



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

December 2024

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship in person & Via Zoom
www.zionlutheran-manistique.org
Pastor Tommy Richter
Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com

Contact Us

Zion Lutheran Church
435 Oak Street
Manistique, MI 49854
906-341-5427

www.zionlutheran-manistique.org

or follow us on Facebook

Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor

Office: 906-341-5427

Home: 906-286-4383

Secretary:

office@zionlutheran-manistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Custodian: Tina's Cleaning Services

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

Naomi Fletcher, Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

Naomi Fletcher, Church Secretary

December Office Hours

The church office will be open 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.



Don't be vexed by evildoers, and don't be envious of the corrupt! They'll soon fade like the grass, and wither away like unwatered plants. Trust in the Lord, and do good, and you'll dwell in the land and enjoy security. Delight in the Lord, and you'll be given the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, and trust in the Lord, God will take action, making your vindication as sure as the dawn and your integrity as bright as noonday. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently; don't fret about those who amass great fortunes and carry out their schemes unchallenged. Let go of your anger and leave resentment behind. And stop worrying! It produces nothing but evil, and evildoers will be cut off. But those who put their hope in the Lord will inherit the land. -Psalm 37:1-9

It is often said that patience is a virtue. You can find it said in lots of places how great patience is: like Proverbs 14:29-30: "Patient people demonstrate great understanding; a quick temper is the mark of a fool. A peaceful heart gives life to the flesh, but envy rots the bones." But, do we, as a culture really value patience that highly? If it truly is a virtue, why do we have so little time for it? Diligence and hard work are also said to be virtues, and we certainly have those in abundance in our culture, I know many a hard working and diligent soul. But are we truly patient ever? How rare a virtue patience must be! I mean, we neglect patience so much that we can't even finish Halloween before people start celebrating Christmas. How quick many of us are to skip Thanksgiving altogether and start decking the halls and singing carols!

How many corporate memos do you see being handed down saying: cool your jets and just wait a while. We just can't wait! We spend so much time in apology if deadlines ever come and go unmet. But, as if we never learned anything from our childhood parables about the tortoise and the hare, little praise is ever given to those who take their time. When was the last time you heard someone say: "I am so glad you took your sweet time on this" without it being sarcastic? Taking your time is so much more likely to be an insult than it is to be praised as a virtue.

We are not a culture that does well with patience are we? We would much rather do anything else. Twiddle our thumbs. Scroll through social media apps. Read a book. Play games on your phone. ANYTHING but wait. We value being on time, and even praise earliness. So much so, that we've forgotten the second half of the proverbial saying "the early bird gets the worm" as if that was all there ever was to the saying! The full phrase initially had a caution at the end which uplifted the virtue of patience and says "The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese!" Not to mention that it has been soundly disproved that early birds truly do get worms, as worms are nocturnal, and so the birds that stay up late are more likely to get them. My point is, we have tipped so far past valuing urgency over patience that we don't even have time to wait for the end of modern proverbs which might admonish us.

I've said this before in a newsletter, in fact almost every December, I find myself saying the same thing about waiting, but that's because every passing year we haven't gotten any better at it, and if anything we have gotten worse. Good thing we have a God who is patient, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast, persistent love. Because if you wait for us to become patient, you

will have to be very patient indeed. So it is worth taking the time now to say it again: there's something crucial we lose when we do not wait. We don't have space in our lives to be bored and expectant. If we trace our modern word **wait** to its etymological roots, it has the original sense of "to be strong and lively." Which means, waiting, far from some passive emptiness that we should avoid at all costs, is at its root supposed to be full of life and activity! Look lively now, because waiting is supposed to be a place where we gather strength and hold space in our livelihood for those that are to come. Waiting should be a precious, devotional and life-giving time that we hold dear for the virtue it is, how much liveliness and strength are promised to us in a season of waiting!

As the psalmist says above, our worry and our envy and our corporate drives for success and our fretting and gnawing at ourselves produces nothing but evil. It rots the bones, and shortens our lives. In our hurry to get somewhere, we end up somewhere alright, in pain and distress, and we get to those places faster than we should, and it isn't pleasant. So this Advent, let us not just pay lip service to patience while secretly whittling ourselves away from both sides. Let us wait for Christmas to come in its due season, which runs for twelve whole days after it finally starts on December 25th. Let us pause, take a breath, and be bored. Let us wait, and be lively about it! For God promises that when we do, we will inherit the land, we will do good and enjoy security.

Pastor Tommy.

Longest Night Service



A Longest Night (also called a Blue Christmas) Service will be on Saturday, December 21st at 7:00 pm at St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

Blue Christmas is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. Many churches hold a service to honor people who have lost loved ones and/or are experiencing grief during the holiday season.

Zion is holding this service in conjunction with St. Alban's. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Christmas Eve Worship



Christmas Eve Worship Services will be December 24 at Zion at 7:00 pm. If you wish to attend an earlier service, Pastor will be at First Lutheran Church in Trenary at 2:00 pm, and Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid River at 4:00 pm.

Bible Study

Bible Study is held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Augustana Hall. Bible Study will resume in January. We'll be studying the 10 Commandments and the Lord's Prayer.

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 **Joy Circle** will **not** be meeting in December but will resume on the second Thursday of January.

Christ in Our Home

Christ in Our Home devotional books are available for the new year. You will find them on the table in the narthex.

Church Attendance

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
November 2/3	11	63	3
November 9/10	6	46	2
November 16/17	13	39	1
November 23/24	12	42	4

Coffee Hours

Thank you to our November coffee hour hosts: Zion Congregation Council, The Gauthier Family and the Evangelism Committee. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall for opportunities for you and your family to host a coffee hour.

Noisy Offering

The November Noisy offering of \$51.12 was given to the Manistique Ministerial Association.

The December Noisy Offering will go to the Schoolcraft County Community Foundation.

Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies program will distribute food bags on December 19 from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in Zion's parking lot. All children, ages 1-18 are eligible for the program.

Memorials

Memorial gifts to our congregation in November have been given in memory of:

Harold "Hoss" Toennesen

Kathy Peterson
Bill and Donna Mott
Jeanne Selling and Family

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to all who contributed to the six baskets for families in the community. Thank you to Randy and Cindy Olli for delivering the baskets.

Festival of Lessons and Carols



The Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Francis DeSales Church.

Zion Christmas Caroling

Calling all carolers! Join us for an afternoon of Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 15 beginning at 4:00 pm. We will travel by transit bus to the homes of members of our congregation as well as Heritage House, Medicare and Woodland. Supper will be served in Augustana Hall at the conclusion of caroling.

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.

Farewell

Larry and Rebecca Peterson and Shirley Leitgeb have moved to be closer to their families. You can keep in contact with them by mail, phone or email.

Larry & Rebecca's address is:

2201 Bart St, Croswell, MI 48422

Larry's phone number: 906.450.4061

Rebecca phone number: 906.286.1577

Their email address is: larryandrebeccapet@yahoo.com

Shirley's address is:

9305 Orchard Court, Davison, MI 48423

Her phone number is: 906.450.4019

Her email address is: shirley.leitgeb@outlook.com

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for our Christmas services, please fill out this form and send/drop it off at the church office by Monday, December 9th.

Poinsettia Order Form

Giver _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

<p>DONATION OF \$ _____ (any amount)</p> <p>Donations to the Floral Fund will support the beautification of the sanctuary and narthex throughout the church year.</p>	<p>PLANT TO PURCHASE AND TAKE HOME</p> <p>_____ Poinsettia(s) \$12.00 each</p> <p>TOTAL \$ _____</p>
---	--

All orders are due in the church office by Monday, December 9th.

Those Who Serve in December

Lector

December 1-Brian Nelson

December 8-Sheila Clark

December 15-Julie Gauthier

December 22-Naomi Fletcher

December 29-Lessons and Carols

Altar Flowers

December 1-Anna Sjogren

December 8-Anna Sjogren

December 15- Anna Sjogren

December 22- Anna Sjogren

December 29-Naomi Fletcher

Bulletin, Bread and Wine

December 1-Pam Aldrich

December 8 -Dennis Goldi

December 15-Joanne Nelson

December 22-Joanne Nelson

December 24-Lois Bentley

December 29- Fred and Laurie Nauman

Acolyte

December 1-

December 8 -Michael Lamb

December 15-Kristin Lamb

December 22-Nicolas Gauthier

December 24-

December 29-

Communion Assistant

December 1 – Linda Mason

December 8 – Sheila Clark

December 15 - Kim Lamb

December 22 – Julie Gauthier

December 24 –

December 29 -

