

Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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

Pastor's Message



The Season of Epiphany

We celebrate the Day of Epiphany on January 6th in the Christian calendar. Some places in the world celebrate the day with festive gatherings and presents to honor the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus. For many, it is an even bigger day to celebrate than Christmas!

My favorite part of the Epiphany story is how the star showed up to guide the way to Jesus, and those that were paying careful attention, let their curiosity about the star lead them on a journey. This light that God places in the world creates a path and brings a connection for people near and far to find their way to the presence of Christ. These images are powerful ones for us that the whole season of Epiphany expands on and helps us to wonder about this light of Christ present in us and in others. It invites us to get curious and imagine where God might be breaking into our lives with a call to seek and find Jesus in this world.

January 12th is Baptism of Our Lord Sunday. The gift of Jesus is always connected to the gift of Baptism for us. The grace and love that God pours out in the sacrament of Holy Baptism is a continuation of the gift of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. On the day of our baptism, we are proclaimed to be children of God and told to let our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and give glory to God in heaven (who is the source of all good gifts). We are invited to follow Jesus with all that we are and to join a community of believers who are seeking to do the same.

Each of the past few years, I have had star words available for us to help us in our following of Jesus in the new year. The gift of a star word is that you never know where or how God might use it to guide us in our faith journey. Sunday, January 19th will be Star Word Sunday, and you will be invited to receive a star with a special word written on it, and then will be blessed and encouraged to see where its light will lead you in the coming year.

Happy New Year and Happy Season of Epiphany!

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

Coming up...

NO Wednesday Bible Study
January 8th. The next Bible Study will be on Wednesday, **January 15th** at 1:30pm.

Sunday Adult Education will be focusing on Martin Luther and the Reformation in **January**. We will be watching a video together on **Sunday, January 5th and 12th** at 9:00am. Then we will be finishing the video and starting a Lutheran 101 discussion on **January 19th**. Come learn more about the history and basics of the Lutheran faith!

Annual Reports are due in the church office by Monday, **January 13th.**

Sunday, January 26th, 11am Pot Luck Brunch, followed by the **Annual Meeting.**

Church Council

Church Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 21st, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Lynn Rochon at 6:03pm. Present were Christel Lewis, Aine Merrill, Margaret Sundet, Donna Meltz, Shannon Johnson, Don Anderson and Lynn Rochon.

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

A motion was made by Christel and seconded by Shannon to accept October's secretary report. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: The checking account balance is \$26,625.36, the savings balance is \$2,550.16 and the mortgage is at \$35,137.28. Lynn will ask Greg to give us a copy of the check register again to review at the meeting.

Pastors Report: Superior Churches/Shared Ministry: United Campus Ministry continues with weekly dinners planned until Dec. 15 (then UWS will be on break until end of January). We are planning to review how the fall went and make plans for winter/spring. Thanks to Vicky Holm who did the main coordinating for the Zion meal weeks! Paul Robinson and Bob & Kay Warner also assisted. 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, Feb. 23 at 10am at Zion with lunch to follow. Worship: After a busy fall with special days including Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Animals, Honoring Indigenous Peoples, Confirmation, Bible distribution, and All Saints, we have taken a little breath the last few weeks with worship as usual. The 10am service continues to have consistent attendance between 40-50 people. Our Wednesday praise service has around 20 people in attendance each week. During Advent we will have special themes on Sunday morning, and will be doing a Dinner Church model on Wednesdays. Christmas services have been set for 4pm and 10pm. A Blue Christmas service will be planned for Sun. Dec. 22nd at 7pm. We have a team of dedicated people who meet to plan monthly for worship and keep the weekly things happening (coordinating volunteers, running sound/camera), and people who serve on Altar Guild, who keep the sanctuary clean and decorated for the seasons, musicians who share their gifts, and lay leaders who read, pray, and serve faithfully. I am thankful for all them all! Discipleship: Adult bible study on Wednesday 1:30pm and Sundays 9am continues to have steady participation. Our book study on *With Open Hands* by Henri Nouwen this fall focused on prayer, and it led to deep conversations and connections. We will plan another book study for sometime this Spring. There has been interest in learning about the basics of the various world religions, and so I will be planning something in the new year. If there are other topics, let me know! It is a joy to continue to support the amazing Sunday School and Logos education ministry teams as well. We are blessed by their incredible work! Pastoral Care: I continue to try to visit monthly with our members in nursing homes or who are home bound, as well as checking in with those who have been hospitalized or had deaths in their families. Please continue to encourage people to reach out to me if they would like a visit. Vacation days planned for Monday, December 30-Saturday, January.

Tim Ingersoll was at the meeting to discuss the Vanco Giving product. He showed us examples of the tiles that can be added to such things like our website and Facebook page. Vanco shows the community and our church members what we are doing at Zion and gives a story about the different projects we need money for. It actively asks for giving. We discussed the product and features and how it will be connected to Shepherds Staff. Tim put together a timeline of how we can have it rolled out and have staff trained on it and be live in January. The council agreed to move forward with the project.

Discipleship: LOGOS is going well. The confirmed students are still attending. The Sunday School is starting to work on the Christmas program, which will be held on Sunday, December 15th.

Worship and Music: There will be 2 services on Christmas Eve. One at 4:00pm and the other at 10pm. There will also be a blue Christmas service on December 22nd, in the evening.

Property: They talked about the budget and they will put together a priority list of the things that need to be done around the church. They will be done as funds are available.

Stewardship: They are working on having a stewardship and giving emphasis in January.

WELCA: They talked about the cookie sale in December. They will have a sign up sheet out on Sunday and Paul made up posters. That poster is posted in local businesses and on our Facebook page.

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

Unfinished Business: The discussion for the annual meeting stewardship plan will be tabled until our December meeting.

New Business: We discussed the proposed 2025 budget. We settled on a budget that is a little less than a 2% increase from last year. We are still receiving checks for the Faith United Methodist Food Shelf. Pastor Sarah will talk to Linda Brow to have those checks returned to the giver for them to give the money directly to Faith United.

A motion was made at 8:09pm by Donna and seconded by Shannon to adjourn. Motion carried.

Submitted by Christel Lewis

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2024-2027		
Term Ends January 2025	Term Ends January 2026	Term Ends January 2027
Christel Lewis - Secretary	Grace Becken	Donald Anderson
Aine Merrill - Treasurer	Sara Schubert McKone – Vice President	Shannon Johnson
Margaret Sundet	Donna Meltz	Lynn Rochon - President

Sunday, January 26, 2025
11:00 am Pot Luck Brunch
 Followed by
ANNUAL MEETING

**Annual reports are due in the office
 by Monday, January 13**



Care Basket Ministry Please take a Care Basket for those you know who have been ill, a death has occurred in the family, a person may need a smile to let them know we care about them. We have baskets with soup, a book, small presents in them and a card that states we care. Baskets are in the closet in the fellowship hall. Write on the clipboard the date, recipient of basket, **and who will deliver the basket.** Thank you for being the hands and feet to show others we care about them.

Coffee Fellowship

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



Pennies—Continue saving.
 Every penny does make a difference. Thank you!



**Memorials for Delores Mackie
 were received from**



Polly Lohman, Richard Taber, and Don & Andrea Yrenanen

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am Coffee	6 EPIPHANY BEGINS 5pm Choir 5:45pm Bells 7pm AA Mtg	7 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	8 1:30 Bible Study 3:30 Worship & Music 5pm Worship 5:30pm Dinner 6:15pm Discipleship & Logos Youth Lesson	9 1pm Sew "n Sews	10	11
12 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am WELCA & Coffee	13 Annual Reports due in office 5pm Choir 5:45pm Bells 7pm AA Mtg	14 5pm Operations 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	15 1:30 Bible Study 5pm Worship 5:30pm Dinner 6:15pm Discipleship & Logos Youth Lesson	16 1pm Sew "n Sews	17	18
19 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am Coffee	20 5pm Choir 5:45pm Bells 7pm AA Mtg	21 5pm Operations 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	22 1:30 Bible Study 5pm Worship 5:30pm Dinner 6:15pm Discipleship & Logos Youth Lesson	23 1pm Sew "n Sews 5pm Stewardship 6pm Church Council	24	25 Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sunday!
26 Food Shelf Sunday 9am Sunday School & Coffee 10am Worship 11am Pot Luck Brunch & Annual Meeting	27 5pm Choir 5:45pm Bells 7pm AA Mtg	28 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	29 1:30 Bible Study 5pm Worship 5:30pm Dinner 6:15pm Discipleship & Logos Youth Lesson	30 1pm Sew "n Sews	31	

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Jan 2 Stephanie Johnson
 Jan 3 Margaret Smith
 Jan 4 Amber & Taylor Pedersen
 Jan 5 Alana Dunning
 Jan 7 Terriann Mertz & Bradley Carlson
 Jan 13 Craig Larson

Jan 15 Gregory Pluntz
 Jan 17 Bill Traynor
 Jan 20 Alice Mattson
 Jan 20 Kelly Thimm
 Jan 21 Patricia Janssan
 Jan 25 Bradley Carlson
 Jan 25 Kathleen & Ed Katzmark
 Jan 30 Jeanette Betterman
 Jan 30 Paul Freer

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!

JANUARY LAY MINISTRY

READER	COUNTERS
Jan 05 Aine Merrill	Jan 05 Donna Meltz, Aine Merrill
Jan 12 Micah Gunderson	Jan 12 Paul Freer, Beth Arnson
Jan 19 Donna Meltz	Jan 19 Eve Bagan, Polly Lohman
Jan 26 Polly Lohman	Jan 26 Aine Merrill, Kendra Lohman
MINISTER ASSISTANT	GREETER
Jan 05 Anthony Anderson	Jan 05 Mary Hickman
Jan 12 Linda Moe	Jan 12 Lucy Sullivan
Jan 19 Rusty Mehlberg	Jan 19 Shirley Boris
Jan 26 Anthony Anderson	Jan 26 Mary Hickman
USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
Jan 05 Vicky Holm	Christel Lewis
Jan 12 Donald Anderson	
Jan 19 Vicky Holm	
Jan 26 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.

Thank you!

We wish to thank everyone that donated and volunteered for our Free Community Christmas Day Dinner! Your generosity ensured that 125 people received a wonderful meal and companionship with others on Christmas Day. We also provided 20 to 25 meals each to CASDA and Ruth House, inclusive of what we served here at the church. The additional funds raised will assist in keeping our Food Shelf supplied during the winter months.

We especially thank Vicky Holm for all of her planning, organizing, and preparing of this meal and event.

We thank these individuals, groups, and businesses for financial donations specifically for this dinner:

Amanda Adams	J R Jensen Construction Co
Deb Adams-Koltes	Lange-Laughlin Chiropractic Center
Anonymous	Jeffrey & Vicky Madison
Eve Bagan	Mertz-Rookey Insurance
Kathy Childs	Bill & Lisa Munson
Chippewa Valley Bank	Northwest Outlet
Dan's Feed Bin Inc	President's Bar
Dave Evans Transports Inc	Paul Robinson & Kyle Biggar
Dreamland Supper Club	Super One Foods
Foxes & Fireflies Booksellers	Superior Savings Bank
Indianhead Credit Union	Zion Lutheran WELCA

We thank these individuals for volunteering your time to make this a wonderful event:

Eve Bagan	Heidi Hillstrom
Kyle Biggar	Jamie Holm Jethro Holm
Linda Brow	Owen Holm
Lynn Conlan	Kristiana Jordan
Christina Dimon	Susan Jordan
Dana Dolsen	Carol Peterson
Fran Dolsen	Anora Pfannebecker
Greg Dolsen	Kaylea Pfannebecker
Laurie Dolsen	Laurisa Pfannebecker
Paul Freer	Paul Robinson
Pastor Sarah Gunderson	Margaret Sundet

And THANK YOU Zion Lutheran for your continued support and for your belief in doing good. We simply couldn't do what we do without amazing people like you! THANK YOU!!!

Zion Lutheran Church

OUR NEW E-GIVING PAGE IS LIVE!

We are switching to a new e-giving platform to make giving easier, more secure, and more convenient for our community! Scan the QR code now to give.

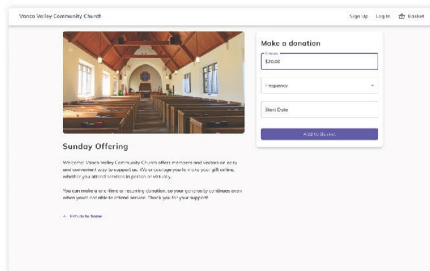
SCAN ME



VANCO
FAITH

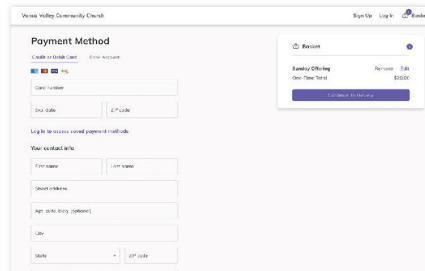
HOW TO USE VANCO ONLINE

Support seasonal and year-round missions, make one-time gifts or set up recurring donations online.



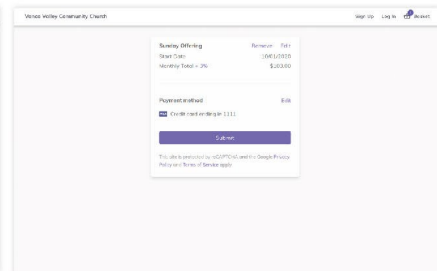
1 Select Your Funds and Amount

Select your fund and click the **Donate** button. Next, choose a donation amount and frequency, then proceed to payment.



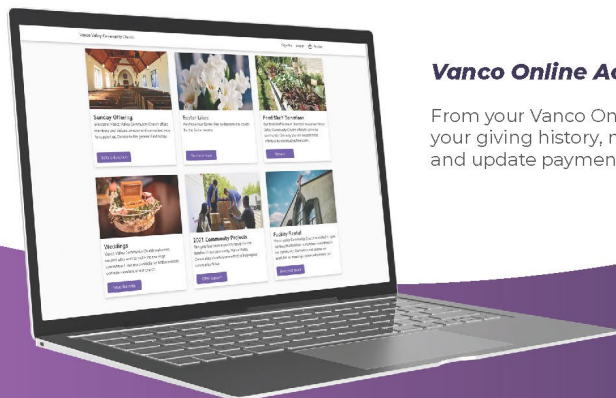
2 Enter Payment Method

Enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. Sign up for an account to save your information for future donations.



3 Complete Your Donation

Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.



Vanco Online Account Features

From your Vanco Online account, you can review your giving history, manage recurring donations and update payment information.

VANCO
FAITH



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2022 East Second Street
 Superior, WI 54880

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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
 of Zion Lutheran Church*

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-l, and by
 appointment

[Want to give online via credit card or Vanco today??](#)

Scan the QR code to give .

