

The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

April 2015

Please submit news items to tower@zlc-aa.org by the 10th of the preceding month



For more information about Zion's ministries scan this QR code to visit our website.



From Pastor Jim

Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed!

My first Easter at Zion has arrived. I've been longing to share with you our first great festival together. Easter, the celebration of Jesus's resurrection, is the axis around which our faith revolves. Resurrection changes everything, it redefines our reality. Nothing is impossible now. Death does not have the last word. This changes everything.

Mark Batterson writes in The Grave Robber, "There are days and then there are days that define the rest of your life. Some follow a predictable path, like the middle of the aisle of a church on your wedding day. Others are as unpredictable as a blind date. Either way you aren't who you were just a moment before. In a split second. Life is divided into BC and AD. The bridge to the past is forever destroyed, and the future rushed in like a flash flood."

Easter is one of those defining days. It started in the midst of great fear and trembling. "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." - Mark 16:8

There are still days filled with terror, amazement, fear and the gut reaction to run away. Life keeps throwing more at us than we want. Often we don't even know what or how to deal with it all. Just this week, there have been job loses, death of a teenager, and the death of someone married for 72 years. There have been marriages that have ended in divorce and relationships that have called it quits. What does our faith do with days like this? Even in the face of resurrection, the disciples fled with terror and were paralyzed by fear.

It's no wonder that we need to hear again and again the good news of Easter. Christ has risen! Resurrection isn't something we celebrate once a year. It's something we celebrate every day in every way. Easter changes the other 364 days. God raises the dead. He also resurrects dead relationships, dead dreams, and dead hopes. Jesus is the Grave Robber who gives us life again. The Grave Robber (our Savior) steals back what the enemy has stolen from us. He comes this Easter to share with you the joy, the encouragement and the forgiveness of our living God. That's the reason for the resurrection, to give us all new life that begins now, not someday, now!

Easter changes us, we are resurrected people now, not just some day. "Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life burgeons! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him." - 2 Cor. 5:17-18

Christ has Risen! He has Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Calendar Notes

Holy Week Services

The Triduum

Maunder Thursday, April 2—Service at 7PM

Good Friday, April 3—Tenebrae service at 7PM

Holy Saturday, April 4—Easter Vigil service at 8PM

Easter Sunday, April 5

Festival services at 8:15, 9:30 and 11AM

Zion Leader Retreat

On May 2, 2015 Zion's elected leaders, staff and Vision Committee members will gather at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan for a day to dream big about Zion's Vision and what it will look like as we move forward. The day will begin with worship at 8:30 and continue through the afternoon. If you feel particularly called to participate in this work, know that you are invited and contact margiereynolds@comcast.net to reserve a spot.

Congregation Council

February 17, 2015—Highlights

Financial Report Summary

- Cash: Available cash at the end of January was \$104,919.
- Income: For January, contributions were \$67,550, which was \$5144 more than projected in the budget, and nearly \$7000 more than January last year.
- Expenses: Overall we were \$12,237 below budget for the month.
- Building Fund: Contributions to “down with the debt” were \$4,227.31 by 21 givers in January. The minimum principal payment for February was \$2,375.42; we are paying the full amount received in January contributions plus the minimum principal payment from the Operations fund. We owe Thrivent \$103,744.56 as of the end of January.
- Attendance: Year to date, 1,536 compared to 1,477 last year at this time (both numbers include Bibleland).

Zion’s Response to the ELCA Capital Campaign

Mark Gunderson representing Mission Core Ministry (MCM) brought to Council MCM’s recommendation for Zion’s participation in the ELCA’s Capital Campaign. The recommendation is as follows:

- Rather than making it a church-wide effort, make it an individual effort by sending a letter to all members, with instructions for giving directly.
- A *Tower* article would appear the month preceding the home-mailed letter to members explaining the ELCA’s focus.
- None of Zion’s \$50,000 ELCA SE MI Synod yearly giving would be affected or redistributed.
- Giving by Zion’s members to the ELCA’s Capital Campaign would not be tracked.
- One person from MCM would oversee the process and communication.

Council approved the proposal, including an idea to add a link to the campaign on Zion’s website.

Updates from Pr. Jim

Communication: Pr. Jim is asking staff and core ministries to submit monthly status reports: what was done last month, what are you looking to do in the coming month, how can Council support your activities? The more we communicate, the better off we are. The support teams would not submit monthly status reports, but forward the minutes from their meetings. Margie will write an email to support teams to request minutes and will also resend an email to core ministries to invite Council members.

Infrastructure: Pr. Jim wants to improve Zion’s infrastruc-

ture in terms of email contacts, individual and church calendars, website, and increased use of social media. He suggested an email marketing software, such as Email Chimp.

Program structure: His top priorities are

- Because we have two pastors, we have the opportunity for one pastor to be available in Bibleland, adult ed, and welcoming at 9:30 instead of both pastors being at the same service.
- Adding weekly chapel at 10AM Wednesdays. Anyone can come. The format includes prayer, readings for the week, and communion.
- Move to a Family Ministry Staffing model, so we don’t divide up families.
- Add more family events – multi-generational. Focus on what we’re good at.

Council: We can move away from being reactionary, and be visionary. Where do we want to be in 3, 5, 7 years? How can we prepare for it? Where do we want to put our money? What staff will we need? Could we have, e.g., a communication staff person? How can we allow the building to invite people in (e.g., music recitals, after school programs)? The current fee structure is a barrier; as much as we love the building, we love Jesus more.

New Phone System

The IT Committee is requesting funds to purchase a new phone system. The proposal is to pay Techmode the \$1300 that is in the 2015 budget for phone system support, then take the remaining \$3,700 (rounded off) from the General Memorial Fund, which presently has over \$21,500 in it. Council approved.

Building and Grounds

B&G will need approval for a new snow removal machine. Once they have decided what we need, they will come back to Council.

Updates

- Dispute Resolution Center Plans – Lorin reported they continue to struggle to get some of the main players to respond. Lorin will ask some members of Council to reach out to specific people.
- Council and Pr. Jim discussed plans for new organist.
- From informal discussions between services, we learned that one congregation member’s daughter who is not a member wanted to get married at Zion, but went elsewhere because of Zion’s policy. Pr. Jim believes allowing weddings for non-members is an amazing opportunity to evangelize, and will talk to Diane for starters. We also received some feedback to get all of the items Zion recycles on one list.

Worship Core Ministry

April Lectionary

Apr 5 (Easter) Acts 10:34-43; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
Apr 12: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-12; John 20:19-31
Apr 19: Acts 3:12-19; 1 John 3:1-17; Luke 24:36b-48
Apr 26: Acts 4:5-12; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Zion Music Rehearsal Schedule

- Liberty Street (Zion's Praise Band) - Wednesday at 6:45PM in the Praise Band Room or Sanctuary
- Zion Handbells - Thursday at 6PM in the Sanctuary
- Chancel Choir - Thursday at 7:30PM in the Sanctuary
- Zion Singers - Friday morning/afternoon (see schedule below) in Music Room 1



Terrific Tuesday Summer Worship

This summer, beginning on Tuesday, June 2, Zion will be having a Tuesday night worship service. If you are away over the weekend, this an opportunity for you to still worship and have Holy Communion. It will begin at 7:30PM and last about 45 minutes or less. The format will change over the weeks, from evening prayer to use of screen for music and skits. The Scripture theme from the previous Sunday will be used. The location will be determined in the coming weeks, so look for more information in the announcements and *May's Tower*.

Zion Singers

The Zion Singers is a group of singers from inside and outside the membership of Zion who have daytime availability. This group meets once a month on Friday (usually the 4th Friday) from September - May in Music Room 1 on Level B1. We rehearse for an hour and then go to a pre-arranged retirement, assisted living, nursing care or hospice facility to present a brief program for an audience of the residents. Our April date is Friday, April 24 and our theme is "For the Beauty of the Earth," "Tulips," and "Baseball." Come and sing "How Great Thou Art!" For more information contact Amy Studt (amystudt1@gmail.com).

Plans for Zion's Music Program

Over the past few months, we have said good-bye to three of our musician leaders. We miss them and wish them well. Their absence has left Zion with some serious challenges, and yet some great opportunities to dream and vision about Zion's music as we go forward. We will take full advantage of the opportunity before us.

Your Congregation Council, Worship Core Ministry and Personnel Committee members, along with a few musicians met with Pr. Jim on March 1, 2015 for a full discussion of our most urgent needs (now through end of May) and our anticipated needs over the summer. Solutions were proposed, and we are moving forward with those as quickly as possible.

We have contracted with Amy Studt to play the organ/keyboard for all services through the end of May. Amy will also conduct the Zion Singers for their remaining engagements. We have also been blessed to have two Zion members step forward to assist us during these challenging times. Allen Borton, a member of the Zion Bell Choir, has agreed to provide leadership to the Bell Choir through May, and Lynne Smith, a member of the Chancel Choir, has agreed to provide leadership and conducting for the Chancel Choir. We give thanks for Allen and Lynne as they help us worship.

The Praise Band has been moving forward without their previous leader over the past two months. For now, we are asking them to continue with their great support of worship at our third service. They are all volunteers, and we are so grateful for their talents and their discipleship!

So, what can you do? Pastor Jim has asked each of us to think about joining the Chancel Choir for these next few months...step forward to help us all worship during this rich season in our faith journey.

In the near future, your elected leaders, Pr. Jim, and others will be meeting to clearly define and articulate our music needs that will align with the Vision we have for Zion. Once we have defined these needs, we will be posting positions that we believe will help us move our music program forward. Our time frame for this is not set, but be assured we will move as quickly as possible. We ask for your patience.

¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."
- John 10: 14—16

Young Discipleship Core Ministry

National Youth Gathering Update

Our group of 27 youth & adults from Zion and Christmas Lutheran in Bethlehem are excited as we prepare to **RISE UP** in Detroit this July! We can still use your help with a few things:

- **Paint It Forward:** we're collecting paint to use for our service projects in Detroit. Cans with just a little bit of paint left in them can be used. Please bring them to Zion during office hours and we'll store in our garage.
- **Diapering of Detroit:** one of Zion's women's groups is collecting children's diapers to send to social service agencies in Detroit. Please bring to the Welcome Center.
- **Electronics Recycling:** we're collecting used cell phones, MP3 music players (iPods), tablets/iPads, and laptops that no longer work, and/or are no longer being used. We'll recycle them, and earn \$3 per device! Please bring to the youth room.
- **Donations:** we still have \$1500 to raise towards the costs of food, activities, scholarships, and transportation. Please consider making a donation via check made out to "Zion Lutheran Church" with "NYG" in the memo line.



Easter Egg Hunt

The Family Easter Egg Hunt and Party will be held Saturday April 4, 4—5:30PM. Please arrive promptly for the egg hunt. Afterwards, we will go upstairs for pizza, veggie, drinks, crafts and fun. The hunt and party will occur rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, all activities will be inside.

Registration deadline was March 29. Please email Carolyn King at csgiving39@comcast.net if you missed that date and still want to register.

Hope to see you there!

Easter Reminder

Easter Sunday we do not have Bibleland classes upstairs. Instead, disciples of all ages are encouraged to worship together in the Sanctuary at either 8:15, 9:30, or 11AM.

Thank you for your ongoing support! We can't wait to represent Zion with 40,000 of our closest friends!

It is Time to Plan for Vacation Bible School at Zion!



At this year's VBS, we will embark on an icy expedition where kids overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. We will try to anchor kids in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges.

Dates: June 15 – 19

Time: 9 AM to NOON

Cost: \$25 per child

Age to Participate: 3 years old through entering 5th Grade

Registration forms can be found at www.zlc-aa.org in the youth ministry section

Here is what you can do:

- Sign up your friends, neighbors, and family for this year's VBS! Cost is \$25 per child. All children ages 3 years old through entering 5th grade are invited to attend.
- Donate materials. Each year, we feed over 150 participants and volunteers and do some really fun crafts and activities that take your generous donations. Starting in April, a donation board will be set up in the Welcome Center.
- Donate your time. We usually have over 60 volunteers that make VBS such a success. Talk to the VBS coordinator Sarah Wentzloff in the Welcome Center between services, or send her an email (sarahwentzloff@yahoo.com) to see how you can participate!

¹⁷ "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."
- John 10: 17—18

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these 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: 1—31

Other News

Opportunities to Donate and Recycle

In the Welcome Center:

No Empty Hands – currently for Hope Clinic and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Ypsilanti. Both groups have seen an increase in the number of people who are requesting non-perishable food due to the cut in food stamps, especially peanut butter and cereal. Also, Hope Clinic provides non-food items such as disposable diapers (especially sizes 4 and 5), baby food, baby layettes, paper items, laundry detergent, toilet paper and toiletries.

Aging-out foster teens - Here is the long wish/need list for these teens, who are on their own, with little or no family support: cleaning supplies (Lysol, sponges, Windex, dish soap, Scrubbing Bubbles, Tide, dish towels, bleach); hygiene items (deodorant, soap, body wash, toilet paper, lotion, tampons); electronics (television, cell phone minutes); bedding/towels (new full/queen sheets, new towels/washcloths, new comforters, new bath mat sets); small appliances (can opener, microwave, coffee pot); gift cards (Walmart, Visa, Kroger, Meijer, etc.). These items can be brought to the Welcome Center (find the basket near the Sanctuary entrance) or the church office. These items are always needed, since teens “age out” every month.

By the elevator, next to the Lounge:

Bring pink yogurt tops, stamps (cancelled or new – for a

mission project in Germany), box tops for education and barcodes from Campbell’s soup cans (both assist LSSM to provide for their clients). Place items in the container on the table next to the elevator.

Downstairs:

Everything we recycle is downstairs, just below the Welcome Center, under the “front” steps, near the wide hallway into Piper Hall.



Recycle Write (there is also a box in Bibleland) – Clean out your desk drawers, purses, backpacks – and bring in all of your broken, used, or dried out pens, pencils, markers. [Items to bring: pens, pencils (mechanical and wood), highlighters, dry erase markers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, correction tape (no fluids), erasers, packaging (no cellophane).] Items are sent to a company that recycles the parts, and sends 2 cents for each item back to Mott Children’s Hospital. To bring this program to your place of business, go to www.recycle.umich.edu for more information, and to download a flyer to place on collection boxes.

Old cell phones, PDA’s, iPods, CFL light bulbs. (Batteries can now be put in the trash in Ann Arbor). Zion’s Youth are now collecting these items as a fund raiser for the National Youth Gathering this coming summer.

Returnable bottles and cans – for our mission partners, Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg, in Tanzania.

Places of Faith #2

What are the “big issues” that many faith traditions address...creation; the meaning of life; where we go upon death; love-forgiveness-compassion-peace and wisdom; and, why do we suffer? Building on the last two years of the Inter-faith Round Table series, POF #1 (visits to local houses of worship), for two hours each week we will examine the texts and stories found in different sacred traditions in order to learn, compare and share what we find. What surprises us? How do other beliefs and traditions inform our own understandings of these issues? All of this and more will be explored. Cost: \$75.00 for the series (most materials included). Meetings will be held here at Zion, Tuesdays in April (7, 14, 21, 28) and May 5, 7—9PM. Email gbrides@umich.edu for registration details, or go to www.irtwc.org.

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry

Adult Class

Making Sense of the Christian Faith. April 12 through June 7, 9:30AM, Holtfreter Classroom A. David Lose would like us all to “do” theology, that is, “talk about God.” Do we already do that in our heads as we’re walking the dog or out with the kids? When our grandchildren ask what God looks like, how do we answer? Is there a right answer? A wrong answer? Are there good or bad questions? Lose would say “no.” He takes concepts that fill volumes in the theology section of libraries and bookstores, and he simplifies them for his students and for us. He says that we too can “do” theology; we can talk about God as we see God through Bible study (stories and confessions of folks like us over the centuries), our own experience, church tradition, and human reason. He invites us to doubt, to question, to read and share thoughts with others. The topics we will cover are what he has called seven central parts of the Christian story. These include God; creation; sin; covenant, law and community; incarnation; atonement; church and Holy Spirit; and eschatology (big word meaning the end of all things). Christianity at a basic level tries to make sense of just about everything -- where things came from, what meaning and purpose we have, where things are going. We’ll be guided by a variety of teachers.

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry (cont.)

COMMUNITY GROUPS—SPRING 2015

Listed below are existing and new Community Groups. Please contact the church office for more information on joining or starting a group.

Group make-up / focus / interest	Leader(s)	Day	Time	Frequency	Location
Open to all, service to the homeless	Kent Peterson	meet irregularly, serve the homeless often			
Women, generally over 50	Debbie Weber	Mondays	7:00PM	twice a month	in homes / at Zion
Open to all, ministry to military families	Laura Girbach	Sundays	5:00PM	every other week	in Girbach's home
Couples with teenagers (currently suspending regular meetings, but continuing with work on Foster Children projects)	Chris Gajar	Sundays	6:30PM	once a month	in homes / at Zion
Open to all	Mary Ardner	Wednesdays	6—7PM	1st Wed of month	at Zion
Couples with young children	Sarah/David Wentzloff	Sundays	1:00PM	every other week	at Zion
Couples with teenagers / empty nesters	Heidi/Todd Newman	Sundays			in homes
Men	Dale Eckart	Mondays	6:30AM	every week	at Zion
Men, bowlers	Mike Weber	Mondays	after bowling	every week	Colonial Lanes
Individuals/couples who like to learn	Ruth Huff	Mondays	7:00PM	every other week	at Zion
Individuals/couples, 50's-70's	Steve & Judy Kesler	Mondays	7:00PM	every other week	in homes
Couples, retired	Charlotte Dootz/Joyce Schlecht	Mondays	7:00PM		in homes
Women, over 70	Linda Greb	Tuesdays	9:30AM	every other week	in homes
Open to all	Ron/Linda Hilst	Sundays	11:00AM	last Sun. of month	at Zion
Open to all	John Leipzig/Avis Ellingrod	Wednesdays	7:00PM	once a month	in Avis Ellingrod's home
Men	Dan McConnell	Thursdays	7:00—8:30AM	every week	at Zion
Recent Empty Nesters	Christy Nelson			occasionally	
God's Gardeners	Carol Brodbeck	Mondays	9:30AM—Noon	fourth Mon of month	at Zion
Young couples	Kara Kogelman	Tues. or Wed.	evening	every other week	in homes
Moms	Karen Fry	Thursdays	9:30—11:30AM	2nd & 4th weeks	at Zion

Community Group Study Materials

Small Group Discussion materials are available for your use! For all current Small Groups and for all who wish to convene for just a few weeks to read and discuss a book, there is a kiosk in Classroom B, downstairs, below the Welcome Center, full of multiple copies of many titles for you to borrow. They are all excellent resources - here is a partial list of titles:

- *Rumours* by Philip Yancey
- *A Wakeful Faith* by J. Marshall Jenkins
- *Taking Faith to Work - Next Steps for Christian Discipleship* by Paul M. Minus
- *Christian Caregiving - A Way of Life* by Kenneth C. Haugk
- *Loving Jesus* by Mark Allan Powell
- *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg
- *Opening the Bible - What It Is, Where it Came From, What it Means for You* by Robert Kysar
- *People of Purpose - 40 Life Lessons from the New Testament* by Robert Driver-Bishop
- *Between the Words - The Art of Perceptive Listening* by Dr. Norm Wakefield
- *The Sacred Romance - Drawing Closer to the Heart of God* by Brent Curtis and John Eldredge
- *The Journey Into God - Healing and Christian Faith* by Kenneth L. Bakken
- *The Case For Christ - A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence of Jesus* by Lee Strobel

Mission Core Ministry

Christmas Lutheran Church

[Ed. Note: Another in a continuing series about local, national and international missions supported by Mission Core Ministry.]

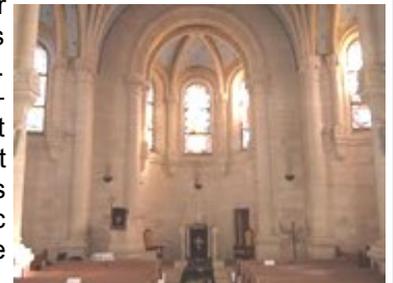


Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, West Bank, Israel, serves the Lutheran community of Bethlehem (yes, there are Arab Lutherans). It is a 150 year old congregation housed in a structure built in 1890s, up the hill from the Church of the Nativity. The people of Christmas Lutheran trace their ancestry back many generations into the Ottoman period. They like to say they have been Christians since the time of Jesus. Many live in Bethlehem, but many live in nearby villages. Zion has hosted several: Pastor Raheb, Angie Saba, Marianne Ateek, and Daud Nasser, who with his extended family maintain olive groves and grape fields in the middle of growing illegal Israeli settlements. All are now unable to commute to jobs in Jerusalem just a 10 minute drive up the road, import or export products easily, or visit family, schools or doctors in the area beyond the walls that now surround Bethlehem on three sides.

In the early 1990s, the congregation began some soul-searching about its future under military occupation. Those discussions led to the realization that "hope" is a precious commodity and needed to be nurtured for the whole Bethlehem community to survive. In 1995, with financial help from many countries, the congregation launched The International Center of Bethlehem (ICB), which includes a cultural and conference center, art gallery, arts and crafts center, media center, guest house, tourism program, and restaurant. The focus is on building a civil society and sustainable economic development, honoring Palestinian cultural heritage and encouraging highly qualified and engaged people.



By 1997 a new vision had grown to include a school, a college and a health and wellness center, known as the Dar al-Kalima compound. All of the components are now administered by an umbrella organization called Diyar, an Arabic word for house or homeland, with a mission "to build and when necessary to rebuild, to train and educate, to empower, to create life in the midst of despair, and to continue to call for justice and reconciliation in the midst of conflict and violence."



None of this could have happened without the financial support from churches around the world, including major church bodies in Scandinavia, Germany and Canada. Zion has chosen to be part of this project, as the SE MI Synod has chosen to partner with all six Lutheran congregations in the Holy Land. The ELCA calls this kind of mission work "accompaniment." What does accompaniment look like for Zion? It may be as simple as welcoming visitors; maybe it's continuing to learn about Israel and Palestine; perhaps it's being willing to listen to stories of pain and loss; maybe it will be scholarship help or the purchase of books for the college library; maybe it will be an occasional visit to Bethlehem.

On April 12 to 14, we will host a member of Christmas Lutheran. She is Raeda Mansour and she is the only parish nurse in Palestine and heads up the health and wellness center of Diyar. Greet her at church. Try to attend the Tuesday seminar open to anyone interested in faith community health and wellness programs. In July, we will host two Palestinian young women for the Youth Gathering in Detroit; they will spend time both in Ann Arbor with our families and in Detroit with Lutheran teens.

Resources: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XspX5EI-kv4>; www.diyar.ps; <http://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org/>. For more information, contact Sonja Page: 734-761-3556; sonjapg@umich.edu.

Financial Stewardship News

*"He (Christ) is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the Church, the body of Christ."
- Ephesians 4: 11-12*

As stewards, we give of our own resources to help equip Zion's people to do God's work here in Ann Arbor. We are building up the Church as a living manifestation of Christ's love. We give gifts to follow the example of he who gave all for us, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Caring Core Ministry

Hope, Health and Healing in the Holy Land

A one day seminar for interested health care professionals (nurses, physical therapists, mental health folks, clergy, and any interested parties)

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

9:30AM to 2:00PM - Lunch provided

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor MI 48103

Presenter - Raeda Mansour, RN BSN

Faith Community Nurse
Intergenerational Program Manager for Diyar Consortium

Raeda works with Diyar (meaning "home" in Arabic), a Lutheran-based ecumenical organization serving the whole Palestinian community in Bethlehem, with emphasis on children, youth, women and the elderly.

RSVP by April 3 to:
Lois Schlachter (734-665-8297;
loisschlachte@yahoo.com) or
Mary Ardner (734-662-4197;
maryard45@yahoo.com) or
the church office (734-994-4455)

Sports Potatoes ("They play, we cheer!")

In our ongoing effort to attend a variety of affordable, family-friendly sports events, we have selected some new ones to check out. Since these are all general admission events, please purchase your own tickets at www.mgoblue.com or at the door/gate. If you work or are a student at the University of Michigan, most of these events are likely free for you, with your ID. Look for us with our "Go Blue / Sports Potatoes" signs, so we can sit together!

- Friday, April 17, 6PM—Softball vs. Indiana, Wilpon Complex
- Friday, May 1, 6PM—Baseball vs. Iowa, Wilpon Complex

If you would like to create a schedule for the Sports Potatoes for next year, please let Diane Rinehart in the church office know! With Christine's retirement, this fun group is in need of a new coordinator.

Zion Special Senior Luncheon

"In the Garden"

A special event for the Easter Season.

Saturday, April 25

Noon - 2PM

Piper Hall



Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, or the person sitting with you in the pew with you that you don't know yet. A suggested donation \$8.00/person helps to defray expenses. Please sign up on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Center or during the week by calling the church office 734-994-4455.

TNT: Twenties N' Thirties

***TNT is a Zion Christian fellowship group for those in their 20s-30s.
Come join us for lots of fun and socializing!***

Fellowship Events

April

Habit for Humanity Build

Each year, Zion helps with Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity blitz week in April. We'll be volunteering during this week to help restore a foreclosed home for a new family!

Saturday, May 16 at 10AM

Toledo Zoo

Join us for a fun day at the zoo! Park opens at 10am.

Meet at the ticket window.

Taste the Town Thursdays

Join us monthly on Thursdays at
6:30PM for dinner at new local restaurants!

Thursday, April 9

Frita Batidos

117 W. Washington St.

Thursday, May 7

Lena

226 South Main St

Never been before?— no problem!

Look for the table with the Zion sign.

RSVPs, ?s, Get on our mailing list— email tntziona2@gmail.com.

Thank You and Congratulations

Dear Zion Faith Family,

There need to be better words than "Thank You," but those are the words we have. Thank you for allowing me into your lives, for the privilege and joy of serving God and you in this place, for so long. There have been some times for each of us, and for all of us together, that have not been easy, but they have been shared, and God has been with us, no matter what. And most of our ministry together has been exciting and joyful, as we have nurtured our faith together.

A special thank you for the wonderful celebration of my retirement on March 8th. Special thanks to Pastor Mike, Pastor Jim, Laura Girbach, Dianne Daily, Ruth Huff, and Sonja Page, for making the day so very special. Thank you for all of the beautiful cards, lovely gifts, and loving words. All are appreciated more than you know.

And - - - remember that you are invited to celebrate with Larry and me at our wedding service on May 9th, at 5PM. While we will have a small reception for family and close friends following the service - ALL are invited to share in worship with us as we become husband and wife. We would love to have you share that service with us.

God's blessings on this faith community as you move forward into a new chapter!

Christine Carlsen

There is never a good time to break an arm. On Christmas Eve, I was running down the steps inside my home, missed a step, fell backwards, and flew into the corner of a closet inside our front door. (It wasn't even related to skiing or some other exciting outdoor winter sport.) My husband, who had just had hernia surgery two days before, called the ambulance and we spent the next six hours in the emergency room at St. Joe's. A few days later I contacted Zion and the church office sprang into action with the prayer list, emails, and more.

A week later I had surgery on my left arm suddenly scheduled for New Year's Eve. Pastor Mike managed to figure out where I was at the hospital so he could visit before I was ushered in for surgery. He spoke with my husband and we prayed together. In addition to the prayer list, the Parish Nurses were notified. Myrna Irwin and Lois Schlachter phoned me in the first two weeks to check in.

Your prayers for healing meant so much to me. I am so appreciative of your love, prayers, cards, emails, and support. It's been two months and I feel better each day, although the doctor says it will probably take all of 2015 to fully recover.

Zion cares. I so appreciate each and every one of you. And, if you are interested in helping out or learning more about the services of Zion's Parish Nurses, check Zion's web site at www.zlc-aa.org and click Navigation—Ministries—Caring—Congregational Care—Parish Nurses. Or, just call the office at 734-994-4455.

Thanks so much!

Barbara Foster

Synod / LSSM News

Home Goods Needed

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM) tries to supply household items and furniture to foster children who age out of the system and to newly arrived refugees. In addition to clothing, items that are needed include sofas, chairs, televisions, tables, stoves, refrigerators, plates, cutlery, sheets, towels, small appliances, etc. Some of these go directly to the needy and others go the ACTION Thrift Store (ATS) in Saginaw. Vintage items are also needed for sale at the ATS (proceeds from the ATS support Lutheran Social Services programs). If you can help personally, or want to help with a collection program contact Pastor Phil Hemke at (248) 219-9707 or via email at phemk@lssm.org to learn more or schedule a date for pick-up.

LSSM is our agency for helping the needy in Michigan. It is one of the largest faith-based social services agencies in the country and it provides support to a large range of needy clients. Much of LSSM's budget comes from contracts with State or Federal agencies for specific services. But, the need is much larger and LSSM is constantly trying to find ways to expand its network of help. This requires funds that are not directly tied to specific services and that's one place that we church members come in. Through our donations of time, items and money, we provide LSSM with the ability to help people who might be falling into the cracks between large programs. Each month, we try to give you information on programs of this type and ways you can help. Please think about what you can do.

APRIL CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 1

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
 10:30 AM Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:00 PM Walter's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:00 PM Worship/Sanctuary

Friday, April 3 Good Friday

12:00 PM Office Closing at noon
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Worship/Sanctuary

Saturday, April 4

4:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt/2nd Floor
 8:00 PM Worship/Sanctuary & Outdoors

Sunday, April 5 EASTER SUNDAY!

8:15 AM Festival Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
 9:30 AM Festival Worship/Sanctuary
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Festival Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room

Monday, April 6

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:00 PM Women's Bridge Club/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 7

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Roundtable Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Adult Discipleship Meeting/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:15 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Stn

Wednesday, April 8

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Chapel
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 9

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Pastor's Office

Friday, April 10

3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, April 11

10:00 AM Pre-Baptism Class/Pastor's Office

Sunday, April 12

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
 12:30 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering

Monday, April 13

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 14

9:00 AM Good Thyme Garden Club/The Gathering
 9:00 AM Parish Nurses Seminar/Piper Hall & Kitchen
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 2:00 PM IDAP Meeting/Omega Room
 6:30 PM Roundtable Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 15

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
 10:00 AM Program Staff Meeting/Pastor's Office
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 16

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 17

3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, April 18

8:00 AM SEMI Synod Council Meeting/The Gathering

Sunday, April 19

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room
 12:15 PM Lois Family Reunion/Stellhorn Lounge
 12:15 PM Catechism/The Gathering & Y.R.
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, April 20

6:30 PM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 21

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Roundtable Meeting/The Garden Room
 7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 22

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 23

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Stellhorn Lounge
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 24

12:15 PM Zion Singers/Music Room #1
 2:00 PM Senior Luncheon Set-Up/Kitchen & Hall
 3:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Saturday, April 25

12:00 PM Zion Senior Luncheon/Kitchen & Hall

Sunday, April 26

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd floor
 9:30 AM Blended Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM C+C/Omega Room
 9:30 AM JAM/Youth Room
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
 12:00 PM Korean Baptist Fellowship/Garden Room

Monday, April 27

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM God's Gardeners/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 28

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Roundtable Meeting/The Gathering
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 29

10:00 AM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Praise Band Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 30

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 3:30 PM LSSM Dinner/Hall, Kitchen, Gathering
 6:00 PM Zion Handbell Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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Return Service Requested

Date Sensitive Material
Please Deliver by
April 1, 2015

March Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS: *Wilfred Schultz; Willis Lillard*

NEW MEMBERS: *Greg and Melissa Thurber (Grayson, Adelyn), David and Julie Sturza (Emmett), Serge and Whitney Gregory*

Elected Ministry Leaders

Congregation Council

President: Margie Reynolds (margiereynolds@comcast.net)
Vice-Pres: Lorin Cartwright (cartwrl@gmail.com)
Secretary: Laura Berry (berry.laura@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Bob Bertrand (bobbertrand@yahoo.com)
At Large: Christine Karshin (ckarshin@emich.edu)
Nick Kogleman (nkogelman@gmail.com)
Vickie Matthews (vickiematthews@comcast.net)
Connie McComb (cmccomb0822@comcast.net)
Mark Warwashana (whellieman@gmail.com)
Bob Thompson (mutant@umich.edu)

Core Ministries

Worship: Dale Eckart, Holli Bertram
Welcome: Chris Karpinnen, Joanne Dence
Adult Discipleship: Sonja Page, Felicia Leipzig
Young Discipleship: Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya
Caring: Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach
Missions: Mark Gunderson, Layle Weinert

Support Ministries

Personnel: Tim Damschroder, Dave Werner
Building & Grounds: Bill Lehmann, Doug Behnke
Financial Stewardship: Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes
IT: David Anderson, Ray Vanderbok

Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Welcome Pastor	Michael Walters
Director, Adult Discipleship	<i>Vacant</i>
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	Kelly Nieman-Anderson
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
Director of Music	<i>Vacant</i>
Organist	Amy Studt, <i>Interim</i>
Praise Team Director	<i>Vacant</i>
Sound Operator	Tyler Dence
Worship Media Coordinator	Eddie VanRiper
Resident Custodian	Chris LeVasseur
Weekend Custodian	Patrick Peck
Wedding Coordinator	Andrea Clark-Ribick
Nursery Coordinator	Jasmine Schuler

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:

www.zlc-aa.org.

Office phone 994-4455