



Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees. Say to all those of faint heart: "Take courage! Do not be afraid! Look, the Lord is coming; vindication is coming; the recompense of God—God is coming to save you! Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unsealed. Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness and there will be streams in the desert. The scorched earth will become a lake; the parched land, springs of water." -Isaiah 35:3-7

In our Adult Sunday School Bible Study we are really good at getting off topic. But I always find something fruitful in our discussions. Recently the question came up: why do we have all this talk about waiting in Advent? Didn't Christ already come? Shouldn't we be focused on the ways that God is already here and at work in our lives? Why do we need this whole season of when we pretend that Christ is still on the way?

Well, hold your horses. Bear with me. Cool your jets, and hang on for a minute. Because there's something profound and counter-cultural about waiting. It is a practice that we seem to get worse at every year. We neglect it so much that we now can't even finish Halloween before we start celebrating Christmas. Some people skip thanksgiving altogether and hop straight into decking the halls and singing Christmas songs as early as November 1st. We just can't wait! We are not a culture that does well with the concept. We would much rather do anything else. Twiddle our thumbs. Play candy crush. Scroll through social media apps. Anything but wait. We value "being on time" and even praise earliness. We spend so much time in apology when deadlines come and go unmet. But, as if we never learned anything from our childhood parables about the tortoise and the hare, little praise is ever given to those who take their time.

But there's something crucial we lose when we do not wait. When we don't have space in our lives to be bored and expectant. I probably say this every year during Advent: but if we trace our modern word *wait* to its etymological roots, it has the original sense of "to be strong and lively." Which means, waiting, far from some passive emptiness that we should avoid at all costs, is at its root supposed to be full of life and activity! Look lively now, because waiting is supposed to be a place where we gather strength and hold space in our livelihood for those that are to come. And so it isn't that we pretend during Advent that Christ isn't already here. It is that we hold dear and precious the liveliness and strength that there is in a season of waiting.

That's why the prophet Isaiah here talks immediately about strength and courage, comfort and liveliness when they talk about waiting for God. Isaiah prays that our twitching knees as we sit and wait will be steadied. Sure, there are many ways in which God is nearby, and already here in our lives at work: opening the eyes of the blind, bubbling up streams in the desert, and making new life out of the places of death. But this is a work that is begun, not a work that is complete.

And so in Advent we wait with an eye to the parts of these promises that are still on their way into the world. Faith is not about the things already here, and tidy answers and perfect Christmas presents. It's about living with the questions, finding strength in the wilderness, and livelihood in waiting.

So let us not rush to Christmas before its proper time. We will have twelve whole days to celebrate it in the fullness of time, when it starts on December 25th. Let us learn watchfulness and discover the joys of anticipation.

-Pastor Tommy Richter

End of Year Giving

Please consider designating a portion of your Required Minimum Distribution this year to Zion Lutheran Church. It is a very easy and tax-friendly way to contribute. Here's how it works. If you are 72 or older and you have retirement accounts (IRA, 401K, TSP, 457), you are required to take a minimum distribution from those accounts or incur a penalty equal to one-half of the otherwise required minimum distribution amount. To contribute all or a portion of your RMD to Zion, all you need to do is instruct your financial institution or adviser to designate a portion or all of your RMD to Zion. The contribution is tax exempt even if you do not itemize deductions for income tax purposes because your financial institution or adviser would not identify the donated amount to the IRS as reportable income in accordance with the tax code. It really is a win-win situation.

Regardless of how you give or how much you give, thank you for your generosity. Your contributions sustain the many ministries of our church. That should make us all feel good.

You are invited to join us for Sunday morning over Zoom if you are not able to attend in person. Go to the Zion Lutheran Church website. Under Worship Times, click on *"Join our Zoom Worship"*. If you are asked for an ID, the number is 9063415427 (the church phone number). You may also be asked for a passcode-49854. You may also join by phone: call 1-929.205.6099 and enter the meeting ID above.



Sunday School is available to all children in our congregation as well as children in the community. If you have children or grandchildren who are ages 4 through grade 6, please encourage them to attend. Sunday School meets at 9:15am each Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who provided food for the Thanksgiving baskets this year – Cindy and Randy Olli, Naomi Fletcher, Jo-Nell Berger, Anna Sjogren, Janet Krueger, Pastor Ellie and Jim Russey, Liz Macklem, Verda Kreuzwieser, Shirley Leitgeb, Kathy McDonough, Rebecca and Larry Peterson, Bonnie and Ken Groh, Donna Mott, Kay

MacGregor, Linda Levin, Nila Haug, Mike and Kaye Jarski, Marie Bellville and Julie Gauthier. Thanks to Julie Gauthier and Kay MacGregor for delivering the baskets. Zion members can always be counted on for their caring and generosity!

The number of families in our county who face food insecurity is growing. In November, our Backpack Buddies program served 117 children, up more than 50% from the previous months. Please remember our ministry with your generous gifts this holiday season.

We are looking for people to host coffee hours following worship on Sunday morning. Putting on the coffee pot and a package of cookies is perfect! Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.



We are looking for someone to shovel/snow blow the sidewalks and entrances at Zion this winter. All equipment is provided. Please call the church office, 906.341.5427 or Kay MacGregor, 928.530.1120 for more information.

The Christmas tree is going up after
There will be pizza and pop for all
help.



church on December 18th.
those who can stay and



Here Going Caroling

Join us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 18th beginning at 4:00pm. We will meet the bus in the church parking lot. We will be singing at Heritage House, Woodland, and at the homes of several of our homebound members. Come and join the fun! Sandwiches will be provided following in Augustana Hall.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is offering an online Advent study-**Yearning for Awakening**. The study runs from November 27-December 24. Pastor Tommy will be the host for the Wednesday sessions. Please register on the synod website.



Christmas Worship Schedule

Our schedule for Christmas worship is as follows:

Saturday, December 24-Family Worship at 4:00pm (in the Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 24-Candlelight Service at 7:30pm

Sunday, December 25-Worship at 10:30am

Saturday, December 31-Parking Lot Worship at
5:00pm

Sunday, January 1-Christmas Carol Service at
10:30am



To our Congregation Council members for hosting the annual Soup with the Saints luncheon after church on All Saints Sunday.

To the volunteers from our congregation who participated in **"Ring the Bell"** for Good Neighbors this holiday season. Ken & Bonnie Groh, Kathy Peterson, Jo-Nell Berger all represented Zion ringing the bell at Tractor

Supply on November 19th.

Kay MacGregor who has been shoveling and chopping ice already this winter. Thanks for making our entrances safe!

We are ordering Poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to order a plant, please use the form printed in *The Beacon* and note *"In Honor Of"* or *"In Memory Of"* special occasion. Orders need to be in by 12th.



whether your gift is someone, if it is a Monday, December



The Festival of Lessons and Carols resumes in person this Advent season! The Festival will be held at St. Francis de Sales Church on Sunday, December 11 beginning at 3:00pm. Rebecca Peterson is the director of the mass choir with Ellyn Plackowski as accompanist. Jim Russey is directing the bell choir. Please join us for this service as part of your celebration this Christmas season.

A Longest Night (Blue Christmas) Service will be held on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00pm at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Pastor Tommy will preside at the service. This service provides a time for reflection, healing and hope during the Advent/Christmas season. Refreshments will be served following the service.

The annual Sankta Lucia Festival returns on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 11:00am. Carley Schoenow will be our Lucia. There will be a program and a light brunch served. Please invite a friend and join us for this wonderful tradition.

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will not meet on Monday in January 2023. Pr. Tommy will be on the book of Luke. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meet again until the second leading our continued study

The Noisy Offering collected in November was \$40.12 going for the Thanksgiving Baskets. December's Noisy Offering will go to the Manistique Ministerial Association.

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

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.



Our official Stewardship Drive has ended, but we will still take your 2023 commitment card!

Forty-four commitment cards were returned with the total pledged of about \$95,000.00. Our budget last year was \$163,833.00 so we still have money to raise. The Finance and Stewardship Committee will be meeting in December to work on the 2023 budget.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

December 4—Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13,
Matthew 3:1-12

December 11—Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7,
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24—Christmas Eve

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

December 25—Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12], John 1:1-14

Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of

Don DeSautel

Betty DeSautel & MerriJo Brandimore—Roofing



The family of Joan Leadman who died on November 12, 2022 in Escanaba. Joan is the mother of Sandy Hueter. The family of Scott

Malloy who is the husband of Julie Malloy and son-in-law of Mary Ansell. Scott died November 29, 2022 at home.

Those Who Serve In December

Lectors: 12/4 Teddy Nelson
12/11 Jim Russey
12/18 Donna Mott
12/24 4:00pm Julie Gauthier
7:00pm Naomi Fletcher
12/25 Shirley Leitgeb

Ushers: Kay MacGregor & Pete Mathson

Altar Flowers: 12/24 Frank & Shirley Leitgeb

Bulletin/Bread & Wine:

Coffee Hour: 12/4
12/11
12/18 Joy Circle

Acolyte: 12/4 Aiyonna Swisher
12/11 Michael Lamb
12/18 Kristen Lamb
12/25 Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant: 12/4 Linda Mason
12/11 Sheila Clark
12/18 Kim Lamb
12/25 Julie Gauthier

Counters: 12/4
12/11
12/18
12/24

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
Oct 1-2 2022	11	43	5
Oct 8-9 2022	11	37	4

Oct 15-16 2022	17	44	5
Oct 22-23 2022	9	36	4
Nov 5-6 2022	13	52	4
Nov 12-13 2022	15	36	6
Nov 19-20 2022	13	33	8
Nov 26-27 2022	11	53	4

Giver _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

<p>DONATION OF \$ _____ (any amount) To the Floral Fund</p> <p>Donations to the Floral Fund will support the beautification of the sanctuary and narthex throughout the church year.</p>	<p>PLANT PURCHASE TO TAKE HOME</p> <p>_____ Poinsettia(s) \$10.00</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
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If you are ordering a plant please have your orders in by December 12th.

New Semester of Lifelong Faith Formation Coming Soon!

Beginning in January 2023, the Northern Great Lakes Synod will offer more opportunities than ever for fellowship and learning through Lifelong Faith Formation. In its third year, the online learning program will open for registration in early December on the synod website for classes this winter and spring. The new class schedule includes the following classes:

- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew
- Year-Round Stewardship on a Congregational Level
- A Spirituality of Death and Dying
- *Rediscovering God and Changing the World: A Book Study of the Life of Martin Luther* by Eric Metaxas
- Beyond Policy: Empowering the Faith Community to Recognize and Respond to Child Abuse and Sexual Assault
- Meeting Christ in Prayer
- Introduction to Family Systems Thinking & Book Study of Friedman's Fables: *Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking*

Greetings from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!

In the beauty of the transition that is fall in the Northwoods, we have some exciting news to share! **Fortune Lake has been selected as the recipient for the 2022 CoVantage Cares Foundation Inc, Giving Tuesday Campaign!** This means that CoVantage will match a portion of the funds raised from Giving Tuesday through the following two weeks (November 29 - December 13). The more we raise, the more potential for matching funds! The money will be used to update our highest use buildings – duplexes, Emanuel Lodge, and the Dining Hall – making them more energy efficient and accessible and ensuring they'll be usable for many years into the future. You may remember that this project was initiated in early 2020, but was paused due to the pandemic. With the availability of the CoVantage Cares Giving Tuesday Campaign, now is the time to reinvigorate these efforts!

Plans are underway to maximize this opportunity for the benefit of generations to come at Fortune Lake, and we need your help.

We are asking each congregation to prayerfully consider a stretch gift of \$500 above and beyond your normal giving to Fortune Lake. This amount could be raised in any way you see fit, including coffee fellowship, special offerings, or creative fundraising. Gifts need to be received within the November 29 - December 13 window in a very specific manner. See details below.

Many regions throughout the Northern Great Lakes Synod will be hosting events to increase engagement and invite people to support this incredible opportunity.

Please consider helping with and participating in the event closest to you. As more details become available, please share them with your congregation and community.

Consider bringing your congregation's donation to the event in your region to add to their total and inspire some friendly competition! THANK YOU to those of you who are helping to plan and facilitate these super fun events!

Here's the rundown of regional events:

- Sunday, December 4 at 11am CT at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ironwood, MI:** *Feast for Fortune Lake*
- Sunday, December 4 from 3-6pm ET at **First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, MI:** *I Care... About Fortune Lake: An Afternoon of Talent, Delicious Food, and Festive Activities*
- Monday, December 5 at 7pm ET at **Bethel Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, MI:** *Comfort & Joy: A Celebration of Caring and Christmas benefitting Fortune Lake with Bells, Voices, & Horns!*
- Thursday, December 8 from 6-8pm ET at **Studio Pizza, Hancock, MI:** *Carols for a Cause*
- Friday, December 9 at 6pm CT: *Virtual BINGO Wrap-Up Celebration Livestreamed on Facebook*
- Saturday, December 10 from 4-7pm CT at **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Crystal Falls, MI:** *Christmas at Camp: Pasty Dinner, Cookie Walk, Christmas Carols, and Candlelit Snowshoe*
- Sunday, December 11 from 10am-noon CT at **Bethel Lutheran Church, Menominee, MI:** *Drive-Thru Brat Fry & Yard Games*
- Sunday, December 11 from 12-6pm CT at **Alpha Brewery, Alpha, MI:** *Brew with a Purpose & Pulled Pork Sandwiches*
- Sunday, December 11 from 2:30-4:30pm ET at **Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette, MI:** *God's Cafe: Open mic style Talent Show with Cookies, Coffee, and Tea*

Congregations interested in making a donation to be applied to the Giving Tuesday Campaign should make a check payable to "CoVantage Cares Foundation" with Fortune Lake in the memo and mail to: CoVantage Cares Foundation, PO Box 107, Antigo WI 54409.

Alternatively, checks or cash can be dropped off at the regional events listed above.

Watch fortunelake.org and our social media for updates on this exciting opportunity as more information becomes available! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. Thank you in advance for your generous, ongoing support of Fortune Lake and for your partnership in ministry!

Grace & Peace,

Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

Faithful Innovations—Holy Experiments

We invite you to dig even deeper and consider how an intentional adaptive communal learning process could help your congregation. Gather a team of 4 to 7 lay people to join your rostered leader or licensed minister and experience the process of Faithful Innovations. Your team will also receive coaching support. Congregations with an interim leader also are very welcome to participate. 17 congregations have participated in the first 4 cohort groups. The goal is for all congregations of the Northern Great Lakes Synod participate. It all begins with LISTENING...

1. **LISTENING TO GOD**
 - DWELLING IN THE SCRIPTURES
 - PRAYER
2. **LISTENING TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY**
 - ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATIONS
 - SHARING YOUR FAITH
3. **LISTENING TO YOUR “NEIGHBORHOOD”**
 - WALKING AROUND AND PAYING ATTENTION
 - “GOD SIGHTINGS”

Then, based on your listening, try an “experiment”. To learn more, go to our synod website at: www.nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations

Next Faithful Innovations Trainings via Zoom only Cohort #5 • Saturday, January 21, 2023 • Saturday, March 11, 2023 • Saturday, May 6, 2023 11am to 3pm ET Cost is only \$50 per congregation thanks to a generous grant from the ELCA. Registration Deadline is January 13, 2023. Contact Pastor Jim Duehring at 906-228-2300

To learn more, go to our synod website at: www.nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations

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Musician: Linda Levin

Custodian: Pat Toennesen

Treasurer: Naomi Fletcher

Financial Secretary: Cyndee Miske

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

Congregation Council:

Linda Levin, President

Donna Mott, Vice President

Kay MacGregor, Secretary

Jo-Nell Berger

Ruth Jones

Cathy Knudson

Janet Krueger

Peter Mathson

Teddy Nelson



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