

Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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

Pastor's Message



Mapping Our Ministry

On the first Sunday of February, we have a reading from the book of Micah which includes one of my favorite verses: *"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"* (Micah 6:8)

This is a question that many of us may be asking right now: what does the LORD require of us in this moment? What does the LORD require of us when we see a neighbor in need, when we witness injustice, when we feel tested or tempted to hide in fear or to give up on doing good?

The prophet Micah's answer is similar to our baptismal call. The Holy Spirit anoints us to become a part of the body of Christ, a people called *"to trust God, proclaim Christ in our words and deeds, to care for others and the world God has made, and work for justice and peace"* (ELW baptismal liturgy). We live out our baptismal identity every day, everywhere we go. Every moment of your life is a space for ministry as we care for those around us with the good gifts God has given us. As we show up for one another, we do what the LORD requires.

To begin our new year of ministry, a map has been placed at church on the wall near the fellowship hall. It is a map mostly of the community of Superior, but also includes spaces in the county and nearby regional locations. There is an invitation for you to identify the places that you spend time—where you shop, work, go to school, have appointments, visit with friends, attend events, etc. It will help give us a visual of where God is sending us as a community of faith.

The ministry of the baptized happens in many more places than in the walls of the church. It happens wherever we as the baptized ones go and with whomever we interact with. God is sending us out to be the body of Christ for our neighbors. God is sending us out with the hope and expectation that lives will be changed through us.

We will be gathering the stories of the daily ministry that is happening through Zion Lutheran Church in the coming weeks, so that we can continue to wonder together about how God is calling us and equipping us to live deeper into our baptismal identity each day.

God's peace be with you!

Pastor Sarah

Coming up...

Sunday, **February 8** **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

The church that collects the most wins a special trophy on Feb 15! Bring food items or dollars to Zion by next Sunday, Feb 9!

Friday, **February 13**, **Hearts In Harmony**

7:00pm Concert of Local Artists

Followed by a delicious desserts social!

Sunday, **February 15**, 10:00am, ELCA Combined Worship at Pilgrim with potluck to follow! Bishop Martin Halom will be preaching and offering a Q&A time following worship.

Church Council

Church Council Minutes December 18th, 2025

Minutes prepared by Sara Schubert McKone, Secretary

Church Council Members -

Present - Donald Anderson, Paul Freer, Polly Lohman, Sara Schubert McKone, Vicky Holm, Pastor Sarah Gunder-son

Virtual attendance - Donna Metz, Lynn Rochon

Excused - Grace Becken

Gathering and Prayer -

Call to order - 6:03pm, Polly

Prayer & Devotions - Lynn, (January Devotions - Donna)

Reports -

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

Treasurer's Report - As of 12/18/25, checking \$8,923.12, missions account \$348.22, savings balance \$554.54, Thrivent mortgage balance \$21,001.01. Thrivent savings \$3,569.08, WELCA \$661.00 balance from November 2025, no current balance as of 12/18/25.

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

Pastor's Report -

Superior Churches: Superior Churches: The shoe drive is wrapping up this week. I know we are really close to the goal! We probably have until the end of the year to get any last shoe donations to the church. Concordia will be donating the use of their bus for the Christmas Day dinner. The Community Dinner at Pilgrim will continue into the new year and by February we are hoping to do a weekly meal again. Zion will take the 2nd Sunday of the month. Our shared worship service will be on February 15th at 10am at Pilgrim with Bishop Martin Halom joining us for worship.

Food Insecurity Grant: We have been approved for a grant from the City of Superior for \$10,000 for purchasing food items for our food shelf. The grant was just approved on December 16, so I am still waiting for the official notification and process for us to use the funds. But this will definitely boost our ministry in the new year!

From Generation to Generation: Our Advent theme has focused on how we are a part of the biblical witness and God's story. It has been fun to use the artwork, poetry, and prayers to guide us in welcoming the Good News of Jesus' birth into our lives this season. Both Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings has opportunities to stretch our thinking about the various voices and generations of witness to the faith that have shaped our understanding and experience of God. I am working on imagining a way we can continue with the storytelling and generational connection work that has begun during Advent.

Baptism: Laina Marie Hanson was baptized on Sunday, December 7th.

Upcoming Vacation Time: January 5th-12th (gone on Sunday, January 11th)

Committee Reports -

Discipleship - The Christmas program was held this past Sunday. The audience was very willing to participate in the program and it was well received. Worship Wanderers have continued every week without taking a break. There are enough volunteers to keep the program consistent every week. They have received a lot of positive feedback on the new program and routine.

LOGOs will be off on Wednesday and for holiday break. Number have been good; the group is working on relationship building and it is evident that the kids are comfortable in the space and with the adults. They continue to join and bring friends. It is great to see the program grow.

Worship & Music - Did not meet. Everything is planned throughout the New Year.

Property - Both upstairs bathrooms have fallen victim to the leaking roof. We have lost some ceiling tiles. Paul is measuring and getting pricing for the kitchen door. The threshold has rotted and needs to be replaced. Polly mentioned the side outside light is flickering. Paul will investigate. There was also a mention of installing security cameras inside the hallways.

Stewardship - December 31st there will be a New Year's party with pizza, games, soda. 4:00-7:00pm. All are welcome! Shredded beef and bird drive through dinner January 16th. Hearts and Harmony Concert will be coming back in February. Shepherd's pie and beef stew drive through dinner night in March. Pasty sale will be back in April!

WELCA - The cookie and craft sale were held this past weekend. There were a lot of cookies this year and numerous volunteers. Updated profit will be given for the January meeting. Sub sale will be back for Superbowl.

Motion made by Vicky and seconded by Shannon to accept the December 2025 committee reports. Motion carried.

Unfinished business -

December Cookie & Craft Sale - Huge success! Updated financials will be available in January 2026. Paul suggested that we select the date for 2026 to update vendors.

Community Christmas Dinner - There has been \$1500 donated. December 22nd 4:30pm is the potato peeling party. There are other volunteers that have shared they would like to be involved, all are welcome to help. There will be meal delivery, all orders must be called in by December 23rd. Sunday after church there will be a bag filling station to fill bags with oranges and apples and other items.

Technology Update - Telephone system, laptop, computer, etc. The new phones were plugged in today. They will be here Monday to set it up. The company will split the install fee between 2 bills. The laptop was ordered and is here for the upstairs PowerPoint. They will be installing that during Christmas break. Greg has a connection to update our Microsoft programming. He will connect with Bob to update the system.

Kitchen Stove Replacement - We have received a quote for a new commercial grade stove. We will revisit that in January.

Upcoming Photo Days - The advertising materials have arrived and are set up. It was mentioned to have the QR code in a newsletter, on the PowerPoint slide in the morning before service, on an insert.

New business –

2026 Budget - Polly shared the Budget Worksheet for 2026. This will need to be completed by January 11th to be in line with the annual meeting. The layout was received from Shephard's Staff and is more detailed than previous years. This is in effort to see where we are spending our funds. We do have a personnel committee that will look at a cost of living increase as well as the annual step increase requirements.

Motion to adjourn at 7:56pm pm by Shannon, second by Donna. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer.

Meeting schedule -

January 15th, 2026, 6:00pm

March 19th, 2026, 6:00pm

May 21st, 2026, 6:00pm

February 19th, 2026, 6:00pm

April 16th, 2026, 6:00pm

WELCA

SUPER-BOWL SUB SANDWICH SALE



Thank you to all for supporting

WELCA

Zion Women's Group Ministries!

Don't forget to pick up your sandwich orders following worship on Sunday, February 8.

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: Shirley Boris, 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.)



FEBRUARY LAY MINISTRY 2026

READER	COUNTERS
Feb 1 Aine Merrill	Feb 1 Eve Bagan, Polly Lohman
Feb 8 Polly Lohman	Feb 8 Aine Merrill, Margaret Sundet
Feb 15	Feb 15 Linda Brow, Carol Peterson
Feb 22 Michele & Claire Conlan	Feb 22 Polly Lohman, Ken Mertz
MINISTER ASSISTANT	GREETER
Feb 1 Linda Moe	Feb 1 Paul Robinson
Feb 8 Rusty Mehlberg	Feb 8 Mary Hickman
Feb 15 Anthony Anderson	Feb 15 Shirley Boris
Feb 22 Linda Moe	Feb 22 Mary Hickman
USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
Feb 1 Donald Anderson	Kay Warner
Feb 8 Vicky Holm	
Feb 15 Donald Anderson	
Feb 22 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.	

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee 5:30pm Dinner @ Pilgrim Last day to order your Sub Sandwiches!	2 6pm AA Mtg	3 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	4 1-8pm Directory Photo Sessions 1:30 Bible Study 3:30 Worship & Music 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	5 1-8pm Directory Photo Sessions 6pm Choir	6 11am-6pm Directory Photo Sessions	7 9am WELCA sub sandwich making
8 SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee & WELCA – Super-Bowl Sub Sandwich Pick up after worship.	9 6pm AA Mtg	10 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	11 1:30 Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	12 1pm Superior Stitchers 6pm Choir	13 7pm Hearts In Harmony Concert and Delicious Desserts Social Fundraiser	14 VALENTINES DAY 
15 NO WORSHIP @ ZION 10am ELCA Worship Pilgrim Lutheran 11am Pot Luck	16 6pm AA Mtg	17 5pm Operations 6pm Church Council 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	18 ASH WEDNESDAY 1:30 Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	19 5pm Stewardship 6pm Choir	20	21 <i>Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sunday!</i>
22 Food Shelf Sunday LENT BEGINS 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee	23 6pm AA Mtg	24 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	25 1:30 Bible Study 5-7pm LOGOS 5pm Youth 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Worship	26 1pm Superior Stitchers 6pm Choir	27	28

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

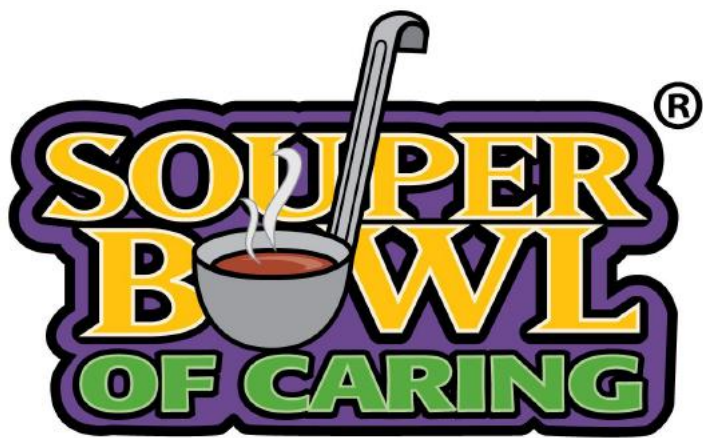
Feb 1 Paige Johnson
 Feb 5 Gary Garlie
 Feb 9 Melvin Mattson
 Feb 10 Linda DeGrafe
 Feb 18 Janet Arena
 Feb 21 Britny Bergson
 Feb 23 Ken & Pamela Mertz
 Feb 25 Phyllis Neubauer
 Feb 28 Marilee Parenteau

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!



tacklehunger.org

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

It's that time of year when the ELCA congregations of Superior work together to tackle hunger in our community.

On Sunday, **February 8** (Super Bowl Sunday) you are encouraged to bring in nonperishable, easy-open food item or personal hygiene item. All donations will go toward stocking the food shelf here at Zion!

The congregation that collects the most items will receive a fabulous prize—to be presented at our Joint ELCA Worship Service on **February 15** at Pilgrim Lutheran 10:00am.

LET'S GO ZION! LET'S GO!

Every 4th Sunday is Food Shelf Sunday!

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 drink mixes . Teas . Coco packets . Instant coffee . Powdered milk
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!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

2022 East 2nd Street, Superior, WI

Hearts in Harmony



Friday, February 13, 2026

7pm Concert of Local Artists

Followed by a delicious desserts social!

Come join us for a concert and delicious desserts social to benefit the

Zion Lutheran Food Shelf!

FREE WILL OFFERING

Everyone is invited.

If you are interested in participating, your talent does not need to be musical. There are signup sheets outside the sanctuary to share your talents or provide desserts! Contact the church office by phone or email by February 12, 2026. 715-398-3663 or churchoffice@zionsuperior.org



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. 101

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 9-11, and by
appointment

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