



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

February 2025 Newsletter

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

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

Office: 906-341-5427
Home: 906-286-4383

Secretary:

office@zionlutheran-manistique.org

Musician: Linda Levin

Congregational Council:

Ken Groh, President
Todd Kangas, Vice President
Cyndee Miske, Council Secretary
Jo-Nell Berger
Gayle Cartland
Ruth Jones
Linda Levin
Bonnie Moody
Donna Mott
Teddy Nelson
Kathy Peterson

Naomi Fletcher, Secretary/Treasurer
Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

February Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am. **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 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.

Bible Study

Bible study resumes Monday-February 10. Every 2nd and 4th Monday beginning at 6:30 pm in Augustana Hall. This year's study will focus on Luther's Large Catechism.

Pastor's Message

Let us keep firm in the hope that we profess, because the One who made the promise is faithful. Let us always think how we can provoke each other to love and good works. Don't neglect to meet together, as some do, but encourage one another and do this all the more as you see the Day drawing near. -Hebrews 10:23-25

Our cultural value of independence has set us up to fail. One of the things I hear most as a pastor right now is how divided we are, and how impossible it seems for people with different view points to talk to each other. Let us pause and listen to this resounding lament: how much connection we miss with each other! And now, hear what we have done to ourselves in championing independence, which seeks actively to break all bonds between us and other people. One of our deepest laments right now as a culture belies the destructiveness of one of our more nobler goals. Because, although noble in moderation, at the end of the day, the ax of independence leaves in its wake loneliness and isolation. We do ourselves no favors whenever crisis looms, and the first thing we toss out is our community. We say to ourselves things like "I don't want to be a burden or a bother" and we take pride in suffering things alone, and not making too much of a fuss.

My friends, let this serve as permission for you to make a fuss! Because when we say to ourselves that we don't want to be a burden to others, we do violence to ourselves. The burden doesn't go away for your keeping it to yourself, it just cuts deeper to our core, and diminishes our livelihood. Now, I don't usually take life advice from poorly written IKEA

assembly instructions, which often say things like: “For successful installation, when installation, please do not tighten the screws once, when screws are all installed, a unified tighten all the screws.” But there is one thing these instructions always get right: if something is too heavy to lift yourself, you shouldn’t do it alone! Finding someone else to help shoulder the burden is a place of strength and life, and wholeness. If you try to lift that heavy box by yourself, you will likely just injure yourself more instead of getting the bookshelf up the stairs. So it is with emotional burdens as well, you should totally, always, and every time make a fuss in order to get help from others! We only wound ourselves when we attempt to shoulder all of life alone. As it says in Hebrews, “let us always provoke each other to love and good works. Don’t neglect to meet together, as some do, but encourage one another, and reach out to folks for help and encouragement and provoking them to love and good deeds all the more when difficult days draw near.

Now, reaching out to others is always going to be messy. But that’s the point. We should not have to be messy all by ourselves. We weren’t made that way. Community also carries with it its own share of problems and difficulties, and capability for causing wounds, so it isn’t some magic wand we can wave to answer all our laments and problems. But holding fast to one another in hope and love and mutual messiness and support is a good first step. Being messy together is always more manageable than wounding ourselves for some noble ideal.

The promise of this passage from Hebrews is that our true hope relies on someone who is there more reliably than messy humans. Our ability to hold firm to the hope of community and love and support comes because God is faithful and capable where we are not. Even if we are

stubborn and independent to the very end, God will not quit gathering us together with others, as we confess every weekend that the Holy Spirit gathers us together in to the communion of the saints, and the catholic church. Whether you like it or not, God is faithful, and God gathers us together with people from the moment we are born, all the way through our lives. And whether you like those other people or not, they are there to be messy with you, to help you lift bookshelves and emotional burdens. And no one should have to do anything alone. Please, make a fuss, and let God do the worrying.

-Pastor Tommy.

Church Council Update

As the financial situation at Zion gets more difficult to deal with, the Council has been exploring all alternatives to plan for our future.

Recently, Pastor Tommy was assigned by the Bishop to serve as the Administrative Interim at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapid River because they have not had a Pastor for 15 months.

We were told that Calvary, at this time, cannot afford to have a full-time Pastor. It is likely that in the near future, Zion will not be able to afford to have a full-time Pastor.

Bishop Katherine Finegan asked the two Church Councils to meet for the purpose of discussing and considering a proposal to share the services and costs of Pastor Tommy Richter on a 55%/45% basis. This means that Zion would cover 55% of Pastor Tommy's costs, and would spend 55% of his time providing Pastoral services to Zion in Manistique. Calvary would then pay 45% of the cost, including salary and benefits, and would spend 45% of his time at Calvary

in Rapid River.

The two churches are 40 miles apart, and this would present many challenges. On the positive side, the proposal would be financially beneficial to Zion and would help to resolve some of our chronic, on-going financial problems. The two Church Councils have met jointly on November 6, December 8th and January 14th to review and finalize the proposal, with final approval of the Joint Councils on January 14. The "Shared Ministry Agreement" between Zion in Manistique and Calvary in Rapid River was prepared and oversight was provided by Bishop Finegan.

On January 21st the Zion Church Council voted to approve this agreement and recommend that our congregation approve it at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 9th after church.

To take effect, this agreement must be approved at the Calvary Annual Meeting February 2nd **AND** at Zion's Annual Meeting February 9th. Once both congregations have approved the Agreement, it would take effect March 1, 2025. The Agreement will be included in the 2024 Annual report in its entirety. The Annual report will be distributed at Church on Sunday, February 2nd, and is also scheduled to be emailed to those on Zion's email list.

Please give this Agreement your consideration. It is important for the future of Zion. Your Church Council has worked hard on this agreement and are recommending its approval at the Annual Meeting February 9.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Ken Groh, President
Zion Lutheran Church Council

Zion's Annual Meeting

Zion's Annual Meeting will be held on February 9th immediately following worship. A potluck luncheon will follow the meeting. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

January Noisy Offering

The January Noisy Offering of \$117.00 was given to the Walk for Warmth Program. February's Noisy Offering will go to Scouts BSA Troops 400 and 401. 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, February 13 at 10:00 a.m. in Augustana Hall.

Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies program will be distributing food bags on Thursday, February 27 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

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
January 4/5	7	43	3
January 11/12	11	36	
January 18/19	8	40	6
January 25/26	10	42	5

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

Church Council: Thank you to all those who helped take down all the Christmas decorations and tree. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Sarah Circle: Thank you, Liz Macklem, for your service to the Circle over the past several years.

Manistique Kiwanis Club: We thank you for participating in our Thanksgiving Food Basket project. Your engagement helped us achieve our goal to help 52 families in our community enjoy the Thanksgiving Season. May you have a blessed 2025

Eva Burrell Animal Shelter: Please know how much we appreciate your donation, it matters and makes a difference. Thank you-Patricia-Shelter Director/Team Leader

South Carolina Synod ELCA: Joy Circle- Thank you! for your generosity and support will enable to move forward with our vision that every person in South Carolina experiences God's love and Grace. Your donation will be a blessing to many.

Menominee-Delta-Schoolcraft Community Action

Agency: Thank you for your very generous donation of \$117.00 to our Schoolcraft County Walk for Warmth fund. We appreciate your continuous support through the years. We assure you that your donation will go directly to support local families and senior citizens struggling to pay their heat bills in the winter. We thank you again for your support of Walk for Warmth.



Brittney B: Greetings, I would just like to give thanks for everything the church has done for me. I have completed my final semester of college at Lake Superior State University and without the scholarship and support it would not have been possible. I am currently employed with the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office and continue to strive for new experiences. Thank you, Brittney B.



Memorial Donations

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

In memory of Hoss Toennesen

Karen Lafoille

In memory of Dorothy Ozanich

Theresa Lund

Judith McEachern

Karen LaFoille

Those Who Serve in January

Lector

February 2 Naomi

February 9 Teddy Nelson

February 16 Chris Cartland

February 23 Lynda Jones

Ushers

Cyndee Miske and Gayle Cartland

Altar Flowers

February 2-Naomi Fletcher in memory of Mother's Birthday and Parent's Anniversary, and honoring Birthday of Daughter

February 9-People of Zion

February 16- People of Zion

February 23- Kathy Redd to honor Eleanor (98) and Robert (100) Broullier birthdays. With love from Kathy, Lynn and tom

Bulletin Bread and Wine

February 2-Fred and Laurie Nauman

February 9-

February 16-

February 23-

Acolyte

February 2 -

February 9 – Michael Lamb

February 16 – Kristin Lamb

February 23 – Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant

February 2 – Linda Mason

February 9 – Sheila Clark

February 16 – Kim Lamb

February 23 – Julie Gauthier

Counters

Mary Ansell

Dorothy Branstrom



Flower of February

Violet

In Christianity, the violet flower symbolizes the Virgin Mary's humility. It is believed that the flowers blossomed when the angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would be her baby. In religious art, violets are often portrayed as a symbol of modesty and humbleness. In Renaissance-era paintings, the Virgin Mary is often seen with baby Jesus in her arms with purple flowers, a symbolic reference to her modesty.

February Scripture

Feb 2: Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corin 13:1-13, Luke 2:22-40

Feb 9: Isaiah 6:1-8, 9-13, Psalm 138, 1 Corin 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11

Feb 16: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corin 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26

Feb 23: Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corin 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38

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