Zion Lutheran Church

**435 Oak Street**

**Manistique, MI 49854**

**906-341-5427**

The Beacon

# January 2024 Newsletter

**Saturday 5:00 p.m.** Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday10:30 a.m.** Worship in person & Via Zoom www.zionlutheran-manistique.org

Pastor Tommy Richter Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com

# Contact Us

Zion Lutheran Church

435 Oak Street

Manistique, MI 49854

906-341-5427

www.zionlutheran-manistique.org or follow us on Facebook.com

**Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

Office: 906-341-5427

Home: 906-286-4383

**Secretary:**

office@zionlutheran-manistique.org

**Musician:** Linda Levin

**Choir Director:** Rebecca Peterson

**Custodian:** Pat Toennessen

**Congregational Council:** Linda Levin, President Donna Mott, Vice President Cyndee Miske, Secretary Jo-Nell Berger

Ken Groh Ruth Jones Todd Kangas Janet Krueger Peter Mattson

Bonnie Moody Teddy Nelson Rebecca Peterson

Naomi Fletcher, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

 **January Office Hours**

The church office will be open Monday 9:30 am-12:30 pm and Tuesday from 9 am to 12 pm. **If you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Eleanor Russey at 906-341-2786 or 906-286-2827**

**Join us for Worship!**

**Saturday 5 pm** Worship in the Sanctuary

**Sunday 10:30 am** Worship is a hybrid service. You can join us in person or over Zoom. Holy Communion is served for those joining us in person.

To join Sunday worship over Zoom, go to our church website and click on the pink words “Join our Zoom Worship” under the worship times. 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 necessary! Call 929-205-6099 and enter the following ID# 9063415427, Passcode 49854.

**Congregation Council Highlights**

* The treasurer’s report showed a November income of $12,808.95 and expenditures of $10,364.92 for a balance of income over expenses of $2,444.03.
* Pastor Tommy reported on Advent/Christmas worship services, Bible studies, continuing education and community events.
* Worship and Music Committee Report – (1) Christmas Caroling was a huge success with 18 carolers! (2) A Blue Christmas service will be held in conjunction with St. Alban’s Episcopal Church on December 20 at 7:00 p.m. (3) Our Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00 p.m.
* Evangelism and Membership Committee Report – (1) The committee continues to offer coffee hours each Sunday if no group/individuals sign up.
* Finance and Stewardship Committee Report – (1) As of December 19, 52 families have returned pledge cards for a total pledged amount of $103,002. (2) The January Noisy Offering will go to Walk for Warmth. (3) The Council voted to pay the 2023 Benevolence to the Northern Great Lakes Synod in full. (We had not paid since June.) (4) The Ahlstrom Trust Fund and Endowment Fund proposed expenses for 2024 were approved. (5) There will be stewardship temple talks on January 7 and 14. (6) Discussion of passing the offering plate was tabled until the January meeting.
* Property Committee Report – (1) The water backflow prevention test failed and will have to be addressed by the committee.

**Congregation Council Highlights, continued**

* Christian Education and Youth Report – No report.
* Personnel Committee – (1) We are in need of a church secretary. (2) Pastor Tommy will be on Paternity Leave December 25, 2023-January 31, 2024. Pastor Eleanor Russey will be covering the leave time.
* Annual Meeting reports will be due at the end of January. The Annual Meeting will be held on February 11, 2024.

**January Noisy Offering**

The December Noisy Offeringof $68.67 was given to the Schoolcraft County Community Foundation. January’s Noisy Offering will go to Walk for Warmth. The Noisy Offering is collected on the third weekend of each month.

**Christmas Tree**

Thank you to ALL the people who helped put up and decorate the Christmas tree! There were at least 15 of you who stayed after church to help get this task done! What a beautiful job – well done!

**Christmas Caroling**

Eighteen Christmas carolers sang to residents of Woodland and to our homebound members this Christmas season. Great weather and a superb bus driver helped the evening go smoothly.

**Thank You for Your Generosity**

Our fall Stewardship Campaign for 2024 concluded in November, 2023.

It has been no secret that we have been dealing with financial problems in this post-pandemic environment, and concerns existed for the 2024 budget.

However, our congregation responded to these concerns! Listed below are the results of the Stewardship Campaign for the last two years:

 2023 53 pledges totaling $97,512.

 2024 52 pledges totaling $103,002.

This means that the pledged giving increased by $5,490.00 5.6% from 2023 to 2024. To increase pledged giving in this inflationary environment is a positive and encouraging development for Zion Lutheran Church.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity! You have met the annual challenge! This will help us as we continue to deal with our on-going financial concerns.

The generous people of Zion continue to be very supportive. We recently had a $10,000 unanticipated expense of repairing our elevator, which was an emergency. Something like this could have been a financial disaster for us! But it did happen, and two anonymous donors came forward and paid the cost. As a result, the elevator is up and running, and the 2023 budget was not impacted at all. This is just one of the many examples of generosity that happens at Zion.

We will continue to deal with financial problems and concerns at Zion, it is a sign of the times.

Thankfully, we know that our members are willing to help by continuing their support.

Thank you again for your generosity!

-The Finance and Stewardship Committee.

**Women’s Circles**

If you are interested in joining one of our women’s circles for Bible study, work projects and fun, please contact the church office or the following group leaders for more information:

 Sarah Circle – Elizabeth Macklem

 Joy Circle – Bonnie Groh

 Hope Circle – Sheila Clark or Julie Gauthier

The **Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, January 8 at 1:00 p.m. in Augustana Hall.

The **Joy Circle** will meet on Thursday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Augustana Hall.

**Backpack Buddies**

The Backpack Buddies program will be distributing food bags on Thursday, January 25th. All children ages 0-18, are eligible to receive food. Please pass the word!

Monetary donations or donations of food are always needed!

**Home Communion**

If someone in your family is unable to attend church and would like to receive communion, please call the church office (906-341-5427). Thank you to Lila Panek and Linda Mason who provide this ministry to our members.

Church Attendance Report

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Saturday** | **Sunday** | **Zoom** |
|  **December 2/3** | 11 | 39 | 4 |
| **December 6** | Midweek | Service | 10 |
| **December 9/10** | 13 | 42 | 0 |
| **December 13** | Midweek | Service | 12 |
| **December 16/17** | 7 | 51 | 3 |
| **December 20** | Midweek | Service | 18 |
| **December 23/24** | 9 | 35 | 4 |
| **December 24****Christmas Eve Service** |  | 86 | 5 |

**Augustana Hall Roof**

The end is in sight! The remaining balance of the metal roof installed on Augustana Hall is $3,019.17. Thank you for your generosity in helping pay this debt.

**Sign-Up Sheets**

Sign-up sheet for Altar flowers, Bulletin, Bread & Wine, Coffee Hours and offering counters have been posted for 2024. You will find the sheets on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

**Altar Flowers**

Due to the generosity of our members, we will be ordering flowers for the Altar each week. Flowers will be automatically delivered. If you have signed up for flowers, you will not have to contact the florist unless you have specific requests.

**Zion’s Annual Meeting**

Zion’s Annual Meeting will be held on February 11th immediately following worship. The Nominating Committee will soon begin its work nominating people for various leadership positions. We will need Congregation Council members, auditing committee members, nominating committee members, synod assembly representatives and Tri-County Conference representatives. Please say YES when asked to serve in these important roles!

We had many lovely poinsettias decorating the sanctuary this Christmas season. Poinsettias were given by:

Chris and Gayle Cartland

John and Jen Creighton in memory of Jack and Helen Creighton

Naomi Fletcher in memory of parents Gene and Barbara Moberg

Tom and Carla Flodin in memory of Elmer and Jean Flodin and Roy Laux

Todd and Laura Kangas in memory of Dawn Kangas

Todd and Laura Kangas in memory of Grandparents: The Linnas, The Kangas’s, The Mathsons and The Lindholms.

Richard and Linda Mason in honor of grandchildren

Teddy E. Nelson in memory of Loved Ones

Darryl and Kathy Peterson in memory of Loved Ones

Jim and Ellie Russey in memory of The Rev. Ingmar Levin

Anna Sjogren and Elsa Couch in memory of Fred and Alin Sjogren, Karin Sjogren and Joe Couch

Bill and Karla Zellar in memory of Jack and Eileen Reque and Thor and Florence Reque.

**Lector**

**Those Who Serve in January**

January 7 – Teddy Nelson

January 14 – Sheila Clark

January 21 – Bonnie Moody

January 28 – Ken Groh

**Ushers**

 Todd Kangas and Ken Groh

**Altar Flowers**

January 7 –

January 14 -

January 21 -

January 28 -

**Bulletin Bread and Wine**

January 7 –

January 14 –

January 21 –

January 28 -

**Acolyte**

January 7 -

January 14 – Michael Lamb

 January 21 – Kristin Lamb

January 21 – Nicholas Gauthier

January 28 -

**Communion Assistant**

January 7 – Linda Mason

January 14 – Sheila Clark

January 21 – Kim Lamb

January 28 – Julie Gauthier

**Counters**



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**Zion Lutheran Church 435 Oak Street**

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