



# Zion Lutheran Church

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



## The Beacon

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

Reverend James Duehring-Interim Administrative Pastor

## Contact Us

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[www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](http://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](mailto:homegrownpackerbacker@gmail.com)

### **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

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 1-305-2241968 and enter the following ID# **95619440999**, Passcode 49854.

### PLEASE NOTE:

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



## PASTOR'S NOTES

### Keeping "Christ" in Christmas

We hear every December the lament that Christmas is becoming more commercialized and that people aren't capturing the true meaning of the season. The charge is that people care more about the football game on TV or the latest, best buy in electronics. We hear people say, "Put Christ back in Christmas." As a Christian I can totally concur that the real reason for Christmas is Christ. Yet, I wonder for those protesting loudly whether they are also vigorously keeping Christ in their daily lives year around.

To a retailer who depends a lot on Christmas sales, I would often hear the words, "We had a good Christmas." In their context, that meant that sales were good. Face it. We live in a real, flesh and blood world, where economic factors do matter. The retailer down the street does count on Christmas time sales to keep the lights on and keep food on the table for the family. When I buy some Christmas gift from their store, I am helping that retailer in their life.

I think all of us deep down yearn for a romantic and simpler notion of celebrating Christmas. Yet we aren't going back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century anytime soon. We have the world as it is, not as we romantically wish it would be.

Perhaps that's a good thing to remind ourselves because the first Christmas was about Incarnation—the coming of God into a real, flesh and blood world that was pretty messy.

The story goes that there was no room in the inn for the Christ child to be born. There was no travel agent to consult from an I Pad. Mary and Joseph were fulfilling

their obligation to be enrolled for the census as established by the Roman emperor. They didn't protest the government intervention in their lives. They just followed along and humbly did their duty.

And it was into that very real situation that the Son of God was incarnate. Once Jesus appeared, the government didn't suddenly become more just, the religious leaders didn't suddenly become more faithful, and Mary and Joseph's neighbors didn't suddenly become more kind-hearted. God enters a messy world and chooses to dwell here. That very fact offers us hope and encouragement even when our world can drown out that powerful message. Yes, God was shaking up the world, but Mary and Joseph would humbly attend themselves to the task of raising their child.

Keep Christ in Christmas. Yes, indeed! But how about keeping Christ in your heart year around? And when we fail to do that, remember that Christ still comes to us daily to offer us the refreshing cleansing of his word of truth.

So, in bold confidence, go out and buy some Christmas gifts. Support the economy! Play that goofy game with your grandchildren. Laugh at the funny elf hat in the store that wiggles and plays Christmas songs over and over. Smile at those around you. Smell the aroma of apple cider. Listen to that school group singing carols. Drop some extra money in the bucket for Salvation Army. Don't feel guilty for eating that extra piece of chocolate. And come and behold the Immanuel (God with us) who comes to our crazy, chaotic world with a word of joy and hope.

Merry Christmas to you all,

*~Pastor Jim*



## DECEMBER ITEMS TO NOTE:

**Dec. 7-**60<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols-3:00 pm. St Francis de Sales Catholic Church



**Dec 21-**Zion Christmas Caroling-4:00 pm. See signup sheet in Augustana Hall if you'd like to carol for our home-bound congregation.



**Dec 24-**Christmas Eve Service-Zion Lutheran. 4:00 pm. Pastor Deuhring presiding

**Dec 28-**Zion's Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols. Pastor Steve Solberg presiding



### November Noisy Offering

The November Noisy Offering of \$81.00 was given to Manistique Ministerial Association. December's Noisy Offering will go to Schoolcraft County Community Action. 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 meets Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00 am.**

# Backpack Buddies



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 with children under age 18.**

Dates for the year:

**December 18, 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)**

January 22, 2026

February 26, 2026

March 26, 2026

April 23, 2026

May 28, 2026

## Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
Nov 1/2	5	58	4
Nov 8/9	11	40	4
Nov 15/16	6	46	0
Nov 22/23	12	32	4

## 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



+ From Manistique Kiwanis-“Thanks so much for donating Thanksgiving Baskets to some of our community families. Kiwanis is happy to organize this project, but we rely on your kindness to reach so many people. Again, thank you for your efforts

***The Manistique Ministerial Association  
Presents the 60<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical  
Festival of Lessons & Carols***

Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 3:00pm  
at St. Francis de Sales Church





## December Scripture

**Dec 7**-Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

**Dec 14**-Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-109, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

**Dec 21**- Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

**Dec 24-Nativity of Our Lord** Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

**Dec 28**-Lessons and Carols

From the staff of Zion Lutheran Church-

*Wishing you all the best of the Christmas season  
and a prosperous New Year.*

*-Cyndee and Naomi*

*-Church Council Members*



# Those Who Serve in December

## **Lector**

Dec 7-Peggy Williams  
Dec 14-Bonnie Moody  
Dec 21-Bonnie Groh  
Dec 24-Kaye Jarski  
Dec 28-Lessons and Carols

## **Ushers**

Ken Groh and Mike Jarski

## **Altar Flowers**

Dec 7-  
Dec 14-  
Dec 21-  
Dec 24-Anna Sjogren in memory of Sjogren and Couch Families  
Dec 28-Naomi Fletcher to celebrate a New Year

## **Bulletin Bread and Wine**

Dec 7-Frank and Laurie Nauman  
Dec 14-  
Dec 21-  
Dec 24-Anna Sjogren in memory of Sjogren and Couch Families  
Dec 28-

## **Acolyte**

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

## **Communion Assistant**

Dec 7 – Linda Mason  
Dec 14 – Sheila Clark  
Dec 21-Kim Lamb  
Dec 28– Julie Gauthier



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