Zion Lutheran Church

**435 Oak Street**

**Manistique, MI 49854**

**906-341-5427**

The Beacon

# July 2023 Newsletter

**Saturday 5pm** Parking Lot Worship

**Sunday10:30am** Worship in person & via Zoom www.zionlutheran-manistique.org

Pastor Tommy Richter Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com

# Contact Us

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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

# From the Pastor’s Desk

*If the Lord doesn’t build the house, the builders work in vain; if the Lord doesn’t guard the city, the sentries watch in vain. In vain you get up early and stay up late, sweating to make a living, because God loves us and provides for us even while we sleep. Children are the heritage God gives us; our descendants are our rewards. Having children when you are young is like equipping an archer with wonderful new arrows. Happy are those who have filled their quiver with such arrows! When they argue with their enemies at the city gate, no one will be able to make them feel ashamed.* -Psalm 127

Grace, and Peace to you members and friends of Zion. When I was a Philosophy major in college, studying argumentation and rhetoric, we would often talk about the most effective and absurd ways to win an argument. The favorite of most people was, “Live a longer life,

it is hard for your opponents to argue with you if they are all dead.” But here in this psalm there is another charming and creative way to win an argument: the psalmist suggests that having enough kids that you can lob at your enemies like arrows from a quiver will make you unassailable when people try to argue with you at the city gates. Here, I thought a good compelling proof by cases or avoiding any manner of logical fallacies would outfit me best in my discourse. But, turns out all I needed was lots of kids, and that’s it, all arguments over, so that’s nice.

Well, it might not help me win any arguments, but it is indeed a great and joyous thing that we can announce that our family is adding another arrow to our quiver. That is, we are expecting our second child! Our new little one will be polishing their argumentative prowess for most of the rest of this year, and we can expect their great opening orations sometime near December 29th. Rejoice with us as we look forward to this new addition to our family!

Our little Zephyr is going to be a big sister, and depending on how things go, her sibling might even have a holiday birthday like she does. That’ll be plenty enough to support me in all my arguments at the city gates.

-Pastor Tommy

**Church Office Hours**

The church office will be open Wednesdays,

and Thursdays from 9am to 12pm. Pastor’s office hours are Wednesdays 9am-12pm and Thursdays 9am-12pm. If you have questions, concerns at other times, or are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Tommy 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 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.

Church Attendance Report

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Saturday** | **Sunday** | **Zoom** |
| **June 3/4** | 13 | 36 | 3 |
| **June 10/11** | 12 | 38 | 3 |
| **June 17/18** | 15 | 54 | 3 |
| **June 24/25** | 16 | 56 | 3 |

**Congregation Council Highlights**

* The treasurer’s report showed a May income of $10,041.01 and expenditures of $11,990.89. This is a deficit of $1,949.88 for the month.
* In his Pastor’s Report, Pastor Tommy reported there were four students in confirmation class. Bible studies are taking a break for the summer and will resume in September. Pastor attended Synod Assembly in May and led two Bible studies as well as played in the “Pastor Band”.
* Worship and Music Committee Report – On the last Sunday of each month, communion will be at the rail.
* Evangelism and Membership Committee Report – (1) The church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 13 at Frenette Park. A free-will offering will be taken for World Hunger. (2) Highway Clean-Up will be held July 15 beginning at 10:00 a.m.
* Finance and Stewardship Committee Report – (1) The Council voted 10-1 to withhold Synod benevolence payments, at this time, for June and July due to budget constraints. The issue will be revisited in August. (2) We still owe about $12,000 on the Augustana Hall roof.
* Property Committee Report – (1) The elevator will be repaired. (2) We need people to help with the upkeep of our gardens and landscaping.
* Christian Education and Youth Report – (1) Michael Lamb and Kristin Lamb were approved for confirmation on October 29, 2023. (2) YAKS is coming……..

# **Adopt A Highway**

The Highway Clean-Up dates are July 15-23. The Evangelism Committee is planning a workday on Saturday, July 15 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please meet at the church parking lot to get supplies and head out. Our stretch of highway is from Gray Wolf Lodge to Shunk’s Furniture.

If you cannot participate on that day but would still like to help, contact Donna Mott at 906-341-6414 to make arrangements to pick up needed supplies.

 Thanks for your help!

**Confirmation Class**

Four young people participated in Confirmation Week June 12-16th. Two of the students, Michael Lamb and Kristin Lamb completed their second year of confirmation and will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 29th. Thanks to Jo-Nell Berger for providing a pizza lunch for the kids!

**Elevator**

A bid from Otis Elevator was received for the repair of the elevator. New roller guides have to be replaced at a cost of $9,879.42. The elevator repair will be financed with a $5,000 gift from a member of the congregation, $3,000 from the building fund and a withdrawal of $2,000 from the parsonage investment fund.

# **Flowers**

 If you would like to sponsor flowers for the Altar,please

first sign up by calling or putting your name on the sign up sheet in Augustana Hall so we know which weekend you are covering. Then, order the flowers from the florist of your choice and have them delivered before worship on Sunday.

**Church Picnic**

Our annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 13th at Frenette Park (formerly Pines Park) immediately following worship. The park is on U.S. 2 just before the airport. Hotdogs/buns with all the fixings, chips, coffee, water, and table service will be provided. If you would like, please bring a dish to share.

You can bring bars or cookies that are individually wrapped. All the leftover desserts will be taken to the U.P. State Fair and sold to support the Lutheran World Relief World Thirst Project.

There will also be a freewill offering at the picnic to support World Hunger.

Please join us!

# **Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers to help with the upkeep of our gardens/landscaping. You can pick your very own spot to tend. Please contact Kay MacGregor, Property Committee Chair, or any Congregation Council member.

# **Pray With Us**

If you have someone you would like to be on the

prayer list each weekend, or someone you would simply like Pastor to pray for during the week, please stop by the contact page on the Zion website and fill out a Prayer Request. Pastor Tommy receives all 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.

# **Email Addresses**

 We are collecting email addresses of members. Please

call the church with your email address or send it to

the church at: office@zionlutheran-manistique.org

**Backpack Buddies**

The Backpack Buddies program will not be distributing bags in July. Distribution will resume in August.

**Pastoral Visits**

Pastor makes home visits on Thursday afternoons. If you would like a visit from Pastor Tommy or have a friend or relative in need of a pastoral visit, please contact the church office.

**The June Noisy Offering** went to Northwoods Airlifeline. A total of $51.03 was collected.

**The July Noisy Offering** will be going to Beacon House.

*Thanks for your generous support of these organizations!*



**What is YAKS?!**

YAKS stands for Young and Kicking Seniors! It’s a new ministry of Zion Lutheran Church thundering your way in August. Mark your calendars for the first four Thursdays in August from 10am till 1pm. Invite your friends! Invite the community and people off the street! Bring your grandkids and family! Anyone you would like to YAK with about God is welcome. This is an in- name-only ministry for people in the wisdom age bracket (older, wiser folks is what we mean by Seniors, not the High-school Graduate kind), but YAKS is by no means limited to people above or below any age. Are you young? Old? Kicking? Anywhere in-between? You are welcome to join us for YAKS! We will meet once a week for four weeks in August to do some crafts, sing some songs, study “Rascals in Scripture” and eat together! YAKS is a brown-bag bring your own lunch affair, culminating in a pot-luck luncheon on the last day (August 24th)! We’re going to YAK it up and have a blast. Hope to see you there from 10am-1pm, August 3, 10, 17 & 24.

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.” ~John 15:4 Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod, In early December of 2017, I was out in our front yard wrapping Christmas lights around a limb of a tree. The limb was about 10 feet off the ground, and I was standing on a ladder, perhaps the third step down, in order to stretch the lights over and under the branch that extended horizontally. Finished with that particular section, I took one step down, but instead of the ladder remaining firmly stationary, it moved toward me. If I did nothing, I would fall to the ground from a painful height on my back. So I grabbed the limb of the tree and pulled toward it, thinking that this would stabilize the ladder and bring us both back upright.

No such luck. Instead of righting itself, the ladder fell away beneath me leaving me to cling briefly to the limb before falling to the ground. In my mind, in that slow motion moment, I felt like I could actually choose where I fell, like a kind of gymnastic dismount from the parallel bars. But in reality, I dropped like a bag of potatoes. And somewhere in the confusion of lights, ladder, and branch, the two fingers of my right hand were caught and pulled out, down, and around with a distinctive crunching sound that made me think of someone snacking on a mouthful of potato chips.

I had broken the bone in my hand that was connected to the ring finger and disrupted the surrounding bones and soft tissue. After several weeks in a splint and then cast, I was given my hand back, only to realize that in that brief time, my brain had decided that my hand no longer belonged to my body. It was still attached of course, but not in a way that gave it life and function. The physical therapist called it Chronic Reactive Pain Disorder. In short, my hand could no longer work as a hand should. I could not write or type, play piano or grab hold of things. It was a swollen useless Shining with the Light of Christ in the Northern Great Lakes Synod Page 2 Northern Light thing.

My brain, and my hand, needed to be retrained and reconnected to meaningful communication with the body, so that the brain would tell the body to send healing and reconnect the signals to the muscles of my hand.

So, what about meaningful connection in the body…the BODY…of Christ? What needs to be retrained? What needs to reawakened for life and increased function as we are Church together?

My hand was brought back to life as I watched the 2018 Winter Olympics. While watching gymnasts who actually knew how to land a dismount, I put my hand in hot water for two minutes and then in ice water for 30 seconds – back and forth, night after night. Then exercises, and physical therapy, and more tricks on the brain to get my hand to function in a way that was useful to the body.

Jesus, thankfully, does not suggest that we all dunk ourselves in tubs of hot and cold water to be reconnected as a body. Rather, Jesus talks about connectedness as abiding in him in order to bear fruit. And the way that we abide is by being in relationship with him. And that relationship is conveyed to us in at least two ways: through study of scripture and through relationship with each other as the body of Christ. Again…BODY.

When the Synod Council met in retreat June 9 -10, we agreed to initiate an effort for us to abide, as a whole Synod, as 79 congregations spanning hundreds of miles and in a variety of communities and contexts, by dwelling on the same passages of scripture over a 12-month period.

We will abide with Jesus by dwelling in the Word. Each congregation will receive 12 different passages of scripture, one for each month. And at each council meeting and quilter group, at each Sunday School and youth group meeting, at each and every gathering that month, people from across the synod will dwell with the same text. No preparation is needed. No theological degree is required.

Very simply:

1. Invite one person to read the text aloud.

2. Consider silently the following:

a. What do you notice?

b. What questions do you have?

c. Where might the Holy Spirit be leading us?

3. Then have another person read the text aloud again.

4. Share your thoughts about the questions with each other.

5. Close with prayer.

That’s it.

We shall abide. And in abiding, in dwelling with the presence of Christ in the word, and considering the work of the Spirit with each other, we will connect with the one who makes us one, who gathers us as a BODY to embody the love of Christ in the world and for the world.

In addition, all are invited to join the Synod Council as we dwell in the word, via Zoom, the first Thursday of the month, starting Thursday September 7 at 7:30 pm ET / 6:30 pm CT. The Zoom link will be available on our website and in E-Notes and you can add it to your online calendars.

The impact of being disconnected, of having the body forget who it is connected to and why, cannot be overestimated. We need each other to be the body of Christ, and we need the Holy Spirit of Christ to clarify our mission and purpose as that Body. By dwelling in the word together, we shall abide…in Christ, in the Word, in the presence of Christ in each other.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

# **Upcoming Scripture Readings**

 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

**Lectors**

 **Those Who Serve in July**

July 2 – Harry Mageski July 9 - Sheila Clark

July 16 – Elise Calhoon July 23 – Ken Groh

July 30 – Naomi Fletcher

**Ushers**

Peter Mathson and Ruth Jones

**Altar Flowers**

July 2 - In Honor Of Clyde Johnson’s and

 Zephyr Wimsae’s Birthdays July 9 – In Memory of Edna Peterson

July 16 –

July 23 –

July 30 -

**Bulletin Bread and Wine** July 2 – Doris Ribblet July 9 - Linda Levin July 16 - Doris Ribblet July 23 - Joanne Nelson

July 30 -

**Acolyte**

July 2 - July 9 - Michael Lamb July 16 - Kristin Lamb July 23 - Nicholas Gauthier

July 30 -

**Communion Assistant** July 2 - Linda Mason July 9 - Sheila Clark July 16 - Kim Lamb July 23 - Julie Gauthier

July 30 – Linda Levin



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