

WE ARE ZION



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November 2021



The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship

- #Pray
- #Worship
- #Study
- #Invite
- #Encourage
- #Give
- #Serve

“Be Thankful!”

Can we legislate thankfulness? Is it possible to create laws that will make us more thankful? Like the child obeying the parent, saying thanks to Aunt Edna for her gift of hot itchy socks, the words might be there, but the heart isn't in it. Is it possible to make the child thankful for those hot itchy socks by demanding the expression of thanks? A thankful heart is like a loving heart. It cannot be forced. It cannot be legislated.

And yet, we hear Jesus say/legislate that we are to love one another as he has loved us. And, after healing ten lepers, he points out the noteworthiness that one came back to give thanks. There is an expectation that we who follow Jesus are to live loving and thankful lives. But can this be legislated?

It is noteworthy that President Lincoln, who legislated Thanksgiving Day in 1863, did not say “Be more thankful” in his famous Proclamation. Instead, in the midst of the Civil War, Lincoln said “notice” in a number of ways within this Proclamation. In a way he said, “Notice God’s hand within another bountiful harvest. Notice God’s hand within the maintenance of peace and order. Notice God’s hand within our industry and growth as a nation.” Citing numerous examples, Lincoln said, “notice these things,” and then assumed the giving of heartfelt thanks would take care of itself.

So, we who follow Jesus, may not always have gratitude on our hearts, but we fall into routines, even legislated routines, that force us to notice, and out of it we discover heartfelt thanks upon our lips. We mumble through prayers at mealtime or bedtime, or we challenge ourselves to notice three things within the day that just passed for which we can be grateful, and from it we will witness the growth of gratitude. Yes, even one legislated day a year

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for giving thanks can produce thankfulness if the focus is upon noticing all that there is for which to give thanks.

So, let us embrace this legislated day for giving thanks. Let us use it to notice the loving and gracious activity of God within our lives, our families and our communities. Let us even notice or discover things to be thankful for within the struggles and disappointments of the past year. Let us be a people who are on the lookout for wild and crazy things to be thankful for, like hot itchy socks, signs of God's affection and kindness. And then watch as gratitude does miraculously bubble up in our hearts with praise and thanksgiving to God as we fall deeper in love with the God who is so absolutely in love with each and every one of us.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all people here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost."

With thanksgiving to God for you, *Pastor Keith*.



Congregation Council Highlights

The Congregation Council met via Zoom on October 12th beginning at 6:30 p.m. After the opening devotions, Norah Derby and Owen Derby gave their faith statements to the Council. Upon completion of their faith statements the Council unanimously accepted them as confirmed members of Zion. Their confirmation will take place on Sunday, October 31st.

Pastor Keith noted that attendance declined once again during September. He did a graveside service for Georgianna Veriha on September 11th. Pastor also reported that the Red Cross was very pleased with the drive that took place in our building on September 30 and requested two more dates to hold drives during 2022. Pastor will be on vacation for a week in November and a Sunday in December.

In the financial reports it was noted that there was a substantial decrease in the General Fund balance during September due to the insurance payment and Shepherd's Staff annual fee. The decrease so far in the Fund for the year is \$9,242. This balance may improve as we get closer to Christmas and the end of the year.

We are still working with the ELCA Endowment Fund over a disagreement regarding the amount deposited in that fund recently. Thanks to a donation from a member, Pane to Clean was hired to clean the brick and windows on the exterior of the church building. The work done greatly improved the look of the building in many areas. The bushes between the chapel and the garden will be trimmed back because they are on top of the roof and will cause damage. Snow removal for the upcoming winter was discussed.

Three young people are set to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer.

The Stewardship and Generosity Committee is planning a fall drive.

Outdoor worship services will conclude at the end of October. Holy Communion will then be offered weekly at each of the indoor, in-person services. There will be no changes to the safety protocol of the indoor services at this time.

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Congregation Council Highlights

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The Faithful Innovations team reported on work they have been doing since their last Synod training session. They would like to develop a social media committee that would look at all of Zion's social media presence and would also guide an expansion into TikTok. Pastor Keith showed a TikTok video to the Council that he created and there was significant discussion regarding this video and TikTok.

The Council reviewed disposal options for the Kurzweil piano. Significant discussion took place over a request for funding from Marinette High School. Due to the lack of a formal request, further discussion was tabled until one is received. During the month of January, there will be a food drive under the title of "Souper Bowl" in which we will collect food for school needs as well as NEWCAP.

There was no new business.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Congregation Council will be held November 9th.

What's Around the Corner in November?

Zion is buzzing with worship preparations! Below is a brief outline of what is "around the corner".

- Nov. 7: All Saints Sunday, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
Special music recorded by the Zion Senior Choir.
- Nov. 14: The 25th Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live. Guest Pastor Rev. Lee Goodwin
- Nov. 21: Christ the King Sunday, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.
- Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Day.
- Nov. 28: First Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. indoor worship with Holy Communion and via Facebook Live.

THANK YOU!

Zion received the following thank you notes from grateful recipients.

The DAR Boys & Girls Club — You have a heart of gold! Thank you for believing in the children in our community. Your passion to give them a fun and safe place to receive a healthy meal, learn new life skills, and enjoy time with friends and adult mentors does not go unnoticed. Thank you for trusting the DAR Boys & Girls Club to be that place for the Club children and their families. The DAR is blessed to have friends like you who are willing to participate to make our Club and community a better place. Thanks again for all your hard work and helping us be the place where "Great Futures Start Here!" Thank you so much for your donation. You are helping make futures a reality for the next generation of youth in our community.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp — Thank you for your generous support of outdoor ministry. For 90 years people have gathered in authentic community on the shores of Fortune Lake to be refreshed, to have new experiences, and to grow in faith. God has blessed us! Thank you for allowing these meaningful moments to continue through your contribution. This past year has taught us a lot. We are ever grateful for our beautiful facility and the opportunities it provides to be in God's creation, Music and art: they are balm for weary souls. Prayer and they center our own lives while keeping us mindful of others. More than anything, we value relationships with God and with one another! The true magic of Fortune Lake happens when we gather together. As many campers have said, "We want to come back!!!" Christ meets us. Throughout the pandemic, you have increasingly shown us how important Fortune Lake is to you. Thank you.

Holy Communion Offered During Indoor Worship

Presently we are distributing Holy Communion as a part of our in-person indoor Sunday worship. The distribution takes place at the end of the worship service outside when the weather allows. For those who do not want to worship indoors, you are still welcome to join us for Holy Communion following the service, but please call the church office at 715-735-7898 to inform us of your intent so that we will wait for you if necessary.

(When the weather doesn't allow, we are planning to distribute communion in the social hall with fans on and plenty of fresh air passing through, and with people exiting out the north door.)

Stay Up to Date with Zion

Are you on Zion's email list? If not, would you like to be? To be included on our email list, please send an email to: zion@newbc.rr.com requesting to be added to our emailing list. The emails consist of weekly announcements, important reminders, sign ups for distribution of Holy Communion and the monthly newsletter (just to name a few)!

Communities that Care Seeks Members

The Communities that Care coalition is looking for more community members to join their prevention efforts. The coalition has five workgroups that will move forward with required tasks and goals of decreasing youth substance use. Each workgroup meets for one hour once a month with opportunity for additional volunteer time outside of meetings on additional projects. For more information about each work group, you may visit their website www.ctcmarinetteMenominee.org, or sign up to become a member by calling CTC at 906-863-5665, ext. 1033.

Donations Needed for Book Sale

Spies Public Library is accepting donations for their annual book sale. The sale is Nov. 4-6. Donations can be dropped off at the library during business hours. For more information, you may visit the Spies Public Library's Facebook Page.

***Join us in lifting up our brothers and sisters in
Christ, in prayer as we remember their Baptism***

November 1: Carole Boerner, Daniel Lemire, Laura Rowe
November 2: Michael Cook, Georgann Griffiths, Timothy Saxton
November 3: Kensley Renne, Jennifer Voelker
November 5: Leah Rose
November 7: Beckham Betts, Donna Dietrich
November 9: Mark Swenson
November 10: Vicki Guay, John Heimbuch
November 11: Rebecca Erikson, Alexa Oleson
November 12: Barbara Grom, Belinda Lemire
November 13: Nora Plym
November 14: Seth Kuhn, Emma Williams
November 15: Chad Francour
November 16: Megan Buenning
November 18: Gary Grom
November 21: Rachel Breuer
November 25: Christian Klein
November 26: Thomas Kaufman, Kaya Lebick
November 29: Kaitlyn Francour, Sharon Schmidt, Joanne Schutt



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Events

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp will be holding the following events:

Nov. 15, Jan. 10, March 14, and May 9: Senior Days, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presentations and topics vary. Follow the camp on Facebook for updates and details.

January 14-16: Winter Wonderland Retreat to all ages

February 4-5: Jr./Sr. High Retreat for grades 7-12

February 18-20: Young Adult Retreat with an emphasis on self care for people ages 18-26

February 25-26: Youth Retreat for grades 3-6

The camp will also be hosting a LEGO Camp in 2022. This camp will be a 5-night program for grades 3-8 and will include loads of building challenges, exciting projects and old fashioned fun. In order to do so, we need A LOT of LEGO bricks!

Do you have a toy box or closet full of LEGO bricks that you don't need? Are you an avid thrifter who likes to find great deals? We need your help. Watch for LEGO bricks, and get them to Fortune Lake. Thanks in advance!



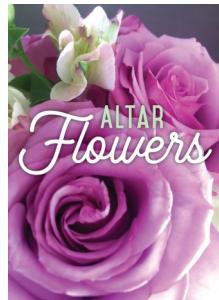
Donate to Zion

Did you know that you are able to contribute to Zion via the website? Simply to go: <http://www.zionlutheran-marinette.org> and in the far right margin of the page is a nice purple rectangle button that reads: Donate. Click it and follow the steps to donate. If you have questions, please call Karen Houdek. She'll help you through each step of the way. You may also click on the "Shop Now" button on Zion's Facebook page!

Tolling of the Funeral Bell: Remembering those Who Have Died of COVID-19

Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 12 noon.

At this time last year, just over 200,000 people had died of COVID-19 and along with our fellow congregations throughout our Synod as well as other denominations, we rang our church bell to honor their memory. This year, that number has climbed above 700,000 (as per CDC and WHO). Each death represents a grieving family, a loss suffered, the absence of a loved one felt. Sunday, November 7 is All Saints Sunday. It is a day that we remember our beloved dead. Again, on this day, we will also remember the many who have died during this pandemic by tolling our bell for five minutes at 12 noon on All Saints Sunday, November 7. Our Roman Catholic, Episcopal, and Methodist siblings, in addition to all community churches, are also invited to remember the dead in this way.



Altar Flower Sponsorships

Zion has altar flower sponsorships available. The cost of sponsoring the flowers for one week is \$15.00. Dates are reserved on a first come first serve basis. To reserve a date, please call or email Zion's office at 715-732- 7898 or [Zion@newbc.rr.com](mailto:zion@newbc.rr.com).

Worship Assistant Opportunities

If you or someone you know would like to volunteer as a lector or as an usher please follow the link [**2021 Worship Assistant Opportunities**](#) & fill in the necessary information. The readings for the particular Sunday will be shared with you days in advance and a copy will be printed for you to use that particular Sunday. Pastor Keith will update you of the ushering duties prior to worship as needed. Thank you for your consideration!

Pulling Together

The traditions of the annual Stewardship Drive continue to be hibernating because of the ongoing pandemic, but the Stewardship and Generosity Committee has faith that Zion will continue to ‘pull together’ by God’s grace and with his blessing. We are asking you to reflect prayerfully upon your commitment to the financial support of Zion. In addition to the day-to-day operations at Zion a percentage of our giving supports the Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS) and local missions of DAR Boys and Girls Club, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (FLLC) and Northland Lutheran Retirement Community (NLRC). While Zion’s pledges are not used for the annual budget, pledged amounts assist the Council with the budgetary process. Our primary purpose for asking you to pledge is that it is not only a helpful tool in managing your personal budget, but it also helps you to grow in faith.

Reflecting on God’s commitment to you, please make your financial pledge to Zion Lutheran Church by Monday, November 15, 2021.

Soon you will either be getting a letter in the mail detailing the ways for you to make this pledge or you will have a letter emailed to you that will contain the following link for you to make this pledge.

[LINK TO ONLINE GIVING](#)

Social distancing means we cannot always be with each other but pulling together means we can still be for each other! Thank you for your prayerful consideration of your financial support to the multiple ways Christ works through Zion’s ministries.



The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

The goal of Zion's Stewardship and Generosity Committee is to help God's people grow in their relationship with Jesus through the use of the time, talents, and finances God has entrusted to them.

Do you sometimes drive down the street and spot a beautiful home and wish yours looked as good? Do you watch HGTV as I do and wish you could afford that house, landscaping, furniture, or those top-of-the-line appliances? What about those spiffy new car commercials or the Viking River Cruise advertisements on PBS? If you're like me, you find you routinely covet a lot! You wish you had more, had better, yet knowing you already have so much!

A recent Gospel reading (Mark 10:17-31) told us about the rich man asking Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life, something all of us want. Jesus tells him to sell what he owns and give his money to the poor! Jesus goes on to say, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Well, let me tell you, I want to inherit the kingdom of God, and yet this Gospel reading causes me a fair amount of angst. I simply am not prepared to sell everything and give away my savings. For one thing, my husband wouldn't let me, and for another, I'm simply not prepared to do so. There is hope though for me and for you.

Pastor Keith's October 10th sermon told us that this was God's plan for this particular rich man, and not necessarily God's explicit instruction to all of us. However, we are asked to give back to God what he has first given to us; what that would be is a very individual decision between you and God. That's why we are so blessed to have a progressive pastor and a congregation that developed the Zion's Seven Marks of Discipleship, (Pray, Worship, Study, Invite, Serve, Encourage, Give and Serve) to help all of us grow in faith.

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The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

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Where do you feel God calling you to grow? Is it prayer? Is it regular weekly worship, or a daily devotional life? Is it the study of Scriptures? Perhaps you're feeling a nudge to invite others to join you in your faith journey, or to encourage and serve people when they have need? What about giving of your time, talents, and your money? That's what Mark's Gospel lesson is all about.

Zion is embarking on its annual Stewardship Drive. Each of you will receive information regarding that endeavor in the coming days. But first, I thought you might be interested in seeing the number of contributions made to Zion and the funding provided to its ministries.

As of September 30, 2021, Zion has received \$165,674 in contributions. The table below lists the ministries our congregation supports in addition to the day-to-day operations of Zion, the support percentage, and the dollars donated.

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Zion's Ministry Donations Through September, 2021		
Zion's Ministry Partners	Percentage of Yearly Giving based on Contributions to Zion's General Fund	Amount Funded
Northern Great Lakes Synod (NGLS)	11%	\$15,276
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (FLLC)	1.1% plus donations	\$1,873
Northland Lutheran Retirement Community (NLRC)	0.175%	\$242
DAR Boys and Girls Club (DAR)	2%	\$2,793
World Hunger		\$7,250

The Stewardship and Generosity Corner

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How do you feel our congregation is doing? Are you pleased with the contributions made to Zion and its ministries, and if not, what can you do about it?

God asks us to have a close and loving relationship with him; to place him first in our life and to share our time, talents, and money in his name.

There are three possible ways to provide more money to these ministries:

- Increase your financial contribution to Zion and in doing so increase the funds to each ministry based on the percentage provided.
- Vote to raise the percentage of giving to a particular ministry at the Annual Meeting.
- Contribute additional funds through Zion but earmark them for a specific ministry.

Maybe, like me, you wish for a more beautiful home, a new car, or a luxurious once in a lifetime vacation, but is that where God is calling you? Perhaps he wants you to develop an attitude of gratitude and share what he has given to you with others. We ask that you pray and consider your giving toward Zion and its ministries. Remember, through God all things are possible.

In God's peace, and love,

Karen Sylvester



November Birthdays

November 1: Georgann Griffiths
November 2: Jaclynn Knopik, Jeffery Minzlaff, Phillip Strohl
November 3: James Jagielski, Joanne Schutt, Jennifer Voelker
November 4: Hope Goes
November 5: John Kloida, Wendy Strutz
November 6: Henry Zuehls
November 7: Niklas Williams
November 9: Sharon Schmidt, Mary Thielen
November 10: Michael Harding
November 12: Lisa Cook, Carol Magnuson
November 18: Kenny Sallee
November 19: Barbara Baumgarten
November 21: Jane Landenberger, Shirly Nord
November 22: Nancy Sallee
November 24: Naomi Dumke, Caleb Williams
November 25: Susan Fischer
November 26: Bethany Emler
November 27: Karen Sylvester
November 28: Lanse Dill, Alex Gressel, Ronnie Lueskow
November 29: Carissa Kempka, Sydney Lund, Travis Lund



STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-2021

Bolstered by relationships

Jesús Escamilla knows the power of relationships. Over 15 years, he's seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

"**What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done,**" said the pastor of San Gabriel Lutheran Church in Alvarado, Texas.

Escamilla came to San Gabriel in 2006, when future congregants were holding Bible studies weekly in worshipers' homes. To worship, they drove more than 30 miles north to San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He joined the Bible studies, then became the faith community's official worship leader a year later, ministering in homes for both Bible study and worship. In time, the growing faith community needed a building in Alvarado.

A deal with a local supporter allowed the congregation to begin renting a plot of land, where it worshiped outdoors and eventually built makeshift indoor worship space. "Everyone was dusty, but they didn't care because they had a place to worship — their own place," Escamilla said.

Over time, partnerships with local congregations allowed San Gabriel to build a permanent church. Gifts from Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills allowed San Gabriel to put in flooring, and pews were donated by St. John Lutheran Church, a closing congregation in nearby Grand Prairie. Later, St. John's council gifted funds that helped San Gabriel take ownership of its land. Since then, the church has grown, adding a fellowship hall that serves as a community hub for the area's largely Mexican immigrant population. But like so many congregations, San Gabriel struggled to maintain a sense of community during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. The church closed and pivoted to virtual worship on Zoom and Facebook, with Escamilla, lay leaders and a small contingent of choir members recording services in person at the church. But with virtual worship, collecting offerings became a challenge. Some

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STORIES OF FAITH IN ACTION 2020-2021

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congregants sent money through the digital-payment network Zelle or even left their offerings in the church mailbox, but many couldn't contribute monetarily. So the church began hosting weekly food sales to raise needed funds and provide members with a way to give back.

Escamilla believes that San Gabriel has been built up by the generosity of others — church members, nearby ELCA congregations and, through Mission Support funds, the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

"It's been a conjunction of [congregations] working together to help a community that was struggling," he said. "We have this wonderful community that is working together to work with what the Lord wants us to do."

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Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the church-wide organization. To learn more, visit ELCA.org/SOFIA.

Electronic Piano in Our Worship Area

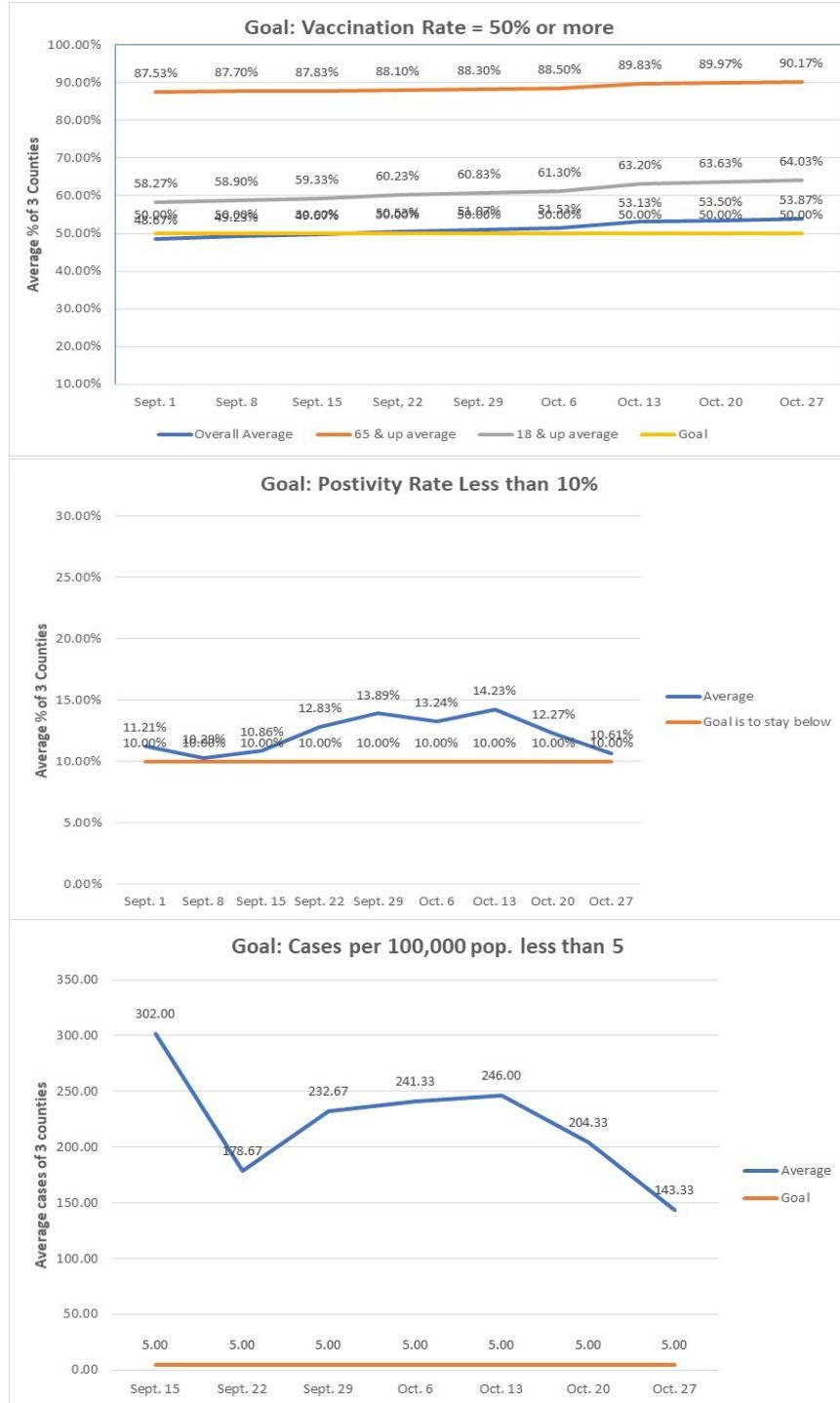
Our Kurzweil electronic piano has been a part of our worship experience since the fall of 2000. The computer that it contained was quite a few years older. This summer it finally died. With the approval of Zion's Congregation Council, a new Yamaha electronic piano has been purchased for a total cost of \$4,772. Due to the challenges that COVID has brought to the world of commerce, it may be a few months before the piano arrives. We will be using some designated and undesignated Memorial money to help pay for the piano, and we welcome any and all additional gifts towards this purchase. Please be sure to clearly designate that your gift is for the new piano and thank you so very much!

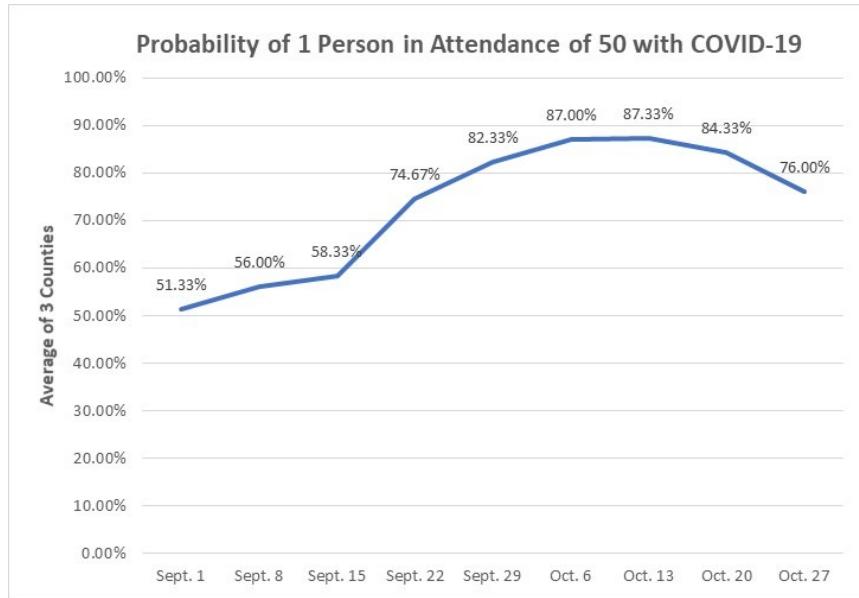
Indoor in-person worship

Indoor services are held every Sunday. ***At this time, Zion is no longer requiring you to reserve a pew for the in-person indoor worship. However, it is subject to change*** and is dependent upon the positive test rate and the probability rate. Social distancing practices will continue to be used (no passing of the peace or offering plate, limited & soft singing). Please visit Zion's website to read the [**Protocols for In-Person Indoor Worship**](#) - **all adults in attendance are required to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth** (the exception being Pastor who is leading worship).

At this time, we acknowledge that there is some risk involved. Even though as of October 27, our local total population is 53.87% vaccinated which surpasses our safer goal of 50%, our 65+ age group is over our safe goal at 90.17%. The 18 & up vaccinated average is currently at 64.03%. We are also watching the test positivity rate. Our area's positivity rate is 10.61%, which is over our goal and persists above it. Cases per 100,000 has been dropping but remains high. Another measurement is a percentage of probability where, in a gathering of 50 people, how likely is it that someone with COVID-19 would be present. Right now, there is a 76% chance of this happening. We are watching the trend of each graph with what are considered to be safer and safe goals in mind. The data used in the graphs is collected from the CDC website and from a website tool provided to us from our Northern Great Lakes Synod. Please make the time to familiarize yourself with the graphs/information. As always, if you have questions, please call Zion's office at: 715-735-7898 or send an email to: Zion@newbc.rr.com.

Here are the charts showing the various COVID-19 data on which the Congregation Council is keeping a close eye.





Volunteer's Needed

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store & Food Pantry needs help from volunteers in their thrift store and food pantry.

They are looking for:

Food Pantry Preppers: Ideally, this would be help for any period of time between Monday and Wednesday, but they are open to Thursday-Saturday help, as well.

Clothing Hanger: Come during any of our business hours Monday-Saturday and hang clothes on racks.

Donation Assistant: Help our backdoor associate bring donations into the building Thursday-Saturday.

Interested? People may stop in the store for an application, or email them at svdp@svdpmarinette.com.



November Eternal Light

The Eternal Light for the month of November is sponsored by Michael and Pam Goes.

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Going Where Jesus Leads



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