

The Tower

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

April 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

Earth Sunday Celebration

Zion will be celebrating "Earth Sunday" at all three worship services on Sunday, April 24. In addition to a liturgical emphasis on stewardship and gratitude for all of creation, there will also be an information table on local environmental activities and the distribution of [free](#) recycled-content pens and pencils to everyone attending services or Bibleland that Sunday. As John Muir reminds us: "Keep close to Nature's heart...and break clear away once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean."

Newly-Elected Leaders

The following leaders were elected at the annual congregational meeting on Feb 28:

- Vice President: Vickie Matthews
- Worship Core Ministry: Sharon Ridella-Mehlos
- Adult Discipleship Core Ministry: Peter Bertocci
- Young Discipleship Core Ministry: Ken Utsunomiya
- Member Caring Core Ministry: Laura Girbach
- Mission Core Ministry: Mark Gunderson
- Building & Grounds Support Ministry: Jim Love
- Financial Stewardship Support Ministry: Lisa Rombes
- Personnel Committee: David Werner
- IT Committee: Ray VanderBok

The office of President remains open but will be filled by Margie Reynolds until her successor can be named.

One Council Member-at-Large position was open at the time of the meeting; 5 write-in candidates were named by those present. Subsequently, Zion Council, using Robert's Rules of Order, voted from a ballot of those 5 names and Dan McConnell was elected.

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

Hello! Thanks for the prayers and support as the members of the call committee were installed and recognized on Feb. 28, 2016. Our members include: Holli Bertram, Kay Davoux, Dale Eckart (chair), Kara Kogelman, Margie Reynolds (ex officio), Matt Rudy, Bob Thompson, and Emmeline Weinert [*see biographies, page 10*].

After an initial kick-off meeting which included Pastor Jim, the committee has been meeting frequently to address the preparatory work for this part of the process for calling a pastor in the ELCA. The process has two main phases: 1) updating our Ministry Site Profile, to show potential pastors who we are, and what ministries we are pursuing; and 2) receiving candidate profiles to review, which will lead eventually to interviews. We have received and will continue to receive support from the Southeast Michigan synod for both of these phases.

In our first meetings, we have focused on updates to Zion's Ministry Site Profile. We have built on the work that Pastor Jim's call committee did, as part of the process of calling him, but this effort was not simply replacing the words "senior pastor" with "associate pastor" and calling it good. The Call Committee has used the Vision Document and its supporting information to highlight our commitments to education of God's people and service to both global and local communities, as well as the care of God's creation as key components. Our new pastor will also ensure that God's Word is rightly preached, the sacraments are rightly administered, will follow the leadership of the senior pastor and will cooperate with our staff and lay leaders to do God's work in our community. The committee hopes to complete this work by the end of March.

We're working on God's timetable, led by His Spirit. We open every meeting with devotions, and close every meeting with prayer. While we know that God will lead us to the right person for Zion, we don't yet know when that process will conclude. We're grateful for your continued prayers and support.

Worship Core Ministry

April Lectionary

- April 3** Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 1:4-8, John 20:19-31
- April 10** Acts 9:1-6 [7-20], Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19
- April 17** Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30
- April 24** Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

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).

Zion Concert Series

Don't miss the exciting concerts coming to Zion! Admission is free and all concerts are open to the public. A free will offering will be accepted at each concert.

Upcoming Concerts:

- *Saturday, Apr. 9th at 7PM* (Sanctuary) - Stephen Lynerd Group Sacred Jazz Concert
- *Sunday, May 1st at 7:30PM* (Sanctuary) - Aaron Tan, pianist and organist, with guest artist Victoria Fraser, voice and Ruby Brallier, cello

We are in need of volunteers to help usher and provide refreshments for our upcoming concerts throughout the year. If you are interested in helping, please contact Natalie Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org).

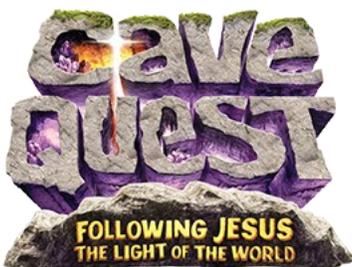
Children's Music

Our Children's Music Program is coming to a close for the year. We did some exciting music at the GIFT services in February and March. Thank you to all the children who participated! Stay tuned for more details regarding next year's program!

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 April 2016 date is: Friday, April 22nd at Evangelical Homes of Saline. Our rehearsal will be at 12:30PM in Music Room 1 on Level B1, and the performance will be at Evangelical Homes of Saline at 2PM.

Young Discipleship Core Ministry



VBS 2016

Vacation Bible School will be held June 20-24, 2016. Family night is Thursday June 23, and VBS Sunday June 26.

Registration information coming soon. Contact VBS coordinator Jessica Rudy at aazionvbs@gmail.com for more details.

Upcoming Activities

- April 10th - 7th Grade Catechism
- April 17th - Grace Place Movie Night
- April 24th - Catechism - All Grades

Welcome Core Ministry

Greeters Needed

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:7

Been wanting to volunteer but find it difficult to commit? Can you commit to 20 minutes once a month right before one service? Welcome Ministry has an opportunity for you! All you need to do is arrive 20 minutes early, before the service you are already planning to attend, and greet members and visitors at the Welcome Center entrance with a smile and some welcoming words. If your family would like to volunteer together, that would be awesome too. If you are called to help in this way, please email Joanne Dence at joannedence74@gmail.com and indicate which service you are available. Once we compile a list of volunteers, we will send out a schedule. Thank you for your consideration and service.

From Pastor Jim

Open Eyes, Ears and Hearts

One spring afternoon I was hiking in the middle of a Connecticut forest in an area that was full of old beautiful oaks and maples. I was enjoying the hike, enjoying the scenery, thinking, reflecting, and at times catching my breath. Then as I neared the top of a climb, I rounded a corner and came upon a patch of brightly colored purple and gold flowers that were growing up out of the rocks. I stopped in my tracks as if I had just spotted a bear and I couldn't move. Those flowers seemed so out of place, so unexpected, so beautiful...they surprised me!

Ron Weide writing in the bible study *Zone*, asks some good questions about how God surprises us. He asks, "Have you ever found yourself sliding through life doing what you do day in and day out, then out of the blue God surprises you by putting something or someone or some thought in your path? You didn't expect it; you couldn't have planned for it, it just showed up, it totally caught you off guard. It might have been a call from a friend or song on the radio, a passage from scripture, a car accident that almost was. It might have come when you heard the results from your doctor's visit. It might have been a line from a movie, a dream you had that you're certain was real, a time of prayer or worship, a child at play, or a trip to the grocery store—but there it was, God showed up in a peculiar but very real and personal way."

The questions this raises...are we paying attention to the surprises God has for us? Are we stopping long enough to really see with spiritual eyes, to listen intently with our hearts beating in rhythm with God's and then are we willing to respond to His leading? How often do we walk right by the beautiful patch of purple and gold flowers and miss what God might be trying to say to us? Often we call this a coincidence. Have we become so narrow in our thinking and experience of God that we are now convinced God only shows up on Sundays between 8 and noon? Jesus says in Matthew 13 that we have God-blessed eyes and ears...we have the Spirit of God inside of us to see and hear what God wants to reveal to us whether seen or unseen in the physical world:

"...your ears are open but you don't hear a thing. Your eyes are awake but you don't see a thing. The people are blockheads! They stick their fingers in their ears so they won't have to listen; They screw their eyes shut so they won't have to look, so they won't have to deal with me face-to-face and let me heal them." "But you have God-blessed eyes— eyes that see! And God-blessed ears— ears that hear!" Matt 13:14-16 (MSG)

As God's children, let's open our eyes, ears, and hearts to what God is doing all around us. In this season of Easter let the Spirit open our eyes and ears to God's creative and resurrection work happening all around us.

Grace and Peace!

Mission Core Ministry

Zion Garden Grandeur Gently Grows

Zion's Faith and Food Garden is ready to start its fourth year of operations starting this Spring. Volunteers of all ages, sizes, capabilities and commitments are invited to get involved. Volunteer once, twice, or twenty-four times this coming growing season. Volunteer as an individual, a family, or with your small group or congregational committee. All produce raised is donated to Food Gatherers, for distribution to the area's less fortunate. Last year the garden produced almost 1,500 lbs of fresh produce for distribution. For more information, please contact Garden Guardians Layale and Bryan Weinert at bryanweinert@gmail.com.

In addition, Zion is welcoming back community gardener Project Grow to our property after several years of hiatus, adding its own gardening capacity to our site. These community gardeners will be renting space to grow their own produce, with an invitation from Zion to donate at least 10% of their harvest through Food Gatherers as well. Such a partnership is intended to support local gardening, community-building and neighborhood good will, to the benefit of Zion as a congregation and the community as a destination for positive engagement and activity. For more information on the Project Grow partnership, please contact Bob Thompson at mutant@umich.edu.

Peace Neighborhood Center Volunteers

By the time this issue of the *Tower* reaches you, only April and May are left in the after-school program at Peace Neighborhood Center. We are asking for volunteers to sign up for these two months. Your assistance in preparing and serving meals for 70-80 students is very much appreciated. Please check your calendars and sign up when available. New volunteers are always welcome! For more information, please call Mary Pfaus (734)649-8102 or Marianne Rauer (734)954-0057. Thanks for your help!

Congregation Council

February 16, 2016—Highlights

Financial Report Highlights

- **Cash:** Cash in the operations account on 02/12/16 is approximately \$91,000. We currently have sufficient cash on hand to last the next several months. General Operations is budgeted to receive \$105K from the endowment in 2016, some of which will be needed by mid-year.
- **Income:** For the month of January contributions were \$70,067, which was \$1,102 more than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$67,550 in January last year.
- **Expenses:** We were \$18,165 under budget for the month. The final result for 2015 was that expenses exceeded income by \$13,617. This was considerably better than the \$63,114 deficit planned in the 2015 budget.
- **Building Fund:** Contributions to the Down with the Debt fund were \$7,656.86 by 20 givers in January. The minimum principal payment for February was \$2,701.01. David Beck has already cut and mailed the February checks to make the additional principal payment for the full amount of \$7,656.86 received in January, plus the minimal principal payment from the Operations fund. We owe Thrivent \$37,376.91 as of the end of January. We should be able to pay this off in the coming year.
- **YTD Attendance and Offering:** Attendance YTD is 1,741; YTD 2015 was 1,536 (both numbers including Bibleland). Offering YTD is \$70,067; YTD 2015 it was \$67,550.

Communication Proposal

In August 2015, Council voted to spend \$400-\$500 on a project evaluation from consultant Adam Delezenne, Common Table Communications. The purpose was to help us think through what we need do to in terms of improving communication at Zion, help us create “best practices” for communications, and think about what skills we need from someone who we’d hire.

To research this project, Adam surveyed people at Zion, including staff and volunteers. Adam provided a report that described what Zion is currently doing with regard to communications, outlined options for a communication position, and included three packages of options to implement coordinated communication. It describes ideas to unify the website, newsletter, email templates, etc. that all core ministries could use. A website redesign is part of all the packages because it’s foundational: it’s the “way in” for first time visitors.

Council discussed these options. We discussed whether or not we should get other bids for a website redesign, but concluded it’s just one piece of a larger communication plan. We discussed whether to hire someone for the communication position first before implementing any of the options, as it could make sense to have that person’s input on the options. And we noted that while we’ve budgeted for a part time communications staff person, we did not include any additional resources for communications that this person

might need to do their job (e.g., to implement the menu of options included in the report).

Council discussed what the communication position would involve. We envisioned this person being involved with updating the website (either making the current one better, or doing a complete overhaul) and if we take Adam’s advice and try to unify our communications, helping to unify other means of communication such as weekly emails, the *Tower*, marketing campaigns such as bus ads, web advertising, and social media. Generally, the person in the position would help us communicate a consistent message about our church to the community. Since it’s a part-time position, we’d have to set priorities and be sure that person continues to work with and support our volunteers. A next step would be to work with personnel committee to develop a position description that reflects the information in Adam’s proposal.

Pastor Jim Updates

- **Zion intern:** Pastor Jim will have an intern (Vicky Lowell) in place by August. Like Kelly, who’s doing an internship at another church as part of her training to become a minister, Vicky will be doing her internship at Zion. Her salary will be \$1000/month, and we have \$6K budgeted.
- **Stewardship pilot program:** The synod is starting a stewardship pilot program called Stewardship for all Seasons. The synod has hired Mike Ward to do a series of 6 stewardship training classes for churches in the synod from March 2016 to March 2017. These classes will be in person and via webinar. May 13th will be the first class. Mike Ward has been known to double congregational giving. The cost of the classes is \$1600. When we sign up for the classes, we would commit to give 10% of the resulting increased offering to the synod (e.g., if our income goes up \$20K, we’d give \$2 K to the synod). If we don’t get additional offering, we wouldn’t tithe anything additional.

Council discussed the merits of this idea; engaging our congregation in giving is something we need to do, and that maybe members of our Stewardship and Finance Committees could attend. Council approved \$1600 to send a team from Zion to attend the six Stewardship for all Seasons training sessions.

Licensed Lay Ministry Proposal

Dale Eckart wrote to Council indicating that he is pursuing a course to become a licensed lay minister. He asked for Council’s prayers and perhaps financial support as the course includes 12 classes, each at \$125, plus books and travel costs. Council discussed whether there is an existing line item in our budget that could be used for this purpose, if we could add one to the 2017 budget, whether it’s appropriate for one of the core ministries to fund, etc. Margie will check to see whether the student aid fund can be used; Bob T. will check about specific restrictions to the Hutchins account. Council approved support for Dale with prayer and some monetary reimbursement for classes.

Zion Policy Regarding Alcohol at Events

Council received a request from a member who would like to us to reevaluate the alcohol policy. The current policy is no

Congregation Council (cont.)

alcohol other than communion wine; we also serve wine at the 4th grade Seder meal. Our insurance does not prohibit alcohol and Council discussed the issues it may present. We agreed to check with an attorney about liability.

Council approved a change to the policy, contingent on legal opinion, to allow beer and wine only on Zion property, and that for non-member sponsored events, a licensed bartender would be required. The senior pastor would review each request and approve or deny the request in advance. *[Secretary's note: Council received the attorney's opinion on February 19, 2016, and Council's approval of the motion was confirmed via email.]*

Groundcover News

Council received a request from Shelly DeNeve to sell *Groundcover News* on Sunday mornings. Shelly would set up a table with the papers displayed and have a basket for donations. Council approved.

Updates

- **Video proposal:** There is still some equipment that hasn't arrived, and it's limiting the capacity of the system.
- **Security system:** Lorin reported that a final walk-through was done but we don't have an installation date yet.
- **Solar panels:** Laura reported that our next step might be a DTE energy audit, which we believe they would do for free. Laura agreed to find out what it includes.
- **Banner:** Pastor Jim said that we have the banner. It's legal to put it up, and we will put it up on Friday.

February 7, 2016—Special Congregational Meeting Highlights

The purpose of the meeting was to approve changes to our constitution. The reasons for revising the constitution were:

- The ELCA requires that congregations establish and maintain a constitution that is consistent with that approved by the Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA. Zion's new constitution is based upon the ELCA's 2013 Model Constitution. The new Zion Constitution combines the Constitution, By-laws (including Endowment Board bylaws), and Continuing Resolutions into one document.
- Zion's constitution was last updated in 1998, and by-laws were updated 4 years ago – our previous constitution was out of date.
- In the past several months, Zion's elected leaders and staff have encountered a number of situations where our constitution and bylaws were confusing, in conflict with some of our policies, or inconsistent with our desired direction to become a congregationally driven church.

Major Changes:

- Council can add new continuing resolutions without having to call special congregational meetings.
- Church policies, which change over time, were confusing to track. The Council Vice President is tasked to

develop, manage, and maintain a standard policy program.

- **Terms of Office:** Term limits and filling of vacancies now the same for all elected positions. Council has the ability to appoint someone to a vacant position.
- **Council membership:** The requirement to have one youth member was dropped, because it has been nearly impossible to fulfill.
- **Monthly meetings of council and all committees, with minutes**
- **Audit Committee:** This committee is responsible for annually reviewing the congregation's financial and endowment policies, processes, and records for each.
- **Mutual Ministry Committee:** such committees will be appointed for each pastor and rostered leader of the church. These committees provide the pastors and rostered leaders with a dedicated set of people to be a sounding board for the congregation and the pastor/leader with feedback going both ways.
- **New committees:** establishes how to add a new committee, and how the membership is set and renewed.
- **Indemnification:** To make sure that all Zion leaders are covered by insurance policy in the work that they do.

Margie explained that today we vote to approve the provisions required by ELCA. At the second meeting on February 28th, we will vote to ratify the document, which will approve the provisions that are not required. With no further discussion, the congregation approved the new constitution's provisions that are required by the ELCA. All in favor, none opposing or abstaining.

February 28, 2016—Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights

Election of Leaders

New leaders for Council, core ministries and support committees were elected *[see article, page 1]*.

Endowment Board Presentation

Leif Fry, Endowment Board Chair, presented an overview of Zion's Endowment, and what members can do to donate to it.

Treasurer's Report

We ended 2015 with a slight negative balance of -\$13 K. In 2015, we reduced church building debt by over \$73K. The ending 2014 mortgage balance of \$116K was cut in 2015 to \$43K. Our budget for 2016 appears achievable, although it will take hard work.

Ratification of the New Constitution

Margie explained that at the February 7 congregational meeting, the Constitution was approved. At this meeting, we are ratifying it. This is a two-step process as required by the Synod. A vote was called and it was unanimously accepted.

Looking Ahead

Pastor Jim discussed his vision for Zion's future *[see article, page 8]*.

Adult Discipleship Core Ministry

Classes in Adult Education At Zion

April adult classes - continuation of our study of prophets Amos and Isaiah - through April 24. Set within their historical context, the books of the Old Testament prophets Amos and Isaiah offer a fascinating overview of the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. We can trace in these two works the rise and destruction of the northern Kingdom of Israel, and the struggle of the southern Kingdom of Judah to maintain its freedom from the superpowers of the day -- Assyria and Babylon. Prophecies and texts in both books place God firmly in control of these events. Our classes examine this combination of prophecy and history in these two majestic works.

May classes - On the 22nd we look forward to two back-to-back sessions on Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia taught by members of the local Alzheimer's Association with support from Zion Parish Nurses. This program will provide information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, and more. It will be open to Zion and to the AA community; registration through the church office is suggested so that materials can be provided. Flyers will be available in early April.

Wanted! Needed!

People who love Luther, want to know more about Luther, want to think about Luther's relevance in the 21st century, are willing to meet with others of like mind to come up with a vision for bringing Luther to Zion in 2016-17.

Reformation 2017 is 500 years since Luther tacked his theses on the door of the local church. How would we react if a modern Luther did that today? What do we think Luther's fight would be today, given that in 1517 he chose to make it indulgences?

If you are willing to think about this, contact Ron Delph (rdelph@emu.edu) or Sonja Page (sonjagg@umich.edu).

Synod / LSSM News

News from Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM)

Lutheran Social Services of Michigan (LSSM) is one of the largest faith-based social services agencies in the country, and it provides support to needy clients in Michigan. LSSM has programs dealing with adoption, disability assistance, foster care, home care, refugee settlement and senior care. This large range of programs cannot help all those in need, however, and LSSM is constantly trying to develop new programs and expand its services.

Expanding services requires extra funds that are not directly tied to specific services (most funding for specific services comes from the government and must be used for that service) and that's one place where we church members can help. Through our donations of time, items and money, we provide LSSM with the extra funds needed to take on new challenges. Each month, we give you information on LSSM programs and ways you can help. Please think about what you can do. This month's feature is *helping seniors with memory loss*.

Memory loss is an increasingly important part of the challenges that seniors face. Whether memory loss is due to Alzheimer's, dementia or cognitive impairments, people have a strong need of patient, loving, reassuring care. Two of the LSSM Senior Living communities in Michigan, the Lakeview in Cadillac and Maple Creek in Grand Rapids, provide these services in safe, comfortable environments. The memory care staff is specifically trained to meet the unique needs of those facing memory loss, as well as helping their families and loved ones cope with the changes. The goal is to give residents the support they need to continue living life with a sense of independence, productivity and self-worth. Expansion of these services to other senior living facilities in Michigan, including Hope Village in Traverse City and Maple Village in Bloomfield Hills, requires funding. If you are interested in learning more about these services or helping expand them, please go to: <http://www.lssm.org/seniors/memory-care>, or if you want to contribute to this or other LSSM programs send your check to LSSM 8131 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI or call (313) 823-7700 for more information or to donate by phone.

Zion Endowment Fun(d) Facts

The Endowment Committee is honoring the Zion Endowment Fund's 20th anniversary with Zion Endowment Fun(d) Facts in the Tower. Did you know:

On March 19, 1996, the Zion Congregation Council approved the Zion Endowment Fund Bylaws, and created the Zion Endowment Fund and the Zion Endowment Board. The first Zion Endowment Board members were Roy Weber (Chair), Dave Schultz (Vice-Chair), Johanna Johnson (Secretary), John Stelter (Treasurer), Mary Richards, Robin Damschroeder and Tom Kauper. The beginning Fund balance was \$426,837.

One of the Endowment Committee's goals is to increase the congregation's Zion Endowment Fund awareness and contribution options. If you have questions, please email the committee at endowment@zlc-aa.org.

Thank You and Congratulations

In January 2015, the Constitution Review Group started the arduous task of updating Zion's current constitution and bylaws. Using ELCA's 2013 Model Constitution for Congregations, we took several independent documents, and combined them into a finely molded and polished document! I would like to thank Pr Jim, Margie Reynolds and Mike Weber for bringing and sharing their experience, skills and talents to each step of the process! I know we created a great Zion Lutheran Church Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions document! - *Marcus Hunt*

A tremendous thank you goes out to everyone involved in supporting this year's Rotating Homeless Overflow Shelter at Zion from February 29-March 6. Our guests were so thankful for the many blessings that they requested to stay longer. Special thanks goes out to Pam Piper for providing terrific haircuts which not only looked great, but boosted their confidence immeasurably. Thank you also to our Overnight Hosts – Dan McConnell (double-duty – Superman!!), Harry Huff, Bryan and Layale Weinert, Ken Utsunomya, Steve Johgart, Kent Peterson, Ron Schinske, Bob Thompson, Mike Muzik, Emmy Weinert, Paul Wacker and his friend Mike. Your kindness and dedication for the safety of our guests was greatly appreciated. Every evening our guests went to bed warm and with full bellies. Our very caring chefs made sure everyone had plenty of delicious and healthy food for each guest. Thank you to Ruth Huff's Small Group, the Empty Nesters' Small Group, Joni Bertrand and Family, Bobbi Rykard, The Rombes Family, Cynthia Browne, Cecily Counter, The Groth Family and The Rogers Family. And a special thanks to Henriette Frikke-Schmidt and her family for creating not only a terrific meal, but for calling on her way to the emergency room to ensure they would still be able to deliver their meal. She is incredible!! Finally, we would like to thank everyone who donated items for our Blessing Bags. Our guests loved receiving the very generous gift and appreciated everything it included: towel, washcloth, soap, shower gel, socks (athletic and wool), personal grooming kits, toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, combs, razors, shaving cream, chapstick, tissues, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, flashlights, journals, gloves, journals/pens, permanent markers, wet wipes, mini-first aid kits, and snacks. We even had one guest who was moving into an apartment mid-week and appreciated the extra blanket available from our guest donation table. This ministry happens because of the all the wonderful people who gave so generously. Thank you a thousand time over! Our guests are in a difficult position, but felt welcomed at our Zion home. You made their week with us special. - *Dianne Daily and Laura Girbach, Co-Chairs*

On March 5, the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Southeast Michigan Synod honored women from their congregations who have contributed to the work of the Lord. The idea of honoring women is based on Romans 12:10: *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* Our honoree from Zion is Dorothy Bauer. Twelve Zion WELCA attended the banquet honoring her and 20 other women. Congratulations Dorothy, and thank you for your lifetime of service!

- *Lois Schlachter*

Thank you to all of our musicians who shared their musical talents during Lent and Holy Week. Your music is a blessing to us all!

- *Natalie Downs*

Dear Zion Friends:

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers for my internship! I am getting a lot of experience with preaching, leading worship, visiting sick members, and teaching adult bible studies at Shalom Lutheran in Pinckney. I preach about once a month— if you'd like to visit, call 734-678-6859 or email kelly@shalomlife.org to confirm the preaching schedule.



I am proud to announce that I am the 2016 winner of Luther Seminary's Graduate Preaching Fellowship! This privately funded award offers a unique opportunity for recipients to spend a year in international travel, gaining cross-cultural experiences that will support future parish ministry.

My fellowship focus will be the Lutheran Church's care of immigrants and refugees. I will spend time in Europe, Latin America, Jordan, and East Africa, visiting refugee camps, churches, and other ministries where Christians are accompanying those displaced by war and violence. I will assist and advocate for immigrants and refugees in our community, partnering with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

Even though David and I will be traveling all over the world, most of the school year we'll be at home in Ann Arbor. During that time, I will be visiting churches, schools, and other organizations to tell about my work with refugees. My blog will be up soon, chronicling our adventures and experiences.

Thank you for your blessings, support, and prayers. I carry your love with me every time I preach, serve, and teach. David and I are looking forward to seeing you all again very soon.

- *Kelly Nieman Anderson*

A Vision for Zion's Future

[Ed. Note: the following is a summary of Pastor Jim's remarks at the annual congregational meeting on his vision of Zion's future.]

There are certain "marks of the church" that Martin Luther listed as "preach, believe, profess and live." There are also seven basic faith practices that mark the life of "the Christian holy people" in our daily lives. These seven faith practices are pray, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve and give. As Disciples of Jesus, we have to do these things, otherwise we're the Lions Club or the VFW. Here at Zion we proclaim that our life together is marked by our tag line, "Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Make Christ Known." Are we knowing Christ, growing in Christ, making Christ known? We have to be those who pray, those who serve, those who read the Bible.

Here are the ideas I've been thinking about:

- Welcome: We need to revamp our new member class. We need to make it like a revolving door, where leaders of the church are coming to meet the new members and get them involved. We need to have mentor families for new families. We need people to walk with new members so they don't get lost. We need to make our website as good as it can be because it's our face to the world. We have to market ourselves, tell the world who we are. We have to go out and invite people in, because they won't just come by themselves. Maybe "welcome" needs to be not only good at hospitality in welcoming those who come, but also "evangelizers," those who go out and invite and tell the good news.
- Worship and Education: We have 3 distinct services, and we are going to make them more distinct. At the 8:15AM service we're going to use the book, with no video screen. The 9:30AM service will have different music and liturgy than the 8:15. We need to find a permanent place for our 11AM contemporary worship. It might mean that we have to renovate or build a place for this service to live out its gifts.
- There will need to be changes in the worship times this fall. For 20 years, we've had 3 services, with our main service at 9:30AM and Sunday school (Bibleland) running concurrently. Basically, for those 20 years we've taught our youth not to worship. And we've trained adults to be not interested in education. Unfortunately, it's worked, as there are few youth worshipping and few adults growing in Christ in adult education. So we've got to change something, or we will die as a congregation. We need to have a dedicated education hour. It doesn't cut it to bring your children to Bibleland and that's all you have to do. We have to change this custom. We have to organize our classes around "Know Christ, Grow in Christ, Make Christ Known."
- Young Discipleship: Generations in Faith Together (GIFT) services have been amazing and have brought families back to worship. We will renew our emphasis on Faith Five for families.
- Member Caring: Hopefully the new associate pastor will help to build this up. We need to have more small groups to invite new people into the life of Zion. We also need to begin using inventories that lift up the gifts God has blessed us with to be more involved.
- Mission Core Ministry: It's not just writing checks – we need to be involved in it! That's how we affect the community – because we're there, side by side, making it happen. We want our money to follow our work and our passions. If disciples of Zion can't be involved in a specific ministry, then we need to evaluate if it is a mission we can continue to support.
- Financial Stewardship: The Synod is starting a pilot program, "Stewardship for all Seasons," and Council has approved Zion to be one of 10 pilot churches. This will emphasize year-round stewardship. We need to rethink how we provide opportunities for different generations to give to Zion's mission and ministry. For example, how do we make it easy for young adults to give? We're missing out if we don't fully utilize technology.
- Building and Grounds: The renovations changed how people come into Zion. Our main door was the administration door, but now our main door is the welcome center, and it's often locked. We need to consider how people enter our building, and how are we being welcoming. B & G has a list of priorities for capital projects that need to get done in the next 5 – 7 years, and we're going to ask the congregation to give to it. We have to plan ahead and invite people to be part of sacrificial giving.
- Personnel: This committee has been working really hard to write job descriptions and interview and hire new employees. I am looking forward to getting a new associate pastor on board. Pastor David Hendricks is on call each Friday. We pay him to be on call and to help with other visits and pastoral ministry.
- IT: We are going to be live streaming worship services, funerals and weddings when needed. We are also creating a video conference system. This will allow Call Committees, Core Ministries and Educational Classes to have virtual meetings and class rooms. Every single one of our adult classes could be recorded and put on Youtube.
- Music: Our music department is doing a great job. Allison is leading Contemporary worship; I just show up to preach and preside over communion. She is growing young adult members. Common Ground with Roger and Allison is a place for young adults to connect with each other and Zion, and has doubled in size. Natalie has established a concert series this year, and she is working on next year's series with more choirs. She has established a youth choir and youth chime choir. We are thinking about giving scholarships to college youth to come and sing with the

A Vision for Zion's Future (cont.)

choir and participate in the music life of our congregation. This would help us live into Zion's vision of education and worship.

We look good on paper, so there should be people who want to come be part of ministry with us. Many churches are dying—they have 20-30 people and no youth, and are living off their endowment. But that's not us. We are raising the bar. When I came here, the thing that enticed me

the most is that I wouldn't have to do everything. That day is coming. We have wonderful staff here for which I am thankful. I thank you for your patience. One thing I lament with all the change in staff is that we've lost some of our history. You may need to remind me of what I need to remember. We're in this together. God has great plans for us. There's a world out there that's still hungry and thirsty, that we can feed with God's food of grace and love.

Member Caring Ministry

Zion Special Senior Luncheon

Saturday, April 2, Noon-2PM in Piper Hall

Pastor Walt Schmidt will be presenting *Our Lutheran Heritage: the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther and the Reformation*. Please join with us as we do an overview of Luther's life, the main events of protest and reformation, and the ongoing impact in our church and the world today. You may find it interesting that more has been written about Martin Luther than any person who has ever lived, with the exception of Jesus.

Please register on Sunday mornings in the Welcome Center or by calling the office (734-994-4455) during the week. A suggested donation of \$8/person is appreciated. Hope to see you there!

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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

April Day of Contemplative Prayer

It is a wonderful quality to be able to rejoice with another. This capacity to feel such joy for another requires a generous big heart. When we are genuine, authentic, and real, then we know a great aliveness within. Deep-seated joy, the third of the four limitless qualities, flows from a mind that is free and a spirit steeped in divine contentment. May our practice of unselfish joy flower within us and overcome any shoots of jealousy, envy, or fear. The Weber Center hosts a monthly gathering as a Mindfulness Community for contemplative meditation. Together, we practice mindful breathing and simple chants and seek ways to release the fruits of our experience into a world of beauty and pain.

This Prayer retreat will be held at the Weber Center, Saturday April 16, 2016, 10AM - 2:30PM, and facilitated by Esther Kennedy, OP, a Dominican Sister from Adrian Michigan. The registration deadline is April 9. If you are interested in either carpooling or riding in the church van, please contact Dan McConnell as soon as possible to arrange transportation. We will leave the Zion parking lot at 8:30.

For more information, contact Dan McConnell (danmcconnell@sbcglobal.net), visit <http://weber.adriandominicans.org>, call 517-266-4000, or e-mail webercenter@adriandominicans.org.

Call Committee Biographies

Kara Kogelman: I have been a member of Zion for 5 years with my husband Nick. By day I work on the operations team at LLamasoft and by night I enjoy cooking, crafting, and spending time with my friends and family. I am currently the SERRV coordinator and a member of the Common Ground ministry. This is my first time on a call committee, and I am excited to explore where God is leading Zion.



Kay Davoux: My husband Paul and I moved to Ann Arbor and joined Zion in 2007. We moved here from Grinnell, Iowa, to be near our daughter's family. I am a retired high school business teacher. Here at Zion I am a Stephen Minister, a member of a small group, and sing with Zion Singers. Most of the time Paul and I attend the 8:15 service and enjoy the outdoor service in the summer. I am a quilter, love to read, and during Michigan winters enjoy doing a puzzle on the dining room table.

Matt Rudy: I am an assistant principal at Thurston High School in Redford. I enjoy sports of all kinds but find the most joy spending time with my family, wife Jessica and our two sons Philip and Henry as well as my mom, Risë Rudy, who recently relocated to Michigan. I am a member of Zion's Personnel Committee.



Holli Bertram: I'm a life-long Lutheran and have been a member of Zion Lutheran Church for over twenty-five years. My husband, Scott, and I have three grown sons. When the boys were young, I taught Sunday school, confirmation classes and volunteered at vacation bible school. I've also served on the Church Council and been part of the Mediation and Evangelism ministries. I'm currently a co-chair of the Worship Core Ministry and a member of a Zion small group. I work at the University of Michigan in a research lab studying bipolar disorder and depression. In my free time, I love to write, travel and most of all, spend time with family.

Dale Eckart: I grew up in a Lutheran home in Indianapolis, IN, and witnessed the birth of the ELCA from a youth lock-in at my church in Summit, NJ. My wife, Nancy, and I raised our two daughters in Michigan, and I have served Zion in a number of roles including assisting minister, choir member, confirmation and adult education instructor, and Worship ministry leader. I work for Ford Motor Company as an IT Supervisor.



Emmeline Weinert: I am an Ann Arbor native who was baptized and confirmed here at Zion. After graduating from Loyola Marymount University in 2014 I spent a year serving in Soweto, South Africa with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program. I now work for the Ann Arbor Group of Thrivent Financial.

Bob Thompson: My wife, Audrey, and I joined Zion a few decades ago. We have two beautiful children who "grew up" at Zion and were both confirmed at Zion. I have served on the Zion Endowment board, Zion Congregation Council, the Zion Vision Committee and Pr. Debner's Call Committee. Currently I am the Zion Council liaison on the Zion IT Support Ministry and I joined the Zion Choir. Audrey and I commonly attend the 9:30 worship although I value all three styles of worship. Outside church, I serve on the board of Friends in Deed (Ypsilanti non-profit) and am employed at the UM in the Department of Psychiatry where I am a research faculty member.



Margie Reynolds (current Zion Council President). I joined Zion over 35 years ago when I moved to Ann Arbor from Wisconsin. My daughter, Kirsten (now 30) was baptized and confirmed at Zion and was very active in the youth group. I have served God's church in a variety of ways, including the Endowment Board, Building & Grounds Committee, President of Zion's Council, Stephen Ministry Leader, Lay Reader, Communion Preparation, Mutual Ministry Teams, and Chair of our recent Vision Team. I have retired from Trinity Health where I worked as a nurse, creating research based interventions in the electronic health record. As Zion's current Council President, I am excited about engaging Zion's faith community as we move forward with our new Vision.

APRIL CALENDAR

Friday, April 1

12:00 PM Zion Senior Luncheon Set-up/Piper Hall
12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge

Saturday, April 2

10:00 AM Stellhorn Lounge Reserved
12:00 PM Zion Senior Luncheon/Piper Hall

Sunday, April 3

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
9:30 AM GIFT Worship/Sanctuary
11:00 AM Contemporary Worship/Sanctuary
11:00 AM Koran Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel

Monday, April 4

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 Team Meeting/Omega Room
6:30 PM Lost Grief/Recovery Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group

Tuesday, April 5

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
5:30 PM Personnel Team Meeting/Pastor's Office
7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Omega Room
7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, April 6

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Al-a-teen Meeting/Alpha Room
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 7

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
6:30 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 8

Saturday, April 9

6:00 PM Concert/Stellhorn Lounge

Sunday, April 10

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/Sanctuary
11:00 AM Korean Baptist Church/Yeager Chapel

Monday, April 11

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 Lost Grief-Recovery Group/Alpha Room
6:30 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
7:00 PM Kesler Small Group/Omega Room

Tuesday, April 12

9:00 AM Good Thyme Garden Club/The Gathering
9:00 AM Nurses Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:15 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station

Wednesday, April 13

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
6:30 PM Endowment Board Meeting/Youth Room
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/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, April 14

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
4:00 PM Compassionate Communication/The Gathering
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:30 PM Common Ground/Youth Room
7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Pastor's Office
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 15

8:00 AM Compassionate Communications/The Gathering

Saturday, April 16

8:00 AM Compassionate Communications/The Gathering

Sunday, April 17

8:15 AM Traditional Worship/Sanctuary
9:30 AM Bibleland Worship/Sanctuary
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 Lounge Reserved
6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, April 18

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:30 PM Lost Grief-Recovery Group/Alpha Room
7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 19

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

Wednesday, April 20

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/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, April 21

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 Rings of the Lord/Sanctuary
6:30 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 22

Saturday, April 23

Sunday, April 24

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
12:15 PM Catechism-All Grades/Youth Room

Monday, April 25

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
9:30 AM God's Gardeners/Stellhorn Lounge
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:30 PM Lost Grief-Recovery Group/Alpha Room
6:30 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge
7:00 PM Kesler Small Group/Omega Room

Tuesday, April 26

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:30 PM Worship Core Ministry/Pastor's Office

Wednesday, April 27

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Prayer Time/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM The Way of Life/Omega Room
6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/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, April 28

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
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
6:30 PM Common Grounds/Youth Room
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 29

Saturday, April 30

Late Addition!

Acolyte training with Pr. Jim, Saturday, April 16th, 9AM—11AM, breakfast included. Please contact the church office to register.

The Tower

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March Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS: *Niki Gatzke; Mildred Johnson; Helen Walter; Rose Mary Low; Marie Brobst; Gwen Gilbert*

NEW MEMBERS:

Elected Ministry Leaders

Congregation Council

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

Core Ministries

Worship: Dale Eckart, Sharon Ridella-Mehlos
Welcome: Karen Salamin, Joanne Dence
Adult Discipleship: Sonja Page, Peter Bertocci
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: Jim Love, *vacant*
Financial Stewardship: Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes
IT: Ray Vanderbok, *vacant*
Endowment: Marcus Hunt, Leif Fry

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