



Zion Lutheran Church

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September

2015

**The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship**

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

✠Serve

Our Discipleship Together

Going Where Jesus Leads

The title of this month's article is the shortened version of our congregation's mission statement: *As God's children, we go where Jesus leads.* It is also in the middle of our logo. Surrounding these words, in our logo, are the Seven Marks of Discipleship that our congregation's vision statement is organized around. These marks of discipleship answer the implicit question contained within our mission statement:

Where is Jesus leading us? We believe that he is leading us to growth in prayer, worship, the study of scripture, inviting others into this journey, encouraging one another on this journey, giving of ourselves to God's mission, and in that mission, serving others in the world. We spend our lives growing in all these areas, never completing that growth until our final day.

Today I was thinking about various reactions to our mission statement. Surely there are times when the thought of going where Jesus leads fills us with fear and trepidation. It is easy to fear the unknown and there are times we have no idea where Jesus is leading us. I remember feeling this way many times during my sabbatical in Tanzania. I knew Jesus leading me there, but I had little idea as to what I was being led into. Looking back, I see that I had no reason to fear. I was deeply blessed by the experience, but the fear had been there because of the unknown.

I think of the disciples following Jesus. There had to be some excitement within them. Walking with God incarnate, hearing what he was saying, watching what he was doing: Each day must have been filled with great anticipation. . . .(continued)



Going Where Jesus Leads . . .(continued)

We can hunger for that same anticipation because Jesus is not going to lead us into that which will hurt us or destroy us. Not that there won't be difficulties, but Jesus wants life, for he is the life of the world.

Our goal is to grow as disciples of Jesus, and Jesus has set the way for that to happen through our marks of discipleship. Yes, sometimes these steps of faith can be scary. "Where is this going to lead?!? Is it going to hurt?!?" But, we take these steps trusting in the love of Jesus with full knowledge that there is usually pain with growth.

Pastor Keith



Wednesday Night Worship

You are welcome to attend a new worship service that we will be offering starting this fall. It will be held on Wednesday evenings starting at 5:30. It will last only a half hour because our classes will be starting at 6:00. It will be designed for families, but all people are welcome. (We ask that an adult accompany children.) This service will include Holy Communion and will focus upon a text for the upcoming Sunday; the text that the SPARK kids will be studying following worship.

We know that with the wide and varying schedules that we all struggle with week in and week out that regular worship, even though it is a priority, is a great challenge to fit in. It is our hope that this service will help more people to worship regularly.



God's Work; Our Hands Sunday _____

Last year volunteers from Zion joined with volunteers from Bethel to make a difference at the DAR Boys and Girls Club on God's Work; Our Hands Sunday, the first Sunday in September after Labor Day. The ELCA has challenged congregations throughout our denomination to step out into our communities on this day and make a hands-on difference in some way.

This year, on September 13th, people of Emmanuel will join Zion and Bethel. We will be cleaning up the park area on Riverside Drive between Hattie Street dam and the library. We will also be cleaning up along the path in Red Arrow Park between Government Pier and the main park. Volunteers can decide which area they want to volunteer in. A leader will be at each place to guide the work. We will begin at approximately 11:00, following worship. It will end with a lunch held at Zion, starting at about 12:30.

There will be a sign up sheet so on the west entry bulletin board so we can plan on who is going to be working where, having enough supplies and how much food to have for lunch. Plan on bringing gloves, wearing work clothes and having a wonderful time working with other congregations to make a hands-on difference in our community.



Save the Date – September 13th _____

“God’s Work, Our Hands” project of making a difference in our community.

For the lunch following the project we are in need of:

4 – Volunteers to bake bars

2 – Volunteers to bring lemonade

2 – Volunteers at church after the project

(Sign-up sheet is posted on the main entrance bulletin board.)

Any questions, please call Jo Schutt 715.732.0932.

Gospel of John

Menominee Valley Conference Lay School _____

Without the use of brain surgery, no subliminal programming needed, no silly songs, no batteries required, no microchip implants! This is the simplest, most effective way to memorize and study the themes of each and every chapter of the Gospel of John. Guaranteed!

You can learn all the stories of the Gospel of John. It's easy with this creative, visual approach. Remember St. Augustine stated, "If you don't know Scripture you don't know Christ." Whether you're new in the faith or reviewing your faith this is a great way to learn the whole book of John and its lessons.

Simple and effective! You will be able to give a complete, intelligent breakdown of every chapter of the Gospel of John - and retain it for life. Guaranteed!

“These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:31) What better book to ground you in your faith.

September 14 - October 12, 6:30-8:00, Community Covenant Church
1123 13th Street.

Summary of August 2015 Council Meeting

The Council met on Tuesday August 11, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor reported attendance averages for June and July were 98. This is about the same as last year.

In June and July Pastor attended the Washington Island Forum on June 22-26; Pre-retirement seminar, July 27; Rethinking Confirmation workshop, July 29-31, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp with Zion Campers, July 19-24.

Pastor conducted a funeral service for Sue M. Peterson on June 26

Vacation days this fall for Pastor will be on Aug. 16; August 31-Sept. 12; Sept. 27; and Nov. 13-19

Here is a summary of June and July's financial reports:

June Financial Reports

- The General Fund balance was reported as \$8,897 at May 31. This was incorrect as it included \$1,035 that should have been included in the Undesignated Bequest Account. Therefore the correct General Fund Balance at May 31 was \$7,862. In June, General Fund balance increased \$457 from \$7,862 to \$8,319. Year-to-date decrease is \$1,865.
- Capital Improvement Fund increased \$746 from \$43,486 to \$44,232. Fortune Lake Campers Fund balance decreased by \$97 from \$1,129 to \$1,031.
- Undesignated Bequest increased \$36 due to interest. It is reported separately pending transfer to an Endowment investment account.
- A sabbatical fund is being funded at approximately \$167 per month.

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Summary of August 2015 Council Meeting

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- The Intern Fund Balance increased \$25 from \$581 to \$606.
- The Garden Grant Fund balance is \$418.
- The Helping Hand Fund balance is \$1,044.

July Financial Reports

- General Fund balance decreased \$2,925 from \$8,319 to \$5,394. Year-to-date decrease is \$5,394.
- Capital Improvement Fund increased \$810 from \$44,232 to \$45,042.
- Fortune Lake Campers Fund balance remained at \$1,031.
- Community Camper funds has \$1,786 available for camper fees.
- Undesignated Bequest decreased \$178, interest income of \$35; \$213 deposited with Mission Investment Fund.
- The Memorial Fund received \$50.
- A sabbatical fund is being funded at approximately \$167 per month.
- The Intern Fund Balance increased \$20 from \$606 to \$626.
- The Garden Grant Fund balance is \$418.
- The Helping Hand Fund balance is \$894.

Vacation Bible School was held July 13-16th. It is reported to have gone very well. There will be a meeting on August 26th beginning at 6:30 for families of SPARK and Confirmation students. More information will be sent out.

The Evangelism Committee reported that samples of the advertising placemats are being reviewed. They will be used at La Cabana in Menominee, Luigis in Peshtigo, and Applejacks Bar and Grill in Marinette.

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Summary of August 2015 Council Meeting_____

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This is being funded by a grant Zion applied for through the NGLS. The Synod was very interested and excited about the placemat advertising idea.

The furniture and flow of activities, in the Narthex, has been changed to make entering Zion more inviting and welcoming. Many positive comments have been made about the change.

The Fellowship Committee has been busy working on Zion's 140th Anniversary Celebration. There will be a picnic following worship on Sunday August 23rd. Along with the picnic, there will be trivia contests, with prizes, a bouncy house for the children and other activities. People are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Everything else will be provided.

The Youth Group Committee reported that the Waterfront Booth fundraiser was a big success. Dollar amounts have not been finalized at this time. Troy Cording talked about the Youth Gathering trip to Detroit. He stated that it was an awesome experience for both the adults and youth that attended. Please look for an article in the newsletter for more from Troy regarding the Gathering.

This year's Stewardship Drive will be modeled after last year's Consecration Sunday. *Going Where Jesus Leads* will be held on October 4, 2015. The Council will attend a dinner September 29th at Schloegel's Bay View Restaurant with a brief message regarding the spiritual-growth dimensions of stewardship in preparation of our *Going Where Jesus Leads* Sunday on October 4, 2015. Please be on the lookout for more information on this year's drive coming soon.

A gathering will be held on September 20th, after Worship, for members that have accounts with Thrivent. This will be an informational meeting on how your membership can help fund activities at Zion and mission outreach.(continued)

Summary of August 2015 Council Meeting_____

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Zion's new Mission Endowment Fund committee has met. The Mission Endowment Fund will be invested in the ELCA's Pooled Trust - Fund A. Since Fund A pays a quarterly distribution, the committee decided that this will be the "income" that is distributed each year. They also determined that they will meet each July to decide upon recipients for the distributions. The proposed list will be submitted to Zion's Congregation Council for their August meeting. The next meeting of Zion's Mission Endowment Fund will be Sunday, August 25, at 6:30.

The Council approved implementing background checks on all those who volunteer with children at Zion. Church Mutual, our insurance carrier, has strongly suggested we do an initial background checks on those responsible for children and then once annually after that. This will cost approximately \$25 per background check. Church Mutual has waived the set up fees for us as well as the monthly minimum order requirement.

The Council will be hosting the coffee hour on September 13th. We will be honoring Pastor George Olson's 60th Anniversary of his Ordination.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, 2015 at 6:30.

The meeting ended with the Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams, Recording Secretary

The Stewardship Corner

This month I'm zeroing in on a short history about tithing. I was surprised to read that tithing was a form of taxation from ancient antiquity to the Roman Empire. Money was not the common currency of exchange; rather the political ruler collected the tax-tithe of food, animals, and even subjected people in order to finance his government, pay government expenses, build government buildings, and provide a national army.

Leviticus 28:30-33 required that God's people tithe one-tenth of produce, flocks, and cattle to be given to support Levite priests and the temple. When God's people followed these mandates, they were given a chance at righteousness. The tithe became a part of what it meant to be in relationship with God. Theirs was a gift of gratitude in response to God's generosity. Leviticus is filled with a list of offering types and the circumstance under which they were required. If you haven't read it, please do – it's mind boggling.

Actually, Old Testament Law required multiple tithes—one for the Levites, one for the use of the temple and the feasts, and one for the poor of the land. According to “gotquestions.org”, these tithes would have pushed the total to around 23.3 percent.

Luke 22:22-24 tells us that Mary and Joseph followed the law. It reads, “When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’”

Leviticus 12:6 says, “When the days of her purification are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb in its first year for a burnt-offering, and a pigeon or a turtle-dove for a sin-offering.”

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The Stewardship Corner

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The sin offering was to atone for a sin committed unintentionally, while the burnt offering became a part of the daily offerings made to God on behalf of the community.

Today we don't operate under a sacrificial system; rather Jesus was the lamb who, once sacrificed, made atonement with God for our sins. We are no longer under the old law, now we are under grace, and we must not forget the purpose of grace: to help us live for God and do the things he wants us to do.

Tithing was eventually adopted by the Western Christian church. Most of us are aware that we as Christians are to give, but many people get hung up on the 10% part of the tithe. The fact is that God knows we can't all give an equal amount because we all have different resources, so he gave us a percentage, which ensures equality. The New Testament does not specify a percentage; however, it does emphasize that since all we have is from God, we return with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given to us. We choose spiritual disciplines like tithing to demonstrate our love for God. It's not a tribute which is owed, but a gift returned to the giver. We cannot buy God's favor because thankfully it is already ours. We cannot tithe our way into a seat at the heavenly dinner party because a place has already been set for us.

In order to put our reliance on God, not ourselves, we need to consider our priorities. They might be creating a financial life that puts giving to the church last. If we were to choose to give away 10% of our income, or possibly work up to 10%, what kind of modifications must we make to our day-to-day spending plan to make that possible?

Those who have little often lavish much. They may trust in God's provision. Maybe they define wealth in different ways than we do. When the widow gave her two small copper coins, Jesus understood that her heart was more giving because she gave a larger percentage

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The Stewardship Corner

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of what she had than all the others who were much richer. This verse is interesting because this widow gave all she had to live on. There are many people today who say they can't afford to tithe or even work to a tithe, but this woman realized she couldn't afford not to.

God knows we are naturally inclined to be selfish and will want to keep our money. So while we should give cheerfully, sometimes we need to take the step and actually give regardless of our internal feelings. The act of giving allows God to change our hearts so that ultimately we end up doing so cheerfully. Many of us, if we let our natural minds decide how much to give, would likely opt for a lot less than 10%. Having a standard does keep us accountable.

Psychologists tell us that we change our behavior when the pain of staying becomes greater than the pain of changing. My cancer diagnosis made me want to change. God provided me such peace and contentment on hearing I had Ovarian Cancer that I wanted to worship him whenever possible. I wanted to make a change in my life and I have. Little by little I started to take a good long look at my life; the life I was given thanks to God's over-whelming grace, and I made drastic changes. I made those changes because I wanted to give back to God a little bit of what he had given to me - my very life.

How much do we really need? Take a look at the things you have, rather than concentrating on what you don't have. Responding to the call to commit financially is not about scarcity, but about seeing abundance and rearranging priorities. It's about need, rather than want.

Consider what your financial commitment to the church can do. Certainly it supports our pastor and staff, but it also supports the DAR Boys and Girls Club, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, our youth and adult educational programs, Luther Home, our synod, World Hunger and so much more. Working together, we can and do make a huge difference in people's lives in ways we can only dream about.

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The Stewardship Corner

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I hope and pray that members of this congregation do not have to experience personal pain as I did to make a change and to understand the importance of supporting the church and this congregation. I pray that you will realize just how much God has given you and out of love for him and a burning desire to repay him in some small way, will prayerfully increase your giving, working toward a tithe.

In God's peace and love,

Karen Sylvester

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

Zion Lutheran Senior Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:10 p.m., in the balcony of church. I am planning for us to sing our first anthem on Sunday, September 20th. We would love some new members! If you are interested give me a call. I tell people just come and when you feel confident then sing with us on a Sunday. Check us out if you have a love for singing and music. It does not matter if you have never sang in a choir or read music. You will find our rehearsals filled with laughter, song and prayer. We usually sing two Sundays a month and for special services such as Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Blessings, Ann Buscher 715-735-3017



News from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp _____

The "Driving Faith Forward" initiative is still going strong at Fortune Lake although the camp is not nearly as busy now that the summer camping season has ended. August 7th was the last day of the summer camping season and it brought a record-breaking number of family campers (40), a group of nearly 30 energetic day campers, and a dozen high school Night Owls who slept in the Vagabond tents for the final time. The last day also provided the only all-day rain all summer! Thanks be to God!!

More than 500 campers experienced God's love in lots of ways on site, and we're told that camp staffers impacted the lives of about 400 more kids at day camps in area congregations. We give thanks for a safe summer with a creative and enthusiastic staff! We are indeed blessed.

Saturday, September 12th those at camp will be breaking ground for the four Vagland tree houses which this congregation enthusiastically supported. These will be a major undertaking throughout the fall for volunteers and staff.

Here are some upcoming events at Fortune Lake which you may want to attend:

***September 18th – 20th the Women's Fall Retreat** with Inez Torres Davis, the Director for Justice for Women of the ELCA. This retreat is planned by the Women of Bethany, Norway, Michigan. Plan on a weekend of fun, love, and joy.

*** Oct 3- Fall Fest & Quilt Auction.** Enjoy a wonderful day at Fortune Lake and help support our Ministry! Buffet Brunch from 9:30- 11:00, Quilt viewing begins at 9:30 and the auction at 11:00. There will be a country market featuring breads and pies and a Country Store with smaller handcrafted items. There will be children's activities available as well. FLLC is now accepting donations.

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News from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp _____

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*** October 16th and 17th - "I Believe" a Junior High Retreat.** Join FLLC for this exciting weekend of games, new friends, songs, worship, and Bible Study. Those attending will be studying the 2nd article of the Apostle's creed and digging into what Jesus means to them. Retreat begins on Friday evening 7 and ends Saturday at 2 pm. Cost is \$45.

*** Nov. 6th – 8th a High School Retreat and U.F.O. (Unfinished Object Crafting Retreat)**

*** Dec. 4th - 5th a "Long December: A Grief Retreat"**

For more information on any of these events, see the FLLC website at www.fortunelake.org.

In God's Peace and Love, Karen Sylvester FLLC Flame

SPARK starts September 16th! _____

This year's kickoff for SPARK will take place on Wednesday September 16th; with a family service beginning at 5:30 and classes beginning at 6. A welcome letter and new registration form will be mailed for all children ages 3 thru fifth grade. Our database needs to be updated so please fill out the registration form and return it to church or bring it along on the first night. Our first mission project for the year will be raising money to pick a name off of the Angel Tree at Christmas time. Children are encouraged to bring weekly offerings that they can place in the Angel Tree jar. Please mark your calendar for Sunday September 20. Children entering 3rd and 6th grade as well as children who have turned 3 will receive their new bibles. These will be handed out during the worship service.

Stephanie Klein, SPARK Superintendent

Ladies Luncheon Group _____

Zion Ladies luncheon group will be meeting on Thursday, September 17th at the Best Western Inn Downtown Marinette at noon. You do not need to make a reservation. Please call Ann Buscher with questions or if you need a ride. Try inviting someone new at church this Sunday to join us! We have a lot of fun! Blessings, Ann Buscher 715 735 3017



NEWCAP Donations _____

Our NEWCAP collection theme during the month of SEPTEMBER is "All things for school lunches." Such items as, pudding cups, boxed fruit drinks, fruit snacks, etc, NON-PERISHABLE." Your donations will be given to the NEWCAP local food pantry.



Harvest of Hope Community Garden _____

Can you help pick?

Yes, the produce is coming fast and furious. We need to get this produce to area pantries. So, can you help pick? There are beans and peppers and tomatoes and summer squash that really need to be picked and delivered. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Michelle at 920.615.0098, or Heidi at 906.864.2289. You are also welcome to use produce for your personal needs as well. In other words, don't buy zucchini from the store if we've got some zucchini here, (S&J!)

Also, you can still connect with Michelle on Tuesdays between 11:00 and 2:00.

And, don't forget about the mailbox. You can leave notes to others there, informing the group as to what you have done, or plans you might have. It is a great communication center.

The Harvest of Hope Community Garden is making a difference in this community. Any help you can offer is greatly appreciated!



Bible Study

Is This The Time? Interpreting the Mystery of Revelation

Starting on Tuesday, Sept. 15, a seven-week study of the Book of Revelation will be offered at two different times and places, either Tuesday mornings beginning at 10:30 at St. James Lutheran on Main St. or Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:00 at Zion.

The class will include a series of DVD presentations by Dr. Craig Koester, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. This video series will help the student discover Revelation's message of God's love and hope for the world, shrouded in symbolism, prophecy, conflict and fear. Mining the rich material from his popular course, workshops and books. Koester's intimate, personal and direct explication makes for a dynamic and engaging learning experience. The teacher's mission: "I want you to believe all of what God wants you to believe about Revelation." Dr. Koester uses the rich histories of art and music to tell the story of the entire Book of Revelation. He examines the sensationalistic interpretations of Revelation and related apocalyptic theories, showing why these approaches are problematic.

This class will provide a much-needed, truly biblical perspective on what is arguably the most difficult book of the Bible.



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2015

September 1

Karen Dill
Jill Harding
Braedhan Madden
Thea Swenson

September 2

Tom Kaufman

September 4

Diane Beattie

September 7

Bruce Oleson

September 9

Wilbur Cook

September 10

Christian Klein
Seth Kuhn
Bradley Nelson

September 12

George Olson

September 13

John Powilaites

September 14

Joe Larson

September 15

Darwin Peterson

September 16

Geraldine Brooks
Vicki Guay

September 18

Dolores Green

September 20

Carla Clarke
Amanda Oleson

September 21

Donna Dietrich

September 23

Larry Race

September 24

Hilma Backman
Julie Otto

September 25

Mary Bodam

September 26

Dorothy Bretl
Bob Hamer
Daniel Johnson
Kaya Lebeck

September 30

Kurt Aschim
Billy Retza



Happy
Birthday



SEPTEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship 5pm Service of Reflection	7 Office Closed Labor Day	8 9-11:30am Sew-for- Missions 6:30pm Council Meeting	9 6:30pm Confirmation Parent Meeting 7:10pm Choir	10 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	11	12
13 9:30am Worship Walcher Baptism 60 th Anniversary of Ordination Pastor George Olson 11am "God's Work; Our Hands Sunday 5pm Service of Reflection	14 Noon – Kiwanis 4:30pm Sarah Group Grom Cottage 6-8pm Ecumenical Adult Bible Class 6:30-8pm Lay School at Community Covenant Church	15 10:30am Bible Study at St. James	16 5:30-6pm Worship 6-7pm SPARK, Confirmation, Adult Bible Class 7:10pm Choir	17 6:30pm Social Ministry Meeting At Schutt's 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	18	19
20 9:30am Worship (Youth Bible Sunday) 5pm Service of Reflection	21 Noon- Kiwanis 6-8pm Ecumenical Adult Bible Class 6:30-8pm Lay School at Community Covenant Church	22 9-11:30am Sew- for-Missions 10:30am Bible Study at St. James 6:30pm Mission Endowment Committee	23 5:30-6pm Worship 6-7pm SPARK, Confirmation, Adult Bible Class 7:10pm Choir	24 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	25	26
27 9:30am Worship Note: Pastor Keith on Vacation. 5pm Service of Reflection	28 Noon- Kiwanis 6:30-8pm Lay School at Community Covenant Church	29 10:30am Bible Study at St. James 6pm Stewardship dinner at Scholegel's Restaurant	30 5:30-6pm Worship 6-7pm SPARK, Confirmation, Adult Bible Class 7:10pm Choir			