



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

October 2024 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

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

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

Musician: Linda Levin

Choir Director: Rebecca Peterson

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
Larry Peterson

Naomi Fletcher, Treasurer
Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

October Office Hours

The church office will be open Monday 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.

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. -2 Timothy 3:16-17

This passage from Second Timothy is one of those well-worn pieces of scripture, that has been drug out like toddler's favorite shirt far too many times in a row. You can almost hear the mustard stains and amorphous food blobs that are steadfastly stuck to it as people recite it time and again for this argument or that one about the authority of scripture. It has been washed too many times to count, its colors are faded, and we start making any number of excuses for why another shirt or another passage of scripture might do for the day.

The very fact that this passage has been so used and abused, and that it falls flat on many people's ears, ironically proves the opposite of what it is taken to mean. If all scripture is useful and God-inspired then why does this one feel so worn and tattered? There are plenty of places in scripture in addition to this one that have been used as weapons and there are plenty of worn-thin ratty bits and bits that are obscure and difficult to understand, and some that are just plain strange. Did you know that there's a place in Leviticus (chapter 14) that says that if you find mold in your house you are supposed to evacuate it, and go bring your pastor to inspect it? PLEASE don't do that by the way. I don't want to see your mold. I don't even want to see the mold when it appears in my own house. But I bring that up to further prove my point: the claim that every jot and tiddle of scripture is useful to us doesn't hold up to scrutiny. In fact, Luther would often say in his lectures things like: Some of this scripture doesn't apply to us, and if it a particular difficult passage keeps you up at night, you can throw it aside for the more comforting promises of God.

One of Luther's primary tools for interpreting scripture was to find what he called the *Sitz im Leben*, or the

setting of life of a text by which we could judge the rest. The idea is, if you can find the theological center or theme or primary sitting place of a text, you could use that as a guidepost. And if something else in the text is difficult or obscure, or seems to contradict that primary goal, then it can be tossed aside or re-negotiated toward the comfort of that theological center. In general, it is not the fact that something that is written in the bible which gives it authority. Rather, it is its ability to push Christ, or to do God and faith to us. So, find the life-breathing bit of the text, and hold fast to that while you interpret the rest. Using this method assumes that there are going to be some parts of scripture that speak to you better than others, and that's okay!

This means that one of our favorite children's songs gets it completely backwards. It's not true that I know that Jesus Loves me because the bible tells me so. It isn't the bible saying it that makes anything more real or authentic. That's not how authenticity works. It isn't some magic trick that is conferred on something if it is said by the right person or the right respectable source. Instead, it is the other way around: it is because Jesus loves us and works on us through the words of scripture that the bible has meaning and worth! It is the love and grace and God-breaths which work through it, that make it worthwhile reading what scripture says. Authenticity is the ability of something to author and create new life in you. If you hear something authentic, it will inspire you, and fill you with more things to say a talk about. So that's why we treasure so highly the bible, because here from these words generation after generation of people have had faith done to them while reading it. These scriptures are where people have been tugged on by the spirit. Here we have found utility, reproach, teaching, correction, and righteousness and steadfast encouragement and support and all the rest. Not because of *what* it says, but because of *what God*

does to us through it; so that we may be equipped for every good work. Amen.

-Pastor Tommy

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, October 6th. If you have a large animal or an animal who can't sit through Sunday morning worship 😊, Pastor will bless animals in the parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Your pet is also welcome to come to the 10:30 service for a blessing.

The Blessing of the Animals, a custom originating in the 13th century, is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, who held a great sense of care and respect for each creature.

A Blessing of Animals, in many congregations, witnesses to God's and the Church's love, care, and concern for creation. As we recognize our mutual interdependence with God's creatures, the Church's witness of stewardship of creation is strengthened.

Zion Quilters

The Zion Quilter's meet each Monday beginning at 9:15 a.m. Everyone is invited to join the quilting group.

Stewardship

Since 1885, the congregation at Zion Lutheran in Manistique has played a vital role in the life of our community. From its home on the corner of Oak and Range streets, Zion has ministered to both the spiritual and physical needs of its neighbors. Anchored in the faith of our Nordic forebears, inspired by our historic paintings and the reverent beauty of our sanctuary, Zion continues to be a place of refuge and a beacon of hope in troubled times.

Generation after generation has worshiped here. Through the great fire of 1893, World War I, the influenza pandemic of 1918, the flood of 1920, the great depression of the 1930's World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and through all of the other momentous events since then, God's word has been spoken here. Christ's message of love, compassion, forgiveness and service to others (including the least of these) has always been proclaimed here at Zion. Our congregation reaches out to minister to the needs of others, both here at home, but also around the world.

Zion has been blessed with clergy whose message is firmly anchored in the "good news" of God's word. The spirit of God is present here. In joy or in sorrow, you can find solace here. Having endured a world-wide pandemic that caused the death of millions, and closed our doors for a time—worship and fellowship here at Zion has finally returned to normal, and part of that normal is our annual stewardship drive. Now is the time of year when we ask congregants to prayerfully consider making a pledge of monetary support to Zion, so that the ministry that takes place here may continue to flourish. The need is great, so we ask that you give what you are able, whether it be large or small. Together, the work of God will continue here at Zion.

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 **Sarah Circle** will meet on Monday, October 7 at 1:00 p.m. in Augustana Hall.

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

Bible Study

Monday night Bible Study is held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Augustana Hall. The Creeds of the church will be studied.

Sunday morning Bible Study will be held each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room in Augustana Hall. The appointed lessons for each Sunday will be studied.

Christ in Our Home

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

Congregation Council Highlights

- ❖ Worship and Music Committee Report – (1) Blessing of the Animals will be on Sunday, October 6th. (2) The ushers will be passing the offering plate during the service beginning on October 6.
- ❖ Evangelism and Membership Committee Report – (1) Highway Pick-Up will be done September 21-29. Volunteers are needed to help with this project. (2) The Manistique Ministerial Association Progressive Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 20.
- ❖ Finance and Stewardship Committee Report – (1) Pastor Markwell will meet with the committee the first week in October.
- ❖ Property Committee Report – None.
- ❖ Christian Education and Youth Report – (1) Monday night Bible Study will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month beginning September 9th. (2) Sunday morning Bible Study will begin on October 6th and meet each Sunday beginning at 9:30 am.
- ❖ Personnel Committee – (1) Shirley Leitgeb will be a volunteer in the church office 3 days per week. (2) The Council voted to provide the Gold+ insurance plan for Pastor and his family. This is unchanged from last year.
- ❖ The next meeting of the Congregation Council will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
Aug. 31/Sept. 1	10	64	4
September 7/8	13	52	4
September 14/15	14	56	3
September 21/22	9	51	4
September 28/29	6	38	4

Coffee Hours

Thank you to our September coffee hour hosts: Women of Zion and the Evangelism Committee. There are opportunities for you to host a coffee hour in October. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

Noisy Offering

The September Noisy offering of \$39.68 went to the Helpful Hot Spot at the Manistique Middle and High School.

The October Noisy Offering will go to the Eva Burrell Animal Shelter.

Backpack Buddies

The Backpack Buddies program will distribute food bags on October 24 from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in Zion's parking lot. All children, ages 1-18 are eligible for the program.

North Woods Home Care & Hospice

North Woods is looking for volunteers. Volunteering most often involves spending time in the home directly with patients to give their caregiver's respite.

Volunteers may also help with administrative tasks in the office. There is more information on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall as well as application forms.

Progressive Dinner

The Manistique Ministerial Association is sponsoring their annual Progressive Dinner on Sunday, October 20th. Zion is responsible for preparing the soup portion of the meal. We need twelve different kinds of soup. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

The Progressive Dinner will begin with appetizers at Cedar Grove Mennonite Church at 4:00 p.m. Course #2 is at 5:00 at Zion with soup, then moving to the First Methodist Church for salad at 5:30. The main entrée will be served at First Baptist at 6:00 with dessert at Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian at 6:45.

Good Neighbors

Good Neighbors is looking to restock their food pantry. Items needed include supplies for baking, groceries, cleaning products, and personal hygiene products. A complete list is on the bulletin board in Augustana Hall.

Christ in Our Home

Christ in Our Home booklets are available for the fourth quarter of the year. Please pick up your copy on the table in the Narthex.

Offering

Beginning the week-end of October 5/6, the ushers will return to passing the offering plate during the service.

Memorials

Gifts to our congregation in September have been given in memory of:

Doris Johnson

Kathy Peterson

Tom and Carla Flodin

Mike and Kay Jarski

The Troyer Family

Ken and Bonnie Groh

Gary and Linda Inhelder

Bonnie Moody

Lois Bentley

Linda Levin

Dorothy Brandstrom

Richard (Dick) Mason

Teddy Nelson

Pastor Ingmar Levin

Karl and Angela Levin

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Do you want to be a part of the 59th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols? Choral vocalists (sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses) are needed for the community ecumenical choir. Rehearsals begin on Sunday, October 27 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Church of the Redeemer Presbyterian, 314 Main Street and continue every Sunday through November 24. You must also be available for a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 7 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Francis DeSales Church. The Festival will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Francis DeSales Church.

Lutheran World Relief



The Zion Quilters will be sending more than 215 quilts to Lutheran World Relief this year. Great work quilters! We are looking for a couple of volunteers to take the quilts and school kits to First Lutheran Church in Gladstone on Saturday, October 19th. Please talk to one of the quilters or the church office for more information.

Those Who Serve in October

Lector

October 6 – Ruth Jones
October 13 – Naomi Fletcher
October 20 - Larry Peterson
October 27 – Kathy Peterson

Ushers – Teddy Nelson and Kay MacGregor

Altar Flowers

October 6 –
October 13 – Jean Selling
October 20 -
October 27 -

Bulletin, Bread and Wine

October 6 -
October 13 -
October 20 -
October 27 – Fred and Laurie Nauman

Acolyte

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

Communion Assistant

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

