



Zion Lutheran Church

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



The Beacon

July 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

Rev. James Duehring-Interim Administrative Pastor

Personal: 906-251-0247

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Secretary:

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 SUMMER HOURS

Normal office hours are now Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 – 12:00 noon. The office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, 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

July 4/5	Reverend James Duehring
July 11/12	Lay Minister Roland Jacobson
July 18/19	Reverend James Duehring
July 25/26	Reverend James Duehring

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



Pastor Jim's Ponderings for July

Our nation celebrates a milestone birthday this year. 250 years! This is not insignificant. How do we as Christians view this milestone? How does patriotism relate to the Christian witness? Certainly, not all Christians view this in the same manner, nor do all citizens of our country have a monolithic perspective on our nation. Let me try to offer a couple biblical, historical, Lutheran, and perhaps just common-sense perspectives that hopefully will inform and inspire your thinking.

1. The scriptures speak of peoples and nations being blessed by God to be a blessing to others. *"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."* Isaiah 49:6b (NRSVUE) And, there are scriptural warnings about taking this blessing for granted. *"So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall."* 1 Corinthians 10:2 (NRSVUE)
2. The scriptures speak of leaders of nations holding a divine vocation of responsibility to rule wisely and with justice. *"Let every person be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God."* Romans 13:1 (NRSVUE) And there are scriptural warnings of leaders who abuse power. *"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, ²to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people,*

making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.” Isaiah 10:1-2 (NIV)

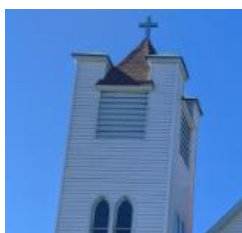
3. Our nation was founded on many powerful aspirational principles including equality of all, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of assembly. Our Declaration of Independence states: *“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness”* Sometimes our nation has clearly demonstrated the lofty and aspirational principles of our founders. Sometimes our nation has fallen short of these aspirational principles.
4. A balanced patriotism can celebrate our nation, its people, and principles, while also allowing for criticism of our leaders and citizens for falling short of these principles.
5. Our own denomination, the ELCA, has a social statement on Civic Life entitled, *“Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All”*. Article 9 of that 2025 statement says, *“As Lutherans participate in civic life in order to seek the well-being of all, we recognize that this work is neither unique to nor possessed by Christians alone. To “walk humbly” with God (Micah 6:8) must include seeking out the sound ideas, values, and contributions of all people, regardless of their religious tradition or worldview. The good of all must be discerned in common.”*

For myself, I will joyously celebrate the 4th of July with other Americans. Happy birthday America! I will celebrate the

blessings of this nation while also praying for God's grace and mercy to help guide us into a more perfect union and the actualization of those lofty and aspirational principles expressed 250 years ago. And my patriotism will be tempered by my Christian faith that places no leader, no institution, no person, no nation above the Lord God Almighty!

I encourage you sometime on July 4 to pray the following: *Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion: from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. HEAR US O GOD! YOUR MERCY IS GREAT!*

Church Bell Tower-Update



This project is scheduled to be completed in late July or early August. In excess of \$3,000 has been raised for this project, and we are grateful for that! We do remain somewhat short of our goal, and additional contributions would be greatly appreciated! Thank you for your consideration.



Parking Lot Update

This project will be done by UP Sealcoat and Ryan Hoffman of Gulliver, MI. in mid-July and it will cost \$15,950.00. The Project will be paid with \$8,000 from our Endowment Fund and the remainder will come from the General Fund. Your generous giving to the Church Improvement Fund allows us to complete this type of work. We are grateful for the opportunity to get this much needed work finished.



From the President's Notebook:

Church Pictorial Directory:

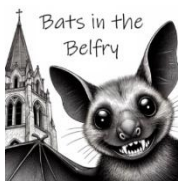
We are starting to build a pictorial directory again. This will be a good tool for us and the person who becomes our next Pastor. Please check the compiled address list in the fellowship hall. Make changes/additions/deletions to your information. We would also like you to send in your favorite current picture of you or your family to our church e-mail at office@zionlutheran-manistique.org

God's Work our Hands:



There has recently been some renewed interest in our highway clean-up project. Highway clean-up will be possibly planned for **July 11-19th**. A second clean-up will be in September. Please consider helping in this way.

The Bats in the Belfry Challenge:



We have a challenge from the “folks who don’t live here but left part of their hearts at Zion” Shirley L., Larry and Rebecca and Harry M. visited a couple of weeks ago and checked out our damaged belltower. They are challenging us to match their \$50 donation to cover the repair.



**THE
TRANSITION
TEAM**

Transition Team

The transition team has had Congregational Vitality surveys sent to your e-mails. Please fill these out and send them in. If you need a paper copy, they will be available at church. This feedback is important to help the team and the synod move forward with this process. Paper copies should be returned to church.



Did you know??

For 2026, some givers may be able to deduct charitable gifts even if they take the standard deduction and do not itemize. We encourage you to consult your tax advisor to learn how this may apply to you.

Church Attendance Report

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
May30/31	10	49	5
June 6/7	10	48	3
June 13/14	8	39	4
June 20/21	13	47	5



Thank you!!!!

To the Pie Makers and Quilters for another successful Pie Auction to benefit Backpack Buddies.

We had over 30 pies and 2 quilts for our **3rd Annual Pie Auction**. We raised **\$1,436.00!!!!**

Thank you to our very generous crowd for another exciting Pie Auction!!!



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 the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am and is on hiatus through the summer. Next meeting is in September.



Men and Food

Men and Food will be back in September. Watch this newsletter and the Augustana Hall bulletin board for updates.

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 in Schoolcraft County.**

Resumes on August 27

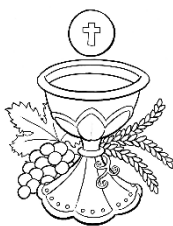


June Noisy Offering

June's Noisy Offering to Northwood's Air Lifeline was \$135.67. July's Noisy Offering will go to Beacon House. The Noisy

Offering is collected on the third weekend of each month.

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.

Sign Up



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.

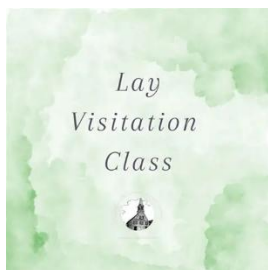
July Scripture

July 5-Zecharia 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14, romans 7:15-25a, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12-Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13, romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19-Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26-1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39,, Matthew 3:31-33, 44-52



Do you enjoy talking to people and being a listening and caring presence?

Pastor Jim would like to offer a Lay Visitation Class for you.

What would be involved?

1. You would receive a couple of trainings and orientations with Pastor Jim
2. We would devise a plan on how to implement your lay visits

We already have a couple of Zion members doing Eucharist Ministry by delivering Home Communion to our shut-ins and people in nursing homes. This Lay Visitation Team would likely be separate from a Eucharistic Ministry. You may simply wish to do visitation without bringing along the "Holy Communion kits", or you may wish to do both. Pastor Jim is willing to offer training for both.

Prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to participate on a Lay Visitation Team. Contact Pastor Jim sometime this summer. Plans are to have these classes sometime this fall.

God bless you!

Pastor Jim Duehring 906-251-0247

homegrownpackerbacker@gmail.com



Spark

The Dictionary Project's Word of the Day is "Spark". I think Nicola Tesla, the great electrical scientist, said it best: *"The spread of civilization may*

*be likened to a fire; first, a feeble **spark**, next a flickering flame, then a mighty blaze, ever increasing in speed and power."* Think about the growth of Zion, starting with just a few settlers over 130 years ago, building into a flame and then blazing its way into the community to provide faith leadership. Will you be the spark increasing in speed and power to help build a better congregation?



Stories That Still Speak

A 5-Session Class on the Parables of Jesus

With Pastor Jim

Jesus often taught through simple stories with deep spiritual meaning. Join us as we explore several of the unforgettable parables and discover how they reveal God's kingdom, grace, mercy, forgiveness, and faithful living today.

We will discuss these parables:

The Good Samaritan

The Sower and Seed

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

The Prodigal Son

The Talents

Sessions will be selective Thursdays at noon & Saturdays at 3:30pm

Session #1 September 17/19

Session #2 October 1/3

Session #3 October 29/31

Session #4 November 5/7

Session #5 November 12/13

Pastor Jim will provide discussion materials. Simply bring your bibles and a curious mind!

Summer Worship & Picnic

Masonville Township Recreation Area. Rapid River

Sunday
August 2, 2026
10:30 am Worship
Picnic to Follow

Please Bring:

Family & Friends
Lawn Chair
A Small Rock from Home
Summer Dish to Share

Provided:

Main Dish:
Hot Dogs & Hamburgers
Beverages
Place Settings



Gathered Lutheran Congregations:

Bethany in Perkins, Calvary in Rapid River,
Christ the King in Escanaba, Faith in Rock,
Trinity in Stonington, and Zion in Manistique.

**Please note, there will be no Sunday Service
August 2 at Zion. If you are unable to attend the
Summer Worship in Rapid River, please consider
Saturday worship at Zion at 5:00 pm**

Those Who Serve in July

Lector

July 5-Todd Kangas
July 12-Elise Calhoun
July 19-Gloria McGuire
July 26-Jo-Nell Berger

Ushers

Todd Kangas and Ruth Jones

Altar Flowers

July 5-Lynda Jones & Gayle Cartland
July 12-
July 19-
July 26-

Bulletin Bread and Wine

July 5-
July 12-
July 19-
July 26-

Acolyte

July 5-
July 12-
July 19-Kristen Lamb
July 26-Nicholas Gauthier

Communion Assistant

July 5 – Linda Mason
July 12– Sheila Clark
July 19-Kim Lamb
July 26- Julie Gauthier

Counters



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