



February Newsletter 2025

Zion Lutheran Church Zion News & Notes

Published monthly by the church office, newsletters include news of upcoming events, regular and special announcements, photos of current events, and other items of interest. Newsletter archives are available on our website:

www.zionlutheranNy.org

Circulation - 133

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Great (and clear) Expectations, by Pastor Marie Duquette

I have just come in from romping in the backyard with Nala, our black lab (mix) rescue. She is six years old and has never met a ball she could not catch. At the parsonage next to Zion, there is a shelter house in the backyard. Right now, the roof of that shelter is covered in 6"-8" of snow. I was playing catch with Nala using her favorite orange and blue hard rubber ball. I decided to throw it onto the sloped roof of the shelter, imagining the power of my pitch causing the snow on the pitch of the roof to cascade down, followed by the ball itself. I delighted in thinking that this would be a new, unexpected, challenge for Nala.

¹⁰For the land that you are about to enter to occupy is not like the land of Egypt...¹¹But the land that you are crossing over to occupy is a land of hills and valleys watered by rain from the sky, ¹²a land that the Lord your God looks after. The eyes of the Lord your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the end of the year.

—Deuteronomy 11: 10-12 NRSVUE

I threw the ball onto the roof, and it landed smack dab in the middle of the snow – and stayed there. Nala had watched its arc and looked at it longingly from below. I DID create a new, unexpected, challenge for Nala, one that will likely not be overcome until the spring thaw.

We all have expectations. We imagine how something will play out in our mind's eye. And when it happens just like we pictured it would, it's glorious! And when it doesn't happen the way we imagined it would, it's disappointing and puzzling. To continue to build the beloved community, we must communicate our expectations on an ongoing basis.

What expectations do you have of your new pastor and your covenant with one another? To continue this conversation that you began many months ago: here's what you can expect from me, for a few months anyway. Let's see how it works and review it after Easter.

Sunday: I alternate preaching & presiding at Zion and Trinity. Once Sunday morning worship and the fellowship events that follow are over, I'll be off until Monday morning.

Monday: Is my study day. I'll be reading and writing, answering communications, preparing and planning for upcoming events. I'll be doing this at Zion and at home.

Tuesday & Thursday - Herkimer, meeting with folks from Trinity and from the surrounding community.

Wednesdays & part of Saturday: I'll be in New Hartford/Utica, meeting with folks from Zion and in the surrounding community.

Friday is my day off. That gets me to about 36 hours, leaving a few hours for the unexpected.

I'm so happy to be with you all. Thank you for welcoming us to the Mohawk Valley.
– Pastor Marie

"Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear, or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity. – Henry Nouwen



February Announcements

The Annual Meeting will be held in the sanctuary after Coffee Hour on February 2nd.

Coffee Hour

Please join us for coffee hour every Sunday after the service. Please see the sign up sheet if you are interested in making coffee or cleaning up afterwards. You are welcome to bring food/snacks to Coffee Hour.

Worship & Music

Our next W & M meeting will be held on Monday, February 10th at 3 PM in the Fireside Room.

Zoom/YouTube Online Services

If you need help with our online services, please reach out to Isabel at any time during the service at: ZionLuthTechnologist@gmail.com. You can also use Zoom's chat option.

Walking With Friends

Zion's Walking Group will meet again Wednesdays at 3 PM in the Target wing at Sangertown. All are welcome - please join us! Text Kim with questions at 315-794-6233.

End-of-Year Statements

Please let Joni Pulliam know if you need a 2024 end-of-year statement. You can also call the office at 315-732-4110 or send us an email to office@zionluth.com.

Cook in:

We will be having a cook-in for Your Neighbors on March 16th! Look for more information in the March Newsletter. (Please see the sign up sheet!)

Book Group

Everyone is invited to join us for brunch and book group in the Fireside Room on Thursday, February 13th at 11 AM.

Fair Trade

If you haven't tried the organic *Love Buzz Coffee* yet and you like really good, dark, coffee, you might want to try this! This dark and velvety smooth coffee is bold and has intense notes of molasses, toasted marshmallow, and walnut!! It is available on Zion's Fair Trade Hutch in the Fireside Room.



We will once again continue our *Zion Souper Bowl* tradition with the 2025 Souper Bowl collection on Sunday February 9th! Please bring your cans of soup or monetary donation to the 10am service. If you would like to contribute but cannot attend the Sunday service, you can drop your cans off at Zion during the week.

A monetary donation can be sent in with your normal offering designated for "Souper Bowl" or "Food Bank". All soup donated will support local food ministries.

The 2024 event netted 392 cans. The donations were divided between the Morrow Warming Center and the Mid-Town Utica Community Center's Little Free Pantry on Scott Street.

Thanks for continuing to help tackle hunger in our community!



Ken Tompkins	2	Cheryl Edmiston	19
Matt LaFave	4	Ronna Kelly	19
Suzee Rowland	5	Jim Millbower	19
Judy Schmitt	7	Diana Inserra	26
Thomas Bender	10	Ted McCarthy	27
Annie Wadsworth-Grove	12	Joe Schmidt	27
Aviana Stevens	15	Jan Corn	28

Treasurer's Report

		Dec. 2024 Treasurer's Report		
	Dec-24	Year to Date	Budget	Over/Under Budget
Income				
Giving	\$ 13,443.00	\$ 153,765.61	\$ 153,500.00	\$ 265.61
Other Income	\$ 4,388.85	\$ 27,626.47	\$ 16,708.00	\$ 10,918.47
Total Income	\$ 17,831.85	\$ 181,392.08	\$ 170,208.00	\$ 11,184.08
Total Expense	\$ 16,586.15	\$ 173,114.12	\$ 170,208.00	\$ 2,906.12
Net Income	\$ 1,245.70	\$ 8,277.96	\$ -	\$ 8,277.96

FEBRUARY WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE

Date:	Worship Asst.	Pastor	Greeters	Ushers
Feb. 2	John Blackburn	Pr. Marie Duquette	Karen Toepp & Janet Bagnall	Deb Murdock & Doreen Nicholls
Feb. 9	Mark Thompson	Pr. Rick Klafehn	Jan Corn	
Feb. 16	Wendy Stevens	Pr. Marie Duquette		
Feb. 23	Joe Schmidt	Rev. Jennifer DeWeerth		

Notes of Gratitude & Other Communications

I'd like to thank both the call committee and the Zion council for the hard work they have put in the last several months, to consider me, interview me, prepare the parsonage for us, and help us accept the call to serve as your next pastor. I know that it was a lot to do, especially during the holidays, in the winter, from a distance. We are thrilled to be with you. And I am grateful to be here to walk with you through the living of these days. —Pastor Marie

You can listen to Pastor Marie's sermons by visiting:

YouTube@MarieDuquette—Take Off Your Shoes With Rev. Marie Duquette



You can also listen to the podcasts at:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/take-off-your-shoes-podcast-by-marie-duquette/id1486318454>

Special thanks to Laurel McCurdy & Wendy Stevens for taking the time to edit our 2024 Annual Report! It is very helpful having extra sets of eyes and I really appreciate the time they spent this year. —Sara

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ZION MEMBERS

Happy New Year wishes to all Zion members from Helga and Harry Morrison! We're beginning a new adventure in our lives. By mid February we will be moving to South Carolina. We're looking forward to downsizing, being closer to family, warmer weather, and the new challenges God has in store for us.

We have been blessed to be part of the Zion family for 60+ years. We have made lifelong friendships, have grown in the love of our Lord, and treasure so many memories in our hearts. We give thanks for all of you. Our new address will be: Harry and Helga Morrison, 536 Bonifay Drive, Fountain Inn, SC 29644

Zion Food Ministry

PLEASE NOTE: The redemption center requests that we separate our glass bottles from the plastic and keep them separate. Cans & plastic bottles should be bagged together, but please put glass bottles in a separate bag. Our last cans & bottles collection raised \$25.45 for our local food pantries. **Thank you!**

FOOD PANTRIES: for the first quarter of this year- January-March, our congregation's food donations & bottle/can donations will be going to Veterans Outreach at the Utica Center for Development at 756 Washington Street. Food items on their wish list: canned soups, vegetables, stews, tuna fish, peanut butter, jelly, rice, pasta, juices, and water. Non-food items on their wish list: any personal hygiene products such as deodorants, soaps, shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bandaids, feminine hygiene products, incontinence products, toilet paper; any household cleaning products such as paper towels, detergents, and floor cleaners. They also accept used or new household items such as small appliances, kitchen utensils, pots & pans, some furniture, and medical items such as walkers & canes. For any questions, our contact is Edward Bachmann: 315-765-0975—ask for Food Pantry/Donations.



Christmas Greetings from Germany

Since 2015, we have enjoyed communications with the congregation of St. Oswald's Lutheran Church ("Oswaldkirche"), Weilimdorf, Germany. Zion's founder, the Rev. Andrew Wetzel, was baptized and confirmed in this church. Built in the 15th century, the church is a venerable Weilimdorf landmark.

Edeltraud John, St. Oswald's historian, sent us these photos of her church at Christmas. In return, Zion emailed pictures from our celebration "across the pond."



Christmas Greetings from Germany



January, 2025 Memories



Thank you to Laurel McCurdy and Jeanne Gymburch for all their efforts in Zion's Food Ministry! Picture right on January 8th.



January, 2025 Memories

Thank you to everyone who stayed for a special coffee hour on January 5th after we welcomed Pastor Marie to the sanctuary to lead her first church service at Zion.

Thank you to everyone who brought food to share and to Jeanne Gymburch for taking the photos.



Events

Women of Faith Upcoming Events

All women are invited to meet at Zion on Saturday, March 8th (snow date March 15th) at 10 AM. Zion will provide drinks and snacks, followed by a program by Our Saviour about women and the church.

Please let Sara Silva know if you would like to be on our Women of Faith Emailing list.



**We celebrated January birthdays and discussed Savannah Guthrie's Book:
"Mostly What God Does."**

**We'll continue the discussion with brunch on Thursday February 13th at
11:00 AM in the Fireside Room. Please join us!**



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Zion Lutheran Church, New Hartford, NY

*The mission of Zion Lutheran Church is to prayerfully
discern God's call to help people
to become more fully devoted followers of Christ.*

