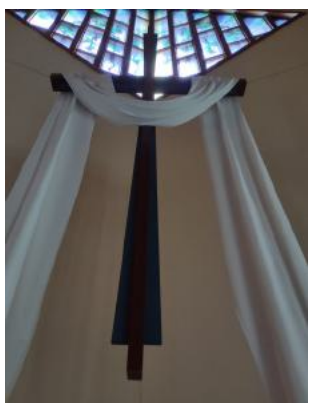


Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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

Pastor's Message



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

Happy December! As our calendar year ends, our new church year begins. This month is filled with events—like the Cookie & Craft Sale, Christmas Party with Bingo, Christmas Day dinner, and the New Year's Eve Party. So many opportunities for fun and fellowship! I hope you are able to connect to the Christmas Joy in the coming weeks.

We will also hold a Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 21st at 7pm, which offers all of us space to slow down, reflect and be supported through our grief or extra challenges we may be facing that make this time of year hard. Invite a friend or neighbor you know who could use a community to gather with.

In worship during the Advent and Christmas seasons, Mary's song of praise will be guiding our journey. In Luke 1:48b-50, she sings:

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

Each week our worship experiences will include art, poetry, and storytelling to explore how the story of Jesus' birth is a story that connects us all, from generation to generation. We will wonder together how our ancestors passed on the faith to us and how we will carry it forward. Our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us.

There will be opportunities in worship on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings along with your own personal devotional time (pick up a special resource for this at church!), to help you dive deep and reconnect to God's story of love for you.

May you be blessed in the coming weeks by the story of Immanuel, God with Us!

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

What's inside...

- 1... Pastor's Message
- 2 & 3... Church Council minutes
- 4... Bishop Halom's Christmas Message
- 5... Prayers for All, Food Shelf, Lay Ministry

- 6... Calendar, Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 7... Christmas @ Zion, New Years Eve fun
- 8 & 9... Cookie & Craft Sale, Christmas Dinner
- 10 & 11... Bulletin Board
- 11... Poinsettia Order Form

Church Council

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes October 16th, 2025 Minutes by Sara Schubert McKone, Secretary

Church Council Members –

Present - Donald Anderson, Lynn Rochon, Paul Freer, Polly Lohman, Sara Schubert McKone, Donna Meltz, Vicky Holm, Pastor Sarah Gunderson

Excused - Grace Becken, Shannon Johnson

Gathering and Prayer -

Call to order - 6:08pm, Polly

Prayer & Devotions - Polly, (November Devotions - Sara)

Reports -

Secretary's Report - Motion made by Paul and seconded by Donna to accept the September 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - As of 10/16/25, checking \$6,002.86, missions account \$348.22, savings balance \$554.54, Thrivent mortgage balance \$25,774.65, Thrivent savings \$3,569.08, WELCA \$1,228.79.

Motion made by Vicky and seconded by Paul to accept the September 2025 treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report –

Superior Churches: Zion hosted the community meal on Oct. 5th at Pilgrim Lutheran using some of the donated beef! Thanks to the crew—Paul R., Kyle B., Vicky H. and dessert support by Lynn R. and Kay W. We are beginning a shoe drive to collect as many pairs of shoes/boots as we can by Dec. 21st. If we collect 2500 lbs. of shoes we will receive a \$1000 for our shared community meal ministry. A shared Thanksgiving worship service is being planned for November—more info to come.

“We Invite You” A fun, new initiative has begun with our new bulletin boards. Currently housed on the Youth Board, there is a spot for youth to write down activities they are involved in that they would like to invite the congregation to know about and come and possibly attend. There is further wondering about if we may extend this to adults to also share their events with others.

Synod Work: I am serving as mentor for a new project in our synod that helps to support Synodically Authorized Ministers (SAMs) and leadership in churches to move toward a “baptismal ecclesiology” in our life of discipleship. The synod received a grant from Wartburg Seminary as a part of the Castle (Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology) Project that will help support the work in 2026. I am hoping to use some of what I will be learning from the project in helping us in our vision and mission work in the coming year.

2025 New Members: Steve Wong; Derek Goroski & Jennifer Runnoe, Zaydrian Outzen, Mariah Goroski

2025 Confirmands: August Johnson, Ellen Adrihan, Tanner Becken, Frankie Miley

Motion made by Polly and seconded by Lynn to approve the above listed 2025 new members and 2025 confirmands. Motion carried. Welcome to Zion!

Member added through baptism: Carmenetta Holt, September 28, 2025. She has recently moved to Duluth, but hopes to be able to continue attending in person when possible.

Coming Up: New Member Sunday Celebration on Oct. 19, and Confirmation/Bible Sunday on Oct. 26, and Trunk-or-Treat on Oct. 29. All Saints Sunday is Nov. 2.

Committee Reports -

Discipleship—Worship wanders has been going really great, it is so fun to see all the younger children get excited about gathering together. Pastor Sarah gives great guidance on teaching tools and ideas for lessons. Wednesday nights for LOGOS is also going very well. Adults are always welcome and are encouraged to join. There are 4-5 new youth joining and bringing friends. They made over 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the food shelf last week. There is a new tv with slides for small groups and teaching lessons. Kids are using the lower level and The Zone more.

Worship & Music—Did not meet this month.

Property—All the lights are done. SWL&P has not visited to reimburse us for the lightbulbs. There are 2 thresholds that need to be repaired. Carpet will be shampooed a week from Friday, runners will be brought up to protect the carpet during pasty and Trunk or Treat. We need to replace the computer for live streaming up in the choir loft. Due to tight finances council members will ask around to see if someone has one they are not using. It needs to be Windows 11+ to work for live streams for services.

Stewardship—Brainstormed ideas to grow and decided we will start this week with youth and storytelling of stories that inspire them. The plan is to make a video and share on the new website, social media to tie to new members and youth in the community.

WELCA—The WELCA ladies purchased two new bread slicing knives for the kitchen which are REALLY sharp so be careful when you use them. We also purchased two stainless steel 50oz coffee carafes to replace the old yellow ones used for the decaf coffee. Some of us had a hard time throwing away the old ones, so we put them in the food shelf in case someone might have a use for them at home or maybe homeless and needed to keep something warm!

The Altar Team has been wanting to purchase new brass candle lighters for use in the Sanctuary. The old ones are almost unusable because they are so old. WELCA has agreed to purchase two new ones for \$200 each using funds donated to us by the family of Delores Mackie after her passing last year. They will place an order right away and hopefully we will receive them soon.

We are making plans for the 2nd annual Christmas craft and bake sale. It was a great success last year and we hope to get even more vendors this year. We can always use help if you are interested. Watch for more information to follow.

Motion made by Donna and seconded by Vicky to accept the September 2025 committee reports. Motion carried.

Unfinished business -

Thank you notes update - Thank you notes were sent out.

October New Members & Trunk or Treat - Already talked about in Pastor's report. Trunk or Treat will be October 29th 5:00-7:00pm.

November Pasty Bake - 1st week in November. Starting to advertise and get orders for both gluten free and regular. Signup sheets are out.

December Cookie & Craft Sale - Talked about in WELCA report. Polly asked about ordering bags. She will order a box to have on hand.

Community Christmas Dinner Planning - Meeting November 9th after service to discuss what worked, what didn't and what will be changed.

Holiday Flyer Design - Paul made a flyer to advertise at Trunk or Treat. QR code will be on flyer. Information about pasty sale, holiday cookie and craft sale, and our ministries and missions.

Financial Status Report - We talked about it during the treasurer report. Polly mentioned connecting with the finance committee to see exactly where we are at. If any church members have questions about the current finances they are free to ask any council members.

Photos with Harmann Studios - Booked and scheduled for Feb 4-6, 2026.

New business -

Nomination Committee - Lynn and Polly will confirm who is on the nomination committee to get that process going.

Telephone Upgrade - We currently pay \$193.83 per month through Brightspeed. We currently have manual land-line type phones. Paul has received quotes for a more digital system with more perks. The recommended upgrade would be from Loffler. There is an install fee of \$422.95, but the monthly fee is \$85.01 compared to our current fee. The other estimate was from Converged Cloud Services at \$109.95 per month.

Recommendation to approve Loffler for the new phone system pending approval by the finance committee to cover charges or Loffler agreeing to installment pay plan. Will review at the November council meeting since we just paid the phone bill.

Parishioners concerns about finances and budget - There are concerns about finances being done electronically versus on the check register. Polly did use the diagram to discuss our current finances. Polly will see if Paul can include the chart on the bulletin. Polly recommended that questions be brought to church council and finance committees, and if ongoing to the audit committee.

Motion to adjourn at 7:38pm by Donna, second by Vicky. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer.

Meeting schedule -

November 20th, 2025, 6:00pm

December 18th, 2025, 6:00pm

January 15th, 2026, 6:00pm

BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of

incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin

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: Jane Christie, Jennifer Crawford and family, Barry Kilner, Donna Meltz, Gail Saari, and Raelyn TePoel.

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: Dennis Lien, Jerry and Marilee Parenteau.

Prayers for Strength & Guidance: Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Our Church Council, our lay leaders, Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, 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 (non-freezable items please)

Brown rice . Dried fruit . Cereal . Crackers . Granola bars
Instant Mashed Potatoes . Macaroni & Cheese
Meals in a box, Hamburger Helper . Minute Rice . Pastas
Powdered gravy packets . Powdered spaghetti sauce . Ramen
Whole grain cereal . Whole grain pasta

Bar soap . Dental Floss . Feminine Hygiene products, non-liquid
Tooth brushes (no multi-packs)

Please help us provide food for our neighbors and community!

DECEMBER LAY MINISTRY 2025

READER	COUNTERS
Dec 7 Donna Meltz	Dec 7 Donna Meltz, Aine Merrill
Dec 14 Polly Lohman	Dec 14 Paul Freer, Beth Arnson
Dec 21 Aine Merrill	Dec 21 Eve Bagan, Polly Lohman
Dec 28 Michele & Claire Conlan	Dec 28 Aine Merrill, Margaret Sundet
MINISTER ASSISTANT	GREETER
Dec 7 Linda Moe	Dec 7 Paul Robinson
Dec 14 Rusty Mehlberg	Dec 14 Mary Hickman
Dec 21 Anthony Anderson	Dec 21 Shirley Boris
Dec 28 Linda Moe	Dec 28 Mary Hickman
USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
Dec 7 Vicky Holm	Altar Guild Members
Dec 14 Donald Anderson	
Dec 21 Vicky Holm	
Dec 28 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 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7pm AA Mtg	2 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	3 1:30 No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	4 6:15pm Choir	5	6
7 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11am Coffee & Fellowship 5:30pm Dinner @ Pilgrim Lutheran	8 7pm AA Mtg	9 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	10 1:30pm No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	11 1pm Superior Stitchers 6:15pm Choir	12 3-5:30pm Sale Set Up	13 7am Sale Set Up 9am—2pm WELCA Cookie & Craft Sale
14 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 10am Worship 11am Coffee & Christmas Program Party	15 7pm AA Mtg	16 5pm Operations 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	17 1:30pm No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	18 5pm Stewardship 6pm Church Council	19	
21 10am Worship 11am Coffee BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE 7pm	22 7pm AA Mtg	23 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4pm Traditional Festive Service 10pm Contemplative Service of Lessons & Carols	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 1-3pm Free Christmas Dinner	26	27 <i>Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sunday!</i>
28 FOOD SHELF SUNDAY 10am Worship 11am Coffee	29 7pm AA Mtg	30 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	31 4-7pm ZION FAMILY NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY			

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Dec 3 Gwenn Carlson
 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 19 Mariah Goroski
 Dec 20 Shannon Carlson
 Dec 24 Derek Goroski
 Dec 29 Tom & Mary Nykanen
 Dec 30 Cory Johnson

Christmas @ Zion

Blue Christmas Service—Sunday, December 21st at 7:00pm



At Zion Lutheran Church

Sometimes hope, peace, joy, and love are distant feelings at Christmas time, especially 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 prayer 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 Wednesday, December 24th

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

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

Zion Family New Years Eve Party December 31 from 4-7pm

Come to church for a pizza dinner and to play games together to celebrate the New Year! Bring a desert or side dish to share. You are also encouraged to bring a favorite board game or card game too.

We will play BUNCO again this year with lots of fun & fabulous prizes, and end the evening with a New Years toast. Invite a friend and join the party!



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

Holiday Cookie & Craft **SALE**

SATURDAY, DEC 13TH 2025

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

2022 East 2nd Street . Superior . WI



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



Zion Lutheran Church
Superior, Wisconsin

WELCA

Women of the ELCA

Cookie sales benefit the Zion
Women's Group ministries.

FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY dinner

December 25, 2025

1:00pm—3:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
2022 East 2nd Street, Superior WI

All are welcome!



We will be serving ham, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, cranberries, pickles, rolls, and bars. Served with punch, coffee, and a goodie bag filled with a popcorn ball, an orange or apple, and candies.

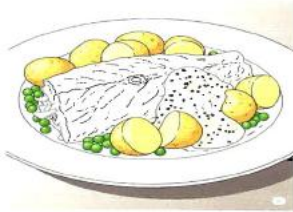
YOU ARE INVITED!
Please come and join us!

Bulletin Board...

Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

St. William Catholic Church

1 mile west of Hwy 35 (Pattison Park)
on County Rd B ~ south of Superior, WI



Friday, December 5, 2025

Menu includes: Lutefisk with white sauce or melted butter, boiled potatoes, Swedish meatballs, lefse, coleslaw, peas, pickled beets, beverage, and dessert

Dinner is served 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

🇸🇪 **ALL ARE WELCOME** 🇳🇴

Tickets \$25

Only 100 dinners are being served
Call Joannie at 715-399-2743 to reserve tickets

Festive Creations

Saturday, December 6, 2025



9 am—2 pm

- ✚ Handmade Crafts/Items sold by Local Artisans and Vendors
- ✚ Bake Sale...satisfy that sweet-tooth!
- ✚ Chance Tickets (Themed Baskets)
- ✚ Rolls, Coffee, and Lunch Available—Walking Tacos
- ✚ Come check out more than 30 tables!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



1924 Wyoming Avenue Superior, WI 54880

(For Information Call 715-394-3472)



JOIN US FOR A

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY DECEMBER 06, 2025
10 AM-4PM

FOOD, CRAFTS, GIFTS, AND LIVE MUSIC,

HOLIDAY MAGIC AWAITS!

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1531 HUGHITT AVE
SUPERIOR, WI 54880

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CHURCH
MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS

LOVE'S EVERLASTING LIGHT

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 - 6:00PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1710 EAST SUPERIOR STREET
DULUTH



Bethlehem Garage Sale

DONATIONS NEEDED

Help us provide a fun, free, Christmas shopping experience for our church kids. Donate new and gently-used household items, toys, and general knick-knacky things to this year's sale.

We also need wrapping paper, gift tags, bags, and bows.

Sale scheduled for Saturday, Dec 20th
Volunteers needed to help shop and wrap!



Pilgrim Lutheran Church Presents

A Service of Lessons & Carols and the Saint Lucia Vesper Tea

Sunday, December 14th
4:00 p.m.
820 Belknap Street
Superior, Wisconsin

Curtis Hanson | Director
Lorelei Holland | Accompanist

Cut along line and return order form with payment to the Church Office.

POINSETTIAS for Christmas



Zion will be brightening the Sanctuary this Christmas with Poinsettias.

Red flowers are available at the price of \$21.00 each.



Total Number of Plants _____ Total Cost \$ _____

From: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

**Please return this order form to office with payment to Zion Lutheran Church
by Monday, December 15th.**

Call the church office at 715-398-3663 if you have any questions, or
email: churchoffice@zionsuperior.org

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
of Zion Lutheran Church*

THE MESSENGER DECEMBER 2025

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

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

Sunday Adult Education

9am

Sunday Worship & Worship Wanderers

10am

Coffee Hours 9am & 11am

Worship Service is also on the website.

Church Office Hours

Mo—Thu 9am—2pm

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

Want to give online via credit card or Vanco today??

Scan the QR code to give .

