

Zion Lutheran Church, Superior WI

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

Pastor's Message



They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he broke the loaves, and gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. Matthew 14:17-20

We begin the month of August this coming Sunday with this familiar gospel story of Jesus feeding the 5000+ from a meager amount of supplies. The disciples called it nothing, but Jesus took their "nothing" and feeds all the people with leftovers.

As I have shared before, Zion has been in ongoing conversations with our ELCA church siblings in Superior (Pilgrim, Concordia, and Our Saviors) about sharing our resources. We have been asking the big questions this summer—like: ***Is now the time to try something new??***

We have been wondering together how we might bring our resources together in a way that could feed all people with leftovers. Each church community has been blessed in many ways, but all are struggling to feel like they have enough separately to sustain their ministry. No one believes they have nothing to offer in the places they do ministry, but the Spirit of Christ seems to be moving us toward something more deeply filling and abundant together.

The conversation continues this month with a gathering on **Thursday, August 27th at 5:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church**. You are invited to attend and listen to the stories of the other congregations and share your own story of how you notice God showing up in our church, our community, and in your life.

These conversations are important for us to discern how God might be inviting us to share our resources in new ways—perhaps in sharing buildings, in sharing pastoral leadership, or in sharing in some other way. A clear path forward has not yet been formed, but we want to include as many voices as we can in the conversation so we can make good decisions.

If you have questions or stories you would like to share and cannot attend the meeting on August 27, please make time to chat with Pastor Sarah—call, email, stop by church. A survey of the congregation will also be going out this fall to gather thoughts on what is most important for our church to consider as we build for the future. Another opportunity to learn more about how Zion is doing or share ideas would be to attend the next church council meeting on Thursday, August 20 at 6pm. All are always welcome!

Blessings on your final summer adventures, and as you prepare for another school year and the fall activities that will soon be upon us.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

What's inside...

- 1... Pastor's Message
- 2 & 3... Church Council
- 3... Joint Church Worship
- 4... Prayers for All, May Lay Ministry
- 5... Calendar, Birthdays & Anniversaries

6... Vacation Bible School, National Night Out

7... East End Days, Food Shelf

Looking to next month... Fall Kick-Off

Church Council

Zion Lutheran Church Council Minutes June 18th, 2026

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

Call to order - 6:02am

Prayer & Devotions - Lynn Rochon (July - Vicky)

Reports –

Secretary's Report - Motion made by Sara and seconded by Vicky to accept the May 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - As of today, 6/18/26, our checking account is at \$4,622.85 balance and we have approximately \$6,600.00 in unpaid bills at this time. The mortgage is currently sitting at \$16,747.83 and the Thrivent Savings is at \$3,633.15. Looked at the new breakdown chart that Paul has created for budget items and actual income and expenses.

Motion made by Lynn and seconded by Vicky to accept the May 2026 treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report -

Superior Churches: We will continue community meals through the summer on the first Sunday of the month. Zion is taking July 5th. At the last shared meeting with the ELCA churches, about 30 people attended. It was decided that a next step could be for us to invite an outside facilitator to come lead a meeting with those interested in further conversations on possible shared ministry. The hope is to get something organized for July.

Food Shelf: We are on track in our spending of the grant to purchase items for our food shelf. As we are half way through the year, we have spent about half the grant with total spending at \$5,100.00. It continues to be a well-used resource in the community and a part of our ministry that is growing and inspiring us.

Worship: As we move into the summer months, our attendance has been strong. We will have some special worship experiences coming up—Worship at Paul & Kyle's church home on July 12 with picnic to follow and Christmas in July on July 26. There is a shared outdoor service and potluck planned with the Superior ELCA churches on August 16 at Barker's Island. Sister Gretchen's last worship service will be Sunday, July 26. We will plan a celebration of her ministry with us for that day as well.

Vacation Days: July 8-22—I will be gone on Sunday, July 12 and 19. Pastor Tanner at Pilgrim and Pastor Sean at Our Saviors/Concordia will be serving as emergency pastoral coverage if needed. Their contact information will be in the church office. I will be available via phone to address any emergencies, but if physical presence is needed please contact them.

Committee Reports -

Discipleship - Worship Wanderers are continuing throughout the summer, Lynn has been taking the lead with the summer times. It continues to be a success. Polly suggested creating an Amazon wish list to ask for help with supplies for VBS and Worship Wanderers. Lynn mentioned they will be organizing the materials downstairs in preparation for VBS. There will be Wednesday night s'mores nights starting June 24th with worship and games to stay in touch with the LOGOS students over the summer.

Worship & Music - Did not meet last month.

Property - We have had a generous donation to install an accessible door to the church. Plans are being created to be approved. The previous quote has expired and a new one will need to be ordered. There has also been mention of a donation for purchasing a new stove. Sara will get Polly quotes for options.

Stewardship - Brainstorming ideas to bring new members into the church. There are a lot of small ideas that continue to bring new faces into the church. Our goal is to help people remember we are here and be a safe and inviting space. There is an idea of a puzzle piece fundraiser - "you are a piece of the puzzle." Also discussed a scrabble option to buy a tile with a specified amount.

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		

WELCA - No report shared. Not meeting during the summer. Current balance in WELCA account \$1,156.73.

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

Unfinished business -

Lawn Maintenance - Jaime will be handling the lawn mowing for the remainder of the season. Thank you to all those who continue to help with maintenance on our lawn and gardens.

June 19th Planning - Pastor Sarah, Tim, and Polly have the event planned. Setup begins at 2:00pm. There will be yard games, hot dogs, chips, and juice. Event runs 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

July 4th Planning - Vicky has made ice cream sandwiches to sell at Pilgrim Lutheran during the parade. Sara will bring the freezer to Pilgrim and bring it back home. Polly has made a banner and Paul is working on a Venmo/PayPal option.

Farewell for Sister Gretchen - July 26th - plans are in the works!

New business -

Visioning Exercise - What is our purpose and calling? There are sheets posted around with questions - What do you want Zion to continue? What are Zion's strengths? What is your vision for Zion's future? What should we consider changing or letting go of? What are your suggestions for fundraising? Anyone and everyone are welcome to write their answer!

Motion to adjourn at 7:25pm by Vicky, second by Paul. Motion carried.

Closing Prayer.

Meeting schedule -

July 16th, 2026 - 6:00pm

Minutes prepared by Sara Schubert McKone, Secretary



Joint ELCA worship
SUNDAY, August 16, 10am
Worship
Barker's Island Pavilion
333 Marina Drive

Join us for our annual Summer Joint Worship Service with the other ELCA congregations in town on Sunday, August 16th, 10am, at Barker's Island Pavilion.

After worship stick around for a potluck in the park as we share in faith and fellowship together on the shores of Superior. Zion will provide the main part of the meal and the other congregations will bring side dishes and desserts to share. Don't forget to bring a chair to sit in.

In case of inclement weather, we'll gather at here at Zion. See you there!

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: Jan Arena, Tammy Brink, Vicky Holm, Barry Kilner, Donna Meltz, Tom Nykanen, Gail Saari, Barclay Stamey, 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. And the Superior Sister Cities group traveling to Japan; Stephanie Becken, Tanner Becken, & Abigail McKone.

Prayers of Comfort:

Those homebound or in long term care: Dennis Lien, Jerry and Marilee Parenteau, and Karen Regenfuss & family. For the families of Mary Hickman & Donna Meltz with the passing of their sister Alyce Lenzen.

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.)



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.

AUGUST LAY MINISTRY 2026

READER		COUNTERS	
Aug 2	Aine Merrill	Aug 2	Linda Brow, Carol Peterson
Aug 9	Polly Lohman	Aug 9	Polly Lohman, Ken Mertz
Aug 16		Aug 16	Donna Meltz, Aine Merrill
Aug 23	Michele & Claire Conlan	Aug 23	Paul Freer, Beth Arnson
Aug 30	Aine Merrill	Aug 30	Eve Bagan, Polly Lohman
MINISTER ASSISTANT		GREETER	
Aug 2	Anthony Anderson	Aug 2	Paul Robinson
Aug 9	Rusty Mehlberg	Aug 9	Mary Hickman
Aug 16		Aug 16	
Aug 23	Amanda Moore	Aug 23	Derek Goroski
Aug 30	Linda Moe	Aug 30	Steve Wong
USHERS			
Aug 2, 16 & 30 Donald Anderson			
Aug 9 & 23 Vicky Holm			
TECHNICAL		ALTAR GUILD	
Tim Ingersoll & Zaydrian Goroski		Margaret Sundet	
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			

AUGUST 2026

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Aug 3 Jeremy & Rachael Lackner
Aug 3 Zaydrian Goroski
Aug 4 Connie Jackson
Aug 5 Mary Jo Bartylla
Aug 6 Zachary Dittbrender
Aug 6 Kelly & Saranae Thimm
Aug 7 Les Neubauer
Aug 12 Kay Warner
Aug 13 Kate Ingersoll
Aug 13 Mary Nykanen

Aug 14 Cory & Stephanie Johnson
Aug 15 Carter Johnson
Aug 17 Brad Haugen
Aug 19 Gary Dunning
Aug 19 Juston & Amy Adrihan
Aug 19 Russell & Marsha Checchin
Aug 21 Christel Lewis
Aug 22 Lexi Hanson
Aug 23 Kendra Lohman
Aug 25 Craig & April Larson
Aug 25 Knute & Nancy Pedersen
Aug 28 Polly Lohman

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee Fellowship 5:30pm First Sunday Suppers @ Pilgrim	3 9am-noon VBS 7pm AA Mtg	4 9am-noon VBS 5-7pm National Night Out @ Zion 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	5 9am-noon VBS	6 9am-noon VBS	7	8
9 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee Fellowship Donations accepted for EAST END DAYS	10 7pm AA Mtg	11 7am—8pm Voting 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	12 3:30pm Worship & Music	13 1pm Superior Stitchers	14	15 8am—2pm EAST END DAYS Rummage Sale
16 NO WORSHIP AT ZION 10am Joint ELCA worship at Barker's Island Pavilion	17 7pm AA Mtg	18 5pm Operations 7pm Al-Anon Mtg	19	20 5pm Stewardship 6pm Church Council	21	22 <i>Don't forget to pack some food to bring to church tomorrow for Food Shelf Sunday!</i>
23 Food Shelf Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee Fellowship	24 7pm AA Mtg	25 7pm Al-Anon Mtg 7pm Echoes of the Lake concert. Free will donation.	26	27 1pm Superior Stitchers 5pm Superior Churches (Chims) Meeting @ Zion	28	29
30 9am Adult Study 10am Worship & Worship Wanderers 11am Coffee Fellowship	31	Echoes of the Lake is a treble voices group singing repertoire that illuminates the experiences of women: from lullabies, to bluegrass hymns, to modern rallying cries and serene wonderments, Echoes' music reminds the audience of the mosaic of stories that make up the lives of women past and present. A group from the Arrowhead Chorale.				

Get the Scoop on Jesus!

*Zion Vacation Bible
School Aug. 3-6*

9am-12pm for children in
4K through 5th grade
Free-all are welcome!

Register online: zionsuperior.org



Questions? Call 715 398-3663 or email pastor@zionsuperior.org



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FREE FOOD:

Hot dogs, Root Beer Floats
Games and prizes for the kids
Operation Lifesaver, Parish Nurse

MEET AND CONNECT WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS
MEET OUR LOCAL FIREMEN AND POLICEMEN

Donations from: Culver's, A&W Restaurant, Kwik
Trip, Zion Lutheran Church

**Tuesday, August 4, 2026
5-7pm**

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
PARKING LOT
2022 East 2nd Street
Superior WI

Music by



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!



Donations
accepted for

**EAST
END
DAYS**

Rummage Sale

starts
**Sunday
August 9**

Join in Zion's Food Shelf Ministry

Through our food shelf ministry, we help feed individuals experiencing homelessness by providing single-serving food items that are easy to store, carry, and consume without access to a kitchen. These items offer immediate nourishment and support to those facing food insecurity in our community.

After hour and weekend food shelf assistance is very important to our food shelf mission.

We'd love for you to be part of something truly meaningful! Our Zion Food Shelf Team is more than just a group of volunteers – it's a family working together to share hope, kindness, and nourishment with our neighbors in need. Whether you can give a few hours a month or a regular weekly commitment, your time and heart can make a real difference. Come join us in serving our community and being the hands and feet of love in action!

Please contact Paul in the office if you are interested in being on the Team.

Make an impact – join our Zion Food Shelf Team! Help us share food, hope, and love with our neighbors in need. Every hand makes a difference – will yours be one of them?

Every 4th Sunday is Food Shelf Sunday!

Food Shelf Focus (nonperishable items please) (pop-top cans appreciated)

Applesauce . Brown rice . Canned foods, ravioli & pasta . Canned meat, tuna, chicken, SPAM & ham, Canned or dried fruit / Canned soups, stew & chili . Canned vegetables . Cereal . Cereal bars . Crackers . Granola bars . Instant mashed potatoes . Instant oatmeal . Jelly . Macaroni & cheese . Meals in a box . Hamburger Helper . Minute Rice . Pasta sauces . Pastas . Peanut butter, nut butters . Shelf-Stable milk OR powdered milk . Water, bottled or canned . Whole grain cereal . Whole grain pasta

Bar soap and body wash . Dental Floss . Deodorant . Feminine hygiene products . Shampoo & conditioner . Toilet paper . Tooth brushes (no multi-packs) . Tooth paste . Water-based lotions

Please help us provide food for our neighbors and community!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
2022 East Second Street
Superior, WI 54880

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Tuesday, August 4
5-7 pm**

**Hot Dogs
Root Beer Floats
Games for Kids**

**The Trash Cats
Duluth's premier
acoustic cat rock duo**



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

NO WORSHIP @ ZION, SUNDAY, AUGUST 16.

Come and join in worship at Barker's Island, 10:00am
Potluck to follow. Please bring a chair to sit in.

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

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
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THE MESSENGER AUGUST 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??

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