



The heavens herald your glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork. Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding. Without speech, without words, without even an audible voice, their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth. For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent. It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession, with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race. It rises at one end of the sky and travels to the other end, and nothing escapes its warmth.

-Psalm 19:1-6

As the new year approaches, we often get swept up in notions of big endings and new beginnings. The old year passes away and the new year dawns with all of its fresh starts, resolutions, and champagne toasts. But you do not have to wait until New Year's eve to find rebirth, restoration, and new life rising out of the darkness. God is up and about doing this work in us every day! Here the Psalmist finds the grandeur and glory of God at work in the silent passing of every day and night. Nothing escapes the warmth of the sun as it travels in its courses, and creates new light and life with the vigor and excitement of a wedding procession and an athlete ready to race. If only we greeted each new day with the same enthusiasm as the sun, and with the same refreshed purpose that we manufacture with the new year. So constant and abundant is God's mercy that it can be just as easy to miss as a sunrise. (Though both still happen every-day with or without our noticing.)

The task before us doesn't have to be new and grand or ambitious. The sun isn't inventing new workout routines for itself, or resolving to be thinner and more-shiny than it was last year. It's silently about the same work that it has always been about. It is okay and holy to have mundane things to do, and a normal day's work in front of us. We are no less thankful for the sun for its continuing in mundane tasks. Luther says in his catechisms "if you perform your daily household chores, this is better and more holy than all the sanctity and ascetic life of the monks." Because it isn't the scale of a thing that makes it holy. There isn't something grander about a year changing than a day. There isn't something more holy to what a Pastor does than to what a Garbage Truck Driver does. These are both equally holy callings. What gives these things value and what gives our lives value is not the size or nature of the task, but that God is at work through our hands. People need trash taken out, and people need the sacraments to be presided over and to be taught about God's word. So, thanks be to God we have set aside people to do both of those jobs! There is so much value to be had in the ordinary because God has blessed us and anointed us to serve others. So, while our work is not necessary for God's mercy, it is that same mercy that gives our work an extra whistle and shine. No matter the task.

A lot of the false airs we put on around New Year's pretend that the mundane will not have a hold over us. Something grand and glittery occurs every time the ball drops and midnight chimes in a new year, and now whatever bogged us down last year has passed away. But just as surely as the sun rises and sets each day, the

mundane doesn't go away. This New Years, may we with the psalmist open ourselves to seeing the holiness in what is already happening in our lives instead of wishing our lives could be grander. Behold! God is already at work in your life. Now is the day of salvation, now is the acceptable time. Now are your sins forgiven. Amen.

-Pastor Tommy

The Work of the Church - 2023

Very soon, Zion's Nominating Committee will begin the important work of putting together lists of people willing to serve in elected roles. These roles include the Audit Committee, Congregation Council, Nominating Committee, and Synod Assembly Representatives, as well as Delta Conference Representatives. At Zion's Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023 members will review and elect members to fill these positions. Following is a brief re-cap of the roles and responsibilities of our elected positions:

Audit Committee: Audit Committee members are elected by the Congregation Council to a three-year-term. Individuals who serve on this committee provide an independent evaluation of the financial records of Zion and provide an opinion as to its financial statements. The Audit Committee also recommends improvements as to internal controls of the congregation.

Congregation Council: Congregation Council members are elected to a three-year-term and may serve a second consecutive full term. Council members have general oversight of the life and activities of Zion, and in particular, its worship life. Congregation Council members are also responsible for the financial and property matters of the congregation. The Council normally meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., and members are asked to serve on at least one standing committee (Christian Education and Youth; Evangelism and Membership; Finance and Stewardship; Personnel; Property; Worship and Music).

Nominating Committee: Six Zion members are elected to a one year term (two of whom, preferably, are outgoing members of the Congregation Council). The committee meets in the weeks prior to the Annual Meeting to identify nominees for open elected roles. They do this with the pastor and president of the congregation council who may be aware of potential candidates. Once the slots are filled as fully as possible, the report is included in the Annual Report and used as the basis for elections. The committee members are:

Synod Assembly Reps: Each year, two persons are elected to attend the Northern Great Lakes Synod Annual Assembly. In 2023, the assembly will be in person. Zion Reps will gather with representatives from 80 other churches, as well as their pastors, to vote on issues affecting the synod and to learn and come away inspired through worship and workshops.

Delta Conference # 6 Reps: We are able to elect four persons as conference representatives. Zion is the newest church in the Delta Conference and joins nine others, from: Escanaba (3), Gladstone, Perkins, Rapid River, Rock, Stonington, and Trenary. The next conference meeting to be announced, and we also anticipate another Walking Together Event in October 2023.



All committee chairpersons are reminded to turn in their annual reports to the church office by the week of January 15th and earlier if possible. Please submit the reports in Microsoft Word format if possible. These reports are reviewed by our auditors before they are ready to be copied and assembled. The annual reports will be ready for your pick-up February 4 & 5. The annual meeting will be February 12th following worship at 11:30am.

Reports are needed from the following committees:

Ahlstrom Trust Fund
Audit Committee
Endowment Fund
Funeral Luncheon Committee
Quilters
Tanzania Church Committee
Thrivent
Sunday School/Christian Education Committee
Property Committee
Finance & Stewardship Committee
Personnel Committee
Evangelism & Membership Committee
Worship & Music Committee

Join us for Bible Study

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays starting January 9th. Pr. study on the Gospel of Luke. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd Richter will continue our



The family of Dennis Kay Boyd died on December 12th is the father-in-law of Sandy Boyd and Judith Wright died on December 21st is the wife of Angus Wright.

BAPTISMS

On November 27, 2022 we added a new member to Zion through her Holy Baptism.
Sylvi Elizabeth Nord daughter of Jessica Nord.
WELCOME!



Thank you God's help. Thank you Manistique people. Thank you for all your help.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
The Li Family

Thank you to Julie Gauthier and "her team" for organizing the Sankta Lucia program this year. It was great to celebrate this Zion tradition again!

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.

Upcoming Scripture Readings

January 1 —1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

January 8—Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15—Second Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 22—Third Sunday After Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18,

Matthew 4:12-23

January 29—Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

You are invited to join us for Sunday morning worship 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.

Those Who Serve In January

Lectors: 1/1 Shirley Leitgeb

1/8

1/15

1/22

1/29

Usher: Jo-Nell Berger & Janet Krueger

Altar Flowers: 1/22 Shirley & Frank Leitgeb

& Mike & Kaye Jarski

1/29 Pat Mikelson

Bulletin, Bread and Wine:

1/1

1/8

1/15

1/22

1/29

Acolyte: 1/1 Aiyonna Swisher
 1/8 Michael Lamb
 1/15 Kristen Lamb
 1/22 Nicholas Gauthier
 1/29

Communion Assistant: 1/1 Linda Mason
 1/8 Sheila Clark
 1/15
 1/22 Julie Gauthier
 1/29 Linda Levin

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
December 3/4		14	6
December 10/11	8	43	5
December 17/18	10	50	7
December 24	4:00 17		6
	7:30 32		4
December 25		10	6

The Evangelism and Membership Committee looking for people who are willing to host coffee hours following worship on Sunday morning. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

Fifty-two commitment cards were returned with pledges in the amount of \$96,912.00. Thank you for your generosity.

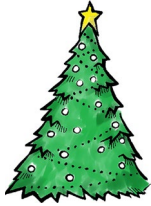
There are many opportunities to serve your congregation!

Starting January 1st there will not be Altar flowers unless someone sponsors them. So, please sign up for flowers! You can sponsor Bulletin, Bread & Wine for \$10.00. We are always in need of people to help with Coffee Hour. Please use the sign up sheets posted in Augustana Hall.

We also are in need of Offering Counters. If with this important job or have done it in willing to help again, please contact Cyndee



you would be able to help the past and would be Miske or Linda Levin.



The Christmas tree was put up after church on December 18th. Thanks to Mary and Dave Hicks, Donna and Bill Mott, Ellie and Jim Russey, Kaye and Mike Jarski, Bonnie and Ken Groh, Bonnie Moody, Kay MacGregor, Pastor Tommy and Linda Levin for all their work!

The number of families in our county who face food insecurity is growing. Please remember our Backpack Buddies ministry with your generous gifts this holiday season.

December's Noisy Offering totaled \$54.25 and was given to the Manistique Ministerial Association. The MMA helps people in need with utility bills or gas for their cars. Thank you for your generosity!!

Congregation Council Highlights December 2022

- +The treasurer's report showed a November income of \$11,696.71 with expenses of \$9,890.54.
- +The council heard a report from Tom Broullire, chair of the Ahlstrom Trust Fund and Endowment Fund.
- +Fifty-two commitment cards have been returned with \$96,912.00 pledged.
- +The Finance and Stewardship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with counting the offering each Sunday following worship. Please contact Cyndee Miske or Linda Levin if you can help with this task.
- +The Worship and Music Committee reported eight people went Christmas caroling and enjoyed sandwiches and fellowship following caroling!
- +Fourteen people helped assemble/put up the Christmas tree in the sanctuary.
- +The Evangelism and Membership Committee reported volunteers are needed to host coffee hours following worship on Sunday morning. They WILL be organizing Soup Suppers to precede Wednesday evening Lenten services.
- +Members of the nominating committee will be getting information in early January to begin their work of filling the ballot for council members, nominating committee members, an auditing committee member and conference/synod delegates in preparation for Zion's Annual Meeting on February 12th.

FROM THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD

Trip to Tanzania in 2023

The NGLS is planning a visit to the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of Tanzania companion congregations and dental clinic. The trip will take place in July of 2023 and is open to pastors and lay people. To learn more about the purpose of the trip and to express interest in going, [please visit our website](#)

Sign Up Now for Winter Classes

Taking part in an online Lifelong Faith Formation class is a great way to begin the new year! You'll enjoy the conversations and fellowship as you grow in faith and spirit. Classes with January registration deadlines include:

- **Register by January 10** for **A Spirituality of Death and Dying** with Pastor Elisabeth Daniels on the third Thursday of every month, 6 pm ET/5 pm CT, January 24-April 28.
- **Register by January 15** for **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew II** with Pastor Nicole Hanson Lynn every Sunday, 7-8 pm ET / 6-7 pm CT, January 15-March 4.
- **Register by January 21** for **Year-Round Stewardship on a Congregational Level** with Karen Sylvester every Monday, 7 ET/6 CT, January 23-February 6.
- **Register by January 24** for **"Rediscovering God**

and Changing the World,” A book study of the life of Martin Luther by Eric Metaxas, with Bishop Emeritus Tom Skrenes on the first and third Tuesday, 5-6 pm ET/4-5 pm CT February 7-March 21.

For more information on all the classes and to register, please [visit our website](#). Contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org if you have any questions.

Save the Date

Youth in Advocacy Retreat April 14-16, 2023

High School Youth from across the U.P. and Wisconsin are invited to gather in Madison for a weekend in April to learn what it means to be an advocate and how advocacy relates to our Lutheran faith. Contact Stefanie (youthcoordinator@nglsynod.org) if you would like to be part of the NGLS delegation. Additional information and details about how to register will be coming soon!

Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering Returning in July

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is once again partnering with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the LaCrosse Area Synod of Wisconsin to plan a Tri-Synodical Youth Gathering at UW-River Falls this summer. Encourage high schoolers you know to join us **July 24-27** for creative ministry, challenging conversation, inspiring guest speakers, service learning, and uplifting worship. Stay tuned for additional details and registration information!



Our Sankta Lucia Carley Schoenow

The annual Sankta Lucia Festive was celebrated on December 10, 2022. Carley is a senior at Manistique High School and is very active in sports and on the National Honor Society and Y.E.T.I. She has received several awards in sports and has made the all A's honor roll every semester she has been in middle/high school. Carley plans on entering the military after graduation and eventually attending a 4 year university majoring in International Affairs.



CONTACT US:

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shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Custodian: Pat Toennessen

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

Bonnie Moody

Teddy Nelson



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