



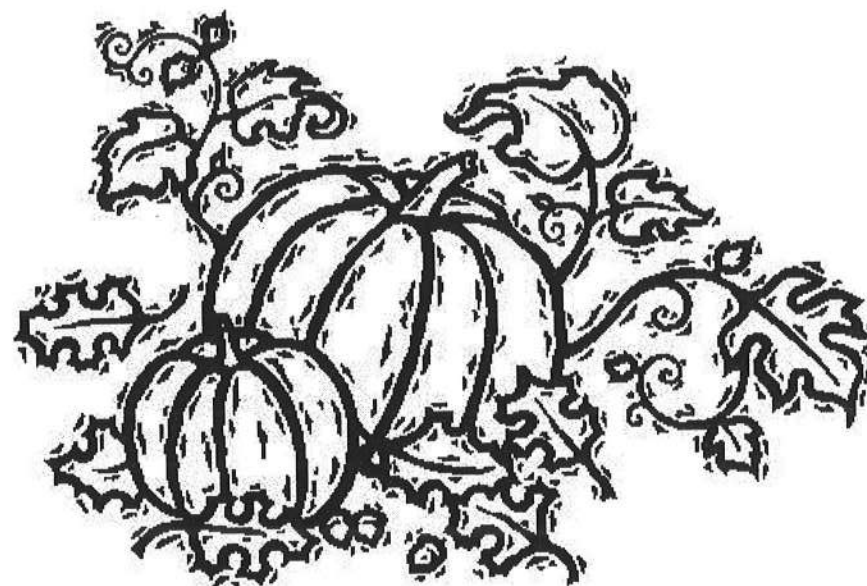
Zion Lutheran Church

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October

2013

**The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship**

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

✠Serve

Our Discipleship Together

Upon this Rock

"Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

"The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." (Psalm 118:22-23)

"My Jesus is a rock in a weary land: A shelter in a time of storm." (African American Spiritual)

This month we are thinking about rocks and how Jesus uses us as rocks to build his church; a body that the gates of hell cannot prevail against; his very own body. What is so amazing about these rocks is that each and every one of them is a cornerstone. Each and every one of them is precious in the eyes of the Lord. Each and every one has the most important place within his own body, the church. Each and every one has been richly blessed and entrusted with these blessings to be nothing less than God's very own love in the world. Yes, we are those rocks, those cornerstones; each and every one of us!

I like thinking about the spiritual, "Jesus is a rock," and how he is that shelter in a time of storm. The cynics are quick to ask exactly how he provides that shelter, and the answer is always "us." We are the ones that Jesus uses to be that shelter for others. Jesus uses our hearts, our minds, our arms and legs, our hugs and our hot dishes to be a support for others. Too often we are tempted to think that we don't have very much to offer, but this simply isn't true. We offer Christ in all that we say and do. We offer his love and care and when it comes to storms, there is no better place to be.

Please be sure to read the Stewardship Corner in this newsletter. It contains a marvelous story of how shelter is being offered. With you in Christ, our rock.

Pastor Keith

Cornerstone Sunday

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

Psalm 118:22-23

Stones. They are common and often unremarkable. And yet, we have been building with them for thousands of years because of their strong and enduring quality.

Jesus used the text from Psalm 118 to describe himself, a stone rejected becoming the chief cornerstone. The horror of the crucifixion became the world's chief cornerstone by which we were all saved.

This year, with our fall stewardship drive, we want to focus upon how the Lord uses each of us to build up one another and our community. We are the stones that God uses. Sometimes our blessings are taken for granted. Sometimes they are ignored or even rejected, but God has a way of using them to build up others and those in need within our community. God can make them chief cornerstones. How is God using you and the blessings that God has poured into your life?

This year there will be three (using stone imagery) facets to our fall stewardship drive. 1) We will be celebrating all that God has been doing in, with and through Zion over the years within a notebook display that will be passed from house to house. 2) There will be another "second mile" campaign, hopefully bringing to a close our indebtedness in 2014. 3) We will once again offer an opportunity for people to share a listing of their talents that they are or would be willing to have used as a part of Zion's ministry. Of course, as usual, we will also be collecting estimates of "first mile" giving for Zion's regular operational budget.

This drive will begin at the end of the month and will end with Cornerstone Sunday on November 3rd. Now is the time to prayerfully consider how God has used you as a cornerstone in the past and the fresh new ways that God may be calling you to grow in the future.

Council Meeting Summary_____

August attendance was up from 2012 from 107 to 121. Pastor Keith participated in a funeral held for George Garvin on August 10th. Pastor Keith's vacation schedule includes September 27-29 and November 14-20. He will attend the Synod Council on September 13 and 14 (his term ends in May), the Synod Stewardship Retreat on September 16 and 17 and the Synod Fall Clergy and Spouse Leadership Retreat from September 29 to October 1. A new membership group will begin on September 22.

The July and August reports from Karen Houdek were reviewed. John noted that for August, the Capital Campaign Fund balance is at \$16,890. This balance is sufficient to make 13+ monthly payments. Taking into account the current balance, the extra principal payments of \$600-\$700 per month, and the remaining loan balance, the loan may be paid off by the end of February. The Intern Fund balance decreased \$1,304 from \$974 to an overdraft of \$330. This was not yet covered by the General Fund as he is waiting to see if any contributions come in to cover it.

John also reported that Portico, the ELCA Benefit Service, who insures Pastor Keith/Karen has several new coverage plans to consider for 2014. Council approved funding for the Gold Plan, which matches the current coverage and would be \$1,481 per month as compared to the current \$1,343. Council also approved having the Personnel Committee make an annual recommendation for Pastor Keith and Karen's insurance plan beginning in 2015.

The Property Committee will be rewaxing the Fellowship Hall floor and extra help will be needed.

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Council Meeting Summary_____ (continued)

Information for the stewardship binder has been sent to Amanda, and the Time and Talents Booklet has been sent to Shawn Limberg for compilation. The Stewardship Committee is still in the process of finding couriers to deliver the binders.

The Harvest of Hope Garden has done well. Amanda has been delivering vegetables to St. Vincent's. About 150 families are fed each week through St. Vincents; the vegetables are very appreciated.

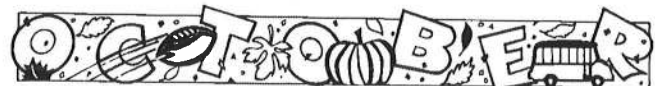
There have been 5 Services of Reflection since August 11; average attendance is 11 ½ people. Eight worshipers have no prior relationship with Zion. Those in attendance have shared that these services are reflective, meaningful, and part of a spiritual journey.

Council requested that Pastor Keith send the letter he shared as soon as possible to those members of Zion who have neither communed nor contributed funds since January 1, 2011. The letter will give them the opportunity to either reconnect with Zion or drop their membership.

The next Council meeting will be October 8, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Roxanne Bowdin/Recording Secretary

Fortune Lake Fall Fest_____

Will be held on Saturday, October 5 at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, 138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd., Crystal Falls, MI. They will be featuring the quilt and fine art auction at 11 (Central Time). Quilt Viewing and other activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. NO admission fee. Homemade breads, pies and smaller handcrafted items will be for sale.



Something to Think About - Is Zion Friendly? _____

I sit on several committees at Zion - -stewardship, evangelism, and Missional planning, and I am currently the Council President. I think I can say that all of these committees at one time or another has talked about how friendly Zion is, or questioned how we can make Zion friendlier. I've heard people time and again say, "Our church is so friendly," or "We're just like family." These statements couldn't be truer. The problem is we forget what some of our families are like.

Do you remember the first time, as a stranger, you went to a friend's family function, or perhaps the first time you met your fiancée's family or attended their family reunion? You walk in and everybody is talking to everybody else. They smile, they look at you, but they don't talk to you. They all know about weird cousin Dick who is always looking at women and making them feel uncomfortable. They know that if Aunt Eunice starts talking to you, she will keep you in conversation about her health problems for 10, if not 20, minutes at a time. They know who the braggart is. They know who has the best poker face, who tells the best jokes, and who never has anything good to say about anybody or anything. We know our families, they're normal. It's other people's families that are a bit, shall we say, unusual!

Well, church families are the same way. Some of us have been in the family longer than others, but the story is still the same. We have our little group, we feel comfortable with them; we usually sit with them. For the most part, we know what they like and don't like. We know what's going on in their life. They're just plain comfortable, like a pair of nicely worn shoes.

But what about that first-time visitor or even those people who give us a second or third chance to prove to them that we are a friendly congregation? If you were a stranger at Zion, how would you feel? It's hard for those of us who've been around awhile to know how strangers feel. So next Sunday, or the Sunday after that, sit in a chair in the lobby as people enter. When a visitor enters look at their expression.

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Something to Think About - Is Zion Friendly? continued)

Are they smiling, looking lost, or perhaps intimidated. Are they being warmly welcomed by the greeter and usher? Did you notice if they walked through the front door talking to someone who did not come with them? Follow them into the sanctuary, watch them and look around you. How many of the pews are taken because someone is sitting at the end of the pew blocking entry to it? Where will those visitors sit? Do they look confused or comfortable? Does anyone shake hands with them or talk to them as they enter? As they find a pew, does anyone sitting in front or behind them engage them in conversation? After worship, while standing in line to greet Pastor Keith and leave the sanctuary, does anyone shake their hand and talk to them, or is everyone too busy talking to those they know? The service is done and now it's time for coffee in the social hall. Where are the visitors? Is anyone talking to them as they approach the dessert and coffee table? Where are they going to sit? Is there a place open for them at your table? Do you invite them to join you? If they are already seated at a table, are they sitting by themselves? Do you join them or walk away?

I've visited congregations where I sat at a table by myself and no one, not one single person, came up to me and talked to me. I've sat at a table at Zion by myself and not a single person came up and talked to me. After I managed to drink my coffee and swallow my cookie, I left. I went to my car and I cried. I wanted to know what was wrong with me. Wasn't I dressed correctly? Maybe I didn't smile enough? Did they know that I wasn't a real Lutheran? Maybe they didn't want to know me at all. I truly felt terrible. I felt alone, very alone and the worse part was many knew me.

We need to do better. It breaks my heart when I see that visitors and even members are being ignored. I can tell you it is very off-putting especially if you come to worship and hope to find God's acceptance, love, and peace here. Each of us, and I include me in this, needs to realize that we are God's disciples. He works through us.

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Something to Think About - Is Zion Friendly? continued)

We need to be more welcoming than we are and here's why: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

I like to think of strangers as being angels ready to bless me in some way that I hadn't anticipated. And, I like to think that God can use me as an angel when I'm a stranger to others.
Let's all of us try to be angels.

In God's love and grace, Karen Sylvester

Thank You

Thank you to all the volunteers and patrons who supported our Zion Waterfront booth this year. A special thanks to Katy Bauer for organizing this event, which included getting permits, ordering food, supplies, and organizing the booth. Thanks to the helpers who hand-dipped 412 pieces of cheesecake for the sale. The profit this year was \$2,216.23.

So what will happen to that money?...

The first 10% will be a tithe. A meeting will be held soon for the youth to decide where the tithe will be used. Fifty percent of the remaining money will be set aside for the next ELCA Youth Gathering, and the remaining 50% will be available for current projects, and team building (FUN) activities!

Youth and parents, watch for details about a youth meeting coming up soon!

Thanks again to everyone for your support in this major youth fund raising project!

Nora Plym

Worship and Music

Liturgy

You may have noticed that even though we have the new cranberry hymnals (ELWs) in the pews, the missal (big book) on the altar is still the green one. Thanks to memorial money from the Diane Tipple family, we have purchased the new missal as well as the liturgy accompaniment book for the organist. The liturgy we use on the first and third Sunday is a green hymnal liturgy. This liturgy is in the cranberry hymnal as well, but with some small changes.

Some of these changes affect Pastor, some the organist, and some the congregation. For example: before and after the Gospel is read, the responses will always be spoken. Another change involves what we typically sing when the offering is brought forward. It is now a hymn rather than a part of the liturgical music, giving us the option of picking the ones we've done for years, or maybe another hymn. So, we are going to use that option during the month of October. In recognition of the theme of our stewardship drive, we will sing two verses of Built on a Rock. Another change involves dropping the song sung after communion.

For a few years, we have been practicing what may be the biggest change of all. Each time we have a baptism, you may have noticed that a few words are different in the Apostles' Creed than what we used in the green hymnal. That's it.

So, as soon as the organists are ready to deal with the layout changes in the new accompaniment book, we will implement these subtle changes to our worship service. We thought you'd want to know.

Choir

It is not too late to give us a try. We would love to see some new faces in choir. Young and old! We desperately need men and sopranos. It is ok if you cannot make every rehearsal or scheduled Sunday to sing. Please contact Ann Buscher at 715 735 3017.

Ann Buscher

The Stewardship Corner

Stewardship and money seem to go hand in hand, but stewardship is so much more than money. At its heart, stewardship is about soundly managing what God has entrusted to us. It's about using the skills and abilities God gives to each of us. It's about sharing God's love with others just as he gives his love to us. Certainly it's about supporting your congregation, but it's also about giving to the larger community.

Today I'm going to tell you about two women, Amanda Litts and Michelle Larson, and how their love for gardening has blossomed into so much more.

Amanda approached Zion's Council about starting a community garden in December 2010 and in May 2011, her dream, Zion's Harvest of Hope Community Garden, was born.

Amanda wanted to know more about gardening, so in 2012 she began and completed a Master Gardener's course. She knew volunteering was part of the program, but she also knew she already had enough volunteer hours in for the year. However, many of her classmates, including Michelle Larson, were concerned about getting their volunteer hours; so the third week into class, Amanda told all of her classmates about Zion's Harvest of Hope Community Garden. That's how she and Michelle started working together at Zion, and that is how Zion ended up having all those volunteers to cut down our trees and put up the garden fence.

Amanda had already been involved with the Volunteer Center in Marinette. Through that organization, she found out about Duby Park and their Guardian of the Garden project. The Duby Park Garden had been started two years earlier, but was in dire need of direction and desperately seeking a master gardener or two - Michelle and Amanda volunteered. Their helpers were children who had been assigned to community service through the court system. To give the kids a sense of ownership, the ladies let them pick out what they wanted to plant.

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The Stewardship Corner

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The kids picked out 17 different things and all of it had to fit into a 24' x 27' garden! That wasn't easy, but they did it.

Surprising to both Amanda and Michelle, the kids requested that their community service be at the garden. As the kids assigned to work in the garden come and go, the excitement level ebbs and tides, but all of the kids are very proud of their garden. Neither Amanda nor Michelle is sure why the kids are responding, but they are. The kids are not disrespectful or rude, but occasionally kids being kids will act out - they're learning. None of these kids has a good home life. They have no rules to live by and now they've been given some. Naturally, they will test those boundaries, but the kids now know that both Amanda and Michelle care for and about them. They still have issues with people in authority, but when they get to see them as real people those issues seem to diminish.

Michelle and Amanda learned early on that the kids they were working with were hungry when they came to the garden. They told me many of the kids don't have any food to eat. Learning this was a real eye opener for both ladies, and it was heartbreaking for me. Knowing this, they always make sure they bring food for the kids.

Needless to say, both women have formed relationships with some of these kids, something the kids really need. For the most part, these children are looking for attention and sometimes it's just easier getting into trouble than it is doing something positive.

Now, with the gardening seasons coming to a close, they've had to expand their service beyond the garden. The court obtained a project grant so a couple weeks ago, they purchased fleece and the kids made blankets and brought them to the Menominee Care Center. Michelle beamed as she said, "That day was amazing. Usually kids aged 11, 12, 13, and 14 are all about themselves, but that day they gave a blanket to this lady and her eyes lit up. She asked them for a hug, and all the kids gave her a hug. That was extraordinary!" Through this experience they've now seen what happens when they do something for someone else and receive nothing in return. It was a real revelation for all of them.

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The Stewardship Corner _____ (continued)

One of the kids has been done with his community service for well over two months, and yet he is still participating and now helping out at Zion's Harvest of Hope Community Garden as well. Another of the kids attended worship at Zion, and afterward all three worked in the garden for three hours. This child even posted pictures of Zion on Facebook and wrote that she felt changed because of her experience.

The kids are asking Amanda and Michelle why they go to church, and they are doing their level best to answer those questions in a loving and caring way. They are not there to preach, but they do try to guide the kids to help them grow into responsible and caring young adults.

This little project has really grown into so much more. Both Amanda and Michelle feel this has been the most rewarding thing they have ever done in their lives. If they can help one kid, their work has been successful. Michelle feels strongly that kids are not bad; they make bad decisions and they make bad choices, but they're not bad. They are, however, labeled and once labeled the kids wonder what they have to strive for. Amanda and Michelle regularly tell them to realize they are not bad; they can turn it around if they want to. They need to get through high school. They do have potential. For some of these kids, these are the first words of encouragement they have heard from an adult.

Now Amanda and Michelle are looking toward the winter months and how to keep the kids involved. They went into this with no expectations and have been rewarded beyond measure.

Amanda and Michelle are showing us how to be good stewards. While it hasn't been easy, they do share the skills and abilities God has given them, and they share the love and caring that God has for these kids. They both feel a deep sense of accomplishment in their work.

In God's love and peace, Karen Sylvester



Mark Your Calendars _____

Our annual Fall Harvest dinner honoring the senior members of our congregation who will be 75 years or older during this calendar year, along with their spouses. It will be held on **Sunday, November 3rd, following the 9:30 am worship.**

Lutheran World Relief Box Car _____

"How can we help with Lutheran World Relief Boxcar?"

By helping pack boxes from Zion Lutheran Church on **Tuesday morning, October 8th**. We will also need 10 volunteers on **Saturday, October 12th** from 9 am to 12 pm. Please put these dates on your calendar, and contact Bill Tipple in person or call him at 715.732.2318 if you can help.

Also, the Sew for Missions group is in need of monetary donations in the "Special Offering" envelopes, and even more importantly, with more volunteer hours at the Tuesday quilting days at church. Help with pinning quilts, tying quilts, sewing seams, and laying out new quilts. There is a great deal of material sitting around waiting to be quilted, but there are not enough hands to do the work to make extra quilts. By the way, Sew for Missions meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9 am to 11 am. This year volunteers can also take their sewing jobs home and complete the task at their leisure. Sew for Missions always welcomes extra helping hands, and at any level of ability.

Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Coordinator, Bill Tipple



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER 2013**October 1**

Bev Johnston

October 3Annette Anderson
Joyce Anderson
Carol Bohan
Steven Olsen**October 4**

Kathy Saxton

October 5

Pam Goes

October 6Alex Dzurick
Kathy Kitzinger
Laura Olsen
Tim Saxton**October 7**

Chad Francour

October 8Justin Schoen
Sandy Zylkowski**October 9**Tina Brooks
Anna Marzahl
Mitchell McFarlane**October 10**

Nila Krenos

October 11Nora Plym
Jesse Radloff**October 12**Brittany Kloida
Marlea Wienandt**October 13**Shelby Atwood
Lynn Francour**October 14**

Cheri Williams

October 15Gary Grom
Mark Swenson**October 16**

Alicia Gaudes

October 17

Megan Buenning

October 18

Charles Nord

October 19

William Beattie

October 20

John Heimbuch

October 21

Nicole Oleson

October 22David Despins
Kaitlyn Francour
Charles Zander**October 23**Kurt Breuer
Austin Trepanier**October 24**

Michael Peterson

October 26Carole Boerner
Sarah Rabideau**October 27**

Eunice Garant

October 28

Alex Cording

October 29

Brandon Laundree

October 30

Randy Schroeder

October 31Bryan Gutknecht
Laura Rowe**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER****Sunday, October 6, 2013**

Acolyte: Alexander Gressel

Lector: Bill Tipple

Greeter: Rick Larson

Head Usher: Nancy Benchley

Communion Assistants: Kathy Heimbuch (Pouring), Amanda Litts &
Barb Grom (Distributing the Host)

Coffee Time Sponsor: Available

AV Team: Justin Williams & Cheryl Maxwell

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Acolyte: Katelyn Sylvester

Lector: Jim Weissgerber

Greeters: Don & Jo Schutt

Head Usher: Nora Plym

Communion Assistant: Ellice DeBenedetto

Coffee Time Sponsor: Michelle LaFond

AV Team: Sarge Rudell & Kathy Heimbuch

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Acolyte: Brittany Kehoe

Lector: Heidi Beland

Greeter: Sue Baxter

Head Usher: Nora Plym

Communion Assistants: Pat Rondeau (Pouring), Karen Dill &
Karen Sylvester (Distributing the Host)

Coffee Time Sponsors: Youth Group

AV Team: Bill Tipple and Justin Williams

Sunday, October 27, 2013

Acolyte: Randall Schroeder

Lector: Don Otto

Greeter: Don Limberg

Head Usher: Pat Rondeau

Communion Assistants: Karen Sylvester (Pouring), Jacki Renne &
Nora Plym (Distributing the Host)

Coffee Time Sponsors: (Confirmation)

AV Team: Sarge Rudell and Gage/Drake Schutt

October 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6 pm Spark, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	3 10:30 am – 1pm Conf. Clergy Meeting At Northland 6 pm Worship at Northland	4	5 Fortune Lake Fall Festival
6 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am New Member Class 5pm Service of Reflection	7 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6-8 pm Ecumenical Bible Class	8 9-11:30 am Sew- for-Missions 6:30 pm Council Meeting (Conf. Faith Statements)	9 6 pm Spark, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 6 pm Worship at Northland	11	12 9 am – 12 noon Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Loading
13 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am New Member 5pm Service of Reflection 6 pm Cub Scouts	14 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission	15	16 6 pm Spark, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 6 pm Worship at Northland	18	19 Worship Workshop 5 pm Youth Fellowship Corn Maze
20 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am New Member Class 5pm Service of Reflection	21 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6-8 pm Ecumenical Bible Class	22 8-Noon Git-R-Done Group 9-11:30 am Sew-for-Missions	23 6 pm Spark, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 5 pm Men. Valley Conf Meeting at Northland 6 pm Worship at Northland	25	26 10 am 9 th Grade Confirmation Class
27 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am New Member Class 5pm Service of Reflection	28 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7 pm Sarah Group at Jo Schutt's	29	30 6 pm Spark, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 6 pm Worship at Northland Village		
Confirmation Sunday						