

VISION STATEMENT - Approved January 25, 2009

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18) At Zion Lutheran Church, Marinette, Wisconsin, we believe vision is about God’s dreams, desires, and aspirations of what can be. Our congregation envisions becoming a thriving, vibrant model of Lutheran ministry both within our community and the world. We envision organizing and executing God’s mission through our congregation in such a way that growing numbers of the unbaptized, particularly adults, will connect with Jesus through our congregation and inactive members will return to active participation within the church community.

God has gathered and richly gifted Zion for this mission. God’s greatest gift is that through the waters of Holy Baptism we become part of our Lord Jesus and as such, become his disciples, participating in what Jesus is doing in the world today. God has also given us the precious gift of one another in order that we support and help each other grow in our discipleship.

In light of the many unique gifts that God has graciously entrusted to Zion, we envision a congregation that:

- PRAYS** regularly and embraces prayer as being central to all that it does and habitually listens for God’s call and guidance, not only in all areas of congregational ministry, but in our personal lives as well.
- WORSHIPS** enthusiastically and is so hungry to praise and worship God that at least half of its baptized members are present for worship on a weekly basis.
- STUDIES** the Holy Scriptures and the principles of Christian faith in order to fulfill its great desire to learn more about its calling as disciples of Jesus and the gifts that God so graciously provides. Families will regularly use materials provided for Bible study at home, and groups within the congregation will regularly gather to study the Scriptures and these principles.
- INVITES** others to participate in the life of the congregation by training its members to actively encourage those who are not connected with a congregation to participate in what Jesus is doing through Zion, warmly welcoming them and enthusiastically involving them in the mission work we do together as God’s children.
- ENCOURAGES** and supports its members and others in the community on their faith journeys by regularly organizing groups that will foster Christian fellowship. Zion will also continually grow in the types of caring ministries offered within the congregation.
- GIVES** generously of time, talents, and treasures for the work of Jesus in our community and around the world, and encourages others to be generous with their gifts as well.
- SERVES** by employing innovative ways to assist children and their families in our community as well as around the world.

This is God’s vision for Zion’s mission – God’s dream of what “going where Jesus leads” will look like within our congregation. “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here I am! Send me.’” (*Isaiah 6:8*)