Zion Lutheran Church

**435 Oak Street**

**Manistique, MI 49854**

**906-341-5427**

The Beacon

# March 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

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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:** Ken Groh, President

Todd Kangas, Vice President Cyndee Miske, Secretary Jo-Nell Berger

Gayle Cartland Ruth Jones

Linda Levin

Bonnie Moody

Donna Mott Teddy Nelson Kathy Peterson

Larry Peterson

Naomi Fletcher, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

*But you, Lord, don’t be far off! My strength, hurry to help me! Then I will proclaim your Name to my sisters and brothers, and praise you in the full assembly: You who worship the Lord give praise! Daughters of Leah, daughters of Rachel, glorify the Lord! Sons of Jacob fall down and worship! For God has not despised—not disdained—the suffering of those in pain! God didn’t hide but answered them when they cried for help!* -Psalm 22:19, 22-24

Lent has always been one of my favorite seasons of the year. When I was a kid, in particular, I always looked forward to the sunrise vigil services that we would have every week day in my home congregation for Lent. (I was not a normal child growing up.) I have never convinced any of my congregations that I have served as a pastor to try the idea of a daily Lenten sunrise vigil, and never have I seen it happen anywhere but in the congregation of my youth, partly because the idea is so insane. Who in their right minds would wake up and come to church at the crack of dawn for forty days in a row when we already lose an hour this time a year to daylight savings time?!

Well, not only did my home congregation have Lenten sunrise vigils, but they were completely lay led services! Somehow my grandfather convinced a whole congregation to go along with this idea and also he got them to lead it themselves! We would gather each weekday before dawn in the church fellowship hall, different families would take turn leading. We’d light candles, read scripture, share reflections, and sing morning prayers until the sun came up. Then afterwards we would have doughnuts or a small breakfast and go off to school or work and the rest of our days. I preached my first ever sermons at these sunrise vigil services. They were clunkers all of them. At fourteen years old, I often didn’t finish my thoughts, and left most things I had considered unsaid, because I naïvely assumed everyone else could just follow along with what was going on inside my head. At any rate, the point is not about how bad my first sermons were, nor is it that I think sunrise vigils will fly here at Zion, rather it is that as crazy as these sunrise vigils sound, they made a lasting impression on me. They taught me that God was not far off, but daily meets us even when we’re blurry eyed teenagers who got up before dawn.

This is the God of Psalm 22, one who shows up in places most people would consider crazy to look for God. Why would anyone go hang out with the poor, suffering, and dejected?

God does not hide God’s face nor despise us no matter what time of day we wake up, but instead God answers us whenever we cry out. God is there in unexpected places, keeping vigil with us for the rising of the sun. This, too, is the God of Lent. It is one of my favorite seasons of the year because it is a season of permission. It gives us permission to be our messy selves and live lives where not everything is okay. Because God never shies away from the darkness, and doesn’t expect us to put on nice faces and pretend that life is good. Instead, God is compelled like Christ after his baptism to run toward our wildernesses. God hurries to our side and restores us to a place of worship and praise in community together. So that the Psalmist can encourage us: “daughters of Leah, daughters of Rachel, Glorify the Lord! Sons of Jacob, fall down and worship!” Amen.

+Pastor Tommy

**March Office Hours**

The church office will be open Monday 9:30 am-12:30 pm, and Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am to 12 pm. **If you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Tommy at 906-341-5427 or 906-286-4383.**

**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 January income of $15,410.82 and expenditures of $12,812.86 for a balance of expenses over income of $2,597.96.
* Pastor Tommy reported he is resuming his schedule after returning from paternity leave.
* Worship and Music Committee Report – (1) Weekly Lenten services will be held each Wednesday during Lent beginning at 7:00 pm.
* Evangelism and Membership Committee Report – (1) Soup Suppers will be held each Wednesday during Lent beginning at 6:00 pm. (2) The Council will organize the Easter Breakfast to be held on Sunday, March 31st. (3) The committee continues to offer coffee hours each Sunday if no group/individuals sign up. (4) The church picnic is scheduled for August 11th.
* Finance and Stewardship Committee Report – (1) The roof on Augustana Hall is paid for! (2) Noisy Offering designations were made for the year.
* Property Committee Report – (1) The water heater needs to be replaced after 25 years.
* Christian Education and Youth Report – No report.
* Personnel Committee – (1) We are in need of a church secretary and a church janitor.

**February Noisy Offering**

The February Noisy Offeringof $66.49 was given to Scouts, BSA Troops #400 and #401. March’s Noisy Offering is going to CBC and is collected on the third weekend of each month.

**Midweek Lenten Services**

Midweek Lenten services will be held each Wednesday during Lent beginning at 7:00 pm in Augustana Hall. The dates include March 6, 13 and 20.

**Lenten Soup Suppers**

Come and share in soup and fellowship during the Lenten season. Soup will be served each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm, prior to the 7:00 worship service. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall if you are able to share soup, bread or cookies.

**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, March 4 at 1:00 p.m. in Augustana Hall.

The **Joy Circle** will meet on Thursday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m. in Augustana Hall.

**Backpack Buddies**

The Backpack Buddies program will be distributing food bags on Thursday, March 28. All children ages 0-18, are eligible to receive food. Please pass the word!

Backpack Buddies was the January Round-Up non-profit group at Jack’s Fresh Market. The program received over $4,000 from Jack’s from a generous community. Thanks!

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** |
|  **February 3/4** | 12 | 44 | 5 |
| **February 10/11** | 11 | 48 | 6 |
| **February 14** | Noon: 15 | 7:00 pm: 17 |  |
| **February 17/18** | 10 | 40 | 7 |
| **February 21** | 13 |  |  |
| **February 24/25** | 11 | 44 | 6 |

**Augustana Hall Roof**

The roof is completely paid for! Thanks to everyone who helped us pay off the debt!

We didn’t get much time to celebrate before we found out the 25-year-old water heater needed to be replaced. It is not a run-of-the-mill water heater as it runs in conjunction with the boiler. The total cost $3,480. If you would like to help with the cost, please use the church improvement envelope included with your offering envelopes or use an envelope found in the pew pockets.

**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.

**Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**

Flyers for the 2024 camping season at Fortune Lake are available on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall. Our congregation will pay half the registration fee if your camper is registered by the early bird registration date of April 1, 2024.

Check out the camp poster in Augustana Hall. There is a picture of a familiar face!!

There is nothing better than spending a week at camp during the summer!

**Girl Scout Sunday**

Girl Scout Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, March 10th. Thank you to the leaders and volunteers who work with the girls! Through Girl Scouts, girls are offered opportunities to develop confidence, courage and leadership skills. Girls have opportunities to participate in camps in the summer where they experience hiking, outdoor cooking, boating, swimming and meeting people from other areas of Michigan, Wisconsin and beyond.

**Daylight Savings Time**

Daylight Savings time begins Sunday, March 10th. Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour before heading to bed on Saturday night!

**Holy Week Services**

Maundy Thursday Service -Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm.

Manistique Ministerial Association Good Friday Community Service – Friday, March 29 at Zion at 1:00 pm.

Good Friday Service – Friday, March 29 at 7:00 pm.

Easter Vigil Service – Saturday, March 30 at 5:00 pm.

Manistique Ministerial Association Easter Sunrise Service – Sunday, March 31 at 7:00 am at Lakeview Cemetery.

Easter Worship – Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 am.

**Easter Breakfast**

The Congregation Council will host and Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, March 31st from 9:00-10:00 am. The menu includes egg dishes, muffins, fruit, juice, milk and coffee. Please join us!

**Easter Flowers**

If you would like to order flowers to beautify our sanctuary during the Easter season, please complete the form found elsewhere in this newsletter and return to church no later than March 18th.

**Annual Meeting**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 138th Annual Meeting of our congregation.

\*Four council members were elected for three-year terms: Gayle Cartland, Ruth Jones, Kathy Peterson and Larry Peterson.

\*Chris Cartland was elected to the auditing committee for a three-year term.

\*Nominating Committee members elected include: Mary Ansell, Jo-Nell Berger, Janet Krueger, Donna Mott, Brian Nelson and Kathy Peterson.

\*Tri-County Conference delegates elected include: Linda Levin, Kay MacGregor, Larry Peterson and Rebecca Peterson.

\*Delegates elected to the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly are Bonnie Groh and Ken Groh.

\*Financial reports were reviewed.

\*A budget of $163,442.00 was adopted for the year.

**Coffee Hours**

Thank you to our February coffee hour hosts: The Sarah Circle, The Evangelism Committee and Ken and Bonnie Groh. There is an opportunity for you to host a coffee hour on March 24. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

**Shrove Tuesday**

Thanks to our pancake flippers, sausage makers, servers and dishwashers who made our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper a success!

**Church Committees**

We need help on our Congregation Council Committees! The work of our congregation is most effectively completed through committees. We have the following committees: Worship and Music, Evangelism and Membership, Finance and Stewardship, Christian Education and Youth and Property. Most committees meet no more than once per quarter (4 times per year). We need your participation and new ideas! Please contact Pastor Tommy or Ken Groh if you are interested.

**Church Picnic**

For those who really like to plan ahead, the 2024 Zion Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 11th immediately following worship. The picnic will be held at Frenette Park (formerly Pines Park).

Giver\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DONATION OF $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (any amount)To the Floral FundDonations to the Floral Fund will support the beautification of the sanctuary and narthex throughout the church year.  | PLANT PURCHASE TO TAKE HOME:**\_\_\_\_\_Easter Lily****\_\_\_\_\_Tulip****\_\_\_\_\_Daffodil**\_\_\_\_\_\_ @ $12.00 each $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  |

If you are ordering a plant please have your orders in by **March 18th.**

**Lector**

**Those Who Serve in March**

March 3 – Cyndee Miske

March 10 – Donna Mott

March 17 – Teddy Nelson

March 24 – Palm Sunday Service

March 31 - Kathy Peterson

**Ushers –** Teddy Nelson and Donna Mott

**Altar Flowers**

March 3 –

March 10 -

March 17 – Donna Gauthier

March 24 –

March 31 -

**Bulletin Bread and Wine**

March 3 –

March 10 -

March 17 – Lois Bentley

March 24 – Dorothy Brandstrom

March 31 - Donna Gauthier

**Acolyte**

March 3 -

 March 10 – Michael Lamb

 March 17 – Kristin Lamb

March 24 – Nicholas Gauthier

March 31 -

**Communion Assistant**

March 3 – Linda Mason

March 10 – Sheila Clark

March 17 – Kim Lamb

March 24 – Julie Gauthier

March 31 – Linda Levin



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**Zion Lutheran Church 435 Oak Street**

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