnic Time for Zion August 15, 2021 At the Pines

You are invited to join us at The Pines (Lindsey Frenette Park) on Sunday, AUGust 15th after worship for a picnic.

We are going to get together after a long year of quarantine to catch up with how folks are doing and to raise some money for ELCA World Hunger. This spring we were unable to do the usual Lenten offerings and coin folders that we traditionally give to alleviate hunger in our county and in our church wide work. This picnic gives us the opportunity to share with others what God has first given us. There will be no charge for the lunch, but a free will offering for world hunger will be available. Feed as you have been fed!

We will have hot dogs and buns, potato salad, chips, bottled water, bars and cookies. If you can help with a donation of sweets like cookies or bars, please put them in individual ziplock bags or saran wrap to assist in cleanliness and following protocol for safe distribution to everyone. We hope this will be a great time to get together for fellowship and food!

See you there,  
Your Evangelism Committee.





We would like to thank Pastor Tommy and Ann, Dennis, Cindy, Jennifer, Logan, Jeremy, Ruth, JoNell, Kathy, Bill and Donna for their service on the adopt-a-highway project. Their hard work and dedication can be seen in the two miles stretch between Wolf's Inn Motel and just past Shunks. All told, we collected 30 bags of trash! Thank you for keeping our roads clean.

Sincerely,  
Your Evangelism and Membership Committee

## Summer Break!

Both our Bible Study on John and our Quilters are now on Summer break. We will see you in the fall!



## Flowers

Now that we have returned to using our sanctuary as part of our hybrid worship services on Sunday mornings, it is time to order flowers again! **If you would like to sponsor flowers for the Altar**, please order your flowers from the florist of your choice to have them delivered before worship on Sunday.

Thank you to all those who donated Geraniums to help make our Pentecost worship bright and holy-spirit filled. Thanks to: Orvid & Arliss Jonson in memory of Mom and Dad, Jim & Ellie Russey in memory of Milo Komefal, Linda Levin in honor of Pastor and Ann, Debbie & Joshua Kozlowski in memory of Robert Carpenter, Rosanne Wood in memory of John Wood, Larry & Rebecca Peterson in memory of Martha Peterson & Rebecca Goldberg, Mike & Kaye Jarski, Dorothy Brendstrom, Tom & Carla Flodin in memory of Elmer & Jean Flodin & Roy, and Teddy Nelson.

Thanks as well to all of those who donated flowers for Sunday Services: Rebecca & Larry Peterson in memory of mothers, Janet Kruger & JoNell Berger in memory of Loved Ones, Jim & Ellie Russey in memory of Milo Komefal, and June 20 Jim and Marlis Foster in honor of their 57th anniversary.



## Volunteers

We are looking for Sunday morning volunteers to help with contact tracing (helping people sign in with their names and telephone numbers) and making sure they have a mask before entering the sanctuary. We also need volunteers to clean bathrooms between uses, and other cleaning jobs to help follow cleanliness guidelines. If you are able to help please call the office during our office hours.

We are also looking for volunteers to do gardening around the church, please call during our office hours if you are interested.

## Pray With Us

If you have someone you would like to be a part of our prayer list on Sunday, or someone you would simply like pastor to pray for during the week, please stop by the contact page on our website and fill out a Prayer Request. Pastor Tommy receives all of the prayer requests made from the website immediately, and it is the quickest surefire way for you or your loved ones to be included Zion's prayer life.

## Thanks

Zion Lutheran Church recently received a very generous donation from Helen Creighton's estate for use in building improvements. Council has decided to split the funds putting \$25,000 toward the immediate project of refurbishing the pew cushions, and setting aside the other \$25,000 in the endowment fund for use in a future building project. Thank you to the Creighton's for thinking of Zion in their estate, and for investing in the future of our church building!



Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod, As our Synod Assembly week draws to a close, we have new information to consider regarding CDC guidelines and government orders that lift a mask mandate for all those who have been vaccinated. And once again we ask the good Lutheran question, “What does

this mean?” especially for our congregations as together we consider what is safe for gathering.

I’ll begin by pointing out the difficulties:

1.To remove the masks of only the vaccinated sets up an “us” verse “them” division in our congregation communities.

2.To limit worship and gathering only to those who are vaccinated excludes anyone under the age of 12 and those who cannot medically receive the vaccine. It makes gathering a point of privilege rather than “All are Welcome.”

3.While we have smaller congregations where everyone knows that everyone else has been vaccinated, this still presents a problem for the unexpected visitor whose medical history is not so well known. Will you insist they remain masked while everyone else is not? Will they be encouraged to remove their mask even if they may not be feeling very well that day? Will they be asked to produce their vaccination card and thereby gain entrance into worship? Is that really the welcome we want to offer and what we want to be doing? What will be the strategy?

4.And it is worth noting that we are still in a pandemic. The virus is still with us. We still need to be vigilant. So how do we continue to gather safely without creating division or shaming or excluding those who for whatever reason

cannot or will not receive the vaccine? I suggest:

- We, that is everyone, vaccinated and unvaccinated alike, continue to wear our masks in worship in indoor spaces until the vaccination rate is higher and the positivity test rate for Covid is lower in our NGLS communities.
- While singing is a higher risk activity, singing softly with masks on has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of virus spread. Congregations must do what they feel is best, but as I am aware that some of our congregations are singing softly with masks on, and none of them have been the source of a Covid outbreak, I will dare to suggest that soft singing with masks on and physically distant is an option.

Jesus proclaimed that we be unified in our faith, in our call, and in our witness. The Christian faith is one that first considers the least. While I understand a certain strategy and incentive to remove a mask mandate in order to encourage vaccination, we have seen the politicization of masks, and the possibility exists that an unvaccinated person will choose also not to wear a mask, thereby putting any assembly at higher risk. The Wisconsin Council of Churches also offers a response. From the WCC I highlight the rule of thumb to maintain two of the three: Physical distancing, Mask, Outdoor gathering.

In our year of Hope, I hope we can agree to keep our masks on in indoor worship, for the time being. I hope to sing softly with your congregation in worship sometime soon. I hope that the renewal of the earth and its greening will renew your spirits that I know must feel weary of all of this. Hang on a little longer and wear the mask for yourself and others a little longer. We can do this.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Katherine Finegan

Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

## Upcoming Scripture Readings

**June 6**– Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1,  
Mark 3:20-35

**June 13**– Third Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-17,  
Mark 4:26-34

**June 20**– Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13,  
Mark 4:35-41

**June 27**– Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15,  
Mark 5:21-43

**July 4**– Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13

**July 11**– Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29

**July 18**– Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:11-22,  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**July 25**– Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145:10-18, Ephesians 3:14-21,  
John 6:1-21

## Our Heartfelt Sympathy To

The families of Carol Anderson, Dan Christensen, Ken Gillingham, and Ethel Holm. We grieve along with you, and we are praying for you as you mourn your loss.



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