Zion Lutheran Church

**435 Oak Street**

**Manistique, MI 49854**

**906-341-5427**

The Beacon

# September 2023 Newsletter

**Saturday 5pm** Parking Lot Worship

**Sunday10:30am** Worship in person & via Zoom [www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](about:blank)

Pastor Tommy Richter [Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com](about:blank)

# Contact Us

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435 Oak Street

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[www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](about:blank) or follow us on Facebook.com

**Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

Office: 906-341-5427

Home: 906-286-4383

**Secretary:**

[office@zionlutheran-manistique.org](about:blank)

**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

**Church Office Hours**

The church office will be open Monday through

Thursdays from 9 am to 12 pm. Pastor’s office hours are Wednesdays 9 am-12 pm and Thursdays 9 am-12 pm. 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 5 pm** Worship is in the parking lot. Tune your

car radio to 100.1FM and join us for Holy Communion.

**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.

Church Attendance Report

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Saturday** | **Sunday** | **Zoom** |
| **August 5/6** | 12 | 42 | 3 |
| **August 12/13** | 15 | 41 | 4 |
| **August 19/20** | 15 | 39 | 7 |
| **August 26/27** | 9 | 42 | 4 |

**Congregation Council Highlights**

* The treasurer’s report showed a July income of $12,178.08 and expenditures of $11,373.95. We did not pay our synod benevolence of $1000 in July.
* Pastor Tommy attended the Rostered Ministers Gathering in Phoenix, AZ July 17-20. He attended workshops on stewardship, leading churches through a time without youth, and Vital Congregations Training.

Pastor Tommy was also Pastor in Residence at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp July 23-28.

Pastor’s monthly schedule is posted on his office door in case you come looking for him!

* Worship and Music Committee Report – (1) Choir practice will resume in September. (2) We will have a morning Fourth Sunday of Advent service on December 24, and a 4:00 p.m. Christmas service on December 24.
* Evangelism and Membership Committee Report – (1) The church picnic was held on Sunday, August 13. About 30 people attended. A free-will offering, taken for World Hunger, brought in $184. (2) God’s Work, Our Hands projects will take place in September. (3) Highway Clean-Up will take place on September 23 at 10:00 a.m. (4) The Progressive Dinner is scheduled for October 22.
* Finance and Stewardship Committee Report – (1) We owe $7400.96 on the Augustana Hall roof. (2) The committee will meet on September 7 at 7:00 p.m. to plan the fall stewardship program.

**Congregation Council Highlights, continued**

* Property Committee Report – (1) We need people to help with the upkeep of our gardens and landscaping. (2) The fire extinguishers have been inspected and are up to date.
* Christian Education and Youth Report – (1) YAKS has been successful with up to 20 people attending. (2) The committee is exploring alternative programming for Sunday School. (3) Fall Bible studies begin in September.
* Personnel Committee – (1) We are in need of a church secretary. (2) Ken Groh, Kay MacGregor and Pastor Ellie Russey agreed to serve on the Mutual Ministry Committee.

# **Adopt A Highway**

The fall clean-up day is scheduled for September 23. Please meet in the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m. for your assignments. If you have any questions, contact Donna Mott.

# **Garden/Landscaping 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.

**God’s Work, Our Hands**

If you have a project idea for God’s Work, Our Hands, please share it with Donna Mott or Ruth Jones. The project(s) will be done on or around September 10th. Past projects have included painting, cleaning gravestones, and cleaning up park areas.

**Christmas (already?)**

For those of you who love to plan, our Christmas service schedule has been set.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. The Saturday service will celebrate Advent 4 during worship.

The Sunday morning service at 10:30 a.m. will also be celebrating Advent 4. There will be ONE Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be December 10 at 3:00 p.m.

**U.P. State Fair Report**

The churches in Conference 6 have a booth at the fair every year selling water and snacks made by members of the participating churches. All the money raised at this booth is donated to the Thirst Project to help provide access to safe, clean drinking water for everyone. Zion’s day to staff the booth was opening day, August 14. Thanks to Jo-Nell Berger, Ruth Jones, Janet Krueger, Linda Levin and Kay MacGregor who volunteered their time to staff the booth and to everyone who baked treats to sell.

**Church Picnic**

Our annual Church Picnic was held on Sunday, August 13th at Frenette Park. About 30 people were in attendance and were treated to hotdogs, salads and lots of desserts. An offering of $184 was collected for World Hunger.

**Thank You**

Karl & Angela and Linda & Kay wish to thank all of you for the outpouring of love and sympathy when our dear ‘ol dad, Pastor Levin, died. We cherish the stories we heard. We are so thankful for the kind words, hugs, phone calls, food, memorials, and cards we received. The luncheon was awesome! Pastor Levin loved being a pastor, and he loved the people of Zion.

We are grateful for all of you!

**Backpack Buddies**

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

Monetary donations or donations of food are always appreciated and welcomed!

# **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](about:blank)

Thanks to everyone who has already given us your address!

**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.

**September Noisy Offering**

The August Noisy Offeringwent to the Beacon House in Marquette. A total of $93.71 was collected.

September’s Noise Offering will go to the Helpful Hotspot at the Manistique Middle/High School.

**Women of Zion Sunday**

We celebrate the Women of Zion during our worship on Sunday morning, September 10th.

Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and in the world.

Women participating in the service include Pastor Ellie Russey, Marlys Foster, Bonnie Moody, Jo-Nell Berger, Janet Krueger, Shelia Clark, and Naomi Fletcher. The Zion Choir will also be singing.

The coffee hour will be hosted by Kaye Jarski, Lois Bentley, Carla Flodin and Donna Mott. Mary Ansell will provide flowers for the tables.

The Joy Circle is providing Altar flowers, and the Sarah Circle is sponsoring the Bulletin, Bread and Wine.

**Women of the ELCA**

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) groups will begin meeting again in September. If you are not in a group and would like to be, please contact the group leader or Pastor Tommy.

Joy – second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

(Bonnie Groh, group leader)

Sarah – first Monday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

(Elizabeth Macklem, group leader)

**Concert**

*Pipes and Hammers: A Concert of Hymn Favorites for Pipe Organ or Piano*

Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

Ellyn Plackowski, Organist and Pianist

Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian

314 Main Street

Manisitique, MI 49854

All donations will be used for pipe organ maintenance.

**Bible Study**

Bible studies will begin in September. The Monday Bible study is held on the second and fourth Monday of each month. This year they will be studying the book of Acts.

Sunday morning Bible study focuses on the texts for the week. This group meets at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday, beginning September 10, in the conference room.

Pastor Tommy will also be leading a lifelong faith formation class with the Northern Great Lakes Synod over Zoom. Focusing on the Apocrypha, this study is on Wednesday nights beginning at 7:00 p.m., September 20-November 22. Please see Pastor for more information.

**Quilting**

The first day of quilting at Zion will be September 11, 2023 beginning at 9:15 a.m. The quilts that have been made will be transported to First Lutheran Church in Gladstone on October 14th.

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I have a confession to make…I am a bargain shopper. I very rarely will pay full price for something as I first go to the clearance racks, the St. Vinny’s store, or shop at Kohl’s only on those days when I have a 30% off coupon on top of the clearance price and the current sale. And then, if I receive Kohl’s cash in the bargain, I’m back at the store again, in search of the best deal. My husband laments the effectiveness of their marketing strategy on me as I happily anticipate the next opportunity to save money by spending it.

Whether it’s at the gas pump or with grocery store coupons, I am a thrifty shopper. After once again using my Jubilee Pump Perks to save 30 cents a gallon on gas, I wondered how much I might save over a lifetime. Wouldn’t it be great, I wondered, if some angel in heaven were tasked with keeping track of the nickels and dimes that I did not spend? How fun it would be to not only enter into the presence of God’s glory, but then to be told that over my lifetime I saved $57,423.46 that could have been wasted but was instead put to good use elsewhere. All those pennies and dollars that were saved with careful attention and prudent spending, I would love to know how it might all add up.

But then, I thought, wouldn’t such an angel also keep track of my excesses, the impulse buys, the times I was not careful, or too impatient, or just wanted something that I did not need?

And wouldn’t such an accounting include the times I was not generous, when I could have put saved money, or more money, towards someone else’s needs? Sure, I might be saving money, but to what end? Just to stretch my own dollar? As people of faith, are we not called, indeed even commanded, to more than that?

It's no secret that many are in need. As we continue to recover from pandemic disruption, as inflation continues to have an impact, the demands on food pantries and feeding programs has increased. We are asked to give to a host of worthy causes: our own congregation, Lutheran Disaster Response, Feeding America, and so much more. I am grateful to the generosity of so many who continue to give to Lutheran Campus Ministry, our Equipping the Saints Endowment Fund and how many other Synod ministries. Thank you! Thank you!

We are indeed blessed to give – whether it is out of our own abundance, or from the savings carefully and intentionally carved from careful spending and good stewardship of a stretched dollar.

And the good news is that there is no heavenly record-keeping of our failures. Psalm 103 proclaims,

10 [God] does not deal with us according to our

sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11For as the heavens are high above the earth, so

great is his steadfast love toward those who

fear him;

12as far as the east is from the west, so far he

removes our transgressions from us.

I can live off the joy of a good bargain for some days. But life extends into eternity because of God’s steadfast love and mercy. I am thankful that I can enjoy both bargains in this life and God’s promises for the next life while still responding to God’s call in Christ Jesus to be generous and to put those unspent nickels, dimes, and dollars to good use for needs other than my own. After all, when we all give, nickels and dimes and dollars add up to quite a sum, a sum that can make a difference to the work of Christ in and through our congregations and our partnership as a Synod together.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

**Lectors**

**Those Who Serve in September**

September 3 – Ann Stromgren

September 10 – Bonnie Moody

September 17 –

September 24 -

**Ushers**

Jo-Nell Berger and Janet Krueger

**Altar Flowers**

September 3 – Judy Rullman

September 10 – Joy Circle

September 17 – Jean Selling and Family of Jeanne Jenerou

September 24 –

**Bulletin Bread and Wine**

September 3 – Laurie and Fred Nauman

September 10 – Sarah Circle

September 17 –

September 24 - Bonnie Moody

**Acolyte**

September 3 –

September 10 – Michael Lamb

September 17 – Kristin Lamb

September 24 - Nicholas Gauthier

**Communion Assistant**

September 3 – Linda Mason

September 10 - Sheila Clark

September 17 - Kim Lamb

September 24 - Julie Gautheir

**September Counters:**

Kaye Jarski



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**Zion Lutheran Church 435 Oak Street**

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