

The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

February 2016

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.



What's Happening at Zion

Announcing Two Congregational Meetings

February 7, 2016 after the Contemporary Service: This will be a brief Special Congregational meeting called for the sole purpose of reviewing and approving the new Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions for Zion Lutheran Church. In previous communications, this date was announced as the Annual Meeting date.

February 28, 2016 after the Contemporary Service: This will be our Annual Meeting and on the agenda will be a vote to ratify the new Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions for Zion Lutheran Church. In addition, we will hold elections, hear from Pr. Jim about plans for the coming year, and we will share a light meal.

Under the provisions of both our current constitution and the proposed revision, approval and ratification of the new Constitution and by-laws must occur in two separate votes: 1) approve it at a legally called meeting of the congregation and 2) ratify it at an Annual Meeting of the congregation. These sequential meetings will allow us to implement the Constitution in 2016.

The Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions document, along with two other documents, *Reasons for Revising the Constitution* and *Significant Changes in the 2016 ZLC Constitution* are available on the Zion website (www.zlc-aa.org) and can be picked up at the Welcome Center.

Please join us in Piper Hall for both of these upcoming meetings.

Project Grow is Back, but We Need Your Help!

Zion Council approved an effort to bring Project Grow back to the Zion property, returning to those days when we used our surplus land to benefit our community and neighbors. The area for this new Project Grow Garden is adjacent to the current Food and Faith Garden (an area that was used for surplus soil when the Zion retention basin was installed). Unfortunately the bulk of this "soil" is clay and far from ideal for cultivation for food. The solution posed by Project Grow was to significantly improve the soil by adding compost/planting mix. Zion is partnering with Project Grow to make this happen by raising funds to pay for over 100 cubic yards of planting mix/compost, and the labor/equipment to till this new material into the existing soil.

In total, this project will cost \$6000. Half of the funds necessary have already been donated through the generosity of Zion's Mission Core Ministry (\$2000) and the existing Food and Faith Garden (\$1000). Of the remaining \$3000, we have identified one Zion member who is willing to match all Zion donations up to \$1500. As a result, our fund raising goal is only \$1500. You can contribute by sending a check to the Zion office, inserting "Project Grow" on the memo line of your check. A special dedicated account has been established for these donations. No donation is too small. Any surplus funds raised beyond the goal will be used by the Zion Food and Faith Garden.

Using our property in this way is an opportunity to reveal Zion's values to our neighbors and community. First, we share what we don't need (in this case, our land) for other ministry activities (feeding the hungry). Second, posting unique signage around the existing Food and Faith Garden asking Project Grow gardeners to tithe their harvest to Food Gatherers, gives Zion an opportunity to model Biblical principles. As you likely know, 100% of the harvest from Zion's Food and Faith Garden goes to Food Gatherers.

For more information, please ask Bob Thompson (mutant@umich.edu) or Bryan Weinert (bryanweinert@gmail.com).

Lenten Midweek Services

On Ash Wednesday (February 10), stop by Zion for Ash & Dash from 6:30—8:30AM and/or services at noon, 5 & 7PM (6PM dinner). Join us on Wednesdays starting February 17th either at noon or 6:30PM, as we journey through Lent together, seeing that we are always alive in Christ, who died and was raised. Our Lenten Weekly Series "Living Lent" highlights the ways in which the passion narratives of Christ take on more significant meaning for us when we see them through the lens of the empty tomb. We will examine: Purpose (week 1), People (week 2), Proclaim (week 3), Praise (week 4), and Pain (week 5).

Worship Core Ministry

Calling all Musicians

It's a great time to join a music ensemble at Zion! If you would like to be involved, please email Natalie Downs (see below) for more information.

- **The Rings of the Lord (Handbells)** meets weekly on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome ringers ages high school to adult. No ringing experience necessary, but music reading is a plus.
- **Chancel Choir** meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:30-9:00PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome singers ages high school through adult.

Singers and instrumentalists are also encouraged to provide Special Music throughout our weekly and festival worship services. If you are interested in sharing your music, please email Natalie (ndowns@zlc-aa.org).

February Lectionary

- Feb 7** Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]
- Feb 10** **Ash Wednesday**—Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Feb 14** Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
- Feb 21** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Philippians 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35
- Feb 28** Isaiah 55:1-9, 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Luke 13:1-9

Zion Singers

Zion Singers is a group of singers with daytime availability who come together once a month to prepare and present a program of sacred, fun and seasonal songs to residents at a local nursing care, assisted living, or hospice care facility. Our February 2016 date is: Friday, February 12th at Brecon Village. Our rehearsal will be at 12:30PM in Music Room 1 on Level B1, and the performance will be at Brecon Village at 2PM.

Children's Music

All children are invited to make music with Ms. Natalie on Sundays after Bibleland. Later this month, we will focus on music for Palm Sunday. Rehearsals will be in preparation for the GIFT Service on March 20th (Palm Sunday). Below is the upcoming rehearsal schedule:

- Sunday, February 21st 10:30-11AM (meet in the Gathering)
- Sunday, February 28th 10:30-11AM (Gathering)
- Sunday, March 6th 10:30-11AM (Gathering)
- Sunday, March 13th 10:30-11AM (Gathering)
- Sunday, March 20th 9-9:20AM (Rehearsal before GIFT Service in the Gathering)

Parents with questions can email Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org.

Holy Week Music

Do you like to make music, but don't have time to commit to weekly rehearsals? Share your musical gifts during Holy Week! You are invited to join one of our music ensembles, whether you like to sing in the choir or ring handbells. All are welcome! For more information, please contact Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org).

GIFT (Generations In Faith Together)

The next GIFT service will be February 14 at 9:30AM. It's the first Sunday in Lent and Valentines Day. The focus will be Love. Join us for a worship service filled with energy, praise, blessing and music. The new Youth Chorus will be singing, led by Dr. Natalie Downs.

Assisting Ministers and Minister of Word Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in assisting in worship services on Sundays, please contact Marlene Hintz (marlhintz@gmail.com). If you would like to be added to the sub list, we are always looking for substitutes as well!

From the Finance Manager

E-Givers

If you submit your offerings via our E-Giving program (our electronic funds transfer program whereby donations are made to Zion without the donor having to write a check) please be sure you update your information for 2016. Many people made changes to their pledges for 2016. If you have created a user account, you can visit Zion's E-Giving website at <http://www.zlc-aa.org/egiving.html>, to enter a new, or change an existing donation. Or, you can contact David Beck in the Zion office for assistance. Email: dbeck@zlc-aa.org

2015 Year-End Giving Statements

Statements were mailed in the second week of January. If you have not received your statement yet, please contact David Beck in the Zion office for assistance. Email: dbeck@zlc-aa.org

From Pastor Jim

Small Things Change our Direction

Have you noticed that often it's the small things in life that cause the most problems?

One winter, I was out blowing snow with a snow blower and everything was going fine until a little rock wedged itself between parts in the blower and stopped it cold. This machine was a monster that could handle tons of snow, but a little rock that weighed only ounces, stopped my monster snow blower with no problem.

Another time, I was walking around the house in my socks and a sliver of wood snagged my sock and went into my foot. This little piece of wood that I could hardly see without my glasses, made me hop around. I had to get tweezers to pull out the speck of wood from the bottom of my foot, so I could walk again. How could something so small hurt so much?

A few years ago, I had a kidney stone that knocked me to the floor in pain. I thought it would have been like the size of a marble, but when the stone passed, it was so small that I could barely see it. Once again, something so small caused so much pain.

This month Christians around the world begin the season of Lent. Lent is a forty-day journey in which we renew our relationship with God. We walk with Jesus to the cross, his crucifixion and resurrection. His sacrifice for us inspires our sacrifice for others. It is a time to provide for the poor, pray for those in need, and fast from self-indulgence. What will you include in your Lenten journey? Will our Lenten discipline end like so many of our new year resolutions? Good intentions, but not much follow through? Will it be something small that will prematurely end your Lenten discipline?

It's so easy to forget to pray, to become so busy with life that prayer is lost in the daily schedule. Fasting from self-indulgence seems to be a desire many of us have until we get to the shopping mall and find so many amazing sales that we can't walk away. Before we know it, we're walking into the house with our arms full of things we don't really need. We want to remember the poor, but our own families have such needs that we just forget. Just like that, we've been derailed from our Lenten journey.

So what are we to do? Do we just give up and go back to our daily routine that ignores the disciplines of Lent? No. We begin the journey again, we use the same idea that derailed us to get us back on track. We already know the power of small things to change our lives. So maybe a small prayer lifted up before a meal or before bed will change your prayer life. Maybe sacrificing a lunch and giving the money you would have spent to a food pantry will help you remember the poor. Self indulgence could be nipped in the bud by enjoying the sales in the stores, but purchasing the items to give away. Maybe this Lent you could try giving up bad things like bitterness, apathy, discouragement, unkind words, envy, or self-pity.

These small steps don't seem like much, but they can be life-changing. So if you have found yourself derailed in your Lenten discipline journey, don't let the small things prevent you from remembering the poor, praying for those in need or fasting from self-indulgence. Use the small things to change your direction and renew your relationship with God. Have a holy Lent and remember Easter is coming.

Building & Grounds News

Solar Considered for Zion

Good stewardship of the blessings God has given our congregation, the conservation of resources, and a concern for the future of our planet all entered the hearts and minds of our congregational leaders as they authorized the formation of a task force to consider the use of solar energy by our congregation. At their October 2015 meeting, Council authorized the appointment of a congregational task force to review the possibility of installing solar panels to generate a portion of the electrical needs of our church facility.

Yet in its infancy, the Zion Solar Energy Task Force has begun meeting and initially concluded that any effort toward solar generation might best include a total review of energy use in our church building. Additionally, it was thought other building needs should be considered and addressed as a part of the facilitation of an investment in solar electricity generation, and to produce the best results. To this end, the Solar Energy Task Force is working in cooperation with the ZLC Building and Grounds Committee as they prepare a recommendation to the congregation.

As the Solar Energy Task Force moves forward, please "stay tuned" to the *Tower* for further information. And, should you have ideas, suggestions or concerns regarding this effort, please feel free to contact committee members Bryan Weinert (Chair), Laura Berry, Alan McComb, Mike Weber and David Werner and, as an ad hoc member, Leah Wiste from Michigan Interfaith Power & Light.

Congregation Council

December 15, 2015—Highlights

Financial Report Highlights:

- **Cash:** Available cash at the end of November was \$27,470. Cash in the operations account as of 12/11/15 is approximately \$14,000 and requires close monitoring. Operating cash levels are likely to remain low until another disbursement from the Endowment Fund is made to the General Operations account (see discussion below).
- **Income:** For the month of November, contributions were \$76,858, which was \$4,666 less than what was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$78,911 in November last year. YTD contributions are \$29,446 less than budgeted, and \$432 less than YTD compared to last year.
- **Expenses:** Over all, we were \$13,852 under budget for the month, and \$101,462 under budget YTD.
- **Building Fund:** Contributions to the “Down with the Debt” fund were \$1,533.63 by 18 givers in November. The minimum principal payment for December was \$2,651.10. David has cut the December checks to make the additional principal payment for the full amount of \$1,533.63 received in November, plus the minimum principal payment from the Operations fund. We owe Thrivent \$47,571 as of the end of November.
- **2016 Stewardship Campaign:** Thus far, 138 pledges received totaling \$498,281 for 2016; David is still receiving pledges. This compares to 199 pledges totaling \$619,156 for all of 2015, 187 pledges totaling \$605,236 for all of 2014, and 243 pledges totaling \$672,354 for all of 2013.
- **Attendance & Offering:** Attendance YTD is 17,775 compared to 17,540 at this time in 2014 (both numbers included Bibleland). Offering YTD is \$755,331, compared to \$755,763 at this time in 2014.

Financial Discussion

While cash on hand remains low, giving recently has picked up and with a planned/pending Endowment distribution, Stewardship and Finance is projecting that Zion is expected to end 2015 very close to budget.

In January, the new endowment distribution process takes effect, so the end of 2015 is the last opportunity to take an additional distribution. Our budget for 2015 included a distribution of \$95K. As we've only taken \$50K thus far, we will make a request for \$45K before the end of 2015. However, we are currently \$176K over corpus. Once we take a distribution of \$45K, there is potentially \$131K to consider for upcoming expenses.

Council discussed where to allocate the \$45K distribution and how much to take for a second distribution, given upcoming capital expenses and that the capital reserve fund currently has only \$25K in it.

We also discussed other ways of increasing our capital

reserve fund, other than endowment, including a capital campaign.

Council approved a request for a second endowment distribution of \$75K, to replenish the capital reserve fund. A subsequent conversation between Bob B. (Treasurer) and David Beck (Zion's Finance Manager) resulted in a proposed change in the allocation of the endowment distribution, approved by Council via email on December 20th. The total disbursement remains \$120,000 (\$45K + \$75K) as discussed and approved at the Council meeting. This change in allocation is as follows:

- \$55,000 to general operations
- \$65,000 to Capital Projects Reserve account for emergency use.

This change was included in the distribution request to the Endowment Board.

Council also discussed figuring out a strategy to better define short term capital expenses. We want to ensure that the capital reserve account is really for emergencies. Council approved a motion that any capital reserve account expenditure must be approved by Council, before the money is spent, to assure that Council is accountable for expenditures from this account.

Update on Project Grow Garden

Bob T provided an update. [See article on page 1.]

Sanctuary Video Upgrade

Bob T. gave this update. Bob noted that a final contract with terms and conditions had been received by the Zion IT group and they confirmed that appropriate additions and adjustments had been made to the contract. We will be scheduling installation for the end of January or early February 2016.

Nomination Committee

Christine reported that she contacted several existing leaders whose terms are scheduled to expire. Several of these current leaders agreed to re-run for these positions but that she was still waiting to hear from a few others. She noted that she obtained the names of potential Zion members who might step in as elected leaders on the Zion IT committee and that she would be contacting them shortly to assess their willingness to serve.

Associate Pastor Call Committee

Margie reported that she has received five commitments to serve on this Call Committee and has talked to at least two additional individuals who are praying about their involvement. As agreed by Council at previous meetings, the goal is to have 7-8 total Zion members on this Call Committee, to have this committee formulated by the end of December so that they could begin their work in January 2016. She was hopeful that she would be able to complete the recruitment work soon. She noted that she has already shared Call Committee documents with the five members who have agreed to serve and has talked to

Congregation Council (cont.)

Diane Hunt (Chair of Pr. Debner's Call Committee) about scheduling a meeting in January with this new Call Committee to address any questions about the process.

Adult Education

Bob T. and Vicki communicated that there are important concerns noted by leaders of the Adult Discipleship Core Ministry that require attention. Based upon the complexities of the issues noted, Council will request that leaders from Adult Discipleship come to Council in January or February to discuss these issues and develop a plan to address them.

Pr. Jim also suggested that Worship and Adult Discipleship Core Ministries meet to discuss ideas for a dedicated education hour. Pr. Jim does not think we can eliminate a worship service, because we will lose worshipping families. One idea is to make an education hour at 10:10, in between 9 and 11 when most of the families come. Pr. Jim believes we should have a plan for the fall before Bibleland ends for the summer.

Solar Energy Update

Laura provided a brief update on the Solar Task Force. [See article, page 3.]

Security System Update

Lorin reported. Rather than inexpensive cameras we buy off the shelf, B&G recommended we pursue a system that is more thorough. Lorin worked with three companies,

and gave them a site tour to show where doors are and where cameras would need to be. Only one company, Johnson Controls, made a bid. It is priced "a la carte" for different areas, with a total estimated cost of \$46K. This system would be just motion-activated cameras, rather than alarms.

A Council member asked about going to a residential security company. Lorin indicated that it's not the same situation because our building is used by the public at all hours, and not conducive to alarm system. Almost every church in Ann Arbor has a security system of videos. Pr. Jim thinks that a security issue is that the main entrance is not close to the office, so it's hard to know who's coming in.

Council discussed different ways to reduce the cost. Lorin was asked to pursue Guardian and ADT for more bids. Lorin also agreed to check what other churches in town have in the way of security systems (such as First United Methodist Church downtown, First Presbyterian, Grace Bible on S. Maple).

Update regarding upcoming congregational meetings

Via email in early January 2016, Council voted to change the congregational meeting schedule for the purpose of approving the new Constitution and By-laws. [See article, page 1.]

¹ *Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.*

³ *The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."*

⁴ *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"*

⁵ *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours."*

⁸ *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

⁹ *The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:*

"He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

¹² *Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

¹³ *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*

- Luke 4: 1-13

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry

Classes in Adult Education At Zion

On February 7, Layale Weinert will take a look at writer Madeleine L'Engle: American writer best known for young-adult fiction, particularly the Newbery Medal-winning *A Wrinkle in Time* and its sequels: *A Wind in the Door*, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*, *Many Waters*, and *An Acceptable Time*. Her works reflect both her Christian faith and her strong interest in modern science. Writing on divine punishment she said "I cannot believe that God wants punishment to go on interminably any more than does a loving parent. The entire purpose of loving punishment is to teach, and it lasts only as long as is needed for the lesson. And the lesson is always love."

February 14: Marvella Muzik went to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina as a medical aide. She will talk about what she saw and experienced. We expect to learn something about examples of faith being practiced.

In February and March we will be thinking about women of faith in our own lives and community. Can you share your own stories of faithful women - a mother, an aunt, a teacher? How did their faith express itself?

COMMUNITY GROUPS—WINTER 2015-16

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

<u>Group make-up / focus / interest</u>	<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Location</u>
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
Bible Bumpkins (open to all)	<i>not currently active</i>				
Couples with young children	<i>not currently active</i>				
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	Bel-Mark 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	at Zion
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

Young Discipleship Core Ministry

February Activities

Feb 7th - 6th Grade Catechism

Feb 21st - Grace Place

Feb 28th - Catechism All Grades

For more information on any of these events, contact Roger Santini (rsantini@zlc-aa.org).

Thank You and Congratulations

A big thank you to the Zion Congregation for your generosity this Christmas season. Zion raised \$11,955.27 for the ELCA Good Gifts program. This included \$208 collected in red barns from Bible Land children. As a result, \$10,000 was donated for four water wells to villages in Africa. Other gifts included:

1 Family Farm	2 fruit tree-seedlings
2 sheep	2 mosquito nets
5 goats	3 vaccinations for a child
1 pig	1 cook stove
8 sets of 10 chicks	1 microloan for a woman
2 sets of honey bees	1 school fees and uniform for a girl
1 set of farming tools and training	

These gifts changed lives. As many as 2000 families will now have safe water. Women and children who spent several hours each day fetching water can reallocate their time to school, work and family.

Our Oktoberfest was a success. We had a delightful evening. Thank you to John Metzger for furnishing the sausages, German potato salad and brown bread. Because of his generous donation, we had a profit, enabling Y.E.S. (Young Energetic Seniors) to make a donation to the homeless and to a water well in Africa. Thank you John for making this possible.

THANK YOU to everyone who donated cookies and treats for our Christmas Eve Cookie Fellowship! They were loved by all as families and friends had an opportunity to catch up and celebrate Christ's birth while enjoying your fabulous confections. Without your support, this couldn't happen. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

For many years, we have been purchasing our beautiful altar flowers from Chelsea Flower Shop. We thank Nobuko Sakoda for her generosity. If it were not for her, it would be more costly to provide these beautiful arrangements each Sunday. The lovely white poinsettia plants at Christmas were a gift from her to the congregation. Thank you Nobuko.

I want to let everyone know that my recovery from surgery is going very well. I am overwhelmed by your thoughtful cards, texts, emails and prayers. I truly believe that your thoughtfulness and prayers have helped me with my healing. I am so blessed to be a member of such a loving, thoughtful and caring community. Thank you. Your brother in Christ, *Doug Behnke*

Thank you to all who have "gone green" and receive the *Tower* by e-mail. Receiving the *Tower* by email saves trees, printing and postage costs, and gives you first access to our newsletter wherever you may be. If you are not yet receiving the monthly *Tower* newsletter by email and would like to start, please contact David Beck in the Zion office. Email: dbeck@zlc-aa.org

Mission Core Ministry

Olof Palme Prize Awarded to Pastor Dr. Mitri Raheb

The Olof Palme Prize is awarded annually for outstanding achievement in the spirit of Swedish statesman Olof Palme (1927-1986). Previous recipients include former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and Amnesty International. The Prize consists of a diploma and \$75,000, and the 2015 Olof Palme Prize is awarded to Palestinian Pastor Dr. Mitri Raheb, and Israeli journalist Gideon Levy, for their courageous and indefatigable fight against occupation and violence, and for a future Middle East characterized by peaceful coexistence and equality for all. By their work they both give a ray of hope to a conflict that has plagued and continues to plague millions of people and to endanger world peace.

As preacher and Pastor in our companion congregation Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Dr. Raheb sends a clear message to the young generation of Palestinians: "We want you to live, not die, for Palestine." In a Bethlehem confined on three sides by the walls of the occupying Israeli power, and with Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture that he founded and his innovative artistic education in film, art, and drama, Dr. Raheb has made it possible for young people to investigate their Palestinian identity, to nurture beauty, and to invest in a culture of life as tools for a creative resistance against suffocating confinement and towards nation building.

Mission Core Ministry (cont.)

2015 in Review

Mission Core Ministry's mission statement was revised and affirmed by our committee this year. It states:

Mission Core Ministry (MCM) coordinates Zion's local, national and international outreach efforts, allocates resources and communicates about organizations and opportunities. We prioritize allocations to faith-based organizations that have strong Zion involvement and accessible "hands on" openings for service to those in need as an expression of God's love.

In 2015 we oversaw a budget of \$112,000, \$55,000 of which went directly to the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA. The remaining funds were distributed to various service organizations and ministries, keeping our mission statement in mind. The breakdown of these contributions are detailed in the annual financial report.

Our committee also worked on updating our section of Zion's website. This is still a work in progress. MCM prepared a document called "Zion's Mission Opportunities" which included a brief description of organizations that Zion supports, along with links to their web sites.

Each month of 2015 our team featured one or more of these ministries to the congregation. Articles were placed in the *Tower* describing the ministry, Zion's past involvement, opportunities for participation and who to contact for more information. That same month, a spokesperson addressed the congregation during church services to further educate Zion's members. The 2015 featured ministries were as follows: Haiti Mission Trip, Peace Neighborhood Center, Christmas Lutheran Church, Youth Works (Detroit), Young Adults in Global Mission (ELCA), Habitat for Humanity, Faith and Food Garden, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UM, CROP Hunger Walk, Grace in Action (Detroit), SERRV International, Local Homeless Issues, ELCA Good Gifts and Friends in Deed.

The Mission Core Ministry Team is grateful for the privilege of serving the Zion congregation in the stewardship of our resources to ministries and human needs locally and around the globe.

Planning 2016 Haiti Mission Trip

Zion is starting to plan for our 2016 Haiti Mission Trip to visit our partners in ministry, Mary Jane and Andris Jolibois. Zion actively supports Living Hope Ministries – Haiti, which is a 500+ student primary school, a 200+ student trade school and Zion Church - Haiti. We have taken six trips over the past seven years. Our teams have ranged from 8 to 16 travelers and have ranged in age from 16 to 70+. It is truly a inter-generational event, where we grow together as a family.

In the past, our activities have included: taking photos and measurements of all the children for the sponsorship program; painting the inside of the church; teaching crafts and activities with the classrooms; playing with the students during recess; replacing a tarp roof with a tin roof; teaching music and movement (voice, piano, trumpet, guitar, flute, dance, yoga, karate); installing wireless internet throughout campus; leading teacher in-service training; organizing school supplies; lots of light maintenance projects; and a field trip to Jacmel, a "tourist" city along the southern coastline. But the most important activity is to live, work, laugh, and learn the Haitian ways with Mary Jane, Andris and the Living Hope staff. We get to see the pure joy the Haitians have for life and the Christian community they show every day during school and church.

We stay on the secure campus in a pleasant guest house. The total cost of the trip, including travel is ~\$1200. We will establish the 2016 travel dates after we meet with interested travelers at our first planning meeting. If you are interested in learning more about past trips and are interested in going in 2016, please contact Mark Gunderson (MLGondo@comcast.net or 734-996-2435 evenings).

Homeless Overflow Shelter

Zion's Homeless Overflow Shelter is back February 29—March 7, 2016. Please help us make it a special time for our guests by either volunteering your time, talents or providing donations. It takes a great number of people to make this happen, and we need your help! From multiple personal hygiene and grooming donations to overnigher hosts and meal-preparers – we need you all. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex at the Welcome Desk. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask Laura Girbach (645-1522, lgirbach@comcast.net) or Dianne Daily (646-6445, dianne2daily@gmail.com). Let's make this a warm, wonderful experience for them!!

Blood Drive Monday February 15

The next American Red Cross blood drive at Zion will be on Monday, February 15, 1—7PM. Please consider whether you can donate, and if you can, sign up for a time by going to the Red Cross website www.redcrossblood.org, click on the "donate" link and enter "zionlutheran" as the sponsor code. You may also sign up on the list in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings, or contact either Deborah Weber (662-7781) or Mary Pearson (marpear@gmail.com). Remember: every two seconds, someone in the US needs blood!. Thank you.

Member Caring Ministry

Samaritan Counseling Services and Zion: A Partnership in Ministry

History of Samaritan

Samaritan Counseling Services has been part of the community for thirty years. The concept of faith-based counseling services in Ann Arbor was developed by a group of clergy and mental health professionals. They perceived the need for a counseling center where people of all faiths could come to receive support and guidance in an environment that welcomed the inclusion of God and spiritual meaning in the therapeutic conversation. The outcome of their planning was the establishment in 1986 of Interfaith Counseling Services, supported by churches in our community and housed at First Baptist Church in the lovely Gothic house on Huron Street.

Jocelyn Pyett, who had extensive experience in both medical and mental health, and pastoral care, became the original Executive Director and served as both administrator and therapist until her retirement in 2013. She developed partnerships with churches throughout the area, receiving financial support to provide services for which clergy felt comfortable referring church members. Therapists with training in both mental health and pastoral care saw clients in additional donated space at First United Methodist Church and later at Zion Lutheran Church. In 1996, the counseling center joined the Samaritan Institute and became Samaritan Counseling Services.

As so often happens in life, things stay the same until some force pushes us to change. In the late 1990's, First Baptist Church needed "our space" for a new husband and wife pastoral ministry. We had to move out into the world of landlords and leases! It was scary but also an opportunity to settle into one space and to grow. We soon outgrew the modest quarters and stretched our resources to move into the current facility on Carpenter Road near Packard. This month, we are expanding again and adding office space across the hall, which will double our capacity.

Partnership with Zion

Zion has been a strong partner with Samaritan from the early years. Wilson Kotchenruther, PhD, affectionately known as "Dr.Kotch," was a psychologist and member of the Zion congregation. He began seeing clients in a small office space at the back of the "The Gathering" in the late 1980's and did a lot to build a strong relationship between Zion and Samaritan. When Dr. Kotch's declining health forced him into retirement, I began seeing clients there. As space needs in the building changed, the counseling office was moved to its current location at the back of the library. (Having the library for a waiting room beats reading old magazines! I once found a waiting client dozing on the loveseat, with an open book on his chest.)

In partnership with Zion clergy and staff, we have provided premarital counseling, led adult Christian Education classes on depression and anxiety, and presented several couples' workshops and a weekend retreat. Because of the confidential nature of our work, Zion's involvement has consisted primarily of financial support and use of the building. We have, however, also been blessed with strong faithful representatives from this congregation on the Board of Directors. Ron Hilst and Bob Scherba currently serve as President and Treasurer of the Board of Directors. Mary Ardner has served as Vice President recently, as well.

Samaritan Today

The resurgence of energy and growth at Samaritan Counseling has been led by our new Executive Director, Christie Lypka. Christie brings extensive experience leading nonprofits, a fresh perspective, and high energy. Her vision is to see us grow in scope of services and in geographical outreach. We have therapists with specialties in substance abuse, veterans' issues, childhood challenges of autism and ADHD, trauma recovery, animal-assisted therapy, and Spanish language. Visit our website: www.samaritanhelps.com for pictures and more information. We currently have an outreach office at Wesley United Methodist Church in Whitmore Lake. We are establishing a counseling office in Monroe and will be looking toward Jackson this year.

Samaritan Counseling has continued because its mission touches a need. If we can be of help to you or someone you know who is dealing with a major life transition, a difficult situation, or an emotional challenge, please visit our website or call 734-677-0609. Someone will help you take the first step toward healing.

- Lynne Lande LMSW

Loss Recovery Group Begins in February

On Monday February 1 at 6:30PM, the first gathering of those who are recovering from a loss will meet in The Gathering Place on the second level. This is for everyone who has experienced a loss that has influenced and changed their life. It could be an empty nest, a loss of job, a death of a loved one, a lost dream. Come and share with others who are on the same path in the journey of life. For the first gathering, bring a picture or photograph that represents your loss. We will meet for an hour and light refreshments will be available.

Member Caring Ministry (cont.)

11 DAYS IN THE STEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER



◆ JULY 11 – 21, 2016 ◆

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Wittenberg * Berlin * Dresden * Leipzig * Coburg
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Rev. Walter A. Schmidt, 43 Coronado Drive, Jackson, MI 49201
Tel: 517-962-5055 (Home), 313-605-6795 (Cell), Email: pastors@feelc.org

Gen X and Boomers Social Group

In December, we had over 16 people gather for a holiday party. It was a fun time of fellowship as we celebrated Christmas and an early New Year. We are planning a trip to Karl's Cabin in Plymouth on Saturday, February 13, to eat and hear the dueling pianos. If you've never been there, it promises to be a treat! Watch for details in the weekly announcements and in the announcements on the Zion website. If you would like to also be included on the email blasts, please send Joanne Dence an e-mail (joannedence74@gmail.com) and you will be put on the mailing list. Gen X and Boomers is a social group for married couples and singles in their 40s and 50s and thereabouts. Friends are always welcome!

Synod / LSSM News

News from Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM)

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM), which is one of the largest faith-based social services agencies in the country, provides support to a large range of needy clients in Michigan. LSSM programs focus on adoption, foster care, refugee settlement, home care, disability assistance, and senior care ranging from residences to memory care. Sadly, even this large range of programs cannot help all those in need, and LSSM is constantly trying to develop new programs and expand its services.

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 extra funds needed to grow. Each month, we try to give you information on LSSM programs and ways you can help. This month's feature is on *the need for foster parents*.

The biggest losers among the needy are children who have been removed from their birth families for one reason or another. They badly need support and love, and this can come from a foster family. The help can be short or long term and, either way, can be a life-saving experience for the child and a rewarding experience for the foster parents. Foster parents provide a safe place to sleep, meals, clothing, a nurturing environment, transportation to school, family visits, therapy and medical appointments, and a positive adult role model. The State of Michigan provides reimbursement to cover many of the costs associated with foster care, and LSSM provides ongoing training and support. In addition, you get the satisfaction of helping a vulnerable and needy young person. Foster parents are being recruited for Metro Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Saginaw and Muskegon. If you can help, please check the LSSM website at <http://www.lssm.org/children-and-families/foster-care> and call the number for the area where you live.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Monday, February 1

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 11:30 AM Women's Monday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Prayer Tam Meeting/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, February 2

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:30 PM Personnel Team Meeting/Pastor's Office
 7:00 PM Life's Lessons Boo Club/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, February 3

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

Thursday, February 4

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 12:00 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 5

2:00 PM Zion Senior's Lunch Setup/Kitchen & Hall
 7:30 PM AL-Anon Special Meeting/The Gathering

Saturday, February 6

12:00 PM Zion Special Senior's Luncheon/Piper Hall

Sunday, February 7

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 Contemporary Worship/Piper Hall
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 12:00 PM Congregational Meeting/Piper Hall

Monday, February 8

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

Tuesday, February 9

9:00 AM Good Thyme Garden Club/The Gathering
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 2:00 PM IDAP Meeting/Omeage Room
 7:15 PM Building and Grounds Meeting/Creation Station

Wednesday, February 10—Ash Wednesday

6:30 AM Ash & Dash/Outdoors
 10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service/Yeager Chapel
 5:00 PM Lenten Worship/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Dinner/Piper Hall

6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Practice Room
 7:00 PM Lenten Worship/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room

Thursday, February 11

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
 9:15 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Church Office
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 12

Saturday, February 13

10:00 AM New Membership Class/Pastor's Office

Sunday, February 14

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
 9:30 AM Bibleland/2nd Floor
 9:30 AM GIFT 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/Piper Hall
 12:30 PM Bill Brackline/Yeager Chapel

Monday, February 15

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

Tuesday, February 16

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Council Meeting/The Gathering

Wednesday, February 17

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Service/Yeager Chapel
 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:30 PM Lenten Worship/Sanctuary
 6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Practice Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen/Alpha Room

Thursday, February 18

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Lord of the Rings/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 19

Saturday, February 20

Sunday, February 21

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 Contemporary Worship/Piper Hall
 11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, February 22

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:30 AM God's Gardeners/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:30 PM Ruth's Small Group/Kitchen
 6:30 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:00 PM Kesler/Small Group/Alpha Room

Tuesday, February 23

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry/Church Office

Wednesday, February 24

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 12:00 PM Mid-Week Lenten Worship/Sanctuary
 12:30 PM Lenten Lunch/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:30 PM Lenten Worship/Sanctuary
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Practice Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
 7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall
 7:30 PM Al-a-teen/Alpha Room

Thursday, February 25

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare
 9:15 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 1:30 PM The Bible/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, February 26

Saturday, February 27

Sunday, February 28

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/Piper Hall
 12:15 PM Catechism/Youth Room
 7:00 PM Concert

Monday, February 29

6:30 AM Men's Christ Care/Sunday Spot
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 8:00 PM Homeless Shelter/Piper Hall

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January Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS: Louise Low

NEW MEMBERS:

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, Layale Weinert

Support Ministries

Personnel: Diane Hunt, Dave Werner
Building & Grounds: Bill Lehmann, Jim Love
Financial Stewardship: Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes
IT: Ray Vanderbok, David Anderson

Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Associate Pastor	<i>Vacant</i>
Director, Adult Discipleship	<i>Vacant</i>
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	Roger Santini
Bibleland Coordinator	Nina Johnson
VBS Coordinator	Jessica Rudy
Director of Choirs & Special Music	Natalie Downs
Organist	Elgin Clingaman
Contemporary Worship Leader	Alison Hendricks
Sound Operator	Tyler Dence
Worship Media Coordinator	Eddie VanRiper
Resident Custodian	Chris LeVasseur
Weekend Custodian	Max Wojewski
Wedding Coordinator	<i>Vacant</i>
Nursery Coordinator	Kaili Dence, Deborah Fagan

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:

www.zlc-aa.org.

Office phone (734) 994-4455