



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

January 2026 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

Office Hours

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Normal office hours are now Monday-Thursday 9:00 – 12:00 noon. 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.

From the



PASTOR'S NOTES

Jim Duehring, Administrative Interim for Zion Lutheran, Manistique



"Jesus is the Light of the World"

January can be a strange month around these parts. Winter is sinking in with all its sparkling white delight interspersed with plenty of gloomy darkness. The extra pounds put on from our overindulgent Christmas parties are literally weighing some of us down. If we are winter sports enthusiasts, we embrace this season, but for others it can be a difficult time. Seasonal affective disorder is not something to be minimized. The flu season can ramp up during January. We remind ourselves to pray for the vulnerable and wash our hands often.

The ebb and flow of our lives can in some way be traced through "the liturgical church year." Some years we read from Matthew's Gospel right after Christmas and hear of that horrific tale of crazed and jealous King Herod calling on the "slaughter of the innocents"—the killing of male babies two years of age and younger. When God's goodness shows up the evil powers of this world are shaken and innocent people suffer. The promise though remains: God is still with us to sustain hope in the midst of deep sorrow and the darkness of sin.

In the month of January, we enter the season of Epiphany and that central story of the Wiseman from the East. The theme of Epiphany is clear—the hope of the light of Christ is for all people with no exceptions. I'm glad that the hope of Christ remains 2000 plus years later. You and I are going to need God's hopeful presence in 2026. Jesus is still "Emanuel". That "God is with us" still matters.

Jesus is the light of the whole world. That's the message of Epiphany. Christ has been manifested to the

entire world. Epiphany marks the time when the Wise Men from the East came to visit the baby Jesus. The light of the star led them to Bethlehem. It took them awhile to get there—perhaps many months after the birth of the Christ, but they came bringing along with them their hopes for a new beginning of peace and justice on earth.

We around the Great Lakes appreciate our lighthouses! There is a beautifully distinctive lighthouse on the shores of Manistique. Have you ever been in the top of a lighthouse and seen the old Fresnel lens? They are amazingly intricate in their ability to reflect out light. They remind us that in the past, a lighthouse served as a crucial aid for ships navigating the dangerous waters.

I understand that for the most part, lighthouses have been replaced by the modern GPS navigational devices, but I still love to see the old lighthouses dotting the rugged shores of Superior.

On a spiritual level we don't need a new light source. Jesus is really quite sufficient. We don't have to come up with a new light. Jesus is the light of the world for all people. That includes you!!!

Wishing you a "shining Epiphany" no matter what the nature of the weather will be!

God bless your 2026 with strong and hopeful peace. AMEN

Pastor Jim Duehring
Administrative Interim



Calling all Men

You are invited to a hearty breakfast meal at Zion Lutheran

Saturday-January 24-10:00 am

Zion men and friends are welcome!

There is a sign-up sheet in Augustana Hall so we can prepare enough food

Annual Committee Reports

Annual committee reports are due to the office by January 15 to prepare the Annual Report. Included are:

Annual Meeting Minutes

Pastoral Report

Congregational Council

Council Committees

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

Future Calendar Dates

February 8: Annual meeting immediately following Service with Potluck luncheon

February 18: Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm

Wednesdays of Lent: 12:00 pm Soup LUNCHEON. We are trying something new this year. Please consider joining us for these Lenten services. Dates are Feb 25, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25

March 1: 11:00 am-Table-side worship service and meal with the Transition Team. More next month.



December Noisy Offering

The December Noisy Offering of \$104.97 was given to Schoolcraft County Community Action. January's Noisy Offering will go to Walk for Warmth. The Noisy Offering is collected on the third weekend of each month.

2026 Stewardship Pledge Drive

Our pledge driver for 2026 was conducted from mid-October to mid-November. The campaign was a great success. 47 pledges were received totaling \$100,876.00. This allows us to develop a 2026 operational budget, and to plan for our financial future. A sincere thank you goes to the people and the families that responded positively to our pledge drive. We are truly grateful to everyone that gives to Zion Lutheran Church.

Ken Groh, President
Zion Church Council

Church Council Update

Nov 18, 2025

- +Correspondence included a thank you from EBAS for the noisy offering
- +Reviewed upcoming special worship services for Nov 25, Dec 7 and Dec 24
- +Manistique Ministerial Association meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:00. Reports from the Nov meeting were reviewed
- +Approved Christmas Gifts for staff, contractors, and Interim and supply minister
- +Property to look into why exterior road sign doesn't light up, and to receive quotes for bids on replacing the Men's Restroom flooring
- +A volunteer has stepped forward to lead as a new Choir Director

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 15th, 2026 at 10:00 am. Please note: This is a change in the normal 2nd Thursday.

Backpack Buddies



Monetary donations or donations of food are always needed! **Your donations would help more as local resources dwindle for our low-income families with children under age 18.**

Dates for the year:

January 22, 2026

February 26, 2026

March 26, 2026

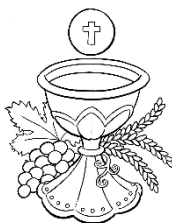
April 23, 2026

May 28, 2026

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
Dec 6/7	12	46	4
Dec 13/14	7	53	4
Dec 20/21	7	51	1

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 2026. 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”



Memorial Donations

We thank the following for their memorial contributions:

In memory of Robert Kreuzwieser:

From Doris Ribblet-Memorial Fund

From Jean Selling and Family-Memorial Fund

Nancy Kreuzwieser-Church Improvement Fund

Christmas Greetings

+From Shirley Leitgeb: I miss you all and wish you all a Merry Christmas

+From Bethan Lutheran-Escanaba:

Wishing you all the best during this Christmas Season



January Scripture

January 4: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:[1-9] 10-18

January 11: Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 18: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 25: Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27: 1, 4-9, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23



And so this is Christmas...



Poinsettias given by:

Mike and Kaye Jarski in memory of Our Parents
Sheila Clark

Phil and Peggy Williams in honor of Bev and
Hal Williams

Cindy and Randi Olli in honor of Family
Gayle and Chris Cartland in memory of
Grandpa Clarence

Bonnie Moody in memory of Roy and Lillian Moody
Tom and Carla Flodin in memory of Elmer and Jean
Flodin, Roy Laux and Betty and George Cole

Bonnie and Ken Groh in memory of son
Geoffrey Groh

Kathy Peterson in memory of Loved Ones

Naomi Fletcher in memory of Barbara and Gene
Moberg and Dell Vinette James

Those Who Serve in January

Lector

Jan 4-Brian Nelson
Jan 11-Donna Mott
Jan 18-Todd Kangas
Jan 25-Teddy Nelson

Ushers

Todd Kangas and Donna Mott

Altar Flowers

Jan 4-
Jan 11-
Jan 18-
Jan 25

Bulletin Bread and Wine

Jan 4-Fred and Laurie Nauman
Jan 11-
Jan 18-
Jan 25

Acolyte

Jan 4-
Jan 11-
Jan 18- Kristen Lamb
Jan 25- Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant

Jan 4 – Linda Mason
Jan 11 – Sheila Clark
Jan 18-Kim Lamb
Jan 25– Julie Gauthier

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