



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

August 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
Facebook.com

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

August Office Hours

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The church office will be open summer hours Tuesday evening from 4:30-6:30 pm, and Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm. The office will be **CLOSED** on Mondays and Fridays. **If you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Tommy Wimsae at 906-286-4383 or 906-341-5427.**

Join us for Worship!

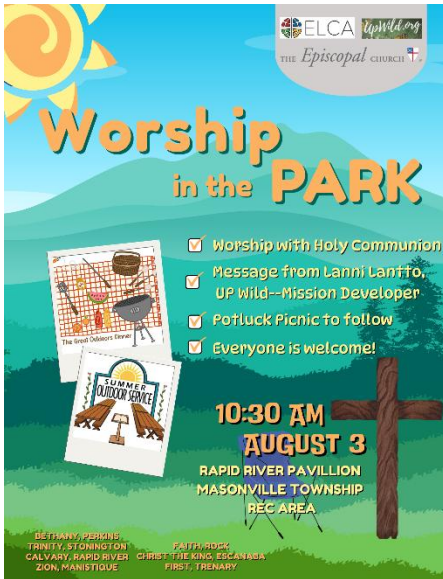
Saturday 5 pm Worship in the Sanctuary

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

As we transition to an Interim Administrative Pastor, Zoom meeting information will change. Please watch our website for updates to Zoom opportunities.



Important Dates to Note:

August 3- Joint Services with Calvary at 10:30 at Rapid River Pavilion with picnic to follow. **NO SERVICES AT ZION** this day. August 2 Saturday Service at 5:00 stays the same at Zion.

August 10- Zion Picnic at Lindsey Frenette Park immediately following services.

August 11 is the start of the UP State Fair. Zion is tasked with manning the World Thirst booth that day from 5:00-10:00 pm. If you can afford an hour or two, please let the office know.

August 17 will be Pastor Tommy's last Sunday with us. We will have a potluck luncheon following services to bid Pastor and his family farewell as they move their ministry to Pennsylvania.



When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him,

"Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here

who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. -John 6:5-13

My first farewell sermon I ever gave for a congregation was on this text from John 6, and the feeding of the multitudes. I preached it when I was departing as a Vicar from a congregation named Trinity in the small town of Robesonia Pennsylvania, on my way to be ordained in the Alaska Synod to serve my first call in the far-flung reaches of the world up in Shishmaref. Now, three calls later, I feel it appropriate to return to this text as I am saying goodbye to you here in the far-flung UP of Michigan and as I head on my way back home to a different Church named Trinity in another small town in Pennsylvania.

Now you may say, Pastor, what on earth does this story about Jesus eating snacks with a bunch of folks and taking home leftovers have to do with saying goodbye? Couldn't you pick a more normal goodbye story like when Elijah is departing from Elisha in Second Kings, or maybe something from Jesus' farewell discourse later on in John's Gospel. At least in those stories folks are actually saying goodbye to one another. But friends, you know me better than that by now. I am quirky to a fault, and stubborn and whimsical, and I often revel in meaning making and the theological meat of a story beyond the plain sense of the text. And once this story was thrust upon me for preaching that first goodbye sermon all those years ago, I cannot help but make the association as if it was part of the text itself.

Now hear me out, I do not think it is as much of a stretch

as it may first appear that this is a perfect text for goodbyes. After all, every time we say goodbye, we encounter the very same contrast as Jesus and his disciples do in this story. When we say goodbye we often find ourselves laser-focused on the “bye” part, on the scarcity of time we have left. We say things like “time is growing short pastor!” and “you won’t be with us much longer!” or “It’s almost over are you counting the minutes?” or “it feels like you just started yesterday!” These statements that we make are the same as the disciples, who failed Jesus test, when they too were stuck in narratives of scarcity. Listen again for that same sound when Philip says: “Lord, six months wages couldn’t buy enough bread for each of the people here to get even a little food.” or when Andrew says “there is a boy here who has a meager five loaves and two fish, but that isn’t going to be nearly enough! What are five loaves and two fish amidst so many hungry mouths?” Time and again, and especially in moments of transition like a goodbye, or when a hungry mob is following us, we get caught up in scarcity. We zoom in on what is lacking, little and dwindling. But now it is time for us to sit down in the grass together, and witness to what Jesus does with all our worry and focus on scarcity.

What Jesus does is give thanks over our meager offerings. Imagine that, giving thanks over something what was just a moment ago despaired over. That in itself is more of a miracle than the multiplication of food. Therefore, I believe that it is only with the eyes of faith, by the grace of Jesus’ radical actions in this story, that we can see that *goodbye* has the word *good* in it. GOODbye. How quickly do we skip over the idea that *farewell* implies a wish that things will and should fare well? It is almost like God knew we would struggle with this, and so God made it that the very words we say when we are focused on how little we have left together point not to scarcity but to God’s abundance! Christ’s giving thanks over our meager despairing portion is that important for us to hear, that we should repeat it every time we say goodbye. Just like this

story of the feeding of the multitudes is important enough to be repeated over six times in the space of four gospels.

Christ takes our paltry five loaves and two fishes, defies all reason, and after giving thanks over them, he turns them into a feast that feeds a multitude. Christ takes our sin which limits us, and gives us instead forgiveness, and ever gushing life with no bounds. Christ takes our byes and makes them goodbyes. Friends, you are absolutely and profusely loved by God, and that abundance refuses to be hemmed in. That goodness will not be deterred by our worries and our laser-focus. I give thanks for you, and God will not quit loving us in abundance no matter how loudly we lament how little we have. When I say goodbye to you, I am saying so wrapped in the comfort of God's grace and mercy, in the full hope of God's kingdom that you sit on the grass with me and witness the Good at work in our midst: filling us up to satisfaction and leaving us with leftovers to share. Let us give thanks over the things that the world despairs of.

Goodbye, and thanks.

-Pastor Tommy Wimsae.

Church Council ReCap

There was no Council meeting in July.

YAKS (Young and Kicking Seniors) is coming continuing in August. Invite your friends. Personal invitations are always the best way to get people interested. And they don't have to be Seniors. Let everyone know they are invited! We will meet Thursdays **August 14 and 28th** beginning at **5:00**.



Bring a dish to pass and enthusiasm! Don't forget, the last Thursday- August 28, will be Pizza-make night! So, a dessert to pass would be great!

July Noisy Offering

The July Noisy Offering of \$82.00 was given to Beacon House. August's Noisy Offering will go to Habitat for Humanity. 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 be on Summer Break through the months of June, July and August.

Backpack Buddies



Monetary donations or donations of food are always needed! **Your donations would help more as we approach the summer break and as local resources dwindle for our low-income families.**

The program resumes in August with the following dates for the year:

August 28, 2025

September 25, 2025

October 23, 2025

November 20, 2025 (3rd Thursday)

December 18, 2025 (3rd Thursday)

January 22, 2026

February 26, 2026

March 26, 2026

April 23, 2026

May 28, 2026

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
June 28/29	14	57	2
July 4/5	4	59	2
July 12/13	11	54	2
July 19/20	12	46	3
July 26/27	11	50	5



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

It's that time of year when we gather supplies for Lutheran World Relief School Backpacks and Health Kits. The list for each is below and donations may be dropped off at the church. Circles will then gather your donations and make kits to send worldwide in October.

Supplies needed for Backpacks:

70 Sheet wide or college ruled notebooks,
2" rulers with inches and centimeters,
individual pencil sharpeners,
unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers,
black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel),
16 or 24 count crayons,
2 ½" pink erasers

Supplies needed for Health Kits:

Large bath towel
Toothbrush
Large comb
Large nail clippers
Bath soap (individually packaged)

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.

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.

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 Daniel Richter for his gift of Music in July.

+To Rebecca Peterson for her gift of Music in July.



Memorial Donations

Thank you to those who have donated



August's Flower – Poppy

In the mystical language of flowers, poppies embody complex and sometimes contradictory meanings. Their primary symbolism centers

around eternal sleep, peace, and remembrance, particularly concerning fallen soldiers.

This association emerged powerfully during World War I, when poppies bloomed across the battlefields of Flanders, their red petals echoing the sacrifice of those who fell.

Beyond their connection to remembrance, poppies carry deep spiritual significance. Ancient civilizations viewed them as symbols of dream prophecy and spiritual vision, believing that the flowers could bridge the gap between the conscious and unconscious realms.

The poppy's ability to bloom after long periods of dormancy also represents resurrection and the eternal cycle of life, death, and rebirth.

Whether blooming in memorial gardens, worn as badges of remembrance, or growing wild in nature, poppies continue to speak to the deepest aspects of the human experience – our memories, our hopes, and our connection to both the past and future.

August Scripture

Aug 3-Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23, Psalm 49:1-12, Collosians 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Aug 10- Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Aug 17-Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56

Aug 24-Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Aug 31- Proverbs 25:6-7, Psalm 112, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Those Who Serve in August

Lector

Aug 3 – Worship in Rapid River

Aug 10 – Naomi Fletcher

Aug 17– Elise Calhoun

Aug 24–Ted Nelson

Aug 31 -Sheila Clark

Ushers

Bonnie Moody and Ruth Jones

Altar Flowers

Aug 3 –

Aug 10 – Clyde Johnson in memory of Doris Johnson

Aug 17– Deb Middleton in honor of Liz Macklem

Aug 24–

Aug 31

Bulletin Bread and Wine

Aug 3 – Fred and Laurie Naumann

Aug 10 –

Aug 17–

Aug 24–

Aug 31

Acolyte

Aug 3 –

Aug 10 –
Aug 17– Kristen Lamb
Aug 24–Nicholas Gauthier
Aug 31

Communion Assistant

Aug 3 – Linda Mason
Aug 10 – Sheila Clark
Aug 17– Kim Lamb
Aug 24– Julie Gauthier
Aug 31-Linda Levin

Counters

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