

Zion News

Zion Lutheran Church

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2009

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BOXCAR

Mark your calendars. The Lutheran World Relief boxcar will be loaded on Saturday, October 10th. Our Sew-for-Mission group have been busy all year creating and boxing up goods to be sent overseas. We will again not be sending used clothing items. Zion's donations along with the other Wisconsin-Upper Michigan churches will be loaded from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Escanaba-Lake Superior loading area on 4th Avenue in Menominee, Michigan. William Tipple is coordinating this event. Volunteers are invited to help as we send off these gifts of time and effort to be used by people around the world.



Our Discipleship Together

Vision for Mission

The Seven Marks of Discipleship

- ✠ Pray**
- ✠ Worship**
- ✠ Study**
- ✠ Invite**
- ✠ Encourage**
- ✠ Give**
- ✠ Serve**

In my sermon on the last Sunday of August, I pondered what it would be like if the Pharisees and the Scribes got a hold of our Seven Marks of Discipleship, the skeleton around which Zion's Vision for Mission is built. I briefly laid out the checklist they would probably make of it: Pray daily, check; worship weekly, check; study the Bible daily, check; give 10%, check; etc. This was meant to illustrate how they missed the nature and purpose of disciplines within the faith. They saw them as a means of attaining self-righteousness and controlling their fate with God. Once making the checkmark on the checklist they could pat themselves on the back for fulfilling the "requirements," and could then parade themselves as examples of how it should be done.

The Seven Marks of Discipleship within our Vision for Mission are not intended to be this kind of checklist. First of all, we acknowledge that we are too sinful to ever be able to truthfully check something off of the list. Every time we engage in any of these activities there is always room for growth. Therefore, these marks are a guide for us. They help us to think about what our mission of going where Jesus leads should look like in daily life.

Our Vision for Mission took a number of years to create, pray over and polish. We finally officially approved it at our last Annual Meeting. It isn't perfect, but, as it says, we think it expresses what our mission statement should look like in the upcoming years. It has guided the work of our Missional Planning Group and now is shaping the agenda of our Council. In both of these groups, we keep the Vision Statement handy as a reminder of what we feel we are called to be doing. It helps us focus on what's most important.

This Statement can't be limited to the work done by these two groups. It needs to make its way into more areas of our life together as a congregation, because ultimately, it needs to make its way into our life as the church, the body of Christ, in our daily lives. Going where Jesus leads is not just the mission of Zion. It is our mission every day as children of God, and the Seven Marks of Discipleship can be a tremendous help in guiding that daily mission work. It is my hope to infuse these into more of what we do together as a congregation as a means of helping all of us in our discipleship.

Pastor Keith

Speaking of Mission Statements . . .

Have you seen the mission statement of the ELCA? It is, “God’s work; Our hands.” Certainly this statement goes hand in hand, (pun intended), with our own. Our mission as the church in daily life is all about doing what God is doing in daily life. God is active in the world and wants particularly to be active through us in all that we do. Maybe this could be a way of blending the two statements together: As God’s children, our hands are intended for God work, and we do this work by going where Jesus leads. (I know, too long and clunky, but hopefully you see the connection.)

Recently the ELCA challenged its congregations to come up with videos expressing this mission statement. There were quite a few entries and they great! You can check them out at: <http://www.godsworkeourhands.org> Or, look for the link on our website.

One of my favorites is on that features Peter Warmenen, pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Medford, WI. He is the son of Pastor Cy Warmenen, director of Fortune Lake Camp for many years. It can be seen at: <http://www.godsworkeourhands.org/v/155,saint-pauls-medford.html>

Pastor Keith

Zion’s Newsletter

The newsletter has been sorely missed since it was taken out of the budget in January. It has been an important communication tool within the congregation for many years and its loss has been difficult for some.

This loss has pushed us to examine our overall communication needs and opportunities within our congregation. Is the newsletter, as we produced and sent it out in the past, the best way to communicate with the congregation? We know that way too many of the newsletters were never read. Are there better ways and possibly less expensive ways of communicating within our congregation? These are just some of the questions that have been explored recently and we will continue to do so.

In the mean time, as we try to shift to a more web-based form of communication, we realize that not everyone in the congregation is or wants to be connected to the web. Our Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Rabideau, tried to talk to as many of our members as possible to find out just how connected they were. Well over half of our active membership has internet access and that number continues to grow. Therefore, as we make our switch from paper to electrons, a paper version of the newsletter will be available for those who want it while an electronic version will be emailed to households and will be posted on our website. Because a paper and snail-mailed version of the newsletter is not supported in our ’09 budget, we are asking that people “subscribe” to the newsletter for a minimal donation, and will either pick it up at worship the last Sunday of the month or will elect have it sent first class mail for an extra donation.

The times are changing and nowhere is this more evident, nor happening more quickly, than in the area of communication. (Notice how many newspapers are going bankrupt!) The transitions to whatever is to come will be awkward and difficult at times, but we will survive. The church and our congregation has endured these transitions before.

Pastor Keith

Zion's Website

Weekly, on the front cover of our bulletin, we “boast” about having a website. For a very long time, (years?), those who have visited our website have been sorely disappointed. It contained no calendar or up-to-date announcements. At best it contained very basic information about Zion. The structure held a lot of promise, but didn't deliver much. This now is in the process of changing.

If it has been a while since you've been to Zion's website, take another look. A calendar is now available and regular updates will be occurring. Some have already filled out the form asking for email alerts when information is updated on the site. Those alerts will be activated soon. Most articles will have the option of offering public comment. We hope that people will use this option in order to increase and deepen our conversations within Zion.

We are well overdue when it comes to using the internet as a primary communication tool. This needs to be an area of growth for Zion, and will be as the months and years unfold. People like to communicate and the principal tool for that communication with a growing number of people is the internet. We have a number of dreams for our website. We would love to hear your dreams as well. Please let us know.

Pastor Keith

BTW, Pastor has been Twittering since May. He would be honored to see members of Zion following his Tweets and would love to follow their Tweets as well.

Faith Fest

Faith Fest is the Christian education opportunity for our children, confirmation students and adults which meets on Wednesday evenings during the school year. The date for when it will begin this fall has not yet been set but it will be announced as soon as possible.

Pastor Keith

New Member Group

A new member group will begin meeting after worship on Sunday, October 18th. The classes will conclude by noon. (A bell rings to let us know when it's time to wrap it up!) This group will meet five times. The focus of our conversations will be the Seven Marks of Discipleship. This class is open to everyone; not just those who are planning to join Zion. It is a great opportunity to learn and discuss issues about our congregation and our faith. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, Nov. 22nd.

Pastor Keith

Book Discussion: "The Shack"

A recently published book, "The Shack," by William P. Young, has been on the best seller list for 66 weeks. It is a book that creatively delves into the nature of God as well as God's place and activity within the tragedies of life. Those who read it usually hunger for an opportunity to discuss it with others. We are organizing just such an opportunity here at Zion on Sunday, October 11th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The coffee will be on and snackage will be available. Bring your thoughts, your questions and your comments as well as an interested friend or two to what should be in interesting and enlightening discussion.

Pastor Keith

New Worship Time and Place

Well, the place isn't too different, but the time certainly is. Our **Thursday evening worship** services will continue to be held at **Northland Village** in their worship and recreation room. The service time will change to **6:00 p.m.** (The time was changed from 5:30 to 6:00 in order to accommodate a monthly gathering that takes place in the recreation room on Thursdays.) The services will still be done in conjunction with St. James and Our Savior's. At its last meeting, the Council decided to continue the Thursday worship services at the Village for the following reasons:

- *It is good outreach to the people who live at the Village and the surrounding community.
- *It connects us a little closer to one of our ministries.
- *It is important for Zion to be engaged in work together with our sisters and brothers at Our Savior's and St. James.
- *It offers more flexibility for scheduling meetings.
- *It offers a slightly fuller worship opportunity with having more people in attendance.
- *It saves on some heating costs.
- *The year-round continuity is helpful for worship participants.

The Council realizes that this change will be difficult and awkward for some, and will create some communication challenges, but it made the decision under the belief that this was an important change to make.

Pastor Keith

Minister of Music/Cantor

The Personnel Committee will be accepting applications for the position of Minister of Music/Cantor until Sept. 14th. This job is a three year position and is being funded by the “mission” portion of our capital campaign.

The Minister of Music shall be responsible for providing the best possible music for worship services and other church events. He/she shall seek to provide music leadership, including music education, for children through adults. We are looking for someone who will bring musical insights, gifts, and direction to Zion’s vision for mission. Specifically, we want a person who will empower and enhance the prayerful singing of the assembly, supporting the proclamation of the Gospel through music.

We are looking for a person of mature faith with a clear understanding of the role of music within worship. This person needs to be familiar with a wide variety of music styles and be able to facilitate the performance of these styles. Clarity regarding the difference between performance and worship is essential. This person must be able to lead congregational singing vocally. A person with good people skills is vital. Creativity and patience are also necessary in order to help the congregation grow in its singing confidence and repertoire. An instrumental background is preferred.

A job description and an application form can be downloaded from Zion’s website. They are also available from the church office by either stopping by Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 – 2:00, or calling the office in order to have them mailed.

The Personnel Committee

Update on Sundaes with Sarah / Directory Pictures

Thank you to everyone who has participated in having their picture taken for the church directory.

We are in the process of creating programs according to the needs of the congregation. There were many interesting new ideas along with bringing back some old traditions which have worked well for Zion in the past.

I am pleased to inform you of two more dates we have made available for pictures: Sunday, September 13th after the service and Monday, September 14th at Amanda Litts’ studio from 11:00 am until 7:00 pm. Amanda’s studio is located at 170 Pine Street in

Peshtigo. If you are interested please give me a call at 715-801-0150 or email me at mnvik_26@hotmail.com, I will be making phone calls to the families I haven't connected with yet.

Amanda has processed some of the photographs and they are displayed in an album on a table right outside the sanctuary along with an order form. If you are interested in ordering pictures, fill out the form and put it in Amanda's mailbox, which is found in the parish hall.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for me and I have enjoyed meeting the many families of Zion.

God Bless,
Sarah Rabideau
Volunteer Coordinator



Zion Lutheran Senior Choir

**Zion will begin choir on Thursday, September 10th
at 7:00 p.m. Our first performance will be
Sunday September 20th.**

Zion offers a babysitting service during choir as needed. We are especially in need of men (tenors and basses) this year and would like to encourage our young people or anyone to give us a try. Choir will be meeting in the fellowship hall. We sing twice a month based on special events in the church and availability of the choir members. For more information or questions please contact Ann Buscher at 735-3017.

Ann Buscher

Bishop's Review of Churchwide Assembly

If you would like to discuss with our Bishop some of the issues and decisions reached at our ELCA Churchwide Assembly, you will have an opportunity for that on **Monday, September 21st at Fortune Lake**. It will begin with refreshments at **6:30 pm** and will conclude at 8:30. This is an opportunity to get the latest information about the Assembly with emphasis on ministry recommendation and the sexuality social statement. It will also be a time to find out what is happening around our Synod. If you plan to attend please call the Synod office at 906-228-2300 or email them at npls@sglssynod.org by Sept. 15 to let them know that you are coming so that they can have enough space and food.

Summary of Zion Lutheran Church Missional Planning Minutes Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Pastor Keith called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at Zion and the group read its opening prayer. Those attending tried Dwelling in the Word using Luke 10:1-12. It was a very interesting process; truly listening to one another and then sharing what we heard from one another with the group at large.

The Vision Statement was read and it was suggested that it should be read prior to the opening prayer.

REPORT FROM SARAH AND AMANDA – WHAT ARE WE LEARNING

Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Rabideau developed a list of things that people attending the Sundaes with Sarah shared with her. This list was provided to the group and discussion centered on how we might be able to use some of the information gleaned for future programming possibilities.

Amanda Litts is setting up one more Sunday, September 13 after worship at Zion for picture taking as well as Monday, September 14th at her studio from 11 to 7. It is hoped many of those who haven't had their pictures taken will participate on one of those dates.

GOALS INTO PATHWAYS, AND PATHWAYS INTO ACTION STEPS

One of our goals is "By 2012, we anticipate God leading us to double Zion's ministry programs to children and their families within the congregation and community." We had hoped to create an after-school program at Zion but have since decided to support the DAR Boys and Girls Club simply because they already have a program existing. It's been decided that through our 2010 Stewardship Drive we will not only utilize funds to pay down our debt but we will also support DAR in the form of funds to purchase computers, pay for local scholarships and upgrade their playground. We also hope we can

provide them with volunteers to drive their van and help with their programs. Our document was updated to reflect the changes that needed to be made.

FUTURE AGENDA AND NEXT MEETING

At our next meeting October 6th we'll start to map out social activities which the congregation can participate in based on the information which Sarah provided to the group.

We adjourned at 8:30 pm. The meeting closed with the Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Sylvester
Communication Coordinator

Council Highlights

The Council met on August 17th and began the meeting with a discussion about a reading from Church Innovations regarding Dwelling in the Word. It was decided that the Council will begin its meetings with Dwelling in the Word starting at its next meeting.

Pastor reported that there has been a notable increase in worship attendance during the first six months of 2009. In 2007 the six month average was 129. In 2008 it was 127. In 2009 it was 135. Pastor also reported on vacation dates for 2009 and a study/planning retreat which he would be taking at Fortune Lake.

The Stewardship Committee presented a proposal outlining the 2010 Debt and DAR campaign. The Council decided to accept the campaign proposal which has a goal of raising approximately \$35,000, with 70% designated for reduction on loan principal, 10% tithe to Synod, and 30% to support the ministry of DAR in our community.

The Personnel Committee updated the Council on its progress with hiring a Minister of Music as well as reviews for staff members.

Pastor reported on progress and goals for Zion's website, newsletter and overall communication plan. There would be a newsletter available by Labor Day, and email along with the website would help with getting that newsletter out to the members. Also, the internet will be used more for getting information out to the congregation in a more timely manner.

Pastor reported on progress with the Nicodemus Project. The Synod will be seeking a grant once again to support the cost of hiring Church Innovations to guide the congregations within the Conference to explore and own our missional purpose within the community, along with how our congregations might support each other with that mission.

The Missional Planning Group, along with a written report from Sarah Rabideau, announced that eighty-three families were interviewed during Sundaes with Sarah as to what programs they would like to see started and would seriously consider participating in.

Sarah Rabideau called 28 households that were known to have attended Thursday evening worship. She received responses from 16. Of those 16, 13 stated that keeping the Thursday service at Northland Village beginning at its current time of 5:30 would be no problem. There were 3 very firm “no's”. One family stated they only attend Thursday evening services. If that service were held at Northland Village year round they would question their congregational connection. The other two households said “it just isn't church over there.” There were a number of reasons why the council felt the services should remain at Northland Village but the most critical was that this is an outreach to Northland Village. After lengthy discussion, the Council decided to continue Thursday evening worship services at Northland Village all year long. These services will be done in conjunction with St. James and Our Savior's.

Pastor Keith reported on feeling the need to take a sabbatical, possibly sometime next summer. This is a practice that is being strongly recommended by the Synod for all pastors, that they take a sabbatical approximately every five years. He is actively exploring ideas. The Council will be updated next month as he learns more.

Pastor Keith with Karen Sylvester

2009 Lutheran World Relief Dates

Lutheran World Relief Box Car loading is fast approaching and we at Zion need to get our act together for 2009. We had a successful loaded boxcar last year even without any used clothing. The Sew-for-Mission group has again stepped up and given us many world relief supplies to be shipped throughout the world.

We are always in need of more Sew-for-Mission volunteers. They meet every second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9 a.m. through 11 a.m. They always welcome extra helping hands.

This year Lutheran World Relief has a great need for the Health Kits. Monetary donations in the “Special Offering” envelopes for supplies is always helpful.

I am again asking for help to pack boxes from Zion Lutheran Church on **Tuesday, October 6th**, and again we will need 10-15 volunteers on **Saturday, October 10th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Please put these dates on your calendar and please mention to me if you are available.

Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Coordinator
Bill Tipple

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER 2009

<p><u>September 1</u> Karen Dill Jill Harding Braedhan Madden Thea Swenson</p> <p><u>September 2</u> Tom Kaufman</p> <p><u>September 3</u> Tami Bruce Ryan Kitzinger</p> <p><u>September 4</u> Diane Beattie</p> <p><u>September 5</u> Rollie Baumgarten Michael Cook, Jr.</p> <p><u>September 7</u> Alice Oleson Burce Oleson</p> <p><u>September 8</u> Joseph Bending Lara Dumke John Huff</p> <p><u>September 9</u> Wilbur Cook</p>	<p><u>September 10</u> Christian Klein Seth Kuhn Bradley Nelson</p> <p><u>September 12</u> Kathy Nelson George Olson</p> <p><u>September 13</u> Todd Minzlaff</p> <p><u>September 14</u> Joe Larson</p> <p><u>September 15</u> Anne Aschim Vicki Guay Darwin Peterson</p> <p><u>September 16</u> Jack Anderson Geraldine Brooks</p> <p><u>September 18</u> Mandy Corey Dolores Green</p> <p><u>September 20</u> Carla Clarke Amanda Oleson</p> <p><u>September 21</u> Donna Kempka</p>	<p><u>September 22</u> Haley Rabideau</p> <p><u>September 23</u> Larry Race Diane Tipple</p> <p><u>September 24</u> Hilma Backman Julie Otto</p> <p><u>September 25</u> Mary Lebick</p> <p><u>September 26</u> Dorothy Bretl Robert Hamer Daniel Johnson Kaya Lebick</p> <p><u>September 28</u> Jill Dzurick Amber Paasch</p> <p><u>September 29</u> Kathi Gutknecht Jordan Towle Brittany Williams</p> <p><u>September 30</u> Kurt Aschim Jay Nelson</p>
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