



Zion Lutheran Church

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December 2013



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
AT 8:00 P.M.

**The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship**

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

✠Serve

Our Discipleship Together

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

During the season of Advent, we will be singing a verse of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* each Sunday as our offerings are brought forward. This ancient hymn is about 1,200 years old, and has been a theme of Advent throughout that time. Surely the longing implicit within this hymn as well as the joy it proclaims with each refrain has helped it maintain its popularity throughout the centuries.

As it gets darker and darker at this time of the year, the lack of sunlight seems to reflect the darkness that our souls feel at times. We must contend with so much darkness, like greed, and war, and school shootings, that at times it can feel a bit overwhelming. Our souls cry out for Emmanuel, "God with us." "Come, O come," we cry.

Then comes the refrain, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you." The darkness does not hold the final victory. Christ has conquered the darkness of sin and death, and shall continue to conquer it. The bright light of Easter is shining into all the moments of our lives, even these dark days of Advent.

Advent is a time of embracing our longing for the fullness of the kingdom to come, and yet it is also a time of rejoicing that it shall come once again just as it did through a birth in a stable in Bethlehem so many years ago. During these and all dark days, we are people of hope who sing, "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you!" We've been baptized into that hope, so that this joy not only brings light to our darkness, but also shines through us into a world so hungry for that light.

A blessed Advent to you!
Pastor Keith

SPARK NEWS

This year's Christmas program is called "Footprints to the Manger." It's a story about a group of school-aged children off on a snow day. While they are playing outside in the newly fallen snow, they hear special readings all about following Jesus, and hear special songs being sung. The Spark kids ages pre-K - grade 5 will be singing and reading verses to get our group of friends to the manger where baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can be found.

The program will be performed on Sunday, December 15, during the worship service. There will be a reception/coffee time to follow the service.

A reminder to all Spark parents: Please remember to bring a plate of goodies to be served at the reception. Remember, we tend to get a lot of visitors on this Sunday. I am also in need of people to help with set up, serving, and clean up. You don't need to miss the program, but all can be done around it!

Stephanie Klein



Angel Tree

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree is now in the narthex. To buy a gift for a child this Christmas, simply pick a gift tag from the tree. Please take the bottom half of the slip off and sign your name on the sign-up sheet. When you return the gift, make sure it is unwrapped and in a bag with the ticket attached. Please have your gift placed under the tree by December 8th.



Council Meeting Summary_____

Jacob Cording and Braedhan Madden presented their Faith Statements. Council commented that the statements were refreshing and inspiring.

October attendance was the same as 2012 at 138. A funeral service was held for Janice Faucett on October 3. Pastor Keith was on vacation November 14-19.

The October reports from Karen Houdek were reviewed. John Radloff reported that the General Fund/Parsonage combined fund balances increased \$608 from \$2,323 to \$2,931. Debt/DAR and Community Children had receipts of \$1,422. Disbursements in the amount of \$142 to the Synod, \$284 to DAR and \$711 to Thrivent for the extra loan principal payment. The Intern Fund balance overdraft decreased \$40 from \$305 to an overdraft of \$265. The estimated Thrivent loan balance is \$16,674 at the end of October.

The Property Committee reported that a new water heater has been installed. The bi-fold doors in the cry room and the usher's closet need to be replaced.

The Stewardship Drive has been completed. There are a few members who still need to be contacted. Cornerstone Sunday, November 3, was well received.

The Personnel Committee is conducting staff reviews.

Council agreed by consensus to begin the Dave Ramsey series on Thursday, January 30, 2014 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. John Radloff will lead the 9-week course.

Council approved membership for Confirmands Jacob Cording and Braedhan Madden.

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Council Meeting Summary_____

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Council members resolved that of the total compensation to be provided to Pastor Keith Kolstad in 2014, \$22,500 shall be designated as a housing allowance under the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Council accepted the following new members: Connie LaGassie, Belinda Dufek, Richard Larson, Jr. Dan Lamire, Diana Harper, and Michelle Larson.

Colleen Madden participates in the DAR Polar Plunge and asked if Zion could take up a collection for this event. Council allowed her to raise finds in the lobby.

The next Council meeting will be on December 10, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kolstad home.

Respectfully submitted,
Roxanne Bowdin, Recording Secretary

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

Recently the group replaced the hot water heater in the furnace room, cleaned up the shop, were trained by Pastor on using the programmable thermostats system and checked out repairs on the bi-fold doors. There are many more 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 is this TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd, beginning at 8 a.m. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Gary Grom at 715.732.0617.



Decorating the Sanctuary_____

We will be decorating the church on Thursday, December 12th at 10:00 a.m. After we decorate the worship area and lobby, lunch will be served. Please bring a dish to share. If you are willing to make the chili, please call Ann Buscher. We especially are in need of men to help with the trees. There is a sign-up sheet on the main entrance bulletin board. Many hands make for a fun time! If you have any questions please call Ann Buscher at 715.735.3017.



Edgewood Manor Needs You!_____

I am President of the Edgewood Manor Board for Northland Lutheran Retirement Community. We are an eight bed facility for disable adults. We are currently looking for people to serve on our board. We meet on the second Monday of the month in February, April, June, August and November. The board meetings are from 5:15-6:30 p.m. and include a delicious meal. Our June meeting is always a picnic with the residents at their facility. The board members look over the financial report, hear the manager's report and other small business items. All you need is a love for special needs adults and a little time. For more information or to volunteer call Ann Buscher at 715.735.3017.

Ann Buscher



Ecumenical Bible Class for Adults Christmas Program_____

The Ecumenical Bible Class for Adults with special needs will be presenting their Christmas Program on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 pm. in the Social Hall at Zion. The twenty-eight participants, twelve of whom actively worship at Zion, will play their colored bells and sing songs as narrator Reverend Bonnie Turner reads the story of the "Little Star." Refreshments will follow the Christmas Program. This is an enjoyable evening for the whole family. For more information please call Ann Buscher at 715.735.3017.



The Gift of Generosity_____

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported Zion Lutheran Church this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions, and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings or if you plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to look into our electronic giving options on Zion's website www.zionlutheran-marquette.org. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Visit or contact Karen Houdek, Zion's Financial Secretary, for more information at 715.735.7898.

Karen Houdek



The Stewardship Corner

In October, every Monday evening from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m., I, along with many other Lay School for Mission attendees, discovered our dependable strengths. Dependable strengths are those things that God has entrusted to us that for the most part we are born with and that continue throughout our life. Everyone has them, but usually we don't take the time to think about them or take the time to discern what they are. This course offered us that opportunity.

How do you uncover what your dependable strengths are? Well, we were asked to list special events in our life called *Good Experiences*. *Good Experiences* are the foundation of the Dependable Strengths process so it is important that everyone understand what these are and are not. *Good Experiences* are unique events which have a specific definition and criteria. They are not the same as 'nice times', 'good memories', or a 'happy experience'.

A *Good Experience* is **SOMETHING YOU FEEL YOU DID WELL, ENJOYED DOING AND ARE PROUD OF**. We were offered specific examples of all three of the criteria.

The first exercise we were asked to do was to make a list of some of our good experiences. They could be anything going all the way back to the age of five. They didn't have to be monumental things; they could be really small things and some of mine were. Actually, one of mine was cleaning a storage room. It was a dreaded task, one that I had put off for years, then one day I simply dove in and did it. When the job was done, I was euphoric.

Trying to remember these *Good Experiences* wasn't an easy process. Actually, when we were told to do this we all groaned aloud. It sounded so hard and yes, it took time, but it was worth it. I had a piece of paper on the kitchen counter and when something came to me I wrote it down. It was amazing what we all remembered as we thought about this throughout our first week. Each of us remembered wonderful things that frankly we had forgotten about but were very enlightening and insightful. ... (continued)

The Stewardship Corner

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By the time we were done with the course each participant was able to name their strengths and abilities, provide examples of how they had used those things in their lifetime and how they wanted to use them in the future.

Why am I telling you about this and what does this have to do with stewardship?

Throughout October, Zion sent twelve couriers out to deliver its Stewardship Binder to members of this congregation. Included within that binder was a booklet describing Zion's committees and ministries. Also included was a Time and Talents sheets for every confirmed member of that household. Those sheets included a lot of categories; such as, administrative, performing, artistic/graphics gifts, outreach, people, domestic skills and writing skills. It also included a listing of all of the standing committees, ministries and committees that the congregation could participate in. These sheets were to be filled out and returned with the family's pledge sheet.

One of the surprising things a couple of us heard from the people we visited was, "I don't have any strengths or talents." Perhaps that statement was their way of saying they didn't want to take the time to fill out the form. Perhaps it was their way of saying they've not ever considered what strengths or talents have been entrusted to them. I pray that one of these is the case. Certainly, it would be very unfortunate if anyone actually felt that God had not entrusted them with any strengths and abilities.

I mention all of this as a way of introducing you to the process of discerning your dependable strengths. Our very own Pastor Keith led this class and I'm thrilled to announce that he will be offering it to us at Zion at some point in time. I hope that when it is offered many of you will consider participating in it.

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The Stewardship Corner _____

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Certainly, we should all be aware of what God has entrusted to us and we should prayerfully consider how we will use those things in his name. I know I plan on participating again just because I thought it was so insightful for me.

Have a blessed Christmas season and go with God.

Karen Sylvester

Zion Feeds 334 at Thanksgiving _____

Last month, I received a correspondence from The Salvation Army. They were looking for monetary donations for Thanksgiving meals and they asked me for a \$49.80 donation; which they said would result in 20 Thanksgiving Day meals.

Their request went out to the congregation attending worship throughout the month of October. I am overjoyed to tell you that this congregation raised a total of \$830.65 for the food drive. The SPARK kids, in pre-K through the 5th grade came up with \$50.65, while the remaining \$780 came from the adult members of the congregation.

Isn't it wonderful to know that we have made such a huge difference in the lives of those 334 people who have so little? Jesus asks us to feed the hungry when we can, and in fact, that is exactly what Zion did.

Go in God's love and peace,

Karen Sylvester



A Feast of Gratitude



Once again we are planning to use Poinsettia plants as part of our Christmas decorations at church. If you make a donation of at least **\$15.00** you may take one of the plants home following the service on Sunday, December 29, 2013. You may also designate it as a gift in memory or honor of someone.

If you are willing to make a contribution to the Poinsettia Fund, please call the church office (735-7898) with the necessary information or fill out the following form and place it in the offering plate.

Please drop off at Church, mail or call in the following information by Monday, December 16th

GIVEN BY _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED: \$ _____

Envelope # _____

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS FORM WITH YOUR MONEY AND DROP OFF AT CHURCH, MAIL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (715-735-7898) SO WE CAN GET OUR ORDER IN.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER 2013

December 3
Francis Lebeck

December 8
Miah Andrist

December 9
Kim Gaudes

December 10
Sally Peterson

December 11
Keith Despina
John Radloff

December 12
Bethany Travis

December 13
Larry Nelson
Don Otto

December 15
Rachel Kuhn

December 16
Dean Schoen

December 18
George Krenos

December 20
Alice Larson
Alyson Teasdale
Dawn Vincent

December 22
Presley Schroeder

December 23
Paul Boucher
Alan Nelson
Shawn Schoen

December 26
Jacob Marzahl

December 27
Everette Johnston
Luke Pecard

December 28
Philip Goes
Patricia Schultz

December 29
Ron Johnson

December 31
Eileen Jagielski
Jake Kolstad

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER _____****Sunday, December 1**

Acolyte: Braedhan Madden Lector: Heidi Beland
Head Usher: Nora Plym
Greeters: Colleen Madden & Braedhan Madden
Communion Assistants: Kathy Heimbuch (Pouring), Sarge Rudell, Karen Dill (Distributing the Host)
AV Team: Troy Cording & Justin Williams

Sunday, December 8

Acolyte: Erik Breuer Lector: Carole Boerner
Greeter: Don Limberg Head Usher: Nancy Benchley
Communion Assistant: Jacki Renne
AV Team: Sarge Rudell & Kathy Heimbuch

Sunday, December 15

Acolyte: Bethany Wolf Lector: Julie Williams
Greeter: Roxy Bowdin Head Usher: Goes Family
Communion Assistant: Sarge Rudell
AV Team: Toy Cording
Coffee Time Sponsor: SPARK Kids & Stephanie Klein

Sunday, December 22

Acolyte: Samuel Gressel Lector: Sue Baxter
Greeter: George & Nila Krenos Head Usher: Pat Rondeau
Communion Assistants: Needed (Pouring), Need (Distributing the Host), Barb Grom
AV Team: Troy Cording & Drake Schutt

Sunday, December 29

Acolyte: James Jagielski Lector: Julie Otto
Greeters: Jo & Don Schutt Head Usher: Don Schutt
Communion Assistant: Jacki Renne
AV Team: Justin Williams & Cheryl Maxwell

Monday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Acolyte: Tyler Lund Lector: Dave Johnson
Greeters: Peter & Mary Thielen Head Usher: Mark Swenson
Communion Assistant: Pat Rondeau



December 2013

Merry ★ Christmas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Worship 5 pm Service of Reflection 6 pm Cub Scout Leader Meeting	2 5:15 – 9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6-8 pm Ecumenical Bible Class	3 8 am – 12 noon Git-R-Done Group	4 6 pm SPARK, Crossway, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	6	7
8 9:30 am Worship Pastor Craig Mansur 5 pm Service of Reflection Angel gifts due!	9 5:15 – 9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 7 pm Ecumenical Bible Class Program	10 9-11:30 am Sew-for-Mission 6 pm Council at Pastor Keith's	11 6 pm SPARK, Crossway, Conf. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 10 am Decorating the Worship Area 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	13	14
15 9:30 am Worship 5 pm Service of Reflection Children's Christmas Program	16 5:15 – 9:15 pm Lay School for Mission 6 pm Cub Scout Pack Meeting	17	18 6 – 7 pm Confirmation Salvation Army Bell Ringing 7 pm Choir Reh.	19 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	20	21
22 9:30 am Worship 5 pm Service of Reflection	23	24 8 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship 5 pm Service of Reflection	30	31	January 1, 2014 New Years Day Office Closed			
The church secretary will be off December 24, 26, & 31. She will be in on Thursday, Jan. 2.						