

Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

Gathering together, Growing in faith, and Going into the world in Jesus' name.

Pastor's Message



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. —Isaiah 9:6

December is a busy month at Zion! There are so many wonderful activities and traditions that we have to guide us through Advent and into the Christmas season. I hope you will find space during this month to both get connected to the wonderful opportunities for fellowship and learning and worship at Zion, and to rest and find the peace of Christ that can be felt all the way down into the depths of your soul.

This is the time of year when we can do a spiritual reset for ourselves and reflect on how we are experiencing God's presence and how we might be needing and longing for God to show up. The wonder of the Christmas story is that God comes to be with us—Emmanuel, to us a child is born! We all need the presence of God to help us make our way through this world. Some days and some times in our lives we need God to be revealed to us more clearly than others, and for God's grace and mercy and love to pour over us like a mighty waterfall, and at other times it seems a gentle sprinkling will do! Wherever you are in your faith journey right now, may you know that God is with you and the gifts given to the whole world in Jesus Christ are given for you too. May Advent and Christmas worship services help you to receive them once again with joy and hope to carry you with faith into the new year.

I give thanks for all the generosity and love that has been poured out from this congregation over the last year. Your presence and the gifts you share make a difference to others in our church and in our community. I look forward to how God will show up in the coming year in our congregation and where the Spirit of God might lead us next. God's peace be with you.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Sarah

Coming up...

Blue Christmas Service—Sunday,
December 22nd at 7:00pm

We will gather for a brief service followed by a time for quiet reflection in the sanctuary along with pie & coffee & hot cocoa in the fellowship hall. Come and find rest on this night.

Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday,
December 24th

4:00pm—Traditional Festive Christmas Service with Candlelight & Holy Communion

10:00pm—Contemplative Service of Lessons and Carols with Candlelight & Holy Communion

Christmas Day Dinner on
Wednesday, December 25th

Join us for a free Christmas Dinner from 1-3pm.

All are
welcome!



Church Council

Church Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 17th, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Rochon at 6:05pm. Present were Christel Lewis, Aine Merrill, Margaret Sundet, Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Sara Schubert McKone, Donna Meltz, Shannon Johnson, Don Anderson and Lynn Rochon.

Devotions were given by Sara. Next month will be Donna.

Vicky Holm was at the meeting to discuss 3 events she is planning. One is a Christmas dinner on Christmas Day from 1 – 3. She has a letter to give to businesses to get donations. She has another letter she will give to senior living and surrounding communities to let them know we are offering this at Zion. The second event she is planning is for a concert and dessert on Valentines Day. The third event is on April 4, 5 and 6th. It is an 8 character play called Don't Kick the Turkey. It is a comedy with a message.

A motion was made by Sara and seconded by Donna to accept September's secretary report. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: The checking account balance is \$2,194.40, the savings account balance is \$5,050.16 and the mortgage is at \$35,784.09. We do not have enough money in the accounts to make the end of the month payroll. We discussed ways to let the congregation know how critical the situation is. We will discuss this issue more in new business.

Pastors Report: We have 3 young people preparing for their Affirmation of Baptism (and to be welcomed as adult members) on Sunday, October 27th. They are Katherine (Kate) Conlan, Trey Pedersen and Daniel Larson. A motion was made by Sarah and seconded by Aine to accept Kate, Trey and Daniel as new members of Zion. Motion carried. We have about 13 people participating in our reading of Henri Nouwen's book *With Open Hands*. Some participants have been meeting weekly on Tuesdays either at church at 10am or on Zoom at 7pm. Our last meeting will be on October 29th. The book study has led to great discussions and relational ministry along with all the things we are learning about prayer. We will plan to have another book study this spring. This fall we made a shift in time and structure for worship on Sunday mornings with education at 9am (Sunday School & Adult education) and worship at 10am using a blended-style. I feel this has been going very well. We are at an average attendance of 45, and there has been a lot of positive feedback on the service. We have a small group of adults engaged in the weekly bible study, and Sunday school has been working on a puppet project to connect to worship on October 20th, along with using a new curriculum and incorporating fellowship time into their gathering. I think it is a great start to creating a positive education experience for all ages. This fall we also made a shift to make Wednesday evenings more open to the whole congregation. We have been doing 30-minute service with communion and youth leadership each week before dinner, We have mostly had people already connected to Logos attending, but I think our Wednesdays are a great place for us to continue to grow in our relational ministry with youth and adults. During Advent, we are looking at doing a Dinner Church experience that will have our worship/study/game/meal all happening around tables in the fellowship hall from 5:30-7pm. This will be an intentional inter-generational experience for the whole congregation to be a part of in December. United Campus Ministry dinners and worship started on September 22rd. Zion served a meal on September 29th (thanks to Vicky Holm & Owin Holm), and is scheduled for October 27th & November 17th. We are slowly building connections with students on campus and having good fellowship time with the other Lutheran churches in Superior along with a group from Faith Methodist. Next shared worship service will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 24th at Pilgrim with dinner at 5:30 and service at 6:30pm, and then the Lutheran churches will be gathering on Sunday, February 23rd at 10am at Zion. Next meeting of the group for planning will be on Thursday, November 14th at 5pm at Zion. I will be attending a regional event in Marathon, WI for all first all pastors It goes from Sunday event (November 10th) to Tuesday afternoon (November 12th).

Discipleship: Sunday School has between 2 and 11 kids attending.

Worship and Music: Did not meet this month.

Property: Did not meet this month, however, they did sign a contract with the same snow plow company we used last year.

Stewardship: Tim is looking into using Vanco, which is a platform to make giving easier. They also are working on enhancing visual things in worship.

WELCA: The cooking sale will be December 14th. They are thinking of adding crafts to the cookie sale.

A motion was made by Shannon and seconded by Sara to accept all reports as given. Motion carried.

New Business: The new food shelf cabinet is broken. If you open the left door all the way, the shelves fall. We discussed ways to fix the problem. No decision made. We discussed our financial situation and how to inform the congregation about how dire the situation is. Our action plan:

1. Lynn will make an announcement this Sunday.
2. A communication will be sent to all members of the congregation. If we have email addresses, we will send an email, otherwise a letter will be sent.
3. Members of the Council and Stewardship will meet after church this Sunday.

A motion was made at 7:41pm by Donna and seconded by Shannon to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Christel Lewis

PRAYERS FOR ALL

PRAYER CHAIN: Please submit any prayer requests to a member of the prayer chain: Linda Moe 715-398-6779.

Prayers of Healing: Ric Adrihan, Barry Kilner, Michael Pelletier, and Tom Velin.

Prayers of Protection:

Nathan Anthony, Andrew Hutton, Nathan Madsen, Keely Nelson, Andrew Mattson, Joshua Seifert, Mathew Sherwood, and for all those who are in military service throughout the world and their families; and for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMT's, and all who put themselves at risk for others.

Prayers of Comfort:

Those homebound or in nursing homes: Jerry and Marilee, Alice Mattson, and Ellie Mae Nelson.

Prayers for Strength & Guidance: Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Our Church Council, our lay leaders, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Synod Bishop Martin Halom and our Synod Staff, and for all those who stand up for justice in Jesus' name.

Thank you to all who pray faithfully.

To add or remove a name, please call the office. 715-398-3663 Thank you.

Every 4th Sunday is Food Shelf Sunday!

Food Shelf Focus (pop-top cans are a plus)

Applesauce . Brown rice . Canned or dried fruit . Canned ravioli & pastas
 Canned soup, stew and chili . Canned tuna, chicken, SPAM & ham . Canned vegetables
 Cereal . Crackers . Granola bars . Hamburger Helper . Instant Mashed Potatoes
 Macaroni & Cheese . Meals in a box . Peanut butter & jelly
 Whole Grain Cereal . Whole Grain Pasta
 Bar soap and body wash . Dental Floss . Deodorant . Shampoo & Conditioner
 Tooth brushes (no multi-packs) . Tooth paste . Water-based lotions

Please help us provide food for our neighbors and community!

DECEMBER LAY MINISTRY 2024

READER	COUNTERS
Dec 1 Donna Meltz	Dec 1 Eve Bagan, Linda Brow
Dec 8 Micah Gunderson	Dec 8 Beth Arnson, Paul Freer
Dec 15 Aine Merrill	Dec 15 Aine Merrill, Eve Bagan
Dec 22 Polly Lohman	Dec 22 Linda Brow, Carol Peterson
Dec 29 Donna Meltz	Dec 29 Polly Lohman, Ken Mertz
MINISTER ASSISTANT	GREETER
Dec 1 Rusty Mehlberg	Dec 1 Shirley Boris
Dec 8 Anthony Anderson	Dec 8 Lucy Sullivan
Dec 15 Linda Moe	Dec 15 Mary Hickman
Dec 22 Anthony Anderson	Dec 22 Lynn Rochon
Dec 29 Rusty Mehlberg	Dec 29 Shirley Boris
USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
Dec 1 Donald Anderson	Altar Guild Members
Dec 8 Vicky Holm	
Dec 15 Donald Anderson	
Dec 22 Vicky Holm	
Dec 29 Donald Anderson	

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.

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ADVENT BEGINS 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am Coffee	2 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 6pm AA Mtg	3 6pm Al-Anon Mtg	4 1:30 No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5:30pm Advent Dinner Church	5 1pm Sew "n Sews	6	7
8 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am WELCA & Coffee 3-4:30pm First Communion Class	9 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 6pm AA Mtg	10 6pm Al-Anon Mtg	11 1:30 No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5:30pm Advent Dinner Church	12 1pm Sew "n Sews	13 3-5:30pm Sale Set Up	14 7am Sale Set Up 9am—2pm WELCA Cookie & Craft Sale
15 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am Coffee & Christmas Program Party	16 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 6pm AA Mtg	17 5pm Operations 6pm Al-Anon Mtg	18 1:30 No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5:30pm Advent Dinner Church	19 1pm Sew "n Sews 5pm Stewardship 6pm Church Council	20	21 <i>Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sunday!</i>
22 Food Shelf Sunday 10am Worship 11am Coffee BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE 7pm	23 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 6pm AA Mtg	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm Traditional Festive Service 10pm Contemplative Service of Lessons & Carols	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 1-3pm Free Christmas Dinner	26 1pm Sew "n Sews	27	28
29 10am Worship 11am Coffee	30 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm Bells 6pm AA Mtg	31 4-7pm ZION FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY 6pm Al-Anon Mtg				

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Dec 8 Laura Kilner
Dec 8 Pamela Mertz
Dec 9 Ariana Amys Hauser
Dec 9 Chad Bennett
Dec 9 Mark & Sue Betterman
Dec 10 David Moe

Dec 11 Lynn Rochon
Dec 12 Sandy Garlie
Dec 13 Ronald & Denise Lundberg
Dec 16 Laruisa Pfannebecker
Dec 16 Kearra Thimm LaPorte
Dec 18 Tony Amys
Dec 19 Ashley Bennett
Dec 20 Shannon Carlson
Dec 29 Tom & Mary Nykanen
Dec 30 Cory Johnson

Advent @ Zion

Wednesdays—Advent Dinner Church—5:30-7:00pm

Come eat together, play together, study together, and pray together! We will be focusing on *God's Messengers* who help prepare us for the birth of Jesus. Following dinner, each week will include simple table activities for play and learning, and a closing worship time with candle lighting, singing & prayer. For the whole church family!!

Weekly Theme & Menu:

Dec. 4: Zechariah—*Enchiladas/Spanish Rice/Salad*

Dec. 11: Elizabeth—*Spaghetti/French Bread/Green Beans/Salad*

Dec. 18: Mary—*Christmas Dinner: Ham/Potatoes/Corn/Rolls*

Sundays—Advent Morning Worship at 10:00am

Join us as are *On the Way to Bethlehem!* Come and be immersed in the wonder and hope that the Advent season invites us to embrace.



Dec. 1—Rome: *A Place of Longing*

Dec. 8—Jerusalem: *A Place of Waiting*

Dec. 15—Nazareth: *A Place of Simplicity*

& Children's Christmas Program

Dec. 22—Bethlehem: *A Place of Humility*

Christmas @ Zion

Blue Christmas Service—Sunday, December 22nd at 7:00pm



Sometimes hope, peace, joy, and love are distant feelings at Christmas time when we have encountered great loss or our hearts are heavy with the stress of life. Come find a quiet space to reflect and remember, as we wait together for the comfort of God's presence even in the midst of darkness.

We will gather for a brief service followed by a time for quiet reflection in the sanctuary along with pie & coffee & hot cocoa in the fellowship hall. Come and find rest on this night.

Christmas Eve Services on Tuesday, December 24th



4:00pm—Traditional Festive Christmas Service with Candlelight & Holy Communion

10:00pm—Contemplative Service of Lessons and Carols with Candlelight & Holy Communion



Join us for Zion Lutheran ELCA's **WELCA**

Holiday
Cookie & Craft
SALE

SATURDAY, DEC 14TH 2024

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

2022 East 2nd Street . Superior . WI



Come and get your cookies
and shop from vendors with
many wonderful items.

 **Zion Lutheran Church**
Superior, Wisconsin

Women of the ELCA
Cookie sales benefit the Zion Women's Group ministries.

FREE COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DAY
dinner

December 25, 2024

1:00pm—3:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
2022 East 2nd Street, Superior WI

All are welcome!



This Christmas Zion Lutheran Church will be serving a free sit-down community meal, December 25, 2024, 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Our meal will include ham, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, cranberries, pickles, rolls, and Christmas cookies. Served with punch, coffee, decaf coffee, hot apple cider, and a goodie bag filled with a popcorn ball, an orange or apple, and candies.

COME AND JOIN US!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 East Second Street
Superior, WI 54880

Contact Zion

Pastor Sarah Gunderson

pastor@zionsuperior.org

715-398-3663, ext. 202

Email: pastor@zionsuperior.org

Cell Phone: 715-817-6543

Office Manager & Newsletter Contact

Paul Robinson

Email: churchoffice@zionsuperior.org

Organist & Choir Director

Gretchen Johnston, OSB

Custodian

Darren Velin

Prayer Ministry and Requests

prayer@zionsuperior.org

Sunday School (Pre-K through 5th grade)

LOGOS Youth Group

churchoffice@zionsuperior.org

*THE MESSENGER is a publication
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THE MESSENGER DECEMBER 2024

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Sunday Education

9am

Sunday Worship Service

10am

Coffee Hours 9am & 11am

Worship Service is also on the website.

Church Office Hours

Mo–Thu 9-2

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

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