



Zion Lutheran Church

435 Oak Street
Manistique, MI 49854
906-341-5427



The Beacon

April 2025 Newsletter

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

Sunday 11:00 a.m. Worship in person & Via Zoom

www.zionlutheran-manistique.org

Pastor Tommy Wimsae

Pastor.wimsae@gmail.com

Contact Us

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www.zionlutheran-manistique.org or follow us on
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Rev. Tommy Wimsae, Pastor

Office: 906-341-5427
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Secretary:

office@zionlutheran-manistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Congregational Council:

Ken Groh, President
Todd Kangas, Vice President
Cyndee Miske, Council Secretary
Gayle Cartland
Ruth Jones
Linda Levin
Bonnie Moody
Donna Mott
Teddy Nelson
Kathy Peterson
Mike Jarski
John Barry

Naomi Fletcher, Secretary/Treasurer
Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

April Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am. The office will be **CLOSED** on Fridays. **If you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Tommy Richter at 906-286-4383 or 906-341-5427**

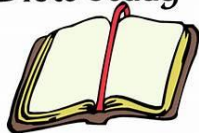
Join us for Worship!

Saturday 5 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday 11:00 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.

Bible Study



Bible Study

Every 2nd and 4th Monday beginning at 6:30 pm in Augustana Hall. This year's study will focus on Luther's Large Catechism.



Lenten Season Begins

Lent began in March, and continues on to Easter. The following dates will lead you on the path to Easter:

April 2-Soup Supper – 6:00, Lenten Service – 7:00
-Lay Lead

April 9-Soup Supper – 6:00, Lenten Service – 7:00

April 13-Palm Sunday Worship at 11:00, Coffee Hour to Follow

April 14-Maundy Thursday service at 5:00 pm

April 18-Good Friday MMA Service at First United Methodist at 1:00, **Zion** service at 5:00 pm

April 19-Easter Vigil 5:00 pm

April 20-Easter Breakfast 9:00 am, Service at 11:00



Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. -Isaiah 43:18-21

Supposedly, Spring is not just an April Fool's Joke, and it will eventually arrive for us as the days lengthen and the snow begins to melt. It can be hard to believe such a new season is on the way when the weather continues to be frightful all the way through March. But newness often works this way, it isn't always dramatic and clean as we would like it to be. When God sets about doing a new

thing in Isaiah, it is subtle enough that the prophet has to ask “Do you not perceive it?” The implication is that newness can be easily missed, and that it isn’t always as pronounced and dramatic as we make it out to be. The other strange detail about this new thing that God is doing, is the inclusion of jackals and ostriches in the creatures that will honor God in response. These are not your typical creatures of honor and celebration. I bet if you took a survey of folks and asked them to name two animals off the top of their head that they most closely associate with newness of life and shouts of praise not a single person today nor when Isaiah was written would pick jackals and ostriches. I think the most likely picks would be maybe butterflies and dolphins (respectively). But an ostrich is more likely to bury its head in the ground or kick you to death than give shouts of praise. And a jackal with its death-eating smile is an opportunistic scavenger that you really don’t want hanging around for either newness or joy. So, what on earth are these two most unpleasant animals doing in this story from Isaiah? Why name those two specifically as creatures giving honor to God? What kind of God wants honor from the likes of these?!

Well, this also isn’t an April fool’s joke. These creatures are intentionally chosen as representatives of desolation, and the absence of human life. They are included here precisely because newness isn’t always pleasant nor comfortable. Our consumer culture has fed us a watered down and fake version of newness where we have come to associate it with pristine-ness, crinkly wrappers, and unadulterated mostly pleasant smells. But real newness is not in fact that way. Real newness is messy, squirmy, squelchy, and loud like a newborn baby. Real newness has ostriches and jackals waiting in the wings, and it breaks forth from desert places in the wilderness. New can be downright unpleasant and uncomfortable. We are most familiar with this uncomfortable side to newness when it comes to the breaking of a new day. Even the most optimistic and early risers among us have experienced the uncomfortable brightness of a new

dawn, and it isn't unnatural to anyone to occasionally grumble and want more sleep.

But this ostrich/jackal nature of newness does not take away from its ability to bring a host of life-giving and necessary things. For out of this new thing God is doing comes a gushing noisy river of water, a drink for the parched people of God, and honor and celebration and praise, even from the unlikeliest of beasts. In the same way, Spring might be pleasant for us who like the warmth and calmer weather, but it is completely destructive and loud to my sinuses, and it is messy with pollen and allergens and mud. Yet look at how many beautiful life-giving things also rush forth from spring! You do not even need me to list them.

If God is truly going to do a new thing, then, ostriches and jackals are not as unwelcome as they may first appear, they are natural agents of change. And furthermore, if God brings water in the wilderness even to beasts such as these, who are you mortal that you think spring and God's love will pass you by? If even ostriches and jackals get to rejoice and sing God's praise, we have no good argument to think God would overlook us for someone better. Instead, believe it or not, God chooses us with our ostrich kicks and jackal smiles, and God forms us for God's self so that we too might declare God's praise. This new thing that God is doing includes you, whether you notice it or not, or whether you like it or not, or even if you didn't particularly want it and would prefer to roll over for five more minutes. God absolutely loves you, and God is daily making you new.

-Pastor Tommy Wimsae

Church Council Highlights

February 18, 2025

- +Approved all minutes and reports presented by Treasurer, Financial Secretary.
- +Received thank you notes from Mariucci Beacon House and MDSCAA Walk for Warmth for Noisy Offerings
- +Pastor reported three couples and one individual have

expressed interest in joining Zion.

+Worship and Music: Discussed start time of Coffee Hour. Will maintain as is and re-address after three months. Gayle Cartland and Clyde Johnson will lead the March 19 Lenten Service

+Evangelism and Membership: Shrove Pancake Supper will be Tuesday-March 4, Easter Breakfast will be April 20 and Soup Suppers will be each Wednesday through Lent at 6:00 pm

+Finance and Stewardship: Church picnic is on the Calendar for August 10 at Pines Park. Noisy Offerings were reviewed. September will be for the Helpful Hot Spot/Emerald Elementary.

+Property: Approved to upgrade copy machine

+Personnel: Approved hiring Connor Noble to shovel the walks at \$250/month for February, March and April

March Noisy Offering

The March Noisy Offering of \$70.54 was given to CBC. April's Noisy Offering will go to Answer the Call. The Noisy Offering is collected on the third weekend of each month.

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 – Ruth Jones

Joy Circle – Bonnie Groh

Hope Circle – Sheila Clark or Julie Gauthier

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

Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies program will be distributing food bags on Thursday, April 24 from 2:30 – 4:30. 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

	Special	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
March 1/2		11	54	4
March 4-Shrove Tuesday	31			
March 5-Ash Wednesday	21+1 Zoom			
March 8/9		8	43	7
March 12- Lent	28			
March 15/16		13	40	5
March 19- Lent	SNOW			
March 22/23		15	43	5
March 27	24			

Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-up sheets for Altar flowers, Bulletin, Bread & Wine, Coffee Hours and offering counters have been posted for 2025. You will find the sheets on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

Welcome New Members



We welcome new members Peggy and Phillip Williams to the Zion Family. They come to us from St. Trinity ELCA in Clarkston.

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, a \$35 donation to the Floral Fund is requested, and you will not have to contact the florist unless you have specific requests.



Notes of Thanks

To the Quilter's for Coffee Hour March 2, and Joy Circle for March 16 Coffee Hour.



Memorial Donations

Thank you to those who have donated in memory of loved ones



Jeanne Gunderson celebrates her 100th Birthday on April 1. Wish her the best. Cards may be sent in care of Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility



April's Flower is the Tulip. One of the great gifts of the **TULIP** is that you only have to plant it once. Since it returns every spring it can represent renewal, reincarnation, the eternal nature of the soul and refreshed perspectives. It's considered a herald of spring because it is among one of the first few flowers to blossom once the weather begins warming.

April Scripture

April 6-Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

April 13-Passion Sunday

April 17-Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14, Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18-Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42

April 20-Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Acts 10:34-43, Luke 24:1-2

April 27-Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31

Those Who Serve in April

Lector

April 6- Sheila Clark
April 13- Gloria McGuire
April 18- Julie Gauthier
April 20- Peggy Williams
April 27- Linda Mason

Ushers

Todd Kangas and Cyndee Miske

Altar Flowers

April 6-
April 13-
April 20-
April 27-

Bulletin Bread and Wine

April 6-Fred and Laurie Naumann
April 13-
April 20-
April 27-

Acolyte

April 6-
April 13- Michael Lamb
April 20- Kristin Lamb
April 27- Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant

April 6 – Linda Mason
April 13 – Sheila Clark
April 20- Kim Lamb
April 27- Julie Gauthier

Counters

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