



# Zion Lutheran Church

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



## The Beacon

### March 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](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

### **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:**

President                      Gayle Cartland

Vice President              Todd Kangas

Council Secretary          Cyndee Miske

Ken Groh

Ruth Jones

Patrick Lamb

Jo-Nell Berger

Donna Mott

Teddy Nelson

Kathy Peterson

Mike Jarski

John Barry

Naomi Fletcher, Secretary/Treasurer

Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary

# Office Hours

## NEW SPRING HOURS

Normal office hours are now Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 – 12:00 noon. The office will be **CLOSED** on Tuesday and Friday. Office hours are now included on the Calendar enclosed in each month's newsletter. Please call ahead to make sure office is open due to scheduling conflicts. **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.

### Presiding Ministers

#### Subject to Change

<b>March 7/8</b>	Pastor Eleanor Russey
<b>March 14/15</b>	Pastor Eleanor Russey
<b>March 21/22</b>	Pastor Don Ludemann
<b>March 28/29</b>	Pastor James Duehring



## PASTOR'S NOTES

Jim Duehring, Administrative Interim for Zion Lutheran, Manistique

**This is the Ash Wednesday Homily that I was going to preach on Feb. 18. I now share this homily for your Lenten contemplation in this March newsletter. It is based on Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 and Joel 2:1-2, 12-17.**

I remember being out on my own after graduating college. I had my own apartment in Minnesota where I was working as a church youth worker. My parents were coming from Wisconsin to visit, and I felt a strong need to clean up my apartment before their visit. I wanted to impress them. I wanted them to feel that I was now a grown adult, and I didn't need their immediate coddling and guidance anymore.

Entering this season of Lent on this Ash Wednesday, and hearing about the call to prepare your hearts, to clean up your lives, illicit some of those similar sentiments I felt years ago as a young adult out on my own for the first time.

Lent reminds me that I'd better do a bit of housecleaning of my soul. Clean up my habits. Let God know that I belong. Demonstrate that I can do this on my own. (And that's a foolish notion!) Demonstrate to those around me my own sincerity and earnestness regarding this Christian faith stuff.

There is a modern phrase that gets bantered about--"Virtual Signaling"

According to the [Cambridge Dictionary](#), virtue signaling is "an attempt to show other people that you are a good person, for example by expressing opinions that will be acceptable to them, especially on social media... indicating that one has virtue merely by expressing disgust or favor for certain political ideas or cultural happenings".

Hear again the Words of Jesus from the Sermon on the Mount in 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew:

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.”

Likewise, Jesus offers caveats about praying and fasting in order to be seen by others.

Balance any sense of your own virtue and nobility with the phrase that you hear on Ash Wednesday, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Jesus appeared humbly on this earth. And we do well to follow Jesus’ example.

As we now enter this Lenten Season there is nothing wrong with giving alms. There is nothing wrong with praying in public settings. There is nothing wrong with fasting. There is nothing wrong with practicing righteousness.

All these things are good. But the point of doing them is not primarily that others will see us and be impressed.

Any sense of being impressed is balanced by the truths, I am a sinner. I am dust and to dust I shall return. On this day of penitence, through the work and witness of Christ Jesus, we summon God to come near, to hear our prayer, and to listen to our confession.

So, with our truths laid bare, we confess our unfaithfulness to God, our lackluster love for our neighbors, our neglect of the suffering and injustice in the world. In the same breath, we ask God to wash us, to purge us, and to create in us clean hearts. The smears of sin are washed clean through the love of Christ. And yet, we will leave worship this day still carrying the cross-shaped trace of sin and death upon us. It is a reminder that, even amid our confession, we continue this Lenten season to listen for the

perpetual call to return to the Lord our God who is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13).

*-Pastor Jim*

Here's a summary of the Lenten season and Holy Week:

- **Lenten Lunches and Study**, March 4, 11, 18, 25
- **Palm Sunday**, March 29 at 11am
- **Maundy Thursday**, April 2
- **Good Friday Ecumenical worship**, April 3 hosted by Zion at 1pm
- **Good Friday worship** at Zion, April 3 at 5pm
- **Easter Vigil**, Saturday, April 4 at 5pm
- **Easter Sunrise Service**, Sunday, April 5-Lakeview Cemetery-7:00 am.
- **Easter Sunday Festive Worship**, April 5 at 11am

## Important Dates

**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 **March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25**. There is a sheet to sign up for soup, bread or desserts posted in Augustana Hall

**March 1:** We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 @ 11:00 am where Rev. Jim Duehring, Interim Pastor, Zion's **Transition team** and Church Council will lead our first Faith Ventures Congregational Event in Augustana Hall. This event will include Worship Service with Communion and a homestyle brunch provided by our Church Council. It will also include a table talk which will give us all as a congregation the opportunity to be heard with constructive nonjudgemental conversation.



## February Noisy Offering

The February Noisy Offering of \$95.56 was given to Scouting Troops 400/401.

March's Noisy Offering will go to CBC.

The Noisy Offering is collected on the third weekend of each month.

## Church Council Update

+Council members elected Gayle Cartland as President, Todd Kangas as Vice President, and Cyndee Miske as Secretary for the ensuing term.

+New and returning members to the Council are Patrick Lamb and Jo-Nell Berger

## 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 March 12, 2026 at 10:00 am**



## Men and Food

You are invited to a hearty breakfast meal at Zion Lutheran

**Saturday-March 21-10:00 am**

Zion men and friends are welcome!

There is a sign-up sheet in Augustana Hall so we can prepare enough food. Topic of Discussion-TBA

## 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 in Schoolcraft County under age 18.**

Dates for the year:

**March 26, 2026**

April 23, 2026

May 28, 2026

## Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
Jan 31/Feb 1	6	50	4
Feb 7/8	8	39	8
Feb 14/15	8	48	5
Feb 21/22	8	43	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**



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.



## Memorial Donations

We thank the following for their memorial contributions:

### Memorial Fund:

#### **In Memory of Virginia Scherer**

Joseph and Jackie Scherer

Lila Panek

Doris Ribblet

#### **In Memory of Donald DeSautel**

Betty DeSautel

### Building Fund:

#### **In Memory of Donald DeSautel**

Merry Jo Brandimore

### Quilter's Fund:

#### **In memory of Virginial Scherer**

Sarah Circle

## Notes of Thanks

+Mariucci Beacon House for our Noisy Offering

+Schoolcraft County Community Foundation for our Noisy Offering

+Habitat for Humanity Hiawathaland for our Noisy Offering

+Northern Great Lakes Synod for Lutheran World Relief and World Hunger donations

+Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for donations to Good Gifts Worldwide





## March Scripture

**March 1**—Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, Philippians 1:3-11

**March 8**—Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, Philippians 1:12-20

**March 15**—Genesis 1:26-2:3, Psalm 23, 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, To John 6:47-59

**March 22**—Ezekiel 37:1-14, Psalm 130, Romans 8:6-11, to be Announced

**March 29**—**Palm Sunday**



## First Communion Classes

Pastor Duehring is willing to teach First Communion classes to anyone who is interested. Dates are Saturdays—April 11, April 18 and May 2, all at 1:00 pm.

Those wishing to take First Communion are welcome as well as anyone who wishes to review our Lutheran understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please contact him at 906-251-0247

## Fortune Lake

Fortune Lake camp registrations are now open. Register by March 5 and receive a \$40 discount off full-week and \$25 off half-week programs. Forms are posted in Augustana Hall.

# Those Who Serve in March

## **Lector**

Mar 1-Cyndee Miske  
Mar 8-Julie Gauthier  
Mar 15-Gloria McGuire  
Mar 22-Jo-Nell Berger  
March 29-Palm Sunday

## **Ushers**

Cyndee Miske and Gayle Cartland

## **Altar Flowers**

Mar 1  
Mar 8  
Mar 15  
Mar 22  
Mar 29

## **Bulletin Bread and Wine**

Mar 1-Fred and Laurie Nauman  
Mar 8  
Mar 15-Lois Bentley in memory of Clara Mersnick  
Mar 22-Dorothy Brandstrom  
Mar 29

## **Acolyte**

Mar 1-  
Mar 8-  
Mar 15- Kristen Lamb  
Mar 22- Nicholas Gauthier

## **Communion Assistant**

Mar 1 – Linda Mason  
Mar 8 – Sheila Clark  
Mar 15-Kim Lamb  
Mar 22– Julie Gauthier  
Mar 29-Linda Levin

## **Counters**

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