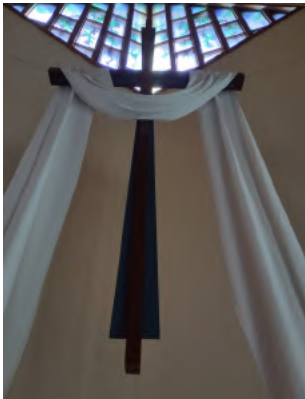


Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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

Pastor's Message

The CaSTLE Project



In the fall of 2025, our synod received a grant to do some experimental work on church ecclesiology. This is a fancy way of saying, we got some money to help us try to think about how congregations might do church differently and in a way that perhaps would breathe new life and understanding into what ministry looks like in the world today. Maybe God is calling us to try something different than how we've "always" done it?

The CaSTLE Project, which stands for "Country and Small Town Lived Ecclesiology," is about centering the life of the church around living as the baptized community scattered into the world. The project invites us to think about how ministry happens beyond the walls of the church in and through the gifts and opportunities given to each baptized person. It invites us to wonder about how our gathering time as church is just a starting point (or an equipping and celebration experience) for how we are living out our faith in the diversity of our daily lives. Perhaps the church really isn't the building, it's the people, and we should start actually living into that belief in how we structure our church communities and what we do together. I am not sure what that exactly looks like yet.

As a part of our synod's work, I have been invited to be a CaSTLE Project mentor working with other ministry leaders from congregations across Northwest Wisconsin in wondering how to live into this "new" way of being church. We have been describing this work as both a paradigm shift and a cultural shift—which are not easy to navigate. To become a different kind of church—a church for this time and place in the history of the world—it will take some big movements in our faith habits and our faith vocabulary. We will need to think and talk about church differently in order to become the church that God is re-forming for today's people. We will need to practice listening to God and each other, growing in our skills and understanding for faithful living. This work is for all of us! Together we can learn and try new things!

One thing I can guarantee in this process of becoming what God is leading us into is that it will likely bring loss and lots of unexpected challenges—for in every process of change there is loss and disorientation for a bit along with new gifts received. As we are open to change as a church community and grow in new directions in the coming years, it will likely feel a little awkward some days, or we may lament what we are leaving behind. But the promise of Jesus Christ is that God is making all things new—that in the midst of death, the pains of loss, resurrection is coming, and there will be great joy! We are Easter people. I have faith that God is leading us into something that will amaze us, and we will be blessed as we join in with joy along with our fear.

The Christian faith is all about transformation—about the change that happens in our lives when we believe the GOOD NEWS and fully step into the life of Christ, as we follow Jesus with our whole lives, in every aspect of it, all the time. We cannot let our fear of loss keep us from stepping into the abundant life God has in mind for us. As God's people we have been made for change, and it is time for us to get to work. More to come...

Peace be with you,
Pastor Sarah

What's inside...

- 1... Pastor's Message
- 2... Bishop's Easter Message
- 3 & 4... Church Council
- 4... Lenten Schedule
- 5... Easter Flowers

- 6... Pasty Bake
- 7... Prayers for All & April Lay Ministry
- 8... Calendar & Birthdays & Anniversaries
- 9... Bulletin Board



To the beloved of the NWSWI,

Happy Easter to you as we celebrate the most sacred day of the year when Jesus squarely looked death in the face and overcame the grave! When I think about what that says about our God, I am continually overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude because of the sheer depth of God's love. To think about what Jesus went through in those final days, it is simply the best illustration of what God's grace looks like – a gift to us as individuals and as a family of faith – all without merit.

While on a Civil Rights pilgrimage last month, I found myself quite perplexed when listening to the central message of many civil rights leaders, including many that I met in person. While visiting Birmingham, I worshiped at the 16th St. Baptist Church, which was bombed on a Sunday morning just before worship on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young women (all teens) died in the blast as they were preparing to serve in the youth led service. As our group heard about the story in the tour the day before our worship, this central message was proclaimed – love. Later that day we spent time with another black leader in the city whose ancestors were also victims of white supremacy. She too acknowledged the central message that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught over and over in his messages – a message of love, even for your enemies.

That struck me. When victims of oppression look at their oppressors and can maintain a posture of love in hopes that the hatred they've experienced would someday be extinguished, I could only think about the depths of God's love. While most of us would at minimum defend ourselves from the oppressive actions taken against them, if not fight back and seek retribution, they instead turned to love and forgiveness. It is their faith in God that could give them the strength to practice love.

We still live in a world where hatred and prejudice exist. But the story of Easter is rooted in love. Jesus went to the cross after praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Your will be done. This is true sacrifice rooted in love for humankind. This is love revealed to broken and sinful people. This is a love for us all – no exception.

As we celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead, offering forgiveness to all humankind, let us rejoice in acts of love. Let us respond to God's gift of grace through acts of love!

Bishop Martin Habun

Church Council

Church Council Meeting Minutes for Thursday, February 19, 2026.
Minutes prepared by Sara Schubert McKone, Secretary

Church Council Members -

Present—Polly Lohman, Donald Anderson, Paul Freer, Sara Schubert McKone, Vicky Holm, Pastor Sarah Gunderson, Lynn Rochon, Micah Gunderson, Steve Wong

Excused - Shannon Johnson

Also in attendance - Linda Brow

Gathering and Prayer -

Call to order - 6:02pm, Polly

Prayer & Devotions - waived for the month (March Devotions - Sara)

Reports -

Secretary's Report - Motion made by Don and seconded by Paul to accept the January 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - The finances are tight and we need to get bills paid. We currently have experienced utility bills that are much higher than we are used to paying. Our current unpaid SWL&P bill is outstanding at \$3,500.00. Polly and Vicky spoke to messages that could be mentioned during services - operational costs are higher than normal, we will be ramping up our upcoming fundraisers looking for volunteers and attendees. Pastor Sarah also expressed that we need more volunteers for lay ministry. Polly will create a letter to mail out to members that have not been active attendees to Sunday services. As of today, February 19th, our checking account is at a zero balance and we have approximately \$8,000.00 in unpaid bills at this time.

Food Shelf Grant - A committee will be formed with Pastor Sarah and Paul to continue the checks and balance report for what has been spent and receipts from purchases. This will be exclusively used for the food shelf.

Motion made by Paul and seconded by Don to accept the January 2026 treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report -

Superior Churches: We gathered for shared worship on Sunday, Feb. 15 at Pilgrim with Bishop Martin Halom. At our last meeting, the churches voted to release funds gathered to support Amena and her family whenever she should need it. I will be connecting with her to see what might be helpful for her. The next Community Dinner is March 1. Our next church meeting is March 26 at 5pm at Concordia.

Superior Ministerium: We will be joining in the Good Friday service at United Presbyterian on April 3 at 6:45pm. The Scout group will be holding a fish fry at the church that evening so everyone is invited to attend that before worship. We continue to work to support the SAM fund to offer help for our neighbors.

Lent: We are going to be joining the Palm Sunday Path on our Lenten journey. We will be focusing on the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem and what it means to follow him in such a public witness of faith. Where does our faith call us to show up now? How do we walk in the way of Jesus? Wednesday nights will focus on this theme along with some collaborative art projects for the Palm Sunday Path prayer vigil/event on March 29th. We will also be preparing for storytelling on the Easter Vigil (April 4) as we join First Lutheran Church in Duluth worship on that day. Paul Robinson will be leading us in creating some puppets and other banners and movements to artistically share our faith on Palm Sunday and the Easter Vigil.

Grant for Food Shelf: We have signed paperwork with the city to begin using the grant. About \$550 in food has been purchased so far from Super One. We have until the end of the year to use the \$10,000. The process is that we have to purchase the food items and then submit a receipt to the City of Superior to be reimbursed. Currently we are using the Super One charge account to make purchases.

Mapping our Ministry: Have you checked out the maps yet? This experiment is all about thinking about how we live out our baptismal calling. Wherever the baptized go this is where ministry happens. Do we see ourselves as being sent each week

Continued on next page

COUNCIL OFFICERS 2027-2029		
Term Ends January 2027	Term Ends January 2028	Term Ends January 2029
Donald Anderson	Paul Freer	Sara Schubert McKone – Secretary
Shannon Johnson	Vicky Holm—Vice President	Micah Gunderson
Lynn Rochon	Polly Lohman—President	Steve Wong
Pastor Sarah Gunderson		

from worship to do ministry in our daily lives and be the church in the world? How are we showing up as God's people in the places we spend time? How are we using our time and gifts to help others know about the love of Christ? These are the questions I am hoping we can wrestle with in the coming months.

Committee Reports -

Discipleship—LOGOs and Worship Wanderers are doing well. We have a great staff of volunteers leading the groups.

Worship & Music—Due to school closure, Ash Wednesday services have been cancelled, we will celebrate Sunday. We will be using "We the Feast" structure going forward. This has more of a liturgical structure. We have many people at Zion that are musical and we are looking forward to including them in services.

Property—The roof has been repaired. It was discovered that it is more of a patch job than a permanent fix. The rubber mat is currently pulling the siding away from the building and causing damage. Paul shoveled the roof off where the roof was leaking and discovered water is pooling on the flat roof area. It was recommended to have someone shovel the roof going forward. The roof vent was also repaired above the bathrooms.

Paul replaced the outside light that was flickering. Paul will be looking at repairing the kitchen doors. He will also be getting a quote to repair the front door.

Stewardship—Did not meet.

WELCA—No report.

Motion made by Lynn and seconded by Paul to accept the February 2026 committee reports. Motion carried.

Unfinished business -

Shredded Beast & Bird Dinner Results—\$300 profit, 57 meals were served

Church Directory Results -Paul is working with the company to get addresses from those who took photos.

Hearts in Harmony Results—\$280 profit, 42 in attendance

Pasty Planning—April 30-May 2, fall Nov 4-7

2026 Budget Review - Financial Status—The personnel committee needs to meet to push forward items voted in last month.

New business -

Welcome new members and announce officers - Welcome Steve Wong and Micah Gunderson!

Financial Planning—New committees will be formed for the food shelf grant and for fundraising. Please reach out to Pastor Sarah, Paul, or Vicky for more information.

Shepherd's Pies - March 13th 4pm-6pm Drive through event.

Motion to adjourn at 7:19pm by Micah, second by Steve. Motion carried.

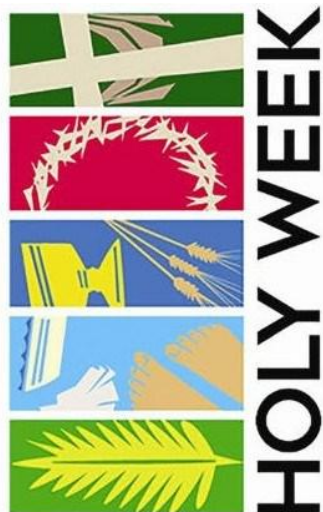
Closing Prayer.

Meeting schedule -

March 19th, 2026, 6:00pm

April 16th, 2026, 6:00pm

May 21st, 2026, 6:00pm



PALM SUNDAY, Sun, Mar 29

9am Adult Study

10am Worship & Worship Wanderers

11am Coffee Fellowship

MAUNDY THURSDAY, Thu, Apr 2

6:30pm Worship

GOOD FRIDAY, Fri, Apr 3

6:40pm United Presbyterian Church

EASTER VIGIL, Sat, Apr 4

7pm First Lutheran Church

1100 E Superior St, Duluth

EASTER SUNDAY, Sun, Apr 5

8:30 – 9:45 am LOGOS' Brunch

10am Worship

11am Coffee Fellowship

5:30pm First Sunday Suppers

@ Pilgrim Lutheran

Easter Flowers

From Donna Meltz, Mary Hickman, Alyce Lenzen & Families
In Memory of Don & Marjorie Harding, Franklin Hickman, & Al Sampson

From Tom & Mary Nykanen
In Memory of our Son David forever in our hearts.
In Honor of Our Children & Grandchildren

From Paul & Kay Freer
In Memory of Lloyd & Lois Freer, Bud & Ruth Dunning

From Debra Wermter
In Memory of Donald Wermter
In Honor of Robert & Colleen Johnson

From Jeff Hansen
In Memory of Patsy Hansen

From George & Pat Pluntz
In Honor of Great Grandchildren—Jaxon & Klara

From Gary & Alana Dunning
In Memory of Loved Ones

From Linda & Dave Moe
In Honor of Our Family

From Aine Merrill
In Honor of My Family

Every 4th Sunday is Food Shelf Sunday!

Food Shelf Focus (non-freezable items please)

Brown rice . Dried fruits . Cereal . Crackers . Granola bars . Hamburger Helper

Instant Mashed Potatoes . Powdered Gravy packets . Ramen

Whole Grain Pasta . Powdered Spaghetti Sauce . Macaroni & Cheese

Whole Grain Cereal Whole Grain Pasta . Powdered Spaghetti Sauce

Bar soap and body wash . Dental Floss . Tooth brushes (no multi-packs)

Please help us provide food for our neighbors and community!



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.



PASTY BAKE APRIL-MAY 2026

Come help prepare the Pasty Bake Sale!

Wednesday	Apr 29	Prep
Thursday	Apr 30	Peel, Cut, Prep
Friday	May 1	Assemble, begin to bake
Saturday	May 2	Assemble, bake, and sales

Sign up sheets will be at the tables in the hallway soon. Please sign up on the times you are available. This is one of Zion's main Fundraisers.

For questions contact Lynn Rochon, 715-817-0009

It's Pasty time at Zion Lutheran Church!

We're making our famous pasties the first week of November – with carrots, potatoes, onion, celery and ground chuck. Take our word for it – you don't want to miss out on stocking the freezer with these for quick and delicious meals.

Pasties will be fresh-baked, frozen and ready to reheat. Additionally, we will be offering fresh baked (unfrozen) pasties for sale on our baking days: Friday May 1 and Saturday, May 2. Price: \$6.00/pasty.

We are offering for the first-time gluten free and allergen free pasties. A limited supply of 50 will be baked and ready on Friday, May 1. Price: \$10.00/pasty. Please call and reserve your order.

If you have questions or would like to place an order, email: zion.pastybake@yahoo.com or call the church office at 715-398-3663.

The proceeds from the pasty sale will be used to fund church ministries and missions.

We appreciate you support!

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

Zion Lutheran
Pasty Bake

Cost: \$6.00 each

Pasties will be available May 1 & 2

Pick-up day Fri (11-4) __ Sat (9-4) __

Orders can be dropped off in the church office., or mailed to

Zion Lutheran Church
2022 East Second Street, Superior, WI 54880
Prior to May 1, 2026

PAYMENT DUE WITH ORDER

NAME

PHONE

EMAIL

NUMBER OF PASTIES

\$ AMOUNT ENCLOSED

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, Jennifer Crawford and family, Paula Hoffer, Barry Kilner, Gail Saari, Barclay Stamey, Janine Strandberg, 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, and Karen Regenfuss & family.

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.)

APRIL LAY MINISTRY 2026

READER	COUNTERS
Apr 5 Polly Lohman	Apr 5 Polly Lohman, Ken Mertz
Apr 12 Aine Merrill	Apr 12 Donna Meltz, Aine Merrill
Apr 19 Donna Meltz	Apr 19 Paul Freer, Beth Arnson
Apr 26	Apr 26 Eve Bagan, Polly Lohman
MINISTER ASSISTANT	GREETER
Apr 5 Linda Moe	Apr 5 Paul Robinson
Apr 12 Anthony Anderson	Apr 12 Mary Hickman
Apr 19 Rusty Mehlberg	Apr 19 Steve Wong
Apr 26 Linda Moe	Apr 26 Paul Robinson
USHERS	ALTAR GUILD
Apr 5 Vicky Holm	Linda Moe
Apr 12 Donald Anderson	
Apr 19 Vicky Holm	
Apr 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.

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!

APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30 Bible Study 3:30 Worship & Music	2 Maundy Thursday 6pm Choir 6:30pm Worship	3 Good Friday 6:40pm Ecumenical Worship @ United Presbyterian Church	4 Easter Vigil 9am LOGOS Brunch Prep 11am Puppet Show practice 7pm Worship @ First Lutheran, Duluth
5 Easter Sunday 8:30-9:45am LOGOS Brunch 10am Worship 11am Coffee 5:30pm Dinner @ Pilgrim	6 7pm AA Mtg	7 7am—8pm Voting 6pm Al-Anon Mtg	8 1:30 Bible Study 1:30pm Bible Study 5pm LOGOS Time 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Worship	9 1pm Superior Stitchers 6pm Choir 6:45pm Bells	10	11
12 Holy Humor Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am WELCA & Coffee	13 7pm AA Mtg	14 6pm Al-Anon Mtg 5pm Operations	15 1:30 Bible Study 1:30pm Bible Study 5pm LOGOS Time 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Worship	16 5pm Stewardship 6pm Church Council 6pm Choir 6:45pm Bells	17	18
19 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee	20 7pm AA Mtg	21 6pm Al-Anon Mtg	22 1:30 Bible Study 1:30pm Bible Study 5pm LOGOS Time 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Worship	23 1pm Superior Stitchers 6pm Choir 6:45pm Bells	24	25 Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sunday!
26 Food Shelf Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee	27 7pm AA Mtg	28 6pm Al-Anon Mtg	29 8am Pasty Prep 1:30pm Bible Study 5pm LOGOS Time 5:30pm Dinner 6pm Worship	30 8am Pasty Prep 6pm Choir 6:45pm Bells		

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Apr 2 Eric Evan
 Apr 2 Anastasia Johnson
 Apr 4 Jerry Parenteau
 Apr 4 Gerald Williams
 Apr 8 Emily Larson
 Apr 8 Champ Olson
 Apr 11 Deacon McKone

Apr 12 Rogan Lambert
 Apr 12 Craig Maki
 Apr 13 April Larson
 Apr 13 Deanna Traynor
 Apr 13 Peggiew Wilson
 Apr 15 Steve Lamppa
 Apr 16 Kristen Johnson
 Apr 19 Trey Pedersen
 Apr 20 Sarah Gunderson
 Apr 23 Brian & Tammy Dittbrender

Apr 25 Bob Warner
 Apr 25 Gregory & Brenda Pluntz
 Apr 28 Mark Betterman
 Apr 28 Sue Betterman
 Apr 29 Dani Watkins
 Apr 30 Juston Adrihan
 Apr 30 Leslee Kvam



FELGEMAKER AND FRIENDS PRESENT

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE ROMANTICS, PLUS ONE

FEATURING
DR. CHARLES SUNDQUIST ON THE HISTORIC FELGEMAKER ORGAN



PROGRAM INCLUDES WORKS BY:
J.S. Bach, Bossi, Buck, Widor, and Rheinberger

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 3:00 PM

SACRED HEART MUSIC CENTER
201 W 4TH ST, DULUTH, MN

\$20 TICKETS AT [EVENTBRITE.COM](https://www.eventbrite.com) OR AT THE DOOR
\$5 STUDENT RUSH TICKETS AT THE DOOR




First Lutheran Church of Duluth and
the Arrowhead Chapter are
pleased to present

Nathan Laube, concert organist



A celebration of the 15th anniversary
of the installation of the
Jaekel organ, Opus 52

Sunday, May 3, 2026
3:00 p.m.

First Lutheran Church
1100 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota

Free-will offering (\$20 suggested)



We have great news! Zion Lutheran Church will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on Saturday, May 2.

Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993.

Life Line Screening is extending a discounted offer to all Zion Lutheran Members.

Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment
near you! **800-324-9458**
and use code: **HABC001**





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

APRIL 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 .

