

ZION E W S



Zion Lutheran Church
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January 2017

*Zion Congregational Annual Meeting
will be held on Sunday, January 29th.*

**The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship**

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

✠Serve

Our Discipleship Together

Light to the World

We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it. —Madeleine L'Engle

An emphasis of the Epiphany season is our call to share the light of Christ with the world. I thought this quote from Madeline L'Engle wonderfully sums up why and how it is we do this. We are not engaged in a military activity where we need to triumph over an enemy. Sharing Christ with others is not a power struggle. There's no need to demand that people keep Christ in Christmas or that government buildings display our nativity sets. We don't need victory. That victory has already been won on the cross.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

The world has been saved. That has been taken care of by Christ. So, rather than trying to save the world, we get to be the love of God in the world, the light no darkness can overcome. How fun is that?!? No axes to grind. No points that need to be made. No demands. No hurt feelings. Just living out the love of God in the world using the blessings that God has entrusted into our lives. What a joy it is to be the light of the world together with you.

Pastor Keith

Council Summary for the Month of December _____

The Council met on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

Pastor's Report

- November Attendance: '16-114 '15-128 '14-103,
- Funeral: Patrice Mullin - Nov. 5
- Pastor presented at the Ecumenical Bible Class for Adults with Special Needs - Nov. 21

November Financial Reports

- General Fund fund balance is \$6,668.
- Capital Improvement Fund balance is \$38,115
- Fortune Lake Campers Fund balance is \$2,051
- The Intern Fund Balance remained at \$744.
- The Garden Grant Fund fund balance remained at \$308.
- The Helping Hand Fund balance is \$1,410.

Committee Reports

Property:

- The snowblower is ready for winter. The salt has been put by each entrance.
- Lawnmowers have been winterized
- The new smart light switches in the Sanctuary are still being troubleshooted by J&T Electric and the manufacturer. They hope they will be ready by Christmas Eve.

Worship and Music:

- The Dixieland Band will lead Worship on February 19th.
- Sunday January 22nd will be Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Sunday
- Zion will start paying the bass player, in the Zion band, the same wage as the Organist.

Stewardship and Generosity:

- The number of pledges for 2017 is down from 69 to 46.

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Council Summary for the Month of December _____

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- A number of things were discussed as to why this occurred.
 - Another email will be sent out with pledging information.
 - A demonstration of Vanco(Simply Giving) will be held for people who need support or more information
- Personnel:**
- A 2% increase for all employees is recommended for 2017

Old Business

- Flooring and pew removal/installation quotations
- The Council recommends hiring HJ Martin & Sons and DeWitt Church Goods for the removal and installation of new flooring in the Sanctuary with an approximate cost of \$47,215.

New Business

- Date set for Annual Meeting
- January 29th after Worship
- Reports for the Annual Meeting need to be to the church office by January 16th.
- Carryover money for FLLC Fund
- \$1500 will remain in the Community Camper Fund for the 2017 budget and the remaining balance will be given to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

Our next meeting will be held on **January 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**



2017 Zion Building Maintenance Project _____

In September, Mark Swenson, Pastor Keith, and I began to investigate new flooring for several areas at Zion.

The carpet in the sanctuary, family room, and the stairwell to the choir loft were installed approximately 25 years ago. The carpet in the chapel and the hallway to the vestry dates back to the 60's when Zion was constructed.

All of these carpets are creating a hazard because they are puckering creating a wavy effect, or simply disintegrating causing carpet threads to come lose.

Bids were sought from several carpeting and pew installation firms. The costs came in at just under \$50,000.

A five to ten-member committee will be formed. If you would like to submit your name to serve on this committee, contact me via email or phone. If a large number of individual's express interest, names will be drawn.

This will be a major renovation project for the congregation. For that reason, we will be discussing it at the January 29th Annual Meeting after the 9:30 am worship service.

In God's love and grace,

Karen Sylvester
Congregation Council President

The Stewardship Corner _____

(I gave Karen Sylvester a break this month. She certainly deserves it! She still wrote many other articles in this newsletter! I'm deeply grateful for her work and passion on this article each month in our newsletter. I'm sure one of the greatest gifts you could give her would be to volunteer to write this article one month for her. Think about it!!)

It couldn't be done without you!!

You hear me say it all the time, and sometimes I worry that maybe I say it too often, but then I realize that there is much more working to make us forget it rather than remember it, so here it goes one more time: God brings us together as a congregation. Sure, we participate in the activity by deciding what we like and what we don't like, what we are comfortable with, etc., but standing back from all of our individual decisions and actions, it becomes pretty obvious that God is the one who brings us together as a congregation.

Why does God do this? There are many reasons. One is that we need each other. Being the body of Christ, the love of God in the world each and every day is difficult and challenging work. Coming together as a congregation offers each of us the support we need for living out this ministry. Congregations offer us a way to connect with others who are taking seriously their ministry in daily life. We can learn from each other. We can help each other. We can offer that warm shoulder when it is needed or we can accept it too. Daily ministry is so much easier when we have one another in our corners.

Another reason God brings us together as a congregation is that together we are able to do so much more than we can as individuals. Sure, we can make Lutheran World Relief quilts on our own, but together we are able to make many more. We can buy fair trade items at places other than Zion, but coming together as a congregation makes it easier for us to do this. Individually we can donate food to a local food pantry, but joining together as a congregation makes us more aware of the need and challenges us to step up in ways that we probably wouldn't individually.

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The Stewardship Corner _____

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Our congregation is also a part of a larger church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which enables us to join with over three and a half million other people to make a difference in the world; to be the love of God in the world. Mission work that we do through the ELCA is only possible with the support of so many rather than with the support of only one. Calling and training future pastors is something we could not do nearly as well as an individual congregation.

Advocacy work has much more power when we can do it together with three million others rather than just as individuals. Sure, we could put together a hymnal, but joining together with the whole ELCA opens up our perspective, exposing us to new ideas and insights that would be impossible if we did it on our own.

As we prepare this month for our Annual Meeting on January 29th, we will be doing a lot of reflecting on what we did as a congregation this past year, and what we anticipate for the future. For me, this process becomes a powerful reminder that what we do as a congregation could not be done without you. Yes, we yearn for so much more: More people, doing more within and outside the congregation, but I think this yearning grows out of the joy we experience in ministry together. Not wanting more would be a sign of our death. Our hunger for more to be connected is a sign that we have a lot going on at Zion. It is a sign of our health as a congregation, health that could not be experienced without you!

When I reflect upon all that we do as a congregation, I'm thrilled not only with how many do participate in the work of the congregation, but I'm stunned by all that we accomplish. When I read our Annual Report, it is obvious that God has been very busy with us, and wants that activity to continue. Our yearning for more is a sign of this.

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The Stewardship Corner _____

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God brings us together as a congregation and blesses us with all that we need to do the work that God wants us to do in within the congregation, within the community and within the world. You are an important part of the blessings that God provides our congregation. Thank you, and happy New Year!

Pastor Keith

Study Luther's Small Catechism! _____

Starting January 10th, on Tuesday mornings beginning at 10:30 at St. James, and starting on January 11th, on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6:00 at Zion, there will be a class looking at Luther's Small Catechism. The Small Catechism is full of Luther's explanations of The Apostles' Creed, The Ten Commandments, The Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments; explanations that were intended for parents to teach their children. It is still in use in confirmation instruction, and many of us haven't looked at it since. Bringing an adult perspective to these texts is very insightful and enlightening. This study is also a good way to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

'Souper' Bowl Challenge _____

January 1st – February 5th the congregations of the Menominee Valley Conference are challenging one another as to who can contribute the most cans of food and paper goods for our local needy. Zion is more than up to the challenge. So, start planning today what you will contribute to this challenge! Contributions will be divided between NEWCAP and the Marinette School Food Pantry for the homeless.

Bishop Thomas A. Skrenes To Retire _____

Bishop Skrenes has announced that he will not be seeking another term as Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. He began serving as bishop in 1999, and was reelected in 2005 and 2011. When his current term is completed on August 31, 2017 he will retire. A Transition Team has been established so that another pastor can be elected at Synod Assembly, May 21-23, 2017.

The Bishop's Office Transition Team is chaired by Pastor Doug Johnson. Since created by the Synod Council, the Transition Team has had two meetings and is working on two separate but connected projects.

A synod "self-study" has been approved by the Synod Council. In February, four persons from the church-wide offices in Chicago will hear the hopes and dreams of our synod members as we lean into the future. Invitations to all congregations were sent in late December to attend interviews on Saturday, February 18th, at two different locations in the synod. The Interview Team will be eager to hear opinions and ideas from our congregational leaders - pastors and laity.

The Transition Team is also working on the process for the election of the bishop. The Synod Council will be approving the process complete with schedule at its January meeting. Immediately after that meeting, the complete process schedule will be communicated with the synod's congregations and pastors.

Funeral Luncheons

In March of 2016, Zion distributed a Funeral Survey at worship and online. The following individuals answered that survey:

Annette Anderson
 Hilma Backman
 Kathy Bauer
 Barb Baumgarten
 Sue Baxter
 Heidi Beland
 Carole Boerner
 Roxanne Bowdin
 Ann Buscher
 Carla Clarke
 Barb & Duane Clarke
 Lori Despina
 Karen Dill
 Sharon Ehlers
 Pam Goes
 Barb & Gary Grom
 Mary Hayward
 Karen Houdek
 Eileen Jagielski
 Carol & Dave Johnson
 Rita & Clark Kehoe
 Stephanie Klein
 Lisa Knopik
 Karen Kolstad
 Nila Krenos
 Jane Landenberger
 Michelle LaFond
 Belinda Lemire
 LeeAnn Martin
 Sarah Marzahl
 Candy Minzlaff

Ruth Olson
 Nora Phym
 Corina Powers
 Sharon Powilaites
 Pat Rondeau
 Joni & Sarge Rudell
 Nancy & Kenny Sallee
 Bonnie Schoen
 Pat Schultz
 Jo & Don Schutt
 Judy Stehle
 Johanna Zuehls

Within the last several weeks it has come to my attention that several individuals did not fill out the survey or perhaps did not put their name of their submission.

If you want to be contacted to help with future funeral luncheons, please contact Karen Sylvester. Her phone number is 715.732.4206, while her email address is gsylvester@new.rr.com.

Thank you.

Karen Sylvester

Jolly Times Game Day

In December, we had Christmas treats to share and Pinochle was being taught, besides playing the favorite Mexican Train Dominoes. Won't you join us next year for a Jolly Time? Bring a friend. Mark your calendar for the first and third Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to play at Zion. January dates are January 5th & 19th. Learning is good for the mind. Laughter is good for the soul. Happy New Year!

Sharon Powilaites 715.735.5577

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, following the worship service. If you chair a committee or group, please have your report for the Annual Report submitted to the office no later than January 12th. The Annual Report will be available to all members on Sunday, January 22nd, the week before the meeting takes place.

Church Directory Updates

Please let us know of any personal information changes, such as landline to cell phone, address changes, marriage, divorce, school, service or name change. Please inform the church office at 715.735.7898 or email us at zion@newbc.rr.com

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2017

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Lector—Sharon Powilaites Acolyte—Jaclynn Knopik
 Greeter—Shirley Enderby Head Usher—Michelle Larson
 Communion Assistants—Karen Sylvester (Pouring), Sue Baxter & Johanna
 Zuehls (Distributing the Host)
 AV Team—Chad Derby and Gage Schutt

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Lector—Bryan Gutknecht Acolyte—James Martin
 Greeters—Pastor George & Ruth Olson Head Usher—Pat Rondeau
 Communion Assistant—Roxie Bowdin
 AV Team—Troy Cording & Chad Derby

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Lector—Pastor George Olson Acolyte—Alexis Roth
 Greeters—Nila & George Krenos Head Usher—Michelle Larson
 Communion Assistant—Kathy Heimbuch (Pouring), Karen Dill & Barb
 Grom (Distributing the Host)
 AV Team—Sarge Rudell and Chad Derby

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Lector—Karen Sylvester Acolyte—Bristol Dugre
 Greeters—Shirley & Oliver Swenson Head Usher—Nora Plym
 Communion Assistant—Carole Boerner
 AV Team—Chad Derby and Sharon Powilaitis
 Coffee Time Sponsor—Nora Plym

Sunday, January 29, 2017

Lector—Chad Francour Acolyte—Sydney Lund
 Greeters—Belinda & Dan Lemire Head Usher—Available
 Communion Assistant—Jacki Renne
 AV Team—Chad Derby & Cheryl Maxwell

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2017

January 2

Debra Harding

January 3

Tyler Brooks
 David Francour

January 4

Mary Hayward

January 5

Adison Rosenfeldt
 Daniel Zuehls

January 6

Sarah Pecard

January 8

Rhonda Bromund

January 10

Johanna Zuehls

January 13

Oliver Swenson

January 15

Paige Dugre
 Marilyn Gould
 Diane Slack

January 15

Bethany Wolf

January 17

Maryellen Radloff

January 18

Regina Boucher

January 20

Kathy Heimbuch

January 21

Sharon Powilaites
 Drake Schutt

January 22

Shawn Limberg

January 23

Willow Williams

January 24

Pam Lund
 Tatem Schroeder

January 25

Bev DeGroot
 Denise Despins

January 26

Colleen Madden

January 27

Ralph Anderson

January 30

Shirley Kaufman



Happy
 Birthday

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Sunday _____

Zion will be celebrating all things Fortune Lake on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at the 9:30 am. worship service. Jonah Zuehls will be providing a Temple Talk and sharing his camping experience with us. In addition, we will sing camp songs and enjoy a camp video.

Every year, through congregation donations, Zion helps to offset our member's Fortune Lake camping costs. A child attending camp for the first time is provided a 50% scholarship, while 25% is paid for those camp experiences that follow. In 2016, nine of Zion's youth went to camp. That was the largest number of kids attending in sometime. For all but two of those children, this was their first FLLC camp experience.

In addition, every year full scholarships are awarded to youth who are not members of Zion. In 2016, six young people were sent to Fortune Lake with scholarships paid through the Community Campers fund which this congregation financially supports.

In their own words, here are comments made by the youth who participated.

Caitlin Kielcheski, Age 13 ~ "My experience at Fortune Lake, was amazing. I met so many new friends, had a lot of new experiences, new environment, and I felt so much closer to God. Our days were filled with meeting and getting to know new friends, playing games, learning about God, having Bible study, and of course, having a blast! I'm thankful for Zion Lutheran church for giving me this wonderful opportunity to experience, and can't wait for next year to do it all again." ~ This comment comes to us from Caitlin's mother. "She will be going again this summer which warms my heart! Thank you and Gods richest blessings to you! Happy Holidays."

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Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Sunday _____

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Carly Bauer, Age 13 ~ "I like how camp is able to enlarge our faith belief, but still connect with friends and do fun activities. I remember that at camp a girl in my cabin and I were so close we made inside jokes, and I still remember some to this day. In fact, we still all talk right now. I liked being a Night Owl especially. I would really recommend going to camp. It's a great experience, and I can't wait to go this summer."

Ella Pecard, Age 11 ~ "Going to Fortune Lake has been such a great experience. I have met so many friends and still keep in touch with some of them. I have gone for the past two summers now and both times they have been the highlight of my summer. We started each day of camp with a Bible Study and then went to Chapel to sing songs. After that we had Magical Time where we got to choose our activity between things like swimming or crafts or other activities. We always ended each day with a campfire and more singing. Something that was unique about my experience was that I stayed in a tree house and everyone had to pitch in and make all of our meals on the fire. Fortune Lake is special to me because its a really fun and comfortable place where you learn about God and grow in my relationship with Him. Thank you so much blessing me through going to Fortune Lake."

Jaclynn (Jazzie) Knopik, Age 14 ~ "Personally my Fortune Lake experience was REMARKABLE and I know for a fact that the people I spent my time with there totally agree. Our camp advisers were a huge part in making my experience something to remember. I keep in touch with them and the people I met there in a group message!"

Gage Schutt, Age 13 "Fortune Lake IS GREAT! We made history by being the first to camp in the new tree houses that they built. I want to thank all of you for helping send me to Fortune Lake!!"

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Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Sunday _____

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Maia Pecard, Age 9 ~ "Thank you for giving me the chance to go to camp. It was so fun. One of the most special things was jumping off the blob during swim time in the lake. We had so much fun. Another one of my favorite things was singing songs around the campfire. I met so many fun people there and my camp counselor was even from Scotland! I hope to have the opportunity to go again to Fortune Lake next year."

Cassie Bauer, Age 15 ~ "My experience at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp has been nothing but great memories. Last year, I stayed as a Night Owl. We cooked on an open fire, stayed up late, and met so many new friends. The counselors are the coolest people. I love to grow in faith while having fun."

The benefit derived from your donations to these two very worthwhile ministries are wide spread and make a very real difference in a child's life. I hope you will come to worship on Sunday, January 22nd to see and hear all about the ministry that you support.

In God's love and grace,

Karen Sylvester
FLLC FLAME

Worship and Music _____

As I sit here writing my article for the last newsletter this year I think of how blest I am to be part of the family at Zion.

My Christmas at Zion started with decorating the church. We did not do the traditional red and gold but used the colors of advent. The men decorating those 12-foot trees with lights and over 150 ornaments is a sight to see. Delicious chili lunch and fellowship made it a fun morning.

The Christmas program with the Ecumenical Bible class for adults with special needs is another special night at Zion. Pastor Keith read the story for us again this year and they played their bells with joy on their faces. We have over 30 participants this year and are always looking for more staff to come help us at our meetings. We meet the first and third Mondays of the month.

The Spark Christmas program at Zion was adorable. They all had their lines memorized and sang with loud enthusiasm. We had a coffee hour afterwards with tons of homemade Christmas goodies.

Despite the cold weather, we had over 20 people go caroling to our shut ins. When we got to the Luther Home it was suppertime so we serenaded two dining rooms full of people. I got a lovely thank you note from Joyce Anderson for the gifts the children made and the bag of goodies.

Then three days before Christmas we came together to celebrate the life of Ellice DeBenedetto and the Zion family rolled up it sleeves and went to work. The church was cleaned, music practiced, bulletins made ready, food prepared, and workers helping in every aspect that was needed. Thank you to all!

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Worship and Music

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Then it was Christmas Eve and the Christmas Choir was ready to go thanks to all their hard work. If you did not have a chance to attend worship on Christmas Eve, please listen to the service on your computer. I always tell people I have the best seat in the house on the organ at the end of the service. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" As I look at the front of the sanctuary I see the cross and the trees shining with light. The candles are slowly lit and the church slowly begins to glow. Then we sing Silent Night and our voices sound so sweet it always makes me cry. I love the end of our service. Pastor Keith gave a beautiful message based on the carol "Away in the Manger"

A very special thank you to Rachel Rosenfeldt our accompanist for our choir. Rachel is such a gift to me as a director and does such an amazing job that I do not think people sometimes realize how hard the music is that she is playing. When I watched the choir on my computer Christmas morning and heard her playing on that second piece I know why the choir sounded so good.

Thank you to Karen Kolstad and Bill Tipple who played their guitars Christmas morning as we worshiped with Lessons and Carols.

We are losing several choir members for the winter and I am looking for some new people to come give us a try. Our choir is going to drop down to only 14. We will be meeting January 18th at 7:15 to start preparing for the winter and Lenten season. Give me a call if you would like more information. Rehearsals are only an hour and we have lots of fun!

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Worship and Music

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January, we will be having several special services planned for Worship. Here is the schedule!

January 1st First Sunday of Christmas

January 8th Contemporary Worship - Baptism of our Lord

January 15th Season of Epiphany Begins

January 22nd Fortune Lake Camp Sunday Celebration

January 30th Annual Meeting

We are also excited to let you know that we will be having a special group "Resurrection Afterglow" come to play at our worship service on Sunday, February 26th! Mark your calendar as we be advertising this special event.

Blessings, Ann Buscher

Pastoral Visitation

Please be aware that Bay Area Medical Center no longer contacts congregations in the community when people are admitted to the hospital.

If you want Pastor Keith to make a call, you need to make sure that he is contacted directly. You may contact him at 715.735.7898 or on his cellphone at 715.587.7898. The same holds true if you would like someone from our Caring Ministry Team to make a home visit. You may contact Karen Sylvester with the Caring Ministry Team at 715.732.4206 to schedule a visit.

In other words, don't hope that someone else who might know about your desire to be visited will contact Pastor for you. This can lead to misunderstandings and hurt feelings. Again, make sure Pastor is contacted directly.

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 a.m. Worship New Year's Day	2	3 6:30 p.m. Mission Endowment Committee	4 5:30 p.m. Worship 6-7 pm SPARK, Confirmation Class	5 1-3 pm Jolly Times 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	6	7
8 9:30 a.m. Worship Following worship the Christmas decorations will be taken down.	9 5:30 p.m. Sarah Group Party at The Landing	10 9-11:30 a.m. Sew- for-Missions Group 10:30 a.m. Small Catechism at St. James 6:30 pm Council	11 5:30 pm Worship 6-7 pm SPARK, Confirmation, Small Catechism Study	12 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	13	14
15 9:30 a.m. Worship	16 6:30 p.m. Ecumenical Bible Study for adults with special needs. M L King Day	17 10:30 am Small Catechism Study at St. James Lutheran	18 5:30 pm Worship 6-7 pm SPARK, Confirmation, Small Catechism Study 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	19 1-3 pm Jolly Times 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	20	21
22 9:30 a.m. Worship Fortune Lake Sunday Annual Report Available.	23	24 9-11:30 a.m. Sew- for-Missions Group 10:30 a.m. Small Catechism Study at St. James Lutheran	25 5:30 pm Worship 6-7 pm SPARK, Confirmation, Small Catechism Study 7:15 Choir Rehearsal	26 6 pm Worship at Northland Village	27	28
29 9:30 a.m. Worship Annual Meeting	30 7:00 p.m. Cub Scout Pack Meeting	31 10:30 am Small Catechism Study at St. James Lutheran				