

THE MESSENGER

A monthly publication of
Zion Lutheran Church
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."

DECEMBER 2023

*Come and join us in the
celebration of Christmas*

Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent

One Service at 10:00am

Christmas Eve Worship

One Service at 4:00pm



*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever. Psalm 107:1*

PASTOR'S PAGE

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. (Psalm 96:1-2)

Psalm 96 invites us sing with all that we are to the LORD, to the one who made the heavens, the one who comes to be with us and is coming again this day. Our songs even join the songs of the trees and all of creation! This psalm is appointed for Christmas Eve, a day when we marvel and wonder at the mystery of the goodness of God born into this world. May we receive it with joy again this year and sing it through our lives together in Christian community for the sake of the world God so loves.

The Christian life of discipleship is a gift, and it is a challenge! Our lives are full of activities and obligations and worries. We become tired and grow weary trying to manage it all. We may lose the song of joy we have been given by God to sing in this world.

God invites us to walk closely with God daily and be renewed. God also invites us to gather with our siblings in Christ, so we may be encouraged and strengthened for faithful service in this world. The good news of Jesus Christ is that we are freed to live with joy even in the midst of our burdens and our suffering. The good news of Jesus Christ is that you are beloved and God has come into this world for you.

Dear beloved people of God, you are invited this Christmas season to come lay your burdens down at the altar and rejoice. You are invited to participate in whatever way you are able in the life of Zion Lutheran Church so you can be refreshed and renewed for the New Year!

Hope you can join us for these upcoming events at Zion:

Advent Wednesdays on Dec. 13 & 20th—come for a free dinner at 5:45pm with Holden Evening Prayer worship led by our LOGOS youth at 6:15pm. A wonderful way to prepare your heart and mind for Christmas.

Blue Christmas worship service on Thursday, December 21st at 6:30pm. We will be gathering at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Billings Park for this special service that recognizes the sorrow that many of us carry in the midst of the busy Christmas celebrations. Come be comforted and find rest on this night.

Come on Christmas Eve morning at 10am at Zion for Sunday worship or in the evening at 4pm for a Candlelight and Carols Christmas Eve Service.

Join in the New Year's Eve morning Sunday worship at 10am, and then come in the evening from 4-7pm for a New Year's Eve Party in the Fellowship Hall. Bring some snacks/treats to share (pizza will be provided) and your favorite board game. All ages are welcome to come hangout, play some BINGO and other games, and do some fun activities as you choose, as we celebrate together!

On January 7th, we will be celebrating the Visit of the Magi (Day of Epiphany) at both the 9:00 and 10:45am services. There will be special treats and activities, and everyone will be invited to receive a STAR WORD to guide them in this new year.

God's peace and love be with you, and hope to see you in church!
Pastor Sarah

Church Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 19th, 2023

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

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

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

Treasurer Report: We reviewed the check register. We discussed how to keep the congregation informed on our financial status. Aine will put an update in the weekly bulletin once a month, after showing it to Pastor Sarah. Linda Brow and Greg Kvam have been invited to next month's council meeting to review the 2024 budget. The current checking account balance is \$8,463.66, the savings balance is \$27,269.25, the Thrivent account is \$3,214.74 and the mortgage is at \$43,282.56.

Pastor Report: Stewardship has been the focus for October. New members will be welcomed on October 22nd. They are Leslie and Phyllis Neubauer, Shannon and Justin Johnson with Linnea, Linden, Anastasia and August, Rusty and Jacquelynn Mehlberg with Molly and Micah, Sarah and Brett Gunderson with Noah, Lauren and Micah and Rachael Sawner. A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Aine to accept the new members. Motion approved. Members that had been previously approved by council and welcomed at this Sunday's service are Joshua Christie and Stephanie and Tanner Becken with Grace, Joy and Tanner. There will also be a ministry celebration during coffee hour this Sunday. There will be an affirmation of Baptism on October 29th. They are Anastasia Johnson, Zachary Dittbrender, Owin Holm and Micah Gunderson. A motion was made by Vicky and seconded by Sara Schubert McKone to accept them for affirmation of baptism. Motion approved. There are 4 youth signed up for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July. They are Anastasia Johnson, Owin Holm, Micah Gunderson and Joy Becken. There are 3 chaperones signed up. They are Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Vicky Holm and Tim Ingersoll. The budget is for \$1,300 per person for a total of \$9,100. \$7,375 is left to be fundraised, by having breakfasts, pie sale, cinnamon roll sale, Valentine's dinner, "Stock" sale and other events. November 12-14th Pastor will be in Wausau for the First Call Theological Retreat. On November 19th United Presbyterian Church invited us to a Thanksgiving Ecumenical service.

Discipleship: At LOGOS, the older youth are working on their stoles for their confirmation.

Worship and Music: They haven't met lately but were able to set a date and time so they can start meeting.

Operations: Brett Gunderson took our old electronics to be recycled. The TV and VCR will be pulled out of the nursery room and put in next year's rummage sale. Sister Gretchen would like to use church to have piano lessons.

Stewardship: There is currently no meeting set but one will be held to discuss the outcome of the October events.

WELCA: They will have a cookie sale on Saturday, December 16th. They are not having a pie sale as the youth are having one for a fundraiser.

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

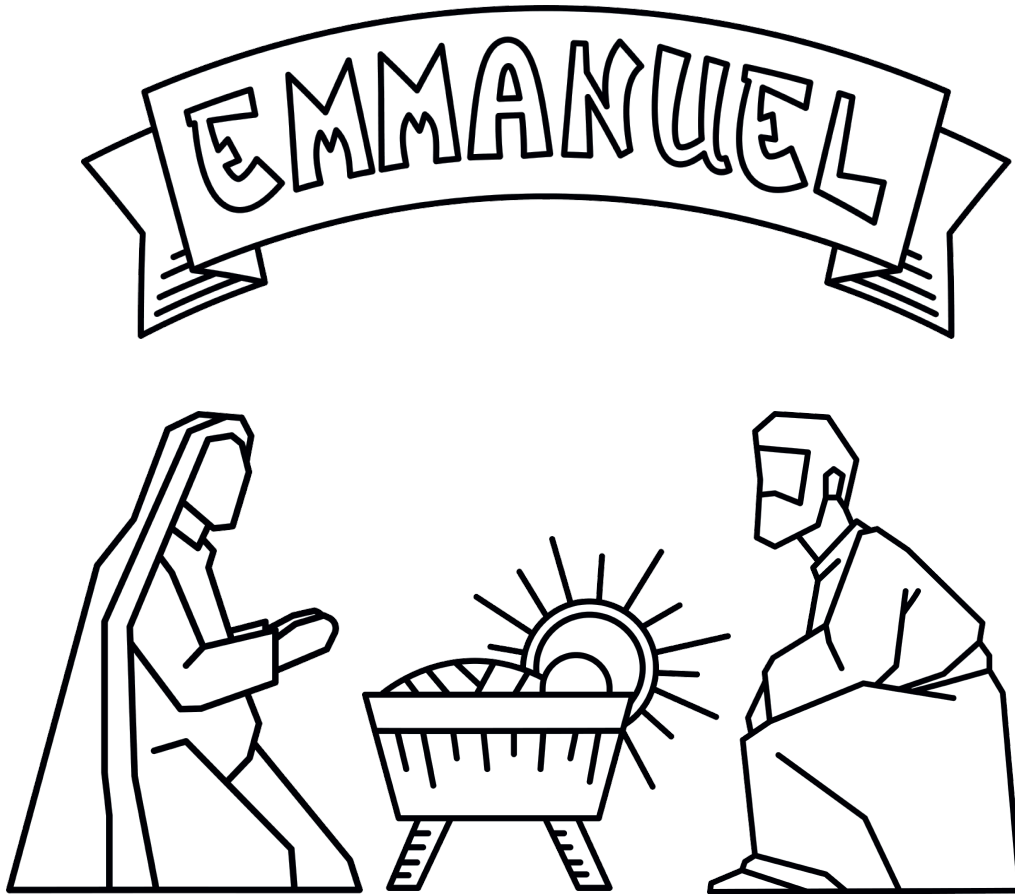
Unfinished Business: We received 2 estimates to get our sewer fixed. If it can be gravity fed, the estimates are between \$30,000 and \$60,000. If a pump is needed, then it will be between \$60,000 and \$90,000 to get it fixed. The city of Superior is opening grants for non-profits and we are applying for a grant. The grant is written and being reviewed and will be turned in by the deadline, which is October 30th. We got an estimate for the sump pump replacement of \$5,560. This is above the amount the council can approve and will need congregational approval. A congregational meeting will be held November 5th. A motion was made by Donna and seconded by Grace to order the pump from Miller E-1 Pump and Repair since there is a 5 week turnaround. Motion carried.

New Business: Since we started going back to in-person services, Sister Gretchen was still being paid her Covid salary instead of her regular salary. We need to make back payments to her. Someone backed into a sign that they claim was bent over into a parking space and damaged their truck. Lynn will check with Ken Mertz to see if we can send the check directly to Eisenmann Brothers, where they got an estimate for \$589.62. A motion was made by Vicky and seconded by Grace to send the money to whoever Ken advises us to, whether that be the repair shop or the person. Motion approved. The sign has been removed so it can't damage anyone else's vehicle. Pearl is retiring November 13th. The Personnel committee is working on a job description and will be doing the interviews of any applicants. They will bring any recommendations of candidates to the council when they have one. We reviewed the calendar events: New member Sunday is October 22 along with Volunteer Opportunities Information. Affirmation of Baptism is October 29th with one service at 10am. That day is also Trunk-or-Treat. Pasty bake is November 8th – 11th.

A motion was made at 7:26pm by Sara Schubert McKone and seconded by Grace to adjourn. Motion carried.

Children will be dismissed from the service at 9:45 to be part of the Sunday School Time. God loves our children and has wonderful things to teach them at Zion Sunday School. Sunday School meets from 9:45am-10:30am. No Sunday School on Dec. 24 & 31. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

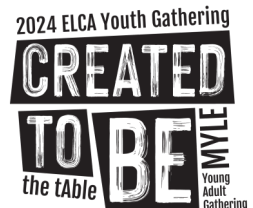
Color this picture! Write your name on this picture. Give the picture to Pastor Sarah and we will put it on display for all to see.



Color Me

UPDATE on the New Orleans ELCA Youth Gathering 2024

Thank you to all who purchased Thanksgiving Pies!! Your generous support is so appreciated! There is a lot to learn and do to prepare to attend an ELCA Youth Gathering. The group has some exciting fundraisers coming up in the next few months as they try to raise about \$7000 to be able to attend this amazing faith formation event. They will also be taking time to learn about New Orleans, and doing Bible studies and group building activities together to be ready to experience all God has planned for them and for our congregation.



You are invited to pray for the group as they prepare to attend the Gathering in July 2024. Thank you for being a part of this experience and for your continued support!

Youth Participants: Anastasia Johnson, Owin Holm, Joy Becken, Micah Gunderson
 Adult Leaders: Tim Ingersoll, Vicky Holm, Pastor Sarah Gunderson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>December 2023</h1>						
					1	2
3 9:00 First Service 10:45 Second Service	4 4:30 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir	5	6 1:00 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 5:45 Dinner 6:15 Advent Service	7	8	9
10 9:00 First Service 10:45 Second Service WELCA between services	11 4:30 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir	12 5:00 pm <i>Operations Mtg</i>	13 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 5:45 Dinner 6:15 Advent Service	14 1pm Sew 'n Sew	15	16 WELCA <u>COOKIE SALE</u> 9am-12-noon
17 <i>One Service 10 am</i> <i>Sunday School Christmas</i>	18 4:30 Choir 5:30 Bell Choir	19 5:00 pm Finance 6:00 pm Church Council	20 1:30 Bible Study 5:00 LOGOS 5:45 Dinner 6:15 Advent Service	21	22	23
24 <i>One Service 10am</i> <i>4pm Christmas Eve Service</i>	25 Christmas Day (Office Closed)	26	27 NO Bible Study NO Logos	28	29	30
31 New Year' Eve <i>One service 10am</i> <i>Zion Party 4-7pm</i>						

Gwenn Carlson	Dec 3	Victor St. George	Dec 12
Laura Kilner	Dec 8	Laurisa Pfannebecker	Dec 16
Pamela Mertz	Dec 8	Kearra Thimm	Dec 16
Ariana Amys	Dec 9	Tony Amys	Dec 18
Chad Bennett	Dec 9	Ashley Bennett	Dec 19
David Moe	Dec 10	Shannon Carlson	Dec 20
Lynn Rochon	Dec 11	Delores Mackie	Dec 27
Sandra Garlie	Dec 12	Cory Johnson	Dec 30



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 East Second Street
Superior, WI 54880



Contact Zion

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Office Manager & Newsletter Contact

Paul Robinson

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Organist & Choir Director

Gretchen Johnston, OSB

Custodian

Darren Velin

Prayer Ministry and Requests

prayer@zionsuperior.org

Sunday School (ages 3 years-5th grade)

LOGOS Youth Group

churchoffice@zionsuperior.org

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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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