



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

September 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

Reverend James Duehring-Interim Administrative Pastor

Contact Us

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

Rev. James Duehring-Interim Administrative Pastor

Personal: 906-251-0247

Email: homegrownpackerbacker@gmail.com

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

September Office Hours SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The church office will be open summer hours Tuesday evening from 4:30-6:30 pm, and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm. The office will be **CLOSED** on Fridays. Office hours are now included on the Calendar enclosed in each month's newsletter. **If you have questions, concerns or are in need of pastoral care please contact Pastor Duehring at 906-251-0247.**

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# **6424779698**, Passcode 49854.

PLEASE NOTE:

ZOOM information has CHANGED. Please update any saved information to reflect the new ID# noted above.

Word of the Day-Righteousness

“This life, therefore, is not righteousness but growth in righteousness, not health but healing, not being but becoming, not rest but exercise; we are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it; the process is not yet finished, but it is going on; this is not the end, but it is the road; all does not yet gleam with glory, but all is being purified.”

~Martin Luther, Defense and Explanation of All the Articles (1521)



Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord to the People of Zion Lutheran of Manistique:

I am Pastor Jim Duehring. Bishop Finegan appointed me to serve as your Administrative Interim Pastor beginning August 18. I appreciate the work of Rev. Tommy Wimsae who served faithfully in this capacity for five years. I remember installing Pastor Tommy in your parking lot at the beginning of the pandemic. You shared a lot of life and ministry together! All of you will remember him and his family in your own ways. God hold you close in your memories and grief. You had a good farewell for him and his family on August 17. We all wish them Godspeed as they move to Pennsylvania and Pastor Tommy serves Trinity Lutheran, Robesonia, PA.

As I assume duties as your interim pastor, I want to share a little about myself.

I turned 65 in August and retired from fulltime pastoral ministry after having served as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission in the Northern Great Lakes Synod for seven years. I served as pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Harvey from 2008 to 2017. From

November 2024-May 2025, I served as Administrative Interim for Trinity and Faith Lutheran Churches of Ishpeming. Those congregations are now served by Vicar Robert Lake, and I am his supervising pastor as he takes seminary classes while working parttime at those churches.

My wife, Gisele and I, moved to the Marquette area in March 2008 and continue to reside between Skandia and Harvey. I taught High School Mathematics for over 10 years in Montana, North Dakota and Texas. My first pastoral call was at First Lutheran in Williston, North Dakota where I learned to eat lefse and lutefisk with all those Norwegian immigrants! I enjoy hiking and sports of all kinds.

I grew up in Ripon, Wisconsin, where my parents were farmers and my dad a farm implement dealer. I was nurtured in the faith of my parents and the amazing community of faith at Grace Lutheran. During my teenage years I felt a call to pastoral ministry. I graduated from Wartburg Seminary in 1987 as the last class from the old ALC (American Lutheran Church)—a predecessor body to the ELCA.

Gisele and I have been married for 22 years. We met through an online Lutheran dating site after the death of my first wife. Gisele is a “semi-retired” mechanical engineer having spent her career working in power plants. She worked almost 10 years at NMU. Gisele has two adult children—Ellie (husband Brock) live in Lafayette, Louisiana and Jason (wife Kim) live in Corpus Christi, Texas. We have two granddaughters, Bonnie (2 years old) and Lucy (1 year old)! We are enjoying the new experiences of being grandparents!

As an Administrative Interim Pastor, I will assume basic responsibilities as a “parttime pastor.” You will see me lead worship and preach semi-regularly. And, when I’m not leading worship in your congregations, I will arrange for your worship leaders. The goal would be to have

worship with communion at least twice a month led by an ordained pastor.

I also will attend to other pastoral needs of the congregation as they arise. If I'm out of the area visiting grandchildren, I will arrange for emergency pastoral coverage while I'm gone. But please don't hesitate to call or email me. It's particularly important that I am made aware of anyone in the hospital.

Here are a couple important questions to be thinking right now: "What is God calling us to be as a church in the Manistique area at this place and time?" "How can we best be faithful?"

We aren't alone. We believe in the love of our God. I believe that God is still on the move. We are still the church. The church is the people of God called to serve in Jesus' name. The church is much more than a pastor or any one individual. There is a place for you in this call to be the church in 2025 and beyond.

May God direct and keep you all in God's amazing grace,
Pastor Jim Duehring

Cell: 906-251-0247

Email: homegrownpackerbacker@gmail.com Yes, I'm a Packer fan born in Wisconsin 😊



From the President's Desk

We were able to have a wonderful farewell potluck dinner for Pastor Tommy and his family on August 17th. Our Congregation wishes him and his family well as they accept a new assignment in Pennsylvania.

Pastor Jim Duehring has been assigned to serve as

our Administrative Interim Pastor. Please be sure to read his article, found elsewhere in this newsletter. I have known Pastor Jim for many years, and I can assure you that we are in good hands. We look forward to his presence in our Church and to the leadership that he brings to us.

The Church Council has started working with Pastor Jim, Pastor Sharolyn Swenson-Assistant to the Bishop and Bishop Katherine Finegan. We are starting the process of calling a new Pastor for Zion. At the request of our Synod, we will be forming a six-person Transition Team who will be working with Pastor Sharolyn and they will be completing the "Site Ministry Profile". This is the first step to be taken as we prepare to call a pastor. The Church Council is looking forward to this process. It will be challenging and it will be lengthy. We will need to have the support, cooperation and patience from everyone for this process to be successful.

During this time our fixed operational costs remain for us and they are rising. Please continue to be vigilant with your giving and pray for Zion Lutheran Church.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Kenneth Groh, on behalf of the Church Council

Church Council ReCap

July 29 Special Meeting

*Meeting to discuss upcoming meeting with Bishop Finegan, Assistant Bishop Sharolyn Swenson and Interim Administrative Pastor.

*Announced pulpit supply August 23/24-Pastor Ellie Russey, August 30/31-Pastor Solberg.

August 13 Special Meeting

* Met with Bishop Finegan, Assistant Bishop Sharolyn Swenson and Interim Administrative Pastor Jim Duehring to discuss future of Zion ministry.

*Assistant Bishop Swenson led discussion on the Transition team and that Zion needs to appoint six (6) members to this team for the Call Committee. This committee will write the Ministry Site Profile-“what are the needs of this congregation.”

August 19 General Meeting

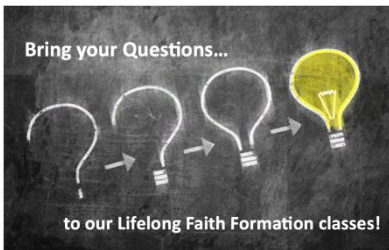
*Dissolved Shared Ministry agreement due to Pastor Tommy's departure.

*Naomi has agreed to represent Zion at the Manistique Ministerial Association meetings unless someone comes forward to assist with that

*Progressive Dinner is **October 19th** with Zion hosting soup beginning at 4:00 pm

*Stewardship Temple Talks are being planned. The first will be August 31 by Ken G.

Bible Study via Zoom



Even though Pastor Tommy is not “In the House”, he is still leading Bible Study through Lifelong Faith Formation Classes. He will be leading study in the first 11 chapters of Genesis on Thursday Evenings for 10 weeks,

September 18-November 20 Hours: 7-8 pm Eastern Time, 6-7 Central. Make sure you visit the Synod Website to register.

Learn more about the variety of classes offered this fall through the synod's Lifelong Faith Formation program. Registration is open through September 15! Visit the synod website for details and registration:

nqsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation



August Noisy Offering

The August Noisy Offering of \$84.31 was given to Habitat for Humanity.

September's Noisy Offering will go to Helpful Hotspot-Emerald Elementary.

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 resume meetings September 11 at 10:00 am.

Backpack Buddies

Backpack
Buddies
Program



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

Dates for the year:

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
August 2/3	16	18	
August 9/10	13	53	3
August 16/17	7	76	2
August 23/24	15	63	3

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 Bishop Katherine Finnegan, Assistant to the Bishop Sherolyn Swenson and Pastor Jim Duehring for leading the Council into the future of Zion as we select a new Pastor.

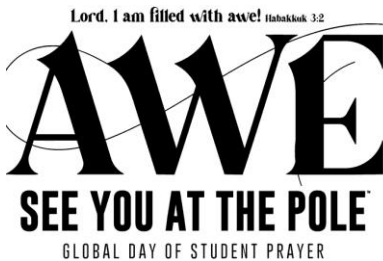
+To Bill Mott and his crew for providing excellent barbecue skills at our annual Picnic at Frenette Park.



September's Flower – Aster

•Asters have long been a symbol of love and wisdom, patience and beauty. It has also been associated with faith, friendship,

and purity. Purple asters are considered a royal color and a symbol of wisdom, white asters represent innocence, red is a sign of devotion and passion, and pink symbolizes love and kindness.



SEPT | 24

(from Habakkuk 3:2), emphasizes a call for revival and renewed faith through student-led prayer.

In Manistique, all middle and high school students are invited to gather at 7:30 a.m. around the flagpole at Manistique Middle & High School. Following the prayer time, students from St. Francis de Sales School may walk together to their building. There will be hot beverages and a breakfast snack available for

Students in Manistique to Join Global Day of Prayer at "See You at the Pole™" 2025

Manistique students will join millions of others worldwide on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, for the annual See You at the Pole™ (SYATP) day of prayer. This year's theme, "AWE"

participants.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of See You at the Pole™, a student-initiated, student-led movement that began in 1990 in Burluson, Texas. Since then, it has grown into a worldwide event that unites students in intercession for their leaders, campuses, and nations, asking God to bring moral and spiritual awakening.

For more information about the Manistique event or to get involved, please contact Jill Connin at 906-286-3327.

**Tri-County Conference
UP State Fair Water Tent**

10 Churches	100 Volunteers
300 Service Hours	3,288 Bottles of water sold
\$3842.81 raised for clean water projects	Thousands of fairgoers served through heat and rain!

Thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who stopped by.

God's work. OUR TIME.

Wimsae Family Address

If you wish to send Pastor Tommy and his family notes, cards or letters, his new address is:

Pastor Tommy, Ann, Zephyr and Eiro
358 E Catherine St
Chambersburg, PA 17201



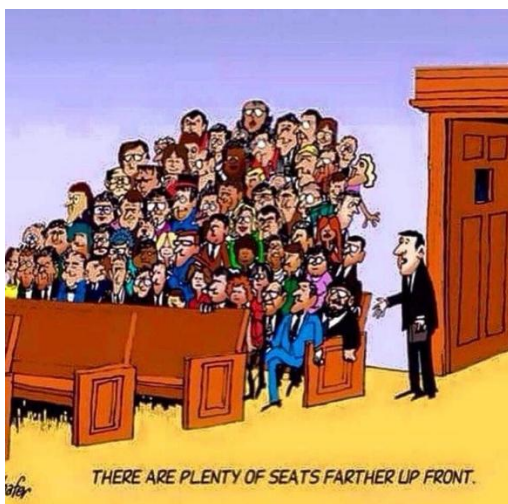
September Scripture

Sept 7-Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

Sept 14-Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10, 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

Sept 21-Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Sept 28-Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Psalm 146, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31



Those Who Serve in September

Lector

Sept 7-Jo-Nell Berger
Sept 14-Peggy Williams
Sept 21-Chris Cartland
Sept 28-Kathy Peterson

Ushers

Gayle Cartland and Kathy Peterson

Altar Flowers

Sept 7-
Sept 14-Gauthier Family in memory of John Gauthier
Sept 21-
Sept 28-

Bulletin Bread and Wine

Sept 7-Fred and Laurie Naumann
Sept 14-
Sept 21-
Sept 28-

Acolyte

Sept 7-
Sept 14-
Sept 21-Kristen Lamb
Sept 28-Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant

Sept 7 – Linda Mason
Sept 14 – Sheila Clark
Sept 21— Kim Lamb
Sept 28– Julie Gauthier

Counters

Kathy Peterson and Jo-Nell Berger



The Meaning of The Luther Rose

Printed below is a letter to Lazarus Spengler—July 8, 1530

From Dr. Martin Luther at Coburg Castle
Grace and peace in Christ!

Honorable, kind, dear Sir and Friend! Since you ask whether my seal has come out correctly, I shall answer most amiably and tell you of those thoughts which now come to my mind about my seal as a symbol of my theology.

There is first to be a cross, black and placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color [red], so that I myself would be reminded that faith in the Crucified saves us. For if one believes from the heart he will be justified. Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature; that is, the cross does not kill but keeps man alive. For the just man lives by faith, but by faith in the Crucified One. Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace; in a word it places the believer into a white joyful rose; for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives and, therefore, the rose is to be white and not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all the angels. Such a rose is to be in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy; it is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest. And around this field is a golden ring, symbolizing that in heaven such blessedness lasts forever and has no end, and in addition is precious beyond all joy and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal. May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come.

Amen.

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