



Zion Lutheran Church

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2013

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

**A Community Thanksgiving dinner
will be held at Our Savior's Church**

on Thursday, November 28th,

from 11:00am-1:30pm.

Our Discipleship Together _____

Shelter in a Time of Storm

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

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

We will begin this month with Cornerstone Sunday, connecting it to the celebration of All Saints Sunday. This Sunday will signal the conclusion of our stewardship drive, and will offer us an important opportunity to (re)consider how it is that God has blessed each of us as a cornerstone within the body of Christ, also known as the church. We will bring stones forward during the offering that will symbolize the blessings we bring to the mission of Christ through the church; the strengths and the passions we carry as we bear the love of God to the world.

Too many times it is tempting to think that the only "legitimate" way of bearing the love of God to the world is through the institution of a congregation. Please fight this temptation with all your heart, soul and mind because it is so false. Yes, congregations do bear the love of God to the world in unique ways, but the bulk of this love-bearing work happens through us in the normal stuff that we do each day.

For instance, I know a three-year-old preschool teacher who bears the love of God in countless ways to her students each day. Recently I was told of how she offers special care to one of her students who witnesses her mother being beaten. Every once in a while, as this student seems to be disconnecting from what is going on in the class, the teacher asks if the student needs a hug, and then offers that hug when it is requested. These hugs are coming from the arms of God Almighty to that poor child. They are a shelter in a time of storm, and are being offered by one of the cornerstones of Christ's church. Thanks be to God! You are one of those cornerstones as well! How is God using you as a shelter in a time of storm?

Pastor Keith

SPARK NEWS _____

The SPARK kids have been asked to perform their song, "I am the Church" at St. James Lutheran church on Sunday, November 17th at 9 a.m. It will be early in the service so they will be able to make it back to Zion for the start of their service if need be.

Mark your calendars for the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15th. There will be one dress rehearsal that everyone needs to attend (teachers included) on Saturday, December 14th.

During SPARK, we teach the importance of GIVING. At the end of music each week we close with an offering and the Lord's prayer. We are taking on a mission project starting this week. The children's offerings will be collected to provide Thanksgiving meals for the Salvation Army. We would love to be able to provide them with monies to provide at least five families a Thanksgiving meal. Offerings do not need to be placed in an envelope.

God's peace, Stephanie Klein

Discipleship, Inc.- Haven of Hope Homeless Shelter _____

Zion's Congregation has many worthwhile outreach and social programs currently in place. However, in my opinion, The Haven of Hope Homeless Shelter is overlooked by many of us who have houses in which to live. Take a few minutes to reflect on what it might feel like to be "homeless", even for a night, without a place to go or a place to sleep. Or, think of a soldier serving our country in a strange foreign land, where his only shelter is a tent on a muddy patch of ground. A steady cold rain keeps him awake most of the night. Statistics reflect that over 60% of those using "homeless shelters" are veterans! Personally, I pledge my continued financial support both by donations thru Zion and also directly to the Haven of Hope Homeless Shelter at 603 Mann Street, Marinette, Wisconsin. The shelter is badly in need of volunteers—skilled people who will get involved. Please consider "Going where Jesus leads" by providing shelter to the homeless.

Bill Boerner

Council Meeting Summary

Drake Schutt, Katelyn Sylvester, James Jagielski and Delanie Schroeder presented their oral Faith Statements. Two other confirmands, Braedhan Madden and Jacob Cording, still need to complete this requirement. The influence of family was a common theme. The Council agreed that the statements were well done and inspiring.

September attendance 2013 was down from 2012, 135 compared to 117. A wedding was conducted for Troy Cording and Rebecca Pischer on September 7. Pastor Keith attended the installation of Pastor David Murphy at Good Shepherd in Peshtigo on September 15. The WOV hymnals have been delivered to Peace UCC. Pastor attended the Five Wishes Workshop conducted by Craig Mansur on September 23. This deals with end-of-life items. Plans to conduct this workshop at Zion are being considered. He is currently teaching 4 classes on individual strengths and gifts at the Lay School. The new member group has begun with 6 individuals participating. Pastor Keith will take vacation from November 14-19. A thank you note from Linda Forray was shared.

The September reports from Karen Houdek, Zion's Financial Secretary, were reviewed. For September, John reported that the Capital Campaign fund balance decreased \$1,262, from \$16,890 to \$15,628. The fund balance may be able to be paid off by the end of January or February 2014. Debt/DAR and Community Children had receipts of \$1,540. These disbursements were made: \$154 to Synod, \$308 to DAR and \$770 to Thrivent for extra principal. The estimated Thrivent loan balance is \$18,570 after the additional \$770 principal payment at the end of September.

The Property Committee is planning a work bee for October 22. They are also noting times when Zion is in use and setting the building thermostats according to those schedules in order to help save energy. The Fellowship Hall floor has been cleaned and waxed.

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Council Meeting Summary

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The Social Ministry committee is checking into purchasing more food items to sell in addition to the coffee, almonds and cocoa. The Harvest Dinner is set for November 3. The Worship and Music committee noted that Bill Tipple purchased a liturgy book for the new cranberry hymnal with memorial funds for Diane. The use of this book will bring about some minor changes to our traditional worship service.

Pastor Keith shared that a confirmation parent from St. James is eager to be involved and is busy planning activities for the youth.

The Stewardship binders are being circulated. Commitment Sunday, also known as Cornerstone Sunday this year, will be held in conjunction with the Harvest Dinner on November 3. The congregation will be asked to bring small rocks to worship that day. They will be placed in a pile in the chancel to represent that we are all cornerstones of Zion. Council members were asked to contribute an additional 5 rocks each in order to have extras.

The Personnel Committee has set staff reviews. Pastor Keith and Karen submitted a proposal that she take health insurance offered through her employer at a personal cost of \$275/month (\$3,300/year). Pastor Keith would continue coverage through Zion with Portico's Gold Plan. This would mean a savings to Zion of \$643/month or \$7,716/year. They have asked the committee to consider a salary increase for Pastor Keith of at least \$275/month, which would match the amount taken out for Karen's coverage. This would result in a savings to Zion of \$4,416/year. These funds would be used by the Personnel Committee towards other staff pay increases. The committee agreed to approve the Portico Gold Plan for Pastor Keith.

Amanda Litts is still delivering vegetables from the Garden of Hope to St. Vincent's. She was asked by a Marinette Middle School teacher to talk to the students about Zion's garden. She spoke to 3 groups and related stories of individuals who have been impacted by the garden. Since then, the students have donated \$50 to the garden.

Council Meeting Summary

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Pastor Keith presented a revised list of 97 confirmed members who have not contributed to Zion or communed since January 2011. After being contacted by mail, those on this list either did not respond or did not wish to remain a member. Council removed these confirmed members from Zion's membership roles.

Council approved membership for the following confirmands: Drake Schutt, Katelyn Sylvester, James Jagielski and Delanie Schroeder.

Scheduling a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University course will be on the agenda for the November meeting. The course could be offered as soon as January.

The next Council meeting will be November 12, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Bowdin, Recording Secretary

Thank You

Attention Zion Congregation:

Being your intern for the past year has been my best learning experience in this journey. Thank you so much for welcoming me, for accepting me, and for loving me so well. I will never forget the wonderful friends I have found in this congregation.

You have all been an inspiration for me. You are a missional congregation that really makes a difference in the community, the world and to each other. May God bless all of you and your continued mission.

Thank you so much for the beautiful plate and for the scholarship money. Your generosity is very much appreciated. This was a wonderful surprise from a wonderful congregation. Thank you all!

Your intern, Linda Forray

Zion's Harvest of Hope Community Garden

This letter was sent to the M & M Foundation updating them on Zion's garden. We hope you will find it interesting and that it will serve to show how members of our congregation are sharing their love of God within our community.

To: M&M Foundation

I wanted to send a note to update you on the Harvest of Hope Community Garden. We received a grant in 2011 for a fence, a sign, a sand point and a garden shed. We have completed 3 of the 4 projects so far and plan to have the garden shed built in time for next year's gardening season. I really don't know how we would have been able to finance these projects without your generous grant. Having the fence has definitely saved our veggies as the deer found us last year. The point has made watering the garden much easier without increasing the church's water bill. The sign, of course, lets people know that it is a community garden.

We have learned a lot in the 3 years that we have had the garden, both about gardening and about the need for food in our community. We started out with just 5 crops and this year have about 2 dozen. We have added raised beds for herbs as well as perennial sections for raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb and asparagus. We have 10 tall raised beds for use by elderly that cannot get down to the ground but still want to grow their own food. This year we added a section of raised beds specifically for a childrens' area so they can do square foot gardening.

In September, I was asked to speak to the 8th graders at Marinette Middle School about our garden. I was glad to have the chance to talk to them. They were divided up into 3 groups so I did 3 presentations. In the first session, one of the kids asked what I felt was the most important thing to me about the garden.. I told him about an experience that I had the first year when I was taking food to Newcap.

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Zion's Harvest of Hope Community Garden _____

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We had a lot of squash. I don't know how many or how much it weighed but enough to fill up the back of my car several times. On my 3rd trip to Newcap within about a week or so, I began to wonder if I was taking them too much squash and if it would be getting thrown out. When I got there I asked the lady if they could still take it or if their back room was overflowing yet. She showed me where they put it and there were only a couple left. She said they feed hundreds of families in our community and it would all be used. I couldn't get through telling this story without crying. The teacher saved me by talking to the class for a few minutes after which one of the girls told me that I was a superhero. I laughed and said I would wear my cape to the next class.

There have been many more stories like this. One of the other volunteers dropped off veggies at Newcap and had two little boys run over to her and get all excited because she let them each pick out some cucumbers. Pastor Keith has been contacted by families looking for food and has been able to let them go out and pick whatever they wanted. Many people come and get food as they need it as the gates are never locked. While the garden would have been planted whether or not we received a grant, the support that we received from you certainly made things a lot easier for us. Thank you so much for all you do. God bless.

Sincerely,
Amanda Litts for Zion's Harvest of Hope Community Garden

Be a part of the Git-R-Done Group on Tuesday! _____

Recently, the Git-R-Done Group at Zion trimmed the bushes, did repairs on the lawn tractor and the chairs in Pastor's office. There are many fall projects coming up and this group could use more helping hands! Wouldn't it be fun to help them at the next meeting? The next Git-R-Done group gathering will be on TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th, beginning at 8 a.m. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Gary Grom at 715.732.0617.

Do You Love to Give a Gift that Makes a Difference? _____

The Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project supports long-term committed relationships with small farmers, helping them organize cooperatives where they receive training and assistance to manage and grow sustainable crops. This allows them to support their families, communities and the environment.

The Coffee Project offers more than just coffee! Take a look through one of the Wholesale Catalogs on the baker's rack coffee display in the narthex. Besides many different coffees from all over the world you'll find black, green and herbal teas; baking cocoa & hot cocoa mix; olive oil; snacks and spreads; nuts and raisins. But wait folks, there's more! This catalog also contains scarves, gift wrap & boxes, puzzles, a block print kit, jewelry, flavored beverage syrups, and travel mugs. And for a limited time **CHOCOLATE!** Surely you have someone on your Christmas list who would love a unique gift, made from good things that do good in the world.

Zion's Social Ministry committee plans to place an order at the end of November. We invite you to look through a copy of the Wholesale Catalog and use one of our Order Forms to place your order before Sunday, November 24. *So that this order has the best chance to be placed, filled, shipped and received well before Christmas we will not be able to take any orders after 11/24.*

You do not need to pay until you receive your order. Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Church and indicate that it is for your coffee order.

Thanksgiving Worship _____

It's November, time to start thinking about Thanksgiving. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1600 University Drive will be hosting the Community Thanksgiving Worship which is held on Thanksgiving Eve, November 27, beginning at 7 p.m. The worship service features the choirs and music ensembles of St. James, Zion and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches. Pastor Keith Kolstad will be preaching. A coffee time with many pies will follow worship. It is a wonderful way to begin your Thanksgiving celebration.

The Stewardship Corner

"According to the experts, people give to non-profits for three primary reasons: belief in the mission, trust in the leadership, and demonstrated accountability and transparency. Notice what's not included in that list? People don't give primarily because the non-profit is experiencing a budget deficit, and "if everyone digs just a little deeper, maybe we'll make it to December." People don't give primarily because it's a tax write-off. People don't give because the pastor is a handsome, inspiring preacher. They give because they believe in the mission, they trust the leaders, and there's demonstrated accountability and transparency. Simple as that."¹

How does Zion stack-up at being accountable and transparent? Let's take a look, shall we.

Every week Zion's bulletin includes an announcement page which contains information on how much money the congregation has provided for the general fund, Zion's Debt and Community Children, World Hunger, Haven of Hope, and NEWCAP. This information comes to us directly from Karen Houdek, Zion's Financial Secretary. That page also contains up-to-the-minute information on what is happening at Zion in the week, or weeks ahead, and other information of which the congregation should be aware.

Every month in Zion's newsletter, the congregation is supplied financial data which comes to the Church Council from John Radloff, Zion's Treasurer. That information typically includes the balances on key accounts like the General Fund, the Capital Campaign Fund, Debt/DAR and Community Children Fund, disbursements to Synod, and regular and extra principal payments made to Thrivent Financial on Zion's loan balance. That newsletter also contains a message from Pastor Keith, abbreviated Council minutes, information on Zion's ministries, a stewardship article, birthdays, and a church calendar.

¹Chick Lane, *Center for Stewardship Leaders, Luther Seminary*

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The Stewardship Corner

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Annually, we hold a Congregation Annual Meeting. A booklet is prepared for the congregation with a lengthy report from Pastor Keith and the Council President. Every committee at Zion provides an annual report of their activities and ministries. In-depth financial reports are also provided by the Financial Secretary, Treasurer, and Audit Committee.

Zion maintains a website full of information for those who wish to access it. The Sunday morning worship service is available on Zion's website each week, and email's are sent monthly to announce the latest newsletter. Many times, additional emails are sent regarding various programs that Zion offers.

Yearly, we attempt to have individuals from the various ministries Zion supports address the congregation at worship. First hand knowledge about how Zion's donations have impacted their programs goes a long way in making a connection with the congregation. Through these talks, we hope the congregation will realize the profound affect they are having on the community.

I'm sure we could improve upon our communication. There is always room for improvement, but given the staff constraints and time limitations on volunteers, I believe Zion does an excellent job of demonstrating accountability and being transparent. I hope you agree.

Go in Christ's love and peace.

Karen Sylvester

Marriage Enrichment Encounter _____

Do you want an experience that can enrich your lives? Then attend a Marriage Enrichment Encounter.

IT IS

A weekend away from daily routines allowing married couples to focus on each other and the needs of their relationship.

IT IS

A journey that begins with a team of volunteer married couples inspiring other couples to examine themselves as persons, their relationship with God and the world around them.

IT IS

A series of presentations given by team couples who share their own personal experiences, followed by private reflection.

IT IS

For happily married couples who want to deepen their relationship; for couples who may be going through stressful times; for couples who need some time alone, to get away from everyday life and focus on each other; for couples who are looking for a way to revitalize their marriage.

We attended a marriage enrichment encounter some 30 years ago and have never forgotten the experience or the friends we met there. Then...we attended our second encounter just last May, which helped us to renew our relationship and strengthen our marriage, meet new friends and help us center our lives where they ought to be centered, growing in our understanding of each other.

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Marriage Enrichment Encounter _____

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If you want to know more about a Marriage Encounter, ask us about it, or contact:

Sue & Dennis Amtmann
943 Harwood Ave.
Green Bay, WI 54313
920-544-5166

The National Marriage Encounter of Green Bay holds Encounters each month, November – May. It is an experience that can enrich your lives.

Pastor George & Ruth Olson

Sunday Morning Bible Study _____

Famous (and not-so-famous) Bible Characters

Starting on Sunday, November 10th, Zion will be offering a Bible study following worship. The theme of this Bible study will be the famous, (and not-so-famous), characters of the Bible. The study will feature a different character each week. A short, fun video about that day's character will be a part of each study along with examining some of the key Bible passages that portray that character. It should be a lot of fun and will certainly be a great way to survey the Bible without getting stuck in the Book of Leviticus. The characters we will study in November will be:

10 – Adam and Eve
17 – Noah
24 – Abraham and Sarah

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER 2013**November 2**

Jaclynn Knopik
Jeffrey Minzlaff
Phillip Strohl

November 3

James Jagielski
Tom Maxwell
Jo Schutt
Jennifer Voelker

November 4

Hope Goes

November 5

John Kloida
Wendy Strutz

November 6

David Busick
Aleiah Maxwell
Henry Zuehls

November 7

DeJay Bromund
Niklas Williams

November 9

Sharon Schmidt
Lynn Seppi
Mary Thielen

November 10

Michael Harding
Betty Nelson

November 12

Lisa Cook
Carol Magnuson

November 14

Laila Williams

November 15

Dennis Bromund

November 17

Joanne Dehne

November 19

Barb Baumgarten
Peter Thielen

November 21

Jane Landenberger
Shirley Nord
Gary Olson

November 22

Nancy Benchley
Melissa Huber
Pauline Ireland

November 23

Joel Settersten

November 24

Naomi Dumke
Caleb Gaudes
Michael Retza

November 25

Susan Fischer

November 26

Bethany Emler
Kim Janquart

November 27

Amanda Peanosky
Karen Sylvester

November 28

Lanse Dill
Alexander Gressel
Ronnie Lueskow

November 29

Kayla Ford
Sydney Lund
Travis Lund

November 30

Barb Gensler

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**Sunday, November 3**

Acolyte—Kaitie Sodergren
Greeters—Oliver & Shirley Swenson
Communion Assistants—George Olson (Pouring), Ellice DeBenedetto,
Barb Grom (Distributing the Host)
AV Team—Justin Williams & Bill Tipple
Coffee Time Sponsors—Harvest Dinner

Sunday, November 10

Acolyte—Cassie Bauer
Greeters—Dave & Lori Despina
Communion Assistant—Jacki Renne
Coffee Time Sponsors—Swenson & Olson Families
AV Team—Sarge Rudell & Kathy Heimbuch

Sunday, November 17

Acolyte—Matt Swenson
Greeter—Jane Landenberger
Communion Assistants—Pat Rondeau (Pouring), Karen Dill &
Amanda Litts (Distributing the Host)
Coffee Time Sponsors—Available
AV Team—Troy Cording and Gage/Drake Schutt

Sunday, November 24

Acolyte—Seth Kuhn
Greeter—Laura Peanosky
Communion Assistant—George Olson
Coffee Time Sponsors—Zion Youth Fellowship
AV Team—Troy Cording and Justin Williams

Lector—Johanna Zuehls

Head Usher—Nora Plym

Lector—Carole Boerner

Head Usher—Goes Family

Lector—Amanda Litts

Head Usher—Rick Larson

Lector—Nora Plym

Head Usher—Bryan

Gutknecht & Jonah Zuehls

November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship (Corner Stone Sun.) 10:45 am Dinner 5 pm Service of Reflection	4 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6-8 pm Ecumenical Bible Class	5 6:30 pm Nominating Committee	6 6 pm SPARK, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 8 pm Personnel Com	7 9 am-noon Senior Citizen Day At MHS 6 pm Worship At Northland Village	8	9 5 pm Youth Fellowship Fun Night
10 9:30 am Worship (New Member Sun.) 10:45 am Bible Study 5 pm Service of Ref. 6 pm Cub Scout Leader	11 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission Veterans Day	12 8 am – noon Git-R-Done Group 9-11:30 am Sew-for-Missions 6:30 pm Council	13 6 pm SPARK, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 6 pm Worship At Northland Village Pastor Keith will be on vacation November 14 – 19.	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Bible Study 5 pm Service of Reflection	18 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6-8 pm Ecumenical Bible Class	19	20 6 pm SPARK, Crossways, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 6 pm Worship At Northland Village	22 Youth Fellowship serves at the concert.	23
24 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Bible Study 5 pm Service of Reflection Noon-Youth Packer Game at Mariner Theatre.	25 5:30 pm Cub Scout Potluck 5:15-9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 7 pm Sarah Group	26 9:11:30 am Sew-for-Missions	27 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1600 University Drive	28 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Day Meal served at Our Savior's Lutheran	29	30