



## Zion Lutheran Church

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[www.zionlutheran-marinette.org](http://www.zionlutheran-marinette.org)

# December 2014



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**8:00 p.m.**

## Our Discipleship Together

### The Seven Marks of Discipleship

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

### Broken \_\_\_\_\_

O Come, O Come Emmanuel! This is what the church has sung for centuries during the season of Advent. (It dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century!) We sing this because too much of life leaves us broken, either by our own hands, or by the hands of others, or by the natural cruelties of life itself. We call for Emmanuel, knowing that within him our hope is found.

And this is our hope: That we will be made new; That out of death will come new life; That this Emmanuel, God with us, will form us anew to be like him in glory and wonder. This is what happens in the waters of Baptism. This is what happens when God's holy Word enters into our hearts. This is what happens when we consume his holy body and blood. This is what happens when we receive consoling care from others who embody Christ. This is what happens when we too step forth in Christ to minister to others. We are made new. We are not fixed or edited in some way. We are changed by Emmanuel and made new.

This is our hope. This is the deep desire we proclaim during Advent. Yes, it is different than the "Ho, ho, ho, and mistletoe" that becomes the overwhelming noise of this season. The noise tries to ignore the brokenness or hide it beneath empty promises. Advent names the name: We are broken. However, we name this name filled with hope: Emmanuel is coming now, and we will be made new. This is the best gift of all, certainly one well worth the wait. Have a blessed Advent!  
*Pastor Keith*

## Stewardship Corner

### Receiving as a Way of Giving \_\_\_\_\_

I'm taking up the pen today to put together a few stewardship thoughts. Karen Sylvester, who normally pens this column, is not able to do it because of her recent surgery. She called me the other day feeling bad that she was dropping the ball, but she simply didn't have the strength nor the focus to do the writing. I assured her that it was OK, that she didn't need to feel like she was letting us down. We certainly understand that she's been through a lot lately.

Too often we think that stewardship is all about giving and I know that the reason we think it is all about giving is due to our holding a stewardship drive ever fall. These stewardship drives usually focus upon our need to give, and because this is the most noticeable work that we do as a Stewardship Committee, it comes across as the only focus of stewardship, that it is all about giving. This simply isn't true.

Stewardship is all about gift management. Yes, giving has an important role within gift management, but receiving does as well! With stewardship, it is just as important to learn how to be a good receiver as it is to learn how to be a good giver. Simple logic bears this out. If everyone does nothing but give, then who will there be to receive? We need receivers as well as givers.

Two Biblical examples:

Notice how Jesus received the gift of having his feet anointed with the expensive nard. (Mark 14:3-9) There were some who protested proclaiming that it was a waste, but Jesus countered them by showing what gracious receiving looks like.

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### Stewardship Corner

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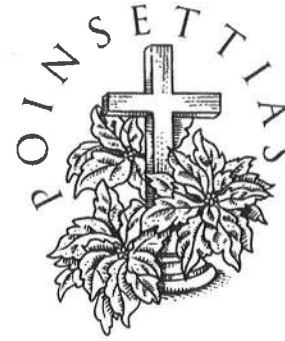
Jesus also told a story about three slaves who received talents from their master. (Matthew 25:14-30) One received 5 talents, another 2, and another only 1. The slave with the 1 talent did not receive it very well. Instead of using and investing the gift, instead of enjoying the opportunity to live rich life, he buried the talent. He was cursed for wasting the incredible opportunity he had been given. A good receiver uses what has been given.

Too often it is tough for us to receive gifts. We might be tempted to think that receiving gifts might leave us obligated to the giver, or that receiving gifts is a form of selfishness, something that we work diligently to grow out of. We might also be tempted to think that, for some reason, we do not deserve gifts. Hear this! Fight against these temptations! Stewardship, gift management, assumes that gifts need to be received so that they can be managed. Dismissing the gift, for whatever reason, does not dismiss our responsibility for good stewardship, (if I don't have it I don't have to manage it!) No! It is, in fact poor stewardship.

Yes, it might be more difficult to receive than to give. Oh well, that's just the way it is. Maybe this can help: Think of receiving gifts as a way of giving back to the giver! Give the gift of thankfulness, and joy as you receive your gift. Give the gift of appreciation. Acknowledge the sacrifice within the gift, but accept it as an expression of love.

So, Karen, I give to you the time and the effort of putting this Stewardship Corner together. I join many who are now ministering to you as you heal. As one who, on a monthly basis, blesses us with your thoughts regarding the ministry of stewardship within our lives, may you now be blessed by these many acts of caring and kindness, using them to heal, and then, eventually as you are able, to continue blessing others.

*Pastor Keith*



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 **\$12.50** you may take one of the plants home following the service on Sunday, December 28, 2014. 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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.**

## Summary of November Council Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

The Council met on November 11, 2014 at 6:30 pm  
Pastor Keith reported that October attendance was down. The average for the month was 124. The average in 2013 was 138.

Pastor conducted a funeral for Roger Utke on October 15. He attended the Menominee Valley Conference Assembly, Boundaries Workshop, the LSTC for Candidacy Endorsement Panel and the Poverty Summit, the Presentation for Marinette/Menominee Presbyterian Men's Group and hosted the Menominee Valley Conference Clergy.

A summary of the financial reports for September are below.

General Fund balance decreased \$1,056 from \$8,113 to \$7,057 .Year to date decrease is \$877. There were stewardship expenses of \$710. Fortune Lake Campers Fund balance increased \$5 from \$1,326 to \$1,331.

Capital Improvement Fund Balance increased \$858 from \$45,758 to \$46,616 due to interest and the transfer from Debt/DAR and CC Fund.

Debt/DAR and Community Children had receipts of \$1,697. Disbursements of \$170 to Synod, \$339 to DAR and transfer of \$849 to Capital Improvement Fund. \$2975 is available for camper fees or support of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

The Memorial Fund had no receipts or disbursements. The fund balance consists of an overdraft of \$533 of co-mingled funds plus \$8,695 in the Thrivent money market fund.

The Intern Fund Balance increased \$120 from \$310 to \$430.

The Garden Grant Fund fund balance is \$211.

The Helping Hand Fund balance is \$794.

Stewardship Drive: increased number of pledges and an increase in current pledges

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## Summary of November Council Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

(continued)

The Evangelism Committee filmed their skits on November 9<sup>th</sup> after worship. It went smoothly and all involved had a wonderful time. The skits are designed to help members of Zion meet and greet new and current members of the church. The committee also put the pamphlets on how children are welcomed during Worship at Zion in the pew Bibles.

The Property Committee will meet on December 2, 2014 at 6:30.

The Youth Ministry attended a corn maze in Harris, Mi. Ten youth and two adults attended. There was a fun night held on November 7<sup>th</sup> at Zion. On Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup> the Youth served refreshments at the Community Concert. December 14<sup>th</sup> the Youth will be shopping for the Angel Tree and then will go back to Zion to decorate cookies. On December 17<sup>th</sup> they will ring the bell for the Salvation Army.

The Personnel Committee reported that staff reviews are taking place.

A draft Resolution for Zion's Endowment Fund was presented to the council. This is a boiler plate resolution that has been adapted to meet Zion's needs. This resolution will be discussed and voted upon at the December council meeting. The Congregation will be voting on this resolution at the annual meeting.

The Kiwanis Club, of which Pastor is a member, started holding its monthly meetings at Zion in November. The Council approved a Facility Use Agreement to be used between Zion and the Kiwanis.

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## Summary of November Council Meeting\_\_\_\_\_

(continued)

Karen Sylvester has been appointed to fill the vacancy, on the Church Council, created by Nancy Sallees' departure. Welcome back Karen and thank you for your willingness to serve. She will attend the December and January council meetings.

The council approved the payment of \$450, out of the Memorial Fund, to N.E.W. Schroeder Construction for the new siding on the Lebick Memorial Shed. The Lebick Family will reimburse Zion.

The next council meeting will be December 9, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the Kolstad Residence.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Williams, Recording Secretary

## 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 next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.



## Needed for Baby Kits\_\_\_\_\_

The Northern Great Lakes Synod is sponsoring a MARKED! Event and are asking every congregation to participate by collecting items for Baby Kits for Global Mission. Our congregation has been asked to donate items for nine of these kits. The kits include the following:

- Two light-weight cotton T-Shirts (not onesies)
- Two gowns without feet
- Two receiving blankets
- Four cloth diapers
- One jacket or sweater with hood or cap
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel
- Two bath size bars of soap
- Two diaper pins

Please bring your donations to Zion and place them in the appropriate bag in the narthex on the table between now and Christmas. We will get them to the Synod Office to be assembled and distributed. These kits will be assembled by the confirmation classes at their MARKED! Event in the spring.

Thank you for your participation and cooperation in this event.

Jo Schutt  
Social Ministry



## Decorating the Worship Area & Narthex



We will be decorating Zion on Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. After we decorate the worship area and narthex, 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.

## Ecumenical Bible Class Christmas Program

The Ecumenical Bible Class for adults with special needs will be performing their Christmas program, "The Crippled Lamb" by Max Lucado on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. They will be playing their colored bells, singing Christmas songs, and sharing a beautiful Christmas story. Pastor Keith will be the narrator. A special thanks to Shawn Limberg who created a power point of the pictures from the book that will be shown during the presentation. This is a family event, with refreshments to follow.

## Hooks & Needles

Crafters from Bethel & Zion started on a new project in November. We will meet again at Zion on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4pm. On this day we will collect your completed hats and lapghans and get them ready to send our first batch to Warmth for Warriors. More basic knit & crochet patterns will be available and of course, we will have snacks.

Come join us and bring a friend. We are happy to help beginners get started or get you back on track if you ran into difficulties. If you would like to know more, just call Heidi Beland.

## Scout News

Boy Scout Pack 4168 meets at Zion and as such, we are the chartered sponsors for this group of young boys. Bradley Kennedy, District Chairman for the Northern Lights region who oversees this group, recently spoke with me regarding the pack's activities. This small group has now grown to 90 boys and is thriving and busy.

Mr. Kennedy noted that this local group has done an excellent job of finding assistants for themselves, but that the main northern district is in need of people willing to step into some open positions. They are listed below; if you're interested or have any questions, just call Mr. Kennedy at 920-846-3634 or e-mail at [kenns5@gmail.com](mailto:kenns5@gmail.com). It's a chance to assist with an excellent organization on a regional level.

- \* round-table discussion chairperson - this group meets once a month in Marinette for about 1 ½ hours
- \* popcorn colonel - in charge of organizing the popcorn sales - set-up distribution locations and remind people of dates - most is done by e-mail and only for a couple of weeks out of the year
- \* Unit Commissioner for 23 units - this would require a background knowledge of Scouting - fields concerns, organizes the units, and makes sure that all units are adhering to Scout laws

Roxanne Bowdin  
Council President

## The Gift of Generosity

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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](http://www.zionlutheran-marquette.org) and click on the "Donate" button. As the pace of life speeds up, especially around the holidays, you may find electronic giving most welcome way to make contributions. Visit or contact Karen Houdek, Zion's Financial Secretary, for more information at church 715.735.7898, or her home number 715.735.7180. Also, please contact her if you are interested in giving through automatic withdrawal, but prefer not to use a computer to do it.

## The Lutheran Magazine

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It is once again time to renew your subscription to "The Lutheran" magazine at the low price of \$8.95 a year. If you are currently receiving this magazine and wish to continue doing so, please have your check made out to Zion Lutheran Church to the office by December 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be added to the subscription list in order to receive the magazine, please contact the church office, 715.735.7898.

## Holiday Church Tour

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Are you ready to sing some Christmas carols and join the fun? On Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, come board the bus. We start at 5:15 p.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Menominee. Westlund Bus Line will take us to Our Savior's Lutheran, Pioneer Presbyterian, North Shore Baptist, Menominee 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist, and back to Holy Spirit for cookies and hot cocoa. We will check out the decorations inside each church, hear a four minute history of the building, sing a prepared Christmas carol, and head to our next destination. Oh the lights, music, fellowship, and food will be grand. Call Westlund Bus at 715.732.0238 and pay just \$8.00 to reserve your seat. Merry Christmas.

## NEWCAP Donations

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Our food collection theme for the month of December is based on John, Apostle and Evangelist. On December 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the life of the disciple whom Jesus loved and who, by his words, testified to the Word made flesh. (Read the last chapter of the book of John, especially 21:20-25.) Your food collection challenge for the month is to include items that begin with "J" or that might have a connection to this story. (Jello, jam, juice, flour, fish,...) The food pantry is *always in need of* canned meats & fish, canned fruit, beans and peanut butter so please don't limit your gifts to just the letters for the month. Give any non-perishable items that you think might be healthful and helpful. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve our community by going where Jesus leads!

## SPARK Christmas Program

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The SPARK Christmas program will be presented on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at the 9:30 a.m. service. The children in the program should be at Zion by 9:15 a.m. The program theme is, "The Signs of Christmas" including scripture, songs, instruments, and solos. Refreshments will be served following the service. A special practice will be held on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. For more information call Ann Buscher at 715.735.3017.



## VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2014

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2014

Acolyte – Jacob Cording                      Lector – George Olson  
 Greeters – Oliver & Shirley Swenson  
 Head Ushers – Kenny & Nancy Sallee  
 Communion Assistants – Roxy Bowdin & Karen Dill, Carole Boerner  
 (Distributing the Host),  
 Coffee Sponsor – LeeAnn & James & Spencer Martin  
 AV Team – Sarge Rudell & Kathy Heimbuch

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

Acolyte – Olivia Kuhn                      Lector – Heidi Beland  
 Greeters – George & Nila Krenos      Head Usher – Pat Rondeau  
 Communion Assistant – Jacki Renne  
 AV Team – Justin Williams & Cheryl Maxwell

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

Acolyte – Tyler Lund                      Lector – Johanna Zuehls  
 Greeters – Roger & Bev DeGroot  
 Head Usher – Michelle Larson  
 Communion Assistant – Jacki Renne  
 AV Team – Gage Schutt & Troy Cording

### Thursday, December 24, 2014 CHRISTMAS EVE

Acolyte – Matthew Swenson                      Lector – David Johnson  
 Greeters – Colleen & Braedhan      Communion-Pat Rondeau

### Sunday, December 28, 2014

Acolyte – Max Albert                      Lector – Nora Plym  
 Greeters – Laura Peanosky                      Head Usher – Nora Plym  
 Communion Assistants – Don Limberg (Pouring), Sue Baxter & Karen Dill  
 (Distributing the Host)  
 AV Team – Sarge Rudell & Kathy Heimbuch

## CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

### December 3

Fran Lebick

### December 8

Miah Andrist

### December 9

Kim Gaudes

### December 10

Sally Peterson

### December 11

Keith Despins  
 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

### December 26

Jacob Marzahl

### December 27

Everette Johnston  
 Luke Pecard

### December 28

Philip Goes  
 Patricia Schultz

### December 31

Eileen Jagielski  
 Jake Kolstad





# December 2014

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------|---|
|   | 1<br>12 p.m. Kiwanis Club   | 2<br>6:30 p.m. Property<br>Committee   | 3 6:00-7:00 p.m.<br>SPARK, Bible Study,<br>Confirmation<br>7:10 p.m. Choir<br>Rehearsal     | 4<br>6:00 p.m. Worship at<br>Northland Village   | 5      | 6   |
| 7<br>9:30 a.m. Worship<br>5:00 p.m. Service of<br>Reflection                          | 8<br>12 p.m. Kiwanis Club<br>5:00 p.m. Kiwanis<br>Club meeting      | 9 9-11:30 a.m.<br>Sew-for-Missions<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>6:30 p.m. Council<br>Meeting at Kolstad's | 10 6:00-7:00 p.m.<br>SPARK, Bible Study,<br>Confirmation<br>7:10 p.m. Choir<br>Rehearsal    | 11 10 a.m.<br>Decorating the<br>Worship Area<br>6 p.m. Worship at<br>Northland Village | 12     | 13  |
| 14 9:30 a.m.<br>Worship<br>2-4 p.m. Hooks &<br>Needles<br>5 p.m. Worship              | 15<br>12 p.m. Kiwanis Club<br>7 p.m. Bible Study<br>Christmas Party | 16 10:30 a.m. Adult<br>Bible Study<br>5:30 p.m. Personnel<br>Committee                               | 17 6:00-7:00 p.m.<br>SPARK, Bible Study,<br>Confirmation Bell<br>ringing<br>7:10 p.m. Choir | 18<br>6 p.m. Worship at<br>Northland Village   | 19     | 20 9:30 a.m.<br>SPARK Christmas<br>Program practice |
| 21 9:30 a.m.<br>Worship SPARK<br>Christmas program<br>5 p.m. Service of<br>Reflection | 22<br>12 p.m. Kiwanis Club  | 23   | 24<br>8 p.m. Christmas<br>Eve Candlelight<br>Worship  | 25<br>Christmas  | 26     | 27  |
| 28<br>9:30 a.m. Worship<br>5:00 p.m. Service of<br>Reflection                         | 29<br>12 p.m. Kiwanis Club  | 30   | 31  |  |        |   |
|   |   |  |   |  |        |   |