

# THE MESSENGER

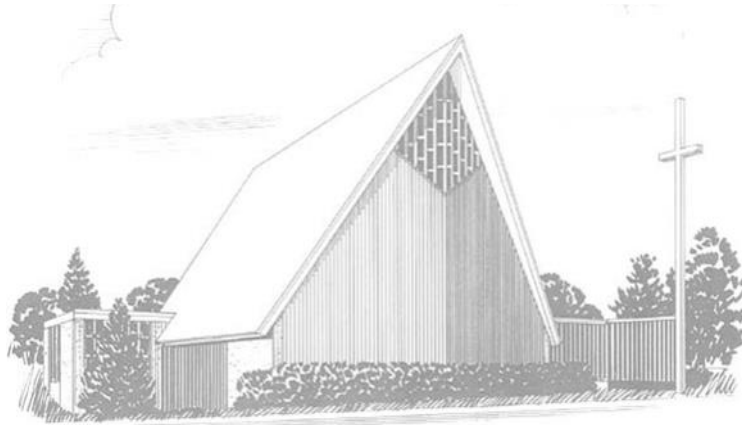
A monthly publication of  
Zion Lutheran Church  
[www.zionsuperior.org](http://www.zionsuperior.org)

2022 E. 2nd Street,  
Superior, WI 54880  
715-398-3663

“Gathering together, Growing in faith,  
and Going into the world in  
Jesus’ name.”

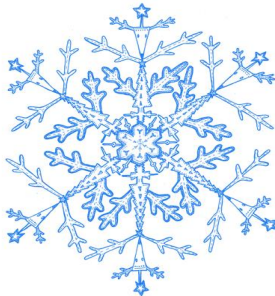
## JANUARY 2024

Celebration Sunday!  
January 28th, 2024



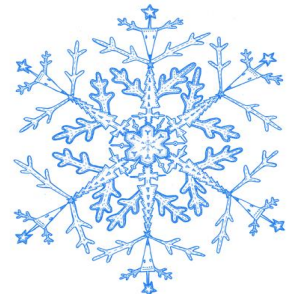
9am — Combined Worship  
10am — Potluck Brunch  
10:30am — Annual Congregational Meeting

REMINDER: Those who need to submit reports for Annual Meeting—the deadline is January 15th.



“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10



**Church Winter Hours: Monday to Friday 9am - 1pm**

**Pastor Sarah is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, call the church office to set-up a time to meet**

# Pastor's Message

*"...and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." Luke 2:19*

The Christmas season has drawn to a close, and we are moving into the season after Epiphany. On Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Epiphany, the light of Christ that has come into the world, as we heard the story of the visit of the Magi to the Christ child. We heard the familiar story of the Magi (who knows really how many there were) following a star and bringing gifts to the newborn King. We know this story. We think we know this story, anyway. Perhaps the words have lost their power to make us wonder and be curious about what it all means for us.

What does the story of Jesus' birth told with these well-known words perhaps have to teach us anew about who this Jesus is and why he came to be with us, to be one of us?

Mary's response to the visit of the Shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth was to sit with their words, to ponder what they perhaps meant for her, for her people, and for the whole world. Have you had time to ponder yet what this story, what the good news is for you in this old, old story?

Jesus the Christ, the Word made flesh, came to bring us good news! There is hope in the midst of chaos and despair. There is life in the midst of death and suffering. There is love being given to us without end. We are sometimes out of practice in taking time to listen for this good news, to notice it, to treasure and ponder it in our hearts. As Christians, we can look for the good news of Jesus Christ breaking into our lives all the time, in simple moments and great events alike, all revealing God's love and grace for us.

In worship this last Sunday, I shared a practice that I have been doing for several years where at the beginning of the year I receive a STAR WORD to guide me in paying better attention to Christ's presence. I randomly draw out a paper star with a word printed on it from a bowl full of paper stars, and then I try to receive the word as a gift and try to follow the star as a gift like the Magi did so long ago. I have received words like creativity, rest, trust, peace and thoughtfulness (last year's word). These words have helped me pay attention to what I am hearing and seeing in the world in new ways. These words have helped me to ponder and treasure moments in unexpected ways, often with a profound sense of grace in God's presence with me and with others.

If you did not receive a STAR WORD in worship this year, let me know. I would be happy to choose one out of the bowl for you, or stop by church anytime and choose one for yourself. God bless you in the new year!

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah

# Church Council

## Church Council Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by President Lynn Rochon. Present were Vicky Holm, Lynn Rochon, Anthony Anderson, Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Christel Lewis, Aine Merrill, Margaret Sundet, Sara Schubert McKone, Grace Becken and Donna Meltz.

Devotions were given by Aine. Grace will give them next month. The January meeting will be on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Linda Brow and Paul Robinson were present to discuss the 2024 budget to start the meeting.

A motion was made by Sara and seconded by Grace to accept last month's secretary's report. Motion carried.

**Treasurers Report:** We reviewed the check register. The checking account balance is \$12,964.82, savings balance is \$22,269.25, Thrivent balance is \$3,214.73 and the mortgage is at \$42,829.73.

**Pastors Report:** It has been a wonderful month of getting Paul Robinson officially working in the role of Office Manager after Pearl's retirement. Office hours will now be Monday – Friday from 9am to 1pm. Pastor's office hours are Tuesday – Thursday from 9am – 1pm and always available by appointment. The pie sale was very successful for the ELCA Youth Gathering. The next event will be a concert and dinner on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. They will be bagging groceries on March 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Super One Foods on Oakes Ave. Pastor will be attending the ELCA Extravaganza in New Orleans on January 18 – 22 for continuing education and preparation work for the gathering. Pastor attends a meeting for the Superior Ministerium on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month to do shared ministry work in Superior. On Nov 29<sup>th</sup> we had a shared worship service and dinner at United Presbyterian Church for Thanksgiving. We collected over \$1,000 for the Samaritan Fund, which the Ministerium is working to get back in working order to give out funds to people in need in our community. The Ministerium will also be working to aid Amena and Halima's families to bring them from Afghanistan to our community through the Welcome Corps program. We are searching for people to serve on the Welcome Corps team (5 people are needed to support each family). The Superior ELCA Churches met on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> at Concordia to talk about shared ministry activities. We are going to do a shared worship service and lunch on Sunday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> with the Breaking Chains band coming to lead us again. We will collect an offering to support our work with the refugee families from Afghanistan. We are also hoping to plan a fundraiser dinner in the spring, possibly April, to support these families. The Adult Bible Study has been moved from 1pm to 1:30pm on Wednesday afternoon. Pastor is working on starting an evening bible study time. She would like to start some short 3-6 week sessions on various faith topics to encourage more adults to engage in learning opportunities. Pastor will be on vacation from Dec 25 – Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. She will be in Chetek on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> for the NWSWI Winter Theological Retreat.

**Discipleship:** The Sunday School program last Sunday went very well. The last LOGOS led Advent service, with BoxBob will be this Wednesday.

**Worship and Music:** They meet the first Wednesday of the month. The last meeting was for planning the December and January events.

**Operations:** Did not meet.

**Stewardship:** Did not meet.

**WELCA:** The cookie sale made between \$700 and \$800. The balance of their account is \$1,012.00. A motion was made by Sara and seconded by Grace to accept all reports as given. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:** The proposed changes to the constitution will be reviewed next month. We are on Belknap Plumbing's list to get the sewer fixed. The sub pump has been ordered.

**New Business:** There will be 2 services on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am and 4pm. There will be 1 service on December 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am. There will be a New Year's Party from 4pm – 7pm. We reviewed another churches bulletin and how they show their members the financial numbers. They also advertise on the back of the bulletin. We discussed this as another income source. This will be brought to the Stewardship committee.

A motion was made at 7:38pm by Vicky and seconded by Grace to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Christel Lewis

# Committee Notices

## Nominating Committee

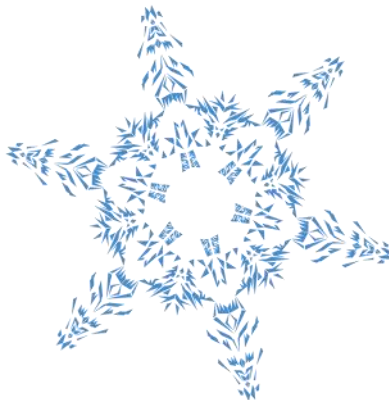
Because we want everyone to have an opportunity to become involved in ministry, your nominating committee would like to know if you would serve on the Church Council. Please contact Polly Lohman, Lynn Rochon, Pastor Sarah or the church office if you are interested.



# WELCA

We meet the second Sunday of each month during the coffee hour . Please watch the bulletin for any last minute changes.

	<b>COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024-2026</b>	
<b>Term Ends January</b>	<b>Term Ends January 2025</b>	<b>Term Ends January 2026</b>
Vicky Holm	Deanna Traynor	Sara Schubert McKone
Lynn Rochon	Christel Lewis, Secretary	Grace Becken
Anthony Anderson	Aine Merrill, Treasurer	Donna Meltz
	Margaret Sundet	





## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL

All Children ages 3 years through the 5th Grade are welcome at Zion Sunday School. Classes are Sunday mornings at 10:15 from September to May. To register your children for Sunday School, you may contact the church office (715-398-3663) or go to [zionsuperior.org](http://zionsuperior.org) for a registration form or simply come to Zion on any Sunday to get your child started on his or her journey of faith! God loves our children and has wonderful things to teach them at Zion Sunday School. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

# LOGOS

It's hard to believe we are already well into a new year. Our youth bring so much joy, and we look forward to what gifts this new year will offer!

The Logos students (grades 6-9) have been exploring questions relating to the Bible, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's prayer, and general questions of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian in today's world. Our high school youth have been meeting and working on preparing for their trip to the National ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

Both groups meet on Wednesday nights from 5-7 pm. We start with mini-worship, a lesson, a meal and then a game or activity to end the evening. The youth group is open to all students from grade 6 and up, and they can join at any time. We also invite our church family to join us for dinner any Wednesday at 6pm. No need to make a reservation...just come.

Here is the menu for January:

**1/10:** Spaghetti, French bread, salad and cake

**1/17:** Baked potato bar, salad, snack cakes and bars

**1/24:** Sub sandwiches, chips, salad, cookies

**1/31:** Chili, corn bread, salad, ice cream sandwiches

Happy New Year!



Some of the youth/mentors enjoying the New Year's Eve Party.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>JANUARY</h1> 						
<h1>2024</h1>						<h1>2024</h1>
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 6:00 Dinner	4	5	6
7 9:00 & 10:45 Worship 9:45-10:45 Sun- day School	8 6:00 AA Mtg	9 11:00 Pastors text study 4:00 Missions 6:30 Al-Anon	10 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 6:00 Dinner	11 Church Council 6:00	12	13
14 9:00 & 10:45 Worship 9:45-10:45 Sun- day School 10:00 WELCA	15 4:30 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 AA Mtg	16 11:00 Pastors text study 4:00 Missions 5:00 Operations 6:30 Al-Anon	17 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 6:00 Dinner	18	19	20 Newsletter arti- cles due for February
21 9:00 & 10:45 Worship 9:45-10:45 Sun- day School	22 4:30 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 AA Mtg	23 11:00 Pastors text study 4:00 Missions 6:30 Al-Anon	24 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 6:00 Dinner	25	26	27
28 9:00 Combined Services 10:00 Pot Luck 10:30 Annual Meeting	29 4:30 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir 6:00 AA Mtg	30 11:00 Pastors text study 4:00 Missions 6:30 Al-Anon	31 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 6:00 Dinner			



Matthew Ross	Jan 1		
Alan Jaques	Jan 2	Kate Conlan	Jan 16
Stephanie Johnson,	Jan 2	William (Bill) Traynor	Jan 17
Terry Ross	Jan 3	Crysta James	Jan 18
Margaret Smith	Jan 3	Miranda Nelson	Jan 18
Donald Downs	Jan 5	Kelly Thimm	Jan 20
Alana Dunning	Jan 5	Patricia Janssan	Jan 21
Bob Evans	Jan 5	Kendall Gallery	Jan 25
Katrina Sautbine	Jan 6	Christopher Rochon	Jan 27
Kristin Radich	Jan 10	Jeanette Betterman	Jan 30
Craig, Larson	Jan 13	Paul Freer	Jan 30
Gregory Pluntz	Jan 15		



**Coffee Fellowship** There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who serve.

<b>JANUARY LAY MINISTRY</b>	
<b>READER</b>	<b>COUNTERS</b>
Jan 07 Polly Lohman / Lynn Rochon	Jan 07 Paul Freer, Beth Arnson
Jan 14 Aine Merrill / Tim Ingersoll	Jan 14 Donna Meltz, Aine Merrill
Jan 21 Donna Meltz / Rusty Mehlberg	Jan 21 Paul Freer, Beth Arnson
Jan 28 Micah Gunderson / Sara Schubert-McKone	Jan 28 Eve Bagan, Polly Lohman
<b>MINISTER ASSISTANT</b>	<b>GREETER</b>
Jan 07 Aine Merrill	Jan 07 Shirley Boris
Jan 14 Anthony Anderson	Jan 14 Janet Arena
Jan 21 Linda Moe	Jan 21 Lucy Sullivan
Jan 28 Aine Merrill	Jan 28 Mary Hickman
<b>USHERS</b>	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>
Jan 07 Vicky Holm / Vicky Holm	Members of Committee
Jan 14 Donald Anderson / Ken Mertz	
Jan 21 Vicky Holm / Vicky Holm	
Jan 28 Donald Anderson / Ken Mertz	
<p>If you are unable to serve at the scheduled time, please notify the Office at 715-398-3663 with the name of your replacement. Thank you for your service.</p>	

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2022 East Second Street  
Superior, WI 54880



### Contact Zion

**Pastor Sarah Gunderson**

[pastor@zionsuperior.org](mailto:pastor@zionsuperior.org)  
715-398-3663, ext. 202

Email: [pastor@zionsuperior.org](mailto:pastor@zionsuperior.org)  
Cell Phone: 715-817-6543

**Office Manager & Newsletter Contact**

Paul Robinson

Email: [churchoffice@zionsuperior.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionsuperior.org)

**Organist & Choir Director**

Gretchen Johnston, OSB

**Custodian**

Darren Velin

**Prayer Ministry and Requests**

[prayer@zionsuperior.org](mailto:prayer@zionsuperior.org)

**Sunday School (ages 3 years-5th grade)**

**LOGOS Youth Group**

[churchoffice@zionsuperior.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionsuperior.org)

*THE MESSENGER is a monthly publication  
of Zion Lutheran Church*

## THE MESSENGER

*January 2024*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**

*“Gathering together, Growing in faith,  
and Going into the world in Jesus’ name.”*

**Sunday Worship Services**

First Service at 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:45– 10:45 am

Second Service at 10:45 am

Coffee Hour between services at 10am

Worship Service is also on website.

**Church Office Hours**

Mo—Fr 9-1

Pastoral Hours Tu-Thurs 9-1, and by appointment