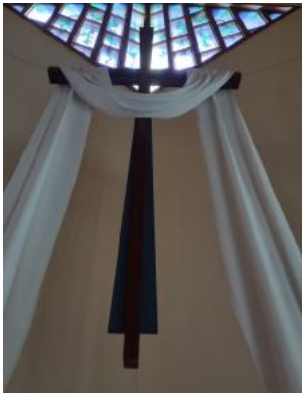


Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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

Pastor's Message



So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:7-10

Happy New Year! Here we are once again standing at the threshold of another year. What will this year bring? As people of faith, we can take notice of these threshold moments, those times when we step from one space physically or spiritually into the next, like walking through a doorway or a gate.

The flip of the calendar year is a threshold time for us when we think about what new things this year might bring, hoping and praying it will be full of blessing and joy as we open our hearts to the possibilities of life. As we transition from Christmas into Epiphany, we can try to practice wonder with more intention. We can try to take notice of how God goes with us as we move from one space, one conversation, or one activity in our life to the next. How is God here in this experience, in this moment?

There is a tradition in the Christian church of blessing doorways to churches and homes around the day of Epiphany (January 6). An inscription using chalk is made above the front door (or the threshold) of the space with the numbers of the year and the letters C (Christus), M (Mansionem), and B (Benedict), which is Latin is "Christ bless this home." There is also a tradition that the Magi who visited Jesus were named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar (C, M, B) and so a "+" is used between the letters to represent these visitors. So this year you could write these symbols: **20 + C + M + B + 26**, above your door as a way of blessing your coming and going in the new year.

Jesus as the gate for the sheep promises to watch over us and guard us. Jesus promises to lead us to abundant life. We are his beloved children, and through the power of the Holy Spirit he goes with us as we move about our daily lives. May you know the peace of Jesus in this new year in all the moments and thresholds you may cross.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

What's inside...

- 1... **Pastor's Message**
- 2 & 3... **Church Council minutes**
- 4... **Christmas Dinner & Food Shelf**
- 5... **Prayers for All & Lay Ministry**
- 6... **Calendar, Birthdays & Anniversaries**
- 7 & 8... **Bulletin Board**
- 9... **Drive-Thru Dinner**

Coming up...

- Monday, **January 5**, Annual Reports are due
- Wednesday, **January 7**, NO Bible Study
- Wednesday, **January 14**, 3:30pm Worship & Music
- Sunday, **January 25**, 11am Pot Luck Brunch, followed by the **Annual Meeting**

Church Council

Church Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, November 20, 2025

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 landline 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

February 19th, 2026, 6:00pm

March 19th, 2026, 6:00pm

April 16th, 2026, 6:00pm

May 21st, 2026, 6:00pm

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2025-2027		
Term Ends January 2026	Term Ends January 2027	Term Ends January 2028
Grace Becken	Donald Anderson—Treasurer	Paul Freer
Sara Schubert McKone – Secretary	Shannon Johnson	Vicky Holm—Vice President
Donna Meltz	Lynn Rochon	Polly Lohman—President
Pastor Sarah Gunderson		

Christmas Dinner Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that donated and volunteered for our Free Community Christmas Day Dinner! Your generosity ensured that people received a wonderful meal and companionship with others on Christmas Day. Meals were also provided to CASDA. 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 and volunteering specifically for this dinner:

A&W Restaurant
Accra Care
Jacob Allers-Hattie
Beth Arnson
Carina Baker
Budget Motel
Central Sheet Metal Works Inc
Chippewa Valley Bank
Lynn Conlan
Dave Evans Transports Inc
Linda Degraef
Dana Dolsen
Greg Dolsen
Dreamland Supper Club
Foxes & Fireflies Booksellers
Great Lakes Office Solutions
The Gunderson Family
Hardee's
Owen Holm
Kristi Jordan
Susan Jordan
Julie's Family Restaurant
Polly Lohman

Dane & Traci Laughlin
The Mehlberg Family
Ken Mertz
Pam Mertz
Mertz-Rookey Insurance
Amanda Moore
Northwest Outlet
Carol Peterson
George & Pat Pluntz
George Pluntz
President's Bar
Prime Appliance
Shamrock Bar & Pizza
South End Barber Shop
Superior Savings Bank
Superior Water Light & Power Company
T.J.'s Champion's Lounge
Jason Wallin
Bob Warner
Kay Warner
Dannette Watkins
Steve Wong
Zion WELCA

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!!!

Join in Zion's Food Shelf Ministry

It's that time of year when temperatures are below freezing and liquids freeze. It is time to change our donations to dry or powdered goods so they will survive freezing temperatures.

Food Shelf Focus Non-freezable items please

White & 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!

PRAYERS FOR ALL

PRAYER CHAIN MISSION: Each week, a family name will be drawn at random from the mailing list, and that family will be prayed for during the next week. The family will receive a note in the mail to let them know about the prayers.

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 long term care: 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.)

JANUARY LAY MINISTRY

READER	COUNTERS
Jan 4 Polly Lohman	Jan 4 Linda Brow, Polly Lohman
Jan 11 Donna Meltz	Jan 11 Linda Brow, Carol Peterson
Jan 18	Jan 18 Donna Meltz, Aine Merrill
Jan 25 Michele & Claire Conlan	Jan 25 Beth Arnson, Paul Freer
MINISTER ASSISTANT	GREETER
Jan 4 Anthony Anderson	Jan 4 Paul Robinson
Jan 11 Rusty Mehlberg	Jan 11 Mary Hickman
Jan 18 Linda Moe	Jan 18 Shirley Boris
Jan 25 Anthony Anderson	Jan 25 Mary Hickman
USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
Jan 4 Donald Anderson	Christel Lewis
Jan 11 Donald Anderson	
Jan 18 Vicky Holm	
Jan 25 Vicky Holm	

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.

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee 5:30pm Dinner @ Pilgrim	5 Annual Reports due in office 7pm AA Mtg	6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	7 NO Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	8 1pm Superior Stitchers 6pm Choir	9	10
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD NO Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee & WELCA	12 7pm AA Mtg	13 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	14 1:30pm No-prep Bible Study 3:30pm Worship & Music 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	15 6pm Choir	16 4-6pm Shredded Beast & Bird Drive- Thru Dinner	17
18 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 7pm AA Mtg	20 5pm Operations 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	21 1:30pm No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	22 1pm Superior Stitchers 5pm Stewardship 6pm Church Council	23	24 Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sun- day!
25 Food Shelf Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Pot Luck Brunch & Annual Meeting	26 7pm AA Mtg	27 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	28 1:30pm No-prep Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	29 6pm Choir	30	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 12 Emily & David Larson

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 30 Paul Freer

2026

Offering Envelopes

*have arrived and are
here for you to pick up!*



First Sunday Suppers

Free Community Meal

First Sunday of
the month at 5:30

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
820 Belknap Street

Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday, January 25, 2026

11:00 am Pot Luck Brunch

Followed by

ANNUAL MEETING

**Annual reports are due in the office
by Monday, January 5**



We are excited to announce we are partnering with Harmann Studios to create a new Church Directory. Information is available on the table outside of the sanctuary.

Directory photography dates and times are Wednesday, February 4th, 1pm to 8pm; Thursday, February 5th, 1pm to 8pm; and Friday, February 6th, 11am to 6pm. To set up an appointment scan the QR code.





The shoe drive will be coming to an end. If you still have shoes to drop off you should do so this **SUNDAY, MONDAY or TUESDAY, Jan 4, 5 or 6th**. Boxes are located inside Pilgrim, Zion, UPC, Our Saviors and Concordia churches, and also inside Trends Salon in the Blaine business center. Boxes are located outside the main doors at Pilgrim this week so after hours drop offs can be done 24/7.

Thanks for continuing to encourage your friends, families, social groups etc. to donate shoes! If anyone has questions, reach out to Pilgrim 715-392-4731. All winter boots, summer sandals, tennis shoes, dress shoes, kids' shoes, cleats, etc. are welcome. Please no ripped or worn-out shoes.

Thanks everyone!

Colleen Elonen, Coordinator

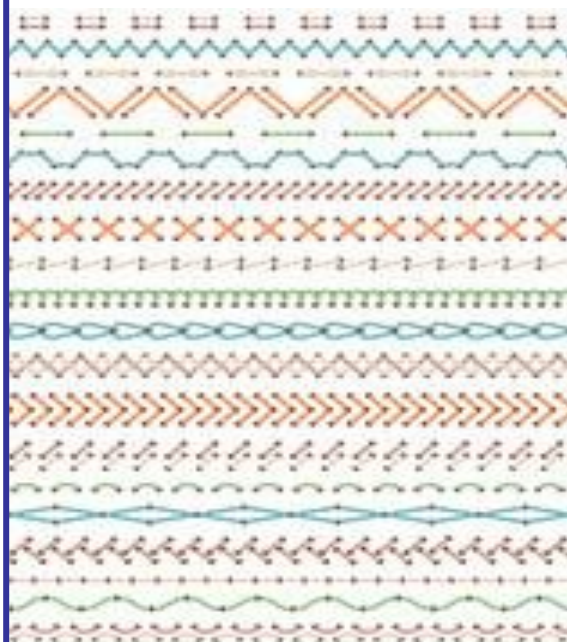
Superior Stitchers

Do you cross-stitch, embroider, hardanger, applique, quilt, crochet or knit?

Superior Stitchers is a gathering of all types of needle crafters, from all denominations here in Superior. The group was formed to provide a space for all different types of needle work to gather for fellowship and to share skills with others.

Superior Stitchers meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00pm at Zion Lutheran.

Please come join us!



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!



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.

Friday, January 16, 2025
Zion Lutheran Church

2022 E 2nd Street, Superior WI



**Shredded Beast
& Bird Dinner**

DRIVE-THRU ONLY 4:00—6:00pm

FREE WILL OFFERING

**Shredded Beef & Chicken,
Tater Tots, Cole Slaw, Dessert!**

All proceeds for church projects and community outreach.



Zion Lutheran Church
Superior, Wisconsin



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 *JANUARY 2026*

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 .

