

THE GUIDING LIGHT

JANUARY 2026

Celebrating God as We Serve Others



Monthly Newsletter

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Every Sunday 10:00 am Worship & Sunday school
Third Sunday 10:00 am Living Stones Worship
Second Sunday 10:00 am Sunday School

All Sunday morning services are available on Cogeco TV on Sunday mornings as well as our YouTube page and after the service on the Facebook page. YouTube (live streamed), Zion Lutheran Pembroke Facebook, Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke, Cogeco: community channel and broadcasts of previous week's service.



From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor's Musings: **An Ecstatic Epiphany!**

Epiphany follows immediately after the 12 days of Christmas. The word *epiphany* means “revelation” or “showing forth” or “manifestation.” During Epiphany we observe the manifestation of God in Christ to all the nations of the world. God has appeared. God is revealed to the Wise Men as the child Jesus, and later as an adult when he is baptized, anointed with the Holy Spirit and called God’s beloved Son. The Season of Epiphany runs from January 6 to Ash Wednesday, February 17. During Epiphany we reflect upon being children of light.

This time in the Church is also about how God’s glory is revealed in Christ, and this is particularly so on the final Sunday in Epiphany Season which is always celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. This amazing event is about Jesus’ journey to the mountaintop with four of his disciples where he is transfigured before them, revealing again God’s glory and his identity as God’s Son as it is once more proclaimed from the heavens.



From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

(Pastor's Musings: An Ecstatic Epiphany! Cont'd)

So as we continue on this journey through the Season of Epiphany, what are your "Aha" moments? When do you experience a revelation of God? In the gospel stories, these events typically happen in ordinary settings with ordinary people, not necessarily with religious leaders in a place of worship. I encourage you to continue to be open to God's revelation **to you wherever you are!**

The other thing to note with these revelations of Jesus is that it changes those who experience it. So again, I encourage you to reflect upon how your experiences of God's revelations have changed you. Or maybe consider also how epiphanies for others have transformed their lives.

During this time of pandemic with its constantly changing ways of living and interacting, one thing I am constantly marveling at is how God continues to reveal God's presence and activity, especially in the simple and ordinary things of life. As 2026 unfolds, even with the unexpected things that happen....God is at work. God is in control. And God is all about surprising us and revealing God to us. And just maybe, like the Wise Men who were warned in a dream to avoid the dangers of the current political power and returned home by another way, we too may find our ways being changed and having to readjust our plans. But we too will find our way home, as God continues to lead and guide us. I look forward to hearing about your Ecstatic Epiphanic Experiences!

- Pastor Scott



STARRY STARRY NIGHT AN EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY JANUARY 4 2025 at 4:00 PM

Light refreshments following worship

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

454 MILLER STREET PEMBROKE

613-732-8792

The Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican churches are invited to gather for an Epiphany worship service.



Food Crafts Story Games Fun. Free!

Join us

**The first Monday
every month.**

We begin each night with a meal at 530pm.

**Next Date:
Monday January 5th
2026**

**Come for an evening of so much FUN!
Bring a friend!**

All ages from 1 month to 110 are welcome!





Zion Lutheran Women

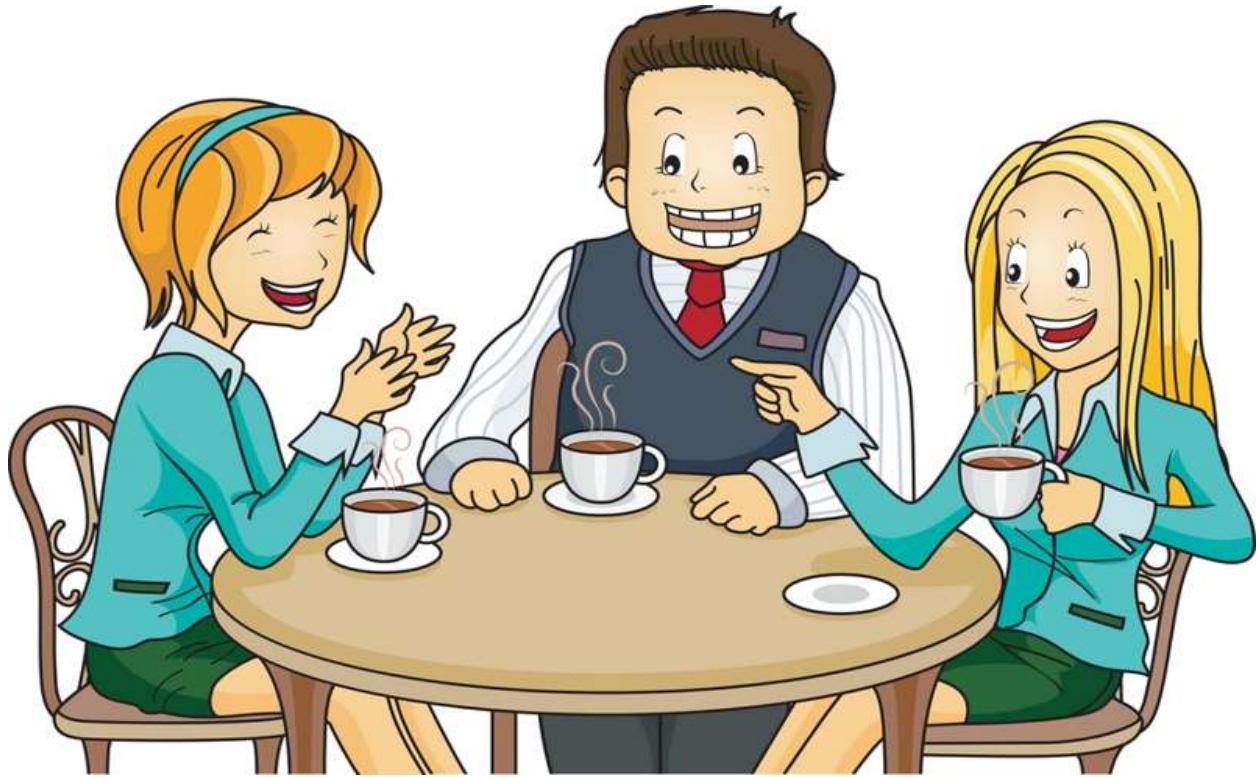
Please join us on

Wed. January 7, 2026

At 2:30 pm

*For our
Epiphany Service*

Morning Social Gatherings



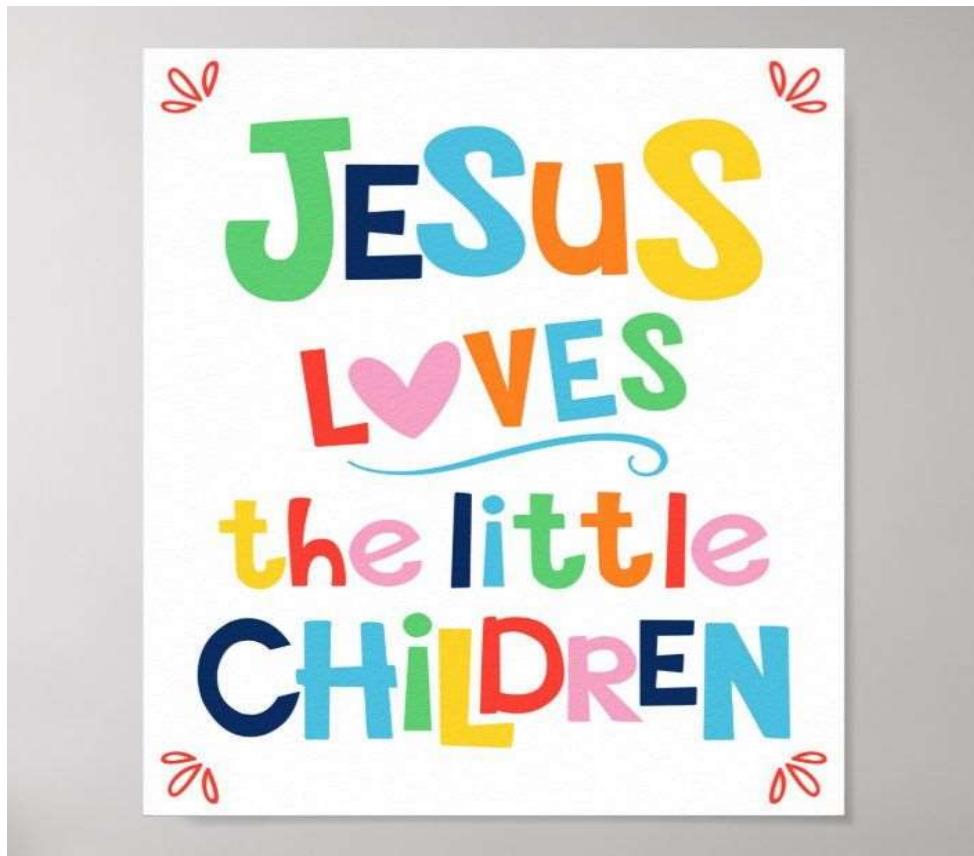
Are you looking to spend some time having coffee, tea and goodies while sharing conversation with others?

Wednesday January 14th
At 10:00 am

You need not be a member of Zion.
Everyone is welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW FORMAT ANNOUNCEMENT



**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND
WEEK OF THE MONTH DURING WORSHIP AT
10:00AM.**

**IT WILL NOT HAPPEN ON OTHER SUNDAYS. BRING
YOUR CHILD OR GRANDCHILD FOR SOME FUN!**

JANUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

STARRY STARRY NIGHT - AN EPIPHANY CELEBRATION At Zion Lutheran Church on **Sunday January 4th 2025 at 4:00 pm.** The Ottawa Valley Lutheran and Anglican churches will be gathering for an epiphany worship service.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS Senior Exercise classes will resume **Monday January 5th, Wednesday January 7th and Friday January 9th. at 1:00 pm.** Please make sure to tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you!

MIRAMICHI LODGE WORSHIP SERVICE is scheduled for **Tuesday January 6th at 10:30 am.**

MIXED & MENS CHOIRS will resume in January – Men’s Choir on **Tuesday January 6th at 7:00 pm** and the Mixed Choir on **Wednesday January 7th at 7:00 pm.**

ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN Please join us for our next meeting of the ZLW meeting on **Wednesday January 7th at 2:30 pm**, for The Epiphany Service.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The next Confirmation classes will be on **Wednesday January 7th, 14th and 28th at 6:15 pm.**
(Mark your calendar -Wednesday January 21st will be a skate party at Pastor Scotts House)

PASTORAL CARE MEETING The Pastoral Care meeting will be on **Monday January 12th at 10:00 am.**

STAFF MEETING will be on Wednesday January 14th at 12:00.

MORNING SOCIAL We will be having one Morning Social in **January** on **Wednesday the 14th at 10 am.** We looking forward to seeing you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will be on will be on **Sunday January 11th at 10:00 am.** All children are welcome!

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Worship and Music will meet on **Monday February 2nd at 7:00 pm.**

COUNCIL MEETING

The next Council meeting will be on **Tuesday January 13th at 7:00 pm.**

SENIORS EXERCISE CLASSES

Please join us every **Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 1:00 pm.** in the Parish Hall. Be Sure to Bring a Friend!

PLEASE NOTE: ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Council reminds and requests all committee chairpersons of their annual reports submissions for 2026.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Is in need of candidates to join church council. Please speak to any council person for more info. If you are interested you would be elected or appointed at the annual meeting in February and your term would begin in March.

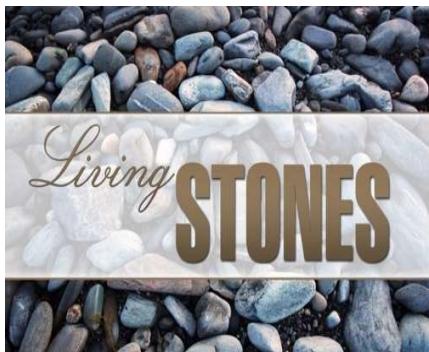
HOME COMMUNIONS and HOME VISITS

Do you or do you know someone who may be interested in receiving Holy Communion or a visit from the Pastor? Some people may not be on our pastoral care list but cannot get to church.

Please contact the church office at 613-732-8792 or email the Pastor at sschellenberger@hotmail.com.

LIVING STONES WORSHIP SERVICE

The Living Stones Worship service is a service that is interactive and led by members of the congregation who play guitar and sing. It happens in the gym on the **3rd Sunday of the month at 10:00 am**. Our next Living Stones service is Sunday January 18th at 10:00 am in the parish hall.



CHOIR PRACTICES

Mixed & Men's choirs will resume in January – Men's Choir on **Tuesday January 6th at 7:00 pm** and the Mixed Choir on **Wednesday January 7th at 7:00 pm.**



MORNING SOCIAL

Join us for our Morning Socials on **Wednesday, January 14th at 10:00 am** in the Parish Hall! Come on out for fun and fellowship. Pull up a chair, grab a coffee (or tea) and a snack, and enjoy the company! Bring a friend!

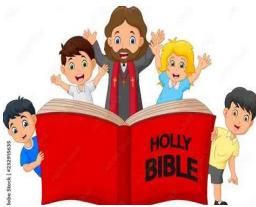


PULSE MINISTRY

PULSE MINISTRY consists of three different programs. Every generation is invited to worship and to Messy Church: Messy Church, Youth Group, and worship. The worship Service is called “Living Stones”.

Messy Church

Messy Church is a program that runs the first Monday of every month 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. We gather for a meal at 5:30 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm...just in time to hop into bed when you get home! There will be delicious food, snacks, games, and so much more. This year try bringing a friend, because all are welcome. Messy Church will be on **Monday January 5th at 5:30 pm.**



Sunday School

The format for Sunday School has changed - Sunday School will be held the second Sunday of every month during regular worship at 10:00 am. Sunday School in January will be on **Sunday January 11th at 10:00 am.** All children are welcome!



Confirmation 2025-2026

This year we will be studying Lutheran History and Catechism. Classes begin on Wednesday nights at 6:15pm at the church. **Field trips** will be to a funeral home, the Grind, the Foodbank, and other places. We will participate in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk on Feb 28. In February youth will **assist with cleanup at Soup and Sandwich Dinners** during Lent.

Confirmation Camp is July 5-10 2026. Children are expected to attend this camp. The cost is \$350 per camper. Zion will be giving each child \$100 to lower the cost to \$250. At camp several churches gather to teach lessons based on curriculum and to have fun!

Lessons

Jan 7	Lesson 8 Apostles' Creed, Article 1
Jan 14	Lesson 9 Apostles' Creed, Article 2
Jan 21	Skating Party – Pastor Scott's
Jan 28	Lesson 10 Apostles' Creed, Article 3
Feb 4	Lesson 11 Lord's Prayer

Feb 11 Field Trip to the Grind
Feb 18 Attend Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
Feb 25 Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
Feb 28 Coldest Night of the Year Walk
Mar 4 Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
Mar 11 Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
Mar 18 Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
March 25 Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
April 1 No Class
April 3 Good Friday Readers
April 5 Attend Easter Service with Parents
April 8 No Class
April 15 Pizza Party, Karaoke and Sports Night
April 22 Lessons 12 Holy Baptism
April 29 Lesson 13 Holy Communion
May 6
May 13 Lesson 14 Confession and Forgiveness
May 20 Lesson 15 Daily Prayers
May 27
June 3
June 13 Pool Party
June 24
July 5-10 Confirmation Camp



Pulse Youth Group

Youth Group happens on two **Friday Night of the month beginning at 6:30 pm**. Sometimes we will do some off-site events. There may be costs for these events but normally there is no cost. All friends are welcome. Stay tuned for upcoming events!

Celebrating God as We Serve Others

Zion Lutheran Church Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

December 09, 2025 @ 7 PM

Call to order:

Present: Pr. Scott Schellenberger, Pr. Sue Neville, Terry Hoffman, Tiffany Freeman, Denise Schizkoske, Brent Wolfgram, Gerry Vandersleen (Treasurer)

Excused / Absent: Lisa Campitelli, Jamie MacKinnon

Opening Devotions: Pr. Scott

1: Approval of agenda: Moved: Brent / Seconded: Denise

2: Approval of minutes of last meeting: Moved: Denise / Seconded: Tiffany

3: Business arising from the minutes. None.

4: Correspondence

- A. Thank you received from the Pembroke Horticulture Society along with a \$60 donation to the church.
- B. Patricia Wegner and Susan Dupuis have volunteered to join the Church Council beginning in 2026.
- C. Correspondence received from Kathy Godin expressing her support for the continuation of the Living Stones services. She feels that the service has brought more connection, engagement, and growth to the church, and that it plays an important role in our faith journey.

5: REPORTS

A- Chairs Report: Nothing to report.

B- Pastors Report: Retirement home services and communion ongoing, and are being well received.

C- Treasurer's Report: Financial reports prepared and presented by Gerry. Regular offerings are up slightly, however there still remains a current budget deficit of \$17663.07.

6: Committee Reports

A. Property: Xmas trees are to be put up in the Sanctuary on December 10.

B. Worship and Music:

- December 14: Candles and Carols Service at 4:00 PM.
- December 21: Christmas Program and potluck dinner.
- January 4: Afternoon Epiphany Service. Invitations sent out to area churches.

- C. Social Ministry: Nothing to report.
- D. Pulse Ministry: Nothing to report.
- E. Learning: Nothing to report.
- F. Pastoral Care: Positive feedback received on visitations.
- G. Social Ministry: Nothing to report.
- H. Cemetery: Nothing to report.
- I. Personnel: Committee has been suspended.

7: Old Business: None

8: New Business:

- 1) A draft budget for 2026 that was prepared by the Finance Committee was reviewed at length, and member comments and suggestions incorporated. The draft budget will be reviewed and revised as necessary early in the new year, and prior to presentation at the AGM.

9: Next meeting date: January 13, 2026

Motion to Adjourn: Moved: Denise / Seconded: Tiffany

W & M Meeting Minutes - Monday, December 1, 2025

Celebrating God As We Serve Others

Present: Pastor Scott, Gayle Seegmiller, Koit Rull, Lorraine MacKenzie, Diane Hammel, Joan Lehman

Regrets: Blaine Sack, Ellen Vandersleen, Sandra Graham, Cheryl Sack

Welcome and Opening Devotions: Gayle welcomed everyone and Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Addition of Licensing

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: Done on-line.

Committee Reports:

Pastor Scott:

Worship and Music:

- Canadian Advent candles were ordered this year.
- The Christ Candle for the wreath will need to be ordered next year.
- Candlelight Service candles were ordered last year.
- Traditional Advent Services in December are prepared with the exception of December 21st.
- December 21st will be the participatory Christmas program.
- Christmas Eve Services are just about ready.
- On December 14th, Candles and Carols will be held again. This is an opportunity to sing favourite carols and learn a little bit of the history behind them. Since Blaine cannot attend, the organist from Ladysmith-Schwartz will be playing. She will also be bringing her fiddle. A stipend should be given to her. The committee agreed on \$75.00.

Blended Service:

I have thought long and hard about this service.

- Due to many factors the Blended Service will no longer happen.
- The result of the decision to cancel blended services altogether is that out of 63 services in a year, 6 will be Living Stones Services. Many months the services in the Parish Hall are cancelled due to the liturgical year schedule or the picnic.
- Attendance at the Blended Service on November 16th was lower than the average weekly attendance and lower than when two individual services are separate and numbers added together.

- There will be 6 Living Stones Services in 2026. If people think that not having the Living Stones Service will translate to all those members who normally worship at the Living Stones Service moving to the sanctuary they are wrong. The primary important factor in all of this is that people are worshipping God wherever they are, the sanctuary or the fellowship hall.

Blaine Sack: Church Musician

Instruments:

Organ:

- The organ will be tuned on Friday, December 5th.

Piano:

- The Yamaha grand piano in the sanctuary will be tuned on Monday, December 8th.
- The Baldwin grand piano on the stage in the Parish Hall is played less frequently. It has held its tune well and will not be serviced at this time.
- The humidifiers in the church will help increase (somewhat) the level of humidity during the cold, dry days of winter. This will help the instruments by preventing the wood from drying out and/or cracking and also help keep the instruments in tune longer.

Choirs/Guest musicians:

- December 7th (Advent 2) - Special music
- December 14th (Advent 3) - Men's choir
- December 21st (Advent 4) - Potluck lunch following the Christmas Pageant. Special music will be played using the Baldwin grand piano in the Parish Hall.
- December 24th (Christmas Eve)

3:00 pm - Mixed Choir 7:00 pm - Men's Choir

- Guest soloist Kara Buelow-Fleck will share special music at one of the Christmas Eve services.
- December 28th - Guest soloist Maria Merredew will share special music.
- January 4th - Men's choir may possibly sing at a special afternoon Epiphany worship service.

Worship services:

Midweek morning quiet communion:

- Possible service at 10:30 am on Wednesday, December 10th with Christmas carols and songs (to be confirmed).

Hymn Sings:

- Possible “Carol Sing” before the Sunday service on December 28th (to be confirmed).

Blended Services:

- I look forward to celebrating these services more frequently in the sanctuary.
- A guitar accompaniment edition of the new All Creation Sings (ACS) supplement has been purchased for the Living Stones Band so more of the ‘contemporary’ songs can be learned and sung during blended worship.
- The ACS resource should be used more during special services. This is a request from the congregation.
- Hymns and songs from the ACS have been sung during regular worship services and hymn sings. They have also been shared as prelude/postlude and other special music during services.

Christmas Services:**Ushers:**

- There will be 4 ushers at both of the Christmas Eve services. Cheryl will arrange to have the collection plates passed during these services.

Worship Assistants:

- Lorraine reported that worship assistants for the Christmas services have been arranged.

Sextons:

- Koit confirmed that ushers have been arranged for the Christmas services.

Flowers and Candles:

- Sandra will order 2 large poinsettias. There are enough candles so none need to be purchased.

Nativity Scene:

- The nativity scene will be put out during the same week that the Christmas trees are put up.

Donations:

- A notice will be placed in the bulletin for those interested in making a Christmas donation.

Miscellaneous:

- Potluck on December 21st:
- Gayle will place a notice in the bulletin requesting volunteers to set up and clean up. She will also post a sign-up sheet for the potluck.

Licensing:

- Diane shared that both the CCLI and One License have been renewed.
- Funerals require special licensing to be live streamed. This is not a common practice at the church and is only considered in special circumstances. The committee discussed possibly creating a guideline which would include information about copyrights for hymns, volunteers needed, licensing fees, payment etc.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 2, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Worship Assistants

Jan 4: Lorraine MacKenzie
Jan 11: Ella Smith
Jan 18: Susan Dupuis
Jan 25: Ellen Vandersleen

Sexton

Jan 4: Koit Rull
Jan 11: Tyler Smith
Jan 18: Don Boldt
Jan 25: Hunter Denney

Counters

Jan 4: Susan Dupuis, Michael Laabs, Tiffany Freeman
Jan 11: Susan Dupuis, Michael Laabs, Tiffany Freeman
Jan 18: Susan Dupuis, Michael Laabs, Tiffany Freeman
Jan 25: Susan Dupuis, Michael Laabs, Tiffany Freeman

Ushers

Jan 4: Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Jan 11: Doug & Pauline Malliff
Jan 18: Stan & Debbie Sitkiewicz
Jan 25: Kevin Ritz, Ryan Parcher

Coffee Hour

Jan 4: Doug & Pauline Malliff
Jan 11: Peter & Patti Wegner
Jan 18: Stan & Debbie Sitkiewicz
Jan 25: Steve & Evelyn Boland

Altar Care

Jan 4: Sandra Graham
Jan 11: Maria Denney
Jan 18: Wendy Schutt
Jan 25: Kathy Godin

Projector Operators

Jan 4: Gerry Vandersleen
Jan 11: Diane Hammel
Jan 18: Sherri Phannenhour
Jan 25: Ellen Vandersleen

Video Recorders

Jan 4: Ellen Vandersleen
Jan 11: Ryan Schmidt
Jan 18: Zac Phannenhour
Jan 25: Korbin Smith

Sound Operators

Jan 4: Gerry Vandersleen
Jan 11: Noah Schmidt
Jan 18: Todd Phannenhour
Jan 25: Brian Smith

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4 10 am Worship Service & Holy Communion 4 pm Starry Starry Night Epiphany Service	5 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 5:30 pm Messy Church 7 pm Music Healing Vets	6 9:30 am & 6:30 pm - Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	7 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 2:30 pm ZLW - Epiphany Service 6:15 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	8 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	9 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class	10
11 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion and Sunday School	12 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 10:00 am Pastoral Care Mtg. 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	13 9:30 am & 6:30 pm - Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir 7 pm Council Meeting	14 10:00 am Morning Social 12:00 Staff Meeting 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 6:15 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	15 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	16 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class <i>Guiding Light Deadline</i>	17
18 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion & Living Stones Service	19 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	20 9:30 am & 6:30 pm - Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	21 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 6:15 pm Confirmation Class Skate Party 7 pm Mixed Choir	22 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	23 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class	24
25 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion	26 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	27 9:30 am & 6:30 pm - Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	28 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 6:15 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	29 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	30 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class	31