



Zion Lutheran Church

2714 James Street

Marinette, WI 54143

715-735-7898

zion@newbc.rr.com

www.zionlutheran-marinette.org

ZION E W S

December
2016

Christmas Eve Worship
8:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
9:30 a.m.

**The Seven
Marks of
Discipleship**

✠Pray

✠Worship

✠Study

✠Invite

✠Encourage

✠Give

✠Serve

Our Discipleship Together

Already. Not Yet.

Advent is a fascinating season. It embraces two themes which seem to contradict one another. We talk about hope, and watching, preparing and anticipation. However, we also talk about the arrival; the one who is in our midst; the kingdom of heaven being near. Even though these may sound contradictory, they are not. They express two very real dynamics in our relationship with Jesus.

Yes, Jesus is in our midst. Yes, we are baptized into Jesus.

Yes, Jesus is the Word of God who comes to us in the Scriptures. Yes, it is his body and blood that become one with us in Holy Communion. Yes, Jesus is here.

And yet, we know that there is more to come. There is more to come in this life regarding our experience with Jesus, and we know that the next life promises even more.

So, Advent is not about waiting for a baby to arrive in a faraway stable. And, Advent really isn't about getting house and home ready for the celebration on the 25th. Instead, Advent forces us to ask questions about the arrival of Jesus in our lives today and tomorrow. When do we expect the encounter? How might it come about? What do we expect to happen when it does occur? What are we looking forward to, and why are we looking forward to it?

This year, with Christmas falling on a Sunday, we get four full weeks of Advent. (If Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, we get three weeks and a day.) What we do during Advent needs to last much longer than just these four weeks. We need to do the work of Advent all year long, but Advent is a good discipline for us. By taking this special time now, we intentionally rehearse this work that lasts a lifetime. May the "already" of Christ present with us now help us to anticipate with great hope the joy that is yet to come.

Pastor Keith

Council Summary for the Month of November

The Council met on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 - 6:30 p.m.

Pastor's Report

October Attendance: '16-118 '15-150 '14-124, '13-138, '12-138

- Funeral: Darwin Peterson - Oct. 14
- Attended the Conference Assembly Oct. 20
- Spoke at the Fireside Dinner at Our Savior's Oct. 23

October Financial Reports

- General Fund balance is \$6,494.
- Capital Improvement Fund is \$37,255
- Fortune Lake Campers Fund balance is \$2,036
- Community Camper fund is \$2,289
- The Intern Fund Balance remained at \$744.
- The Garden Grant Fund balance remained at \$308.
- The Helping Hand Fund balance is \$1,290.

Committee Reports and Assignments

Property:

- Carpeting options for Sanctuary were discussed along with considerations on how to raise the money for this project.

Worship and Music:

- Another AV Coordinator is being trained

Youth Ministry:

- 7 youth went bowling on November 1st
- December 11th the youth will be shopping for the Angel Tree

Stewardship and Generosity:

- Wrapped up the Stewardship Drive.
- Writing Thank You notes to all involved.

Personnel:

- Four staff reviews have been completed.
- Cleaning Duties:

(continued)

Council Summary for the Month of November _____

(continued)

- Cleaning of Worship and Education Wings - Michelle Larsen
- Garbage collection and minimal vacuuming. - Chris Weinrich

Old Business

Sacristy Cabinet

- Authorized Kathy and John Heimbuch to purchase and install the countertop in the Sacristy. The new sink in the Vestry has been installed and now the removal of the nonfunctioning sink in the Sacristy can take place.

New Business

- Housing Allowance
- The housing allowance under the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code for Pastor was approved.

Audit Committee

- Roger DeGroot, Phil Strohl, Thomas Maxwell II were appointed to be the Auditing Committee

Next Meeting: December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kolstad residence

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Williams, Recording Secretary



JOLLY TIMES _____

We had two new people join us in November. Yay! Games played were Mexican Train Dominoes and Smear. Mexican Train is still the most popular game and is played at every gathering. It is easy to learn and fun to play. Card games played so far have been Sheephead, Hand & Foot, and Smear. Please join us on Thursday December 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a Jolly Time!

Sharon Powilaites 715-735-5577



Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp _____

Thank you for your gift to support the mission of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp of \$158.26. Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp is a partner and an extension of your congregation's mission and ministry. Your expression of this partnership through this gift strengthens our mutual ministry and our partnership. Thank you again for remembering Fortune Lake with your gifts.

Pastor Tracy Polzin, Camp Director

Northern Great Lakes Synod News _____

Your gift to the "Always Being Made New Appeal" ministry of this Synod and of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is warmly appreciated. We received with gratitude your gift of \$500.00 on October 7th. As per your instruction, your gift will be included in the amount given to NGLS congregations for Hunger Grants to address hunger and poverty.

Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop

The Stewardship Corner

Christmas is a hurried time. It puts pressure on most everyone to get the yard and house decorated, to send out the annual Christmas letter and cards, purchase the perfect gifts for family and friends, bake cookies and candies, clean the house from top to bottom in anticipation of lots of quests, and plan enticingly delicious meals.

In our rush to get everything done we sometimes forget the reason why we observe the season.

Christmas is that time of year when we celebrate the greatest gift God ever gave us – the birth of his son, our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Yes, Christmas is a time of giving, and it started with God giving us the gift of his son all those thousands of years ago.

We have so many opportunities to give this Christmas season, each year, Zion's Social Ministry Committee provides us with the names of boys and girls on our Angel Tree who would have no Christmas if it were not for the generosity of our congregation. Every year, members of the congregation step-up to give and provide. Your thoughtfulness is overwhelming.

Then too, we support the Salvation Army by having our youth man kettles. This year, on December 21st they'll be at Jacks Fresh Market on Roosevelt and Shopko from 6:00-7 :00 p.m. Pastor Keith signed Zion up for the 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. time slots at Jacks and the 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. time slots at Shopko in hopes that the congregation would help ring the bell. A sign-up sheet will be sent around looking for volunteers during these times. Please stop by one of these sites and help fill the kettle. If you can volunteer to ring the bell for a time slot, that's wonderful!

I wish every member of the congregation a very Merry Christmas and hope that you feel fully blessed this season by the one's you share your resources with. I also hope that your cup overflows with the love, joy, and peace that surrounds you. We truly have so much to be thankful for, not the least of which is God's deep and enduring

The Stewardship Corner

(continued)

Please plan to attend the Christmas Worship Service which will be held at 8:00 p.m. at Zion. It will be a heartwarming and thought-filled event allowing you to fully appreciate and share the gift we have been given in Jesus Christ.

In God's love and grace,

Karen Sylvester

God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,500.00 and for your support of Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.

We are two years in to this new journey as members of the ELCA, and already your generosity is giving us so much to celebrate and be thankful for. All involved with the campaign—our individual donors, congregations, synods, recipients and volunteers—give thanks to you for your amazing response to God's call to do more, together.

With your help, we are growing our communities of faith, forming new leaders, welcoming our neighbors, overcoming malaria, confronting hunger and poverty, accompanying our global companion churches and so much more. Your gifts are making a difference.

Your friend in Christ, Rev. Ron Glusenkamp
Director, *The Campaign for the ELCA*

Season of Advent

During the season of Advent, filled with the many activities that are typical with this season, it is more tempting to let worship take a back seat. However, worship contains that which our heart is truly hungry for. As we sing with deep yearning, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," we are given the promise that Emmanuel does indeed arrive when we gather for worship. Worship then helps us to see Emmanuel around us in daily life.

This is a reminder that Zion offers more than just Sunday morning worship. We have a half hour worship service on Wednesday evenings which includes Holy Communion. This service begins at 5:30. Wednesday evening worship will be offered the next two Wednesdays. It will not be held on the 21st or the 28th of December.

We also offer a worship service on Thursday evenings at Northland Village. Northland Village is NOT LUTHER HOME, but the large senior apartment building that is on the same street, and on the same side of that street, as Luther Home. This service is done in conjunction with St. James Lutheran Church of Marinette. This service begins at 6:00 and lasts about 45 minutes. It also includes Holy Communion.

So, have yourself a merry little Christmas by being sure to include worship in your preparations.

Blessings to you!
Pastor Keith

DAR Boys & Girls Club

The DAR Boys & Girls Club thank you for the donation of \$337.86. Your support is making an impact on families that we serve. Thank you for your generous support as we continue to meet our mission on a daily basis.

Richard Crevier, CPO DAR Boys & Girls Club

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

A sign-up sheet will be going around at Sunday and Wednesday worship looking for volunteers to staff a kettle for the Salvation Army. Zion is responsible for the kettle at Jacks Fresh Market on Roosevelt Ave. from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. We also have the kettle at Shopko from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The confirmation class will be staffing both kettles from 6:00 to 7:00 that evening.

Bell ringing will occur on Wednesday, December 21st. There is no SPARK that night or Wednesday evening worship, so this could be a great family project!

If you are unable to sign up at worship, call Zion's office to commit to a time. Let's help support the important work that the Salvation Army does for those in need in our community!

Youth Angel Tree Shopping

On Sunday, Dec. 11th, following the worship service, the Youth Fellowship will be shopping using a tithe of the money raised at the Waterfront Festival. They will be purchasing items for children on the Angel Tree. Following the shopping spree, they will come back to Zion for hot cocoa and Christmas cookies.

Please RSVP Pam Hruska (920-373-1972, voice or text) by Friday, Dec. 9th.

Angel Tree

The Salvation Army's Angel Tree is now in the narthex. When you return the gift, make sure it is unwrapped and in a bag with the ticket attached. Please have your gift placed under the tree by December 13th.

Jo Schutt 715.732.0932

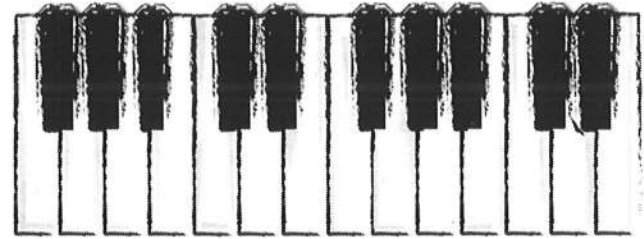


Help Wanted

It's almost winter.... Time to think about snow falling and the clean-up afterward.

Zion is looking for a someone to clear the sidewalks and entryways of the building. There is a snow-blower available. If you could assist with this effort, and perhaps know a little about the maintenance of a snow-blower that would be a real blessing to this congregation. Monetary compensation is provided.

For any questions
or an offer to help,
call the church office
at 715.735.7898.
Thank you.



Conn Organ for Free - Two manuals and one octave pedals. You just need to pick it up. First come, first served. For more information call Roberta at 715.732.0376.

NEWCAP Donations

Our NEWCAP collection theme during the month of DECEMBER is "Items that start with the letters X, Y & Z." We are collecting non-perishable items. Your donations will be given to the NEWCAP local food pantry.

"Christmas – The Real Story"

A four-week Bible Study will take place at Zion on Wednesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. and at St. James on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. This study will focus on the Christmas story. The study lasts one hour.

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 p.m. you are invited to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 917 Church Street in Marinette annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols. The service revolves around Advent and Christmas scripture readings, choir anthems and congregational singing. Help fine tune your Advent preparations with this gathering of the Christian community in word and song.

Advent Blessing to you all.

Pastor Lee Goodwin

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016

Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent

Lector – Karen Sylvester Acolyte – Matthew Swenson
 Greeters – Joel & Rosalie Settersten
 Head Usher – Pat Rondeau
 Communion Assistants – Sharon Powilaites (Pouring), Sue Baxter & Barb Grom (Distributing the Host)
 AV Team – Jonah Zuehls & Kathy Heimbuch Coffee Time – Radloffs

Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

Contemporary Worship

Lector – Pastor George Olson Acolyte – Travis Lund
 Greeter – Jane Landenberger Head Usher – Carole Boerner
 Communion Assistant – Jacki Renne
 AV Team – Troy Cording and Chad Derby

Sunday, December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent –

SPARK Christmas Program

Lector – Kathy Heimbuch Acolyte – Spencer Martin
 Greeters – George & Nila Krenos Head Usher – Available
 Communion Assistant – Karen Sylvester
 AV Team – Sarge Rudell and James Martin
 Coffee Time – Parents of the SPARK Children

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship at 8:00 p.m.

Lector – Karen Sylvester Acolyte – Available
 Greeter – Colleen Madden Head Usher – Mark Swenson
 Communion Assistant – Jacki Renne

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Lector – Bryan Gutknecht Acolyte – Nick Kehoe
 Greeter – Available Head Usher – Nora Plym
 Communion Assistant – Karen Kolstad

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016

December 5

Barbara Francour

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

Paula Boucher
 Alan Nelson

December 26

Jacob Marzhal

December 27

Everette Johnston
 Brian Krah
 Luke Pecard

December 28

Philip Goes
 Patricia Schultz

December 31

Eileen Jagielski
 Jacob Kolstad





Once again we are planning to use Poinsettia plants as part of our Christmas decorations at church. If you make a donation of at least \$15.00 you may take one of the plants home following the service on Sunday, December 25, 2016. You may also designate it as a gift in memory or honor of someone. Our Poinsettias will be white this year.

If you are willing to make a contribution to the Poinsettia Fund, please call the church office (715.735.7898) 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 12.

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.

SPARK Christmas Program: Jesus Welcomes the Stranger. _____

Usually a theme of Christmas centers upon our need to welcome Jesus. The SPARK Christmas program this year will turn that on theme on its head as our kids present "Jesus Welcomes the Stranger." Parts have been passed out and memorization is taking place. They will be so excited to present their program on Sunday, December 18, at the 9:30 a.m. worship service. You will want to soak in the joy that these young people will bring to our worship that day. Your presence will be an important way to thank them for their hard work. Following worship there will be a coffee-time filled with Christmas treats, and you'll be home soon enough to see the Packers play the Bears at noon!



Christmas Caroling – Sunday December 18 _____

Mark your calendar so you won't miss a fun-filled event on Sunday, December 18, starting at 4:00. We plan to go Christmas caroling to many of our homebound members. Lots of voices make this a wonderful experience. We plan to meet at Zion, then spend a couple of hours going to various homebound members singing Christmas carols. All ages are welcome!!



December 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 1-3 pm Jolly Times 6 pm Worship at Northland Village | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30 am Worship | 5 6:30-8 pm Ecumenical Adult Bible Class with special needs. | 6 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study at St. James | 7 5:30 pm Worship 6-7 pm SPARK, Conf., Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal | 8 10 am Decorate the church, potluck to follow 6 pm Worship at Northland Village | 9 | 10 |
| 11 9:30 am Worship 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. Youth Angel Tree Shopping 4pm Christmas Caroling | 12 6:30 pm Ecumenical Bible Class Christmas Party | 13 10:30 am Adult Bible Study at St. James 6 p.m. Council at Kolstad's | 14 5:30 pm Worship 6-7 pm SPARK, Conf., Bible Study 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal | 15 1-3pm Jolly Times Game Day 6 pm Worship at Northland Village | 16 | 17 9 am – 11 am SPARK Christmas Program Rehearsal |
| 18 9:30 am Worship SPARK Children's Christmas Program | 19 7 pm Scout Meeting | 20 10:30 am Adult Bible Study | 21 No Worship No SPARK, Conf. 6 pm Bible Study Salvation Army Bell Ringing | 22 6 pm Worship at Northland Village | 23 | 24 8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship |
| 25 9:30 am Worship Christmas | 26 Pastor out of office on December 26 & 27 | 27 | 28 | 29 6 pm Worship at Northland Village January 2017 Newsletter Ready | 30 | 31 |
| | | | | | | |