



# Zion Lutheran Church

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



## The Beacon

**January 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](http://www.zionlutheran-manistique.org)

Pastor Tommy Richter

[Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.TommyRichter@gmail.com)

## Contact Us

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

### **Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

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

### **Secretary:**

[office@zionlutheran-manistique.org](mailto: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

## January 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.

## Pastor's Message



As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. - Colossians 3:12-17

We call the Holidays and the New Year special times of year, but I find that often the only thing special we do each time they come around, is to be extra hard on ourselves. We create so much extra pressure around this time of year, it is a wonder it doesn't affect the weather! Are those white Christmases (or lack thereof) truly about snow, or are they about giving ourselves gray hairs, a pale complexion, and ulcers when things don't go just right for the holidays? Look how quickly we have turned what is supposed to be merry and bright into endless to-do lists, frantic scurrying, and shame spirals. Instead of spending these twelve days of Christmas with the peace of Christ coming to birth in our hearts; we spend them inventing new tortures for ourselves with new year's resolutions, and running ourselves ragged with additional expectations and obligations that cannot

be met.

Friends, clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness! Bear with one another, and with yourselves. Christmas and the New Year don't benefit anything from your anxiety, and being hard on ourselves will not bring even a crumb of additional luster or brightness to the Holidays

when we wish it was there. In fact, it only does the opposite, it darkens our spirits when they should be lightened, and it weighs us down even further when God is actively working for our benefit. It is like when my toddler arches his back and screams and kicks when I am trying

to change his diaper. The tantrum doesn't add anything but more stress and pressure to the

process, when what we all want and need is a cleaner healthy situation to romp and play about in. Creating pressure for ourselves for the holidays only serves to create pressure for ourselves. It has no benefits, and often it just makes a bigger mess.

Instead as Colossians reminds us: "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Practice gratitude, and forgiveness. These things do take practice, and the first place to start is forgiving ourselves and gratefulness for ourselves. Christ didn't come to bring tidings of great stress and high standards to live up to. But Christ brings to birth tidings of great joy and peace on earth. This joy is available to you, it's free, and you don't have to stress to get it. Even if we never learn to be compassionate ourselves, we have a God who is tender and compassionate, and who daily makes the dawn from on high to break upon us. So God is to blame for this moment of great joy, and we should let God be the one to stress about things if the holidays do not appear bright to us. Joy was never up to us to create. So let us not be hard on ourselves when it doesn't present itself.

But God is relentlessly working to break open joy upon the world. Joy will come for you, it kind of catches on like a good song and it sticks to things like honey. Once you get started with it, please share it with others. -Pastor Tommy.

## Congregation Council Highlights

November 19, 2024

- Received thank you notes from Beacon House and Disaster Relief for donations on behalf of the Circles
- Approved keeping Pastor's salary the same for 2025 and adding one additional week of vacation
- Agreed to present to the Congregation at the Annual Meeting to do a 6 month trial sharing Pastor Tommy with Calvary-Rapid River beginning March 1, 2025
- Hire Naomi Fletcher as Secretary to work 3 days a week, W, Th and Fri from 9-12 for \$50/month until such time as a full time Secretary can be found
- Christmas Caroling 12/15. Tree Decorating 12/1
- Approved providing Christmas gifts of \$25 each to staff (L. Levin, N. Fletcher, C. Miske and Lynn LeBlanc, and \$300 to Pastor)

## Joint Council Meeting

- There will be a joint Council Meeting at Calvary Lutheran in Rapid River on Tuesday, January 14 at 6:00 pm. We will be discussing the option of sharing Pastor Tommy with Calvary. A final vote of the Church Councils and Congregations will be made at the annual meetings of both churches.



## Baptism



We welcome in Holy Baptism Ezra Todd Kangas, son of Tyler and Zu Kangas on the left, Pastor Tommy Richter, center, and Godparents Garde and Veronica Kangas on the right. Welcome to God's Kingdom, Ezra

## December Noisy Offering

The December Noisy Offering of \$38.62 was given to the Schoolcraft County Community Foundation. January's Noisy Offering will go to Walk for Warmth. The Noisy Offering is collected on the third weekend of each month.

January Noisy Offering will be given to Walk for Warmth, helping the less fortunate afford heat in their homes.

## Christmas Tree

Thank you to ALL the people who helped put up and decorate the Christmas tree! There were at least 12 of you who stayed after church to help get this task done! What a beautiful job – well done!



## Christmas Caroling

Eighteen Christmas carolers sang to residents of Woodland and to our homebound members this Christmas season. Great weather and a superb bus driver helped the evening go smoothly.

## Zion-Dressed for Christmas



## Thank You for Your Generosity



Our fall Stewardship Campaign for 2025 concluded in November, 2024.

It has been no secret that we have been dealing with financial problems in this post-pandemic environment,

and concerns existed for the 2024 budget.

However, our congregation responded to these concerns! Listed below are the results of the Stewardship Campaign for the last two years:

2024 52 pledges totaling \$103,002  
2025 50 pledges totaling \$104,564.

This means that the pledged giving increased by \$1,562.00 1.5% from 2024 to 2025. To increase pledged giving in this inflationary environment is a positive and encouraging development for Zion Lutheran Church. It should also be noted that non-pledged giving increased substantially in 2024

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generosity! This will help us as we continue to deal with our on-going financial concerns.

The generous people of Zion continue to be very supportive. We will continue to deal with financial problems and concerns at Zion, as it is a sign of the times

Thankfully, we know that our members are willing to help by continuing their support.

Thank you again for your generosity!

-The Finance and Stewardship Committee.

JoNell Burger  
Ken Groh  
Cyndee Miske  
Naomi Fletcher  
Larry Peterson



## 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 meet on Thursday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m. in Augustana Hall.

## Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies program will be distributing food bags on Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

|  | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Zoom</b> |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>December 1</b>                                |                 | 50            | 3           |
| <b>December 7/8</b>                              | 7               | 53            | 3           |
| <b>December 14/15</b>                            | 12              | 43            | 5           |
| <b>December 21/22</b>                            | 8               | 44            | 4           |
| <b>December 24<br/>Christmas Eve<br/>Service</b> | 114             |               |             |
|  |                 |               |             |

## 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, you will not have to contact the florist unless you have specific requests.

## Zion's Annual Meeting

Zion's Annual Meeting will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. The Nominating Committee will soon begin its work nominating people for various leadership positions. We will need Congregation Council members, auditing committee members, nominating committee members, synod assembly representatives and Tri-County Conference representatives. Please say YES when asked to serve in these important roles!

# Annual Committee Reports

Annual committee reports are due to the office by January 20 to prepare the Annual Report. Included are:

Annual Meeting Minutes

Pastoral Report

Congregational Council

Nominating Committee

Financial Report

Treasurer's Report

Budget

Endowment Fund

Auditing Committee

Quilter's Circle

Joy, Sarah and Hope Circles

Resolutions as follows:

Thanksgiving and Recognition

Finance and Stewardship



## Poinsettias

We had many lovely poinsettias decorating the sanctuary this Christmas season. Poinsettias were given by:

Darryl and Kathy Peterson-In memory of Loved Ones

Mike and Kay Jarski-In Memory of Our Parents

Tom and Carla Flodin-In Memory of Elmer and Jean Flodin,

Roy Laux and George Cole

Lois M. Bentley-In Memory of husband Ronald D. Bentley

Jim and Pr. Ellie Russey-In memory of Edward and Ann

Jorgenson

Sheila Clark

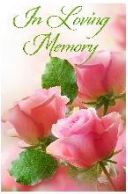
Teddy Nelson-In memory of Loved Ones

Lynda Jones and Gayle Cartland-In Memory of Doris

Johnson and Doug Johnson  
Cindy and Randy Olli-In Memory of Alice Knuth and Kathy  
Selling  
Todd and Laura Kangas-In Memory of Dawn Kangas and  
Our Grandparents and Loved Ones  
Naomi Fletcher-to the Glory of God and in Memory of  
Parents

**To the Floral Fund**

Cindy and Randy Olli-In Memory of Alice Knuth and Kathy  
Selling



**Memorial Donations**

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

**In memory of Hoss Toennesen**

Tom and Lynne Elsner  
Lunds Service  
Pat Toennesen  
Cindy Nelson  
Heidi and Doug Troyer

**In memory of Dorothy Ozanich**

Liz Macklum to Quilters  
Lila Panek  
Barb Wood  
Sherri Krause  
Jane and Terry Patz

**In memory of Donald DeSautel**

Betty DeSautel and Merri Jo Brandimore to  
Quilters and Memorial Fund

**In memory of Doris Johnson**

Teddy Nelson



### **January's Birth Flower**

The legend behind the snowdrop flower is one of hope. It is said that when Adam and Eve were sent away from the Garden of Eden into a harsh winter, that they thought the snow would never end.

An angel then suddenly transformed the snowflakes into flowers, giving them hope that things would soon get better. Snowdrops actually produce their own heat, which melts the snow around them when they grow. What a magical little flower to give to someone born during this month.

### **January Scripture**

**Jan 4-5:** Jeremiah 31: 7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14

**Jan 11-12:** Isaiah 43:1-7, Psalm 29, Acts 8:14-17

**Jan 18-19:** Isaiah 62:1-5, Psalm 36:5-10, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

**Jan 25-26:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

# Those Who Serve in January

## **Lector**

January 5 – Naomi Fletcher  
January 12 – Donna Mott  
January 19 – Chris Cartland  
January 26 – Teddy Nelson

## **Ushers**

Todd Kangas and Cyndi Miske

## **Altar Flowers**

January 5 –  
January 12 -  
January 19 -  
January 26 -

## **Bulletin Bread and Wine**

January 5 –  
January 12 –  
January 19 –  
January 26 -

## **Acolyte**

January 5 -  
January 12 – Michael Lamb  
January 19 – Kristin Lamb  
January 26 – Nicholas Gauthier

## **Communion Assistant**

January 5 – Linda Mason  
January 12 – Sheila Clark  
January 19 – Kim Lamb  
January 26 – Julie Gauthier

## **Counters**



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Organization  
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