

The Tower

January 2017

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

Know Christ! Grow in Christ! Make Christ Known!



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



What's Happening at Zion

The Season of Epiphany

Epiphany means "Manifestation" and the Season of Epiphany emphasizes spiritual growth. Epiphany day celebrates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi who come to worship Jesus. The day of Epiphany is January 6, and this closes the twelve days of the Christmas season.

The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. Among the principal themes are: the revelation of Christ to all nations, Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, and Christ as the light of the world. The colors of the season are white and green. The color white suggests gladness, joy and light for the day of Epiphany. The color green is reminiscent of living plants and suggests spiritual growth.

Save the Dates

Zion's Annual Congregational Meeting is February 19 at 10:10 in Piper Hall

Lent begins March 1 (Ash Wednesday)

- *Ash and Dash is from 6 – 8:30AM*
- *Ash Wednesday Service in Yeager Chapel at noon*
- *Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary at 5 and 7PM*

2017 Budget Approved

A balanced budget totaling \$1,036,450 was approved by the congregation at a special meeting held on December 11, 2016. See meeting details on page 4.

Council Position Vacancies

Did you know that two of Zion Council members will complete their terms of service in March? Thank you Connie and Kristine for your two years of dedicated service. You will be missed.

This means that we will need to elect new Council members at the February congregational meeting. Two of our current members were appointed over the last year and will need to be elected to continue those positions: Gordon Loll (at-large) and Dan McConnell (president). Two new members will need to be elected to fill the open at-large seats. The at-large positions require attendance at the monthly Council meetings (third Tuesday, 7—9PM), attendance at at least one Core ministry meeting during the year, and some time to read and reflect on issues and materials. Please prayerfully consider service in this manner. Contact Dan McConnell (dmconnell@zlc-aa.org) for further information or to volunteer.

Associate Pastor Call Committee Update

Hello! Thanks for your continued prayers and support. Our members include: Holli Bertram, Kay Davoux, Dale Eckart (chair), Dan McConnell (ex officio), Margie Reynolds, Matt Rudy, Bob Thompson, and Emeline Weinert. The call committee has deeply appreciated the many conversations and emails we've received from you concerning the process and various candidate options; we wanted to thank you for your continued prayers, support and engagement.

The committee is starting up our activities after taking a break during the season of Advent and the Christmas holidays. Our brief hiatus has been well-timed, since the software which the ELCA uses to track candidates and congregations has been undergoing updates, and we would be unable to receive any new candidate profiles. In addition, the ELCA at the national level announced updates to the process for matching first-call candidates – that is, those just graduating from seminary – with congregations. We're working with the synod office and Pastor Heather Holland (assistant to the bishop) to understand how this affects Zion. Seminary students (like our own pastoral intern, Vicky) will be submitting their forms as they finish taking classes, writing papers, and completing their candidacy requirements. We expect to receive more profiles from both first-call and experienced pastors as we move into the seasons of Epiphany and Lent.

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

Calling All Musicians!

It's a great time to join a music ensemble at Zion!

- **The Rings of the Lord (Handbells)** meets weekly on Thursdays from 6-7:30PM in the Sanctuary. We welcome ringers ages high school to adult. No ringing experience necessary.
- **Chancel Choir** meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:30-9PM 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 Downs (ndowns@zlc-aa.org).

January Lectionary

- Jan 1:** Isaiah 63:7-9, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23
Jan 8: Isaiah 42:1-9, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 15: Isaiah 49:1-7, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42
Jan 22: Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23
Jan 29: Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Zion Concert Series

Saturday, Feb. 11, 4PM - Eastern Michigan University Choir*
Sunday, Apr. 2, 4PM - Measure for Measure**
* Free-will offering will be accepted **Ticketed event

Help Needed!

Worship Core Ministry is looking for some help in coordinating some of the people who volunteer as worship leaders. About 4 times a year, we draw up a list and schedule for assisting ministers (AM) and ministers of the word (MOW, or readers). Marlene Hintz has performed this scheduling for many years, and will be taking a well-deserved break. The person (or persons) helping with this task would send out an email asking for any conflict dates; fill in the names; and send out the updated schedule to the people. These helper(s) do NOT have to arrange substitutes; the AMs and MOWs do that themselves. Please contact Dale Eckart (deckart@zlc-aa.org) or one of the pastors if you would like to help.

Thank You to our Zion Musicians!

Thank you to all of our musicians who prepared and shared their musical talents for the midweek, Sunday, and Christmas Eve worship services. Your talents are a blessings and greatly enhanced our worship experience during the Advent and Christmas season. Thank you!

Zion Singers

Zion Singers is a group of singers with daytime availability who come together once a month (usually the 4th Friday of each 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. All are welcome to participate! Our next date is Friday, January 20th 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.

Say It With Flowers

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Observe an anniversary | Praise God | In memory of a dear one |
| In remembrance | Honor a friend | Proclaim love |
| Celebrate a birthday | Just want to donate | Thank someone special |

Flowers add beauty to our worship and our lives. If you would like to donate altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2017, please contact Ruth Huff at 734-665-3273. Please do not delay as dates have already been requested. Also, there are several times during the year when general funding is needed to purchase flowers, such as palms for Palm Sunday and carnations for Mother's Day. Donation envelopes for these purposes are available in the pew racks. Your flower donations are greatly appreciated!



Luther Hymn Festival

Sunday, February 26th at 4PM—Zion Sanctuary
Join us for a hymn festival celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation through the singing of hymns and reading of scripture. The festival will focus on the five sola phrases of the Protestant Reformation: Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone), Sola Fide (Faith Alone), Sola Gratia (Grace Alone), Solus Christus (Christ Alone), and Soli Deo Gloria (Glory to God Alone). Hymns composed by Martin Luther will be included in the program. The hymn festival is open to the congregation and community. Come sing and celebrate our reformation heritage and faith!

Celebrate Music at Zion

On Sunday, March 26th at 4PM in the Zion sanctuary, we will have a concert celebrating our musicians and the music ministry here at Zion! All ages are invited to share their musical talents. It can be something that you have performed at a Sunday morning service, or something you are working on in your private music lessons. Solos and ensembles are encouraged to participate. Chancel Choir, The Rings of the Lord, Zion Singers, Liberty Street Praise Band, and the Zion Choral Scholars will also present music selections. The concert is open to the public, so invite family and friends to join in the celebration! If you are interested in performing or have questions, please contact Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org.

From Pastor Jim

Growing in Christ at Zion

Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.—Ephesians 4:15

Happy New Year everyone. It's hard to believe that January of 2017 begins my 23rd month as senior pastor of Zion. Together we have faced the trials and the joys of ministry. Together we have followed Jesus, trying new things, and being faithful in old things. We succeeded sometimes and failed at other times. Thankfully, God has been faithful each and every day. I don't know what 2017 will hold for any of us, but I do know that God will continue to be faithful. I know that there will be new opportunities: to risk, to be persistent, to be faithful, and to be bold in our choices for God.

I read a blog post just before Christmas that told about a young girl who was having pain in her big toe. She told her mom and the mom responded not by rolling her eyes, but by having her take off her shoe. There didn't seem to be any redness in the toe, so it didn't look infected—no emergency room or clinic needed. But then as the mom was getting ready to face the busyness of the day, she glanced down at her daughters other foot, still wearing her shoe. The mom knelt and touched her foot. She found that her daughter's toes were at the edge of her shoe. She had outgrown them. They went to the shoe store and found that she needed a size 7½ shoe. She had been wearing a shoe that was 4½. The girl's shoes were many sizes smaller than what was needed. A few days later, with new shoes her toe was no longer hurting. A little space can make a big difference in our pain and in our growing.

I remember when my kids were growing out of their shoes, pants and shirts almost faster than we could get to the store to replace them. It made me think about what we may be outgrowing in our faith and what kind of new space we need for growth in our lives. How are we growing in Christ?

Have you outgrown your Sunday School education? Have you continued to grow in your profession and in your daily life, but in Christ have simply relied on what you learned when you were a youth in Sunday school?

What kind of new space do you need in your faith journey so that you can grow? What do you need to do to create new space?

2017 begins the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's protest against the papacy that led to the protestant Reformation. Zion will have weekly offerings during the faith formation hour that will focus on Martin Luther and his teachings. There will be inspiring Bible study opportunities as well. Challenge yourself to learn more and grow in your faith.

What needs to be re-formed in your life, in your faith? Is 2017 the time you step out into a larger sized journey of discovery? A new year is a time to begin new holy habits. Join us here at Zion as we continue to Know Christ, Grow in Christ and Make Christ known.

That you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.—Colossians 1:10

Intern's Corner



Question: Where did you go? Your office is empty and we haven't seen you in church much this month.

Answer: Have no fear, I'm still here! In December, I was asked to move into the office across from Pastor Jim's office. The office in which I was residing will be the future home of the Youth and Family Coordinator. So make note of my change in address. ☺

Also, each January as a part of my Luther Seminary Distributive Learning Program, I head to St. Paul, MN for intensives. Intensives are exactly as they sound...intense course study. I will be taking three classes beginning on January 4 and ending on January 20. We are usually in class for about 8 hours a day, plus multiple hours of studying each night. Vera McEwan will be there as well. Please pray for our endurance in our studies, for our families to manage while we are gone, and for safety in our travels. I'll be back to preach the last two weekends of January before heading off to Uganda for a couple of weeks in early February. What a way to jump into the New Year!

I wish you all the very best in 2017! Thanks for inviting me along on the journey!

Support Our Intern's Project Trip to Uganda

In February, Pastoral Intern Vicky Lovell and her husband Eric are traveling to Uganda as part of her internship program here at Zion. Dan McConnell (Zion's Council President) and Pastor Jim are inviting the members of Zion to financially support Vicky and Eric's trip. Donations can be made with a note in the memo line (Uganda Trip). Thank you for supporting this special ministry that is touching lives around the world.

Congregation Council

November 15, 2016—Highlights

Financial Report

- **Cash**—Available cash at the end of October was \$173,369. Cash in the operations account as of 11/11/16 is approximately \$154,000. We currently have sufficient cash on hand to last the next several months.
- **Income**—For the month of October contributions were \$86,174, which was \$17,488 more than was projected in the budget. This compares to contributions of \$67,273 in October last year. YTD, contributions are \$705,589, compared to \$678,474 YTD at the end of October last year. This is \$13,588 more than budgeted and \$27,116 more than YTD last year.
- **Expenses**—Four ministries were over budget in October. Total spending was \$10,573 under budget for the month. All ministries except two are under budget YTD. Total spending is \$129,835 under budget YTD.
- **YTD Attendance and Offering**

	2016	2015	Variance
Attendance (YTD)	12,880	13,798	(918)
-Including Bibleland	14,914	15,967	(1,053)
Offering (YTD)	\$705,589	\$678,474	\$27,116
Offering per Person	\$54.78	\$49.17	\$5.61

Youth Discipleship and Family Coordinator Position

We have 23-24 applications for this position. The interview committee will include Pastor Jim, Youth Discipleship leaders Ken Utsunomiya and Tom Clifford, also Deborah Fagen and David Werner from Personnel Committee. The goal is to have someone on board by January or February. *[Ed. Note: As of the Tower deadline, no hire had been made, and the job is still posted—see page 5.]*

Pastor Evaluation

As proposed by the Personnel Committee, Pr. Jim's evaluation will be done by members of the PC (Frode Maaseidvaag, Diane Hunt) and elected officers of Council. The plan is to complete it within the next month.

Constitution Update

Constitutional review is also in process. It is necessary to include elements newly required by the ELCA. The draft revised constitution will be shared with Council first, and then with the congregation in February.

2017 Budget

A 2017 budget was developed that had a \$30K shortfall, but Pr. Jim proposed some changes that balance the budget, and also present the congregation with stewardship challenges. The amended, break-even budget reflects some unknowns about staffing; but also reflects some hopes about hiring. Council approved the budget. The budget will be presented at a Special Congregational Meeting on December 11, at 10:10 in Piper Hall for congregational approval *[see meeting notes below]*.

Call Committee

The Associate Pastor call committee will be on hiatus until after the holidays. The committee recently had a Skype interview and decided not to pursue the interviewee. Given the difficulty in scheduling around the holidays, the call committee will resume in January *[see article, page 1]*.

Samaritan Counseling

Samaritan Counseling cannot financially continue and are closing their doors at the end of November. Pr. Jim suggested that we give counselors Lynne Lande and Kathleen Jennings currently working from offices in Zion 90 days to remain in their offices. Council approved.

Special Congregational Meeting: Presentation of the 2017 Budget December 11, 2016

Congregational Council President Dan McConnell described the purpose of the meeting, which is to present the budget, answer any questions, and ask for approval.

Bob Bertrand presented slides with the 2016 summary and highlights *[see Financial Report above]*, and the projected income and expenses for the 2017 budget. Highlights:

- Balanced budget, first time since 2013 budget.
- 2017 Income budgeted to increase \$10K vs. 2016 budget.
- 2017 Expenses budgeted to reduce \$37K vs. 2016 budget.
- 11.1% of income is budgeted to Mission Core Ministry (\$115k for external ministry – same as last year)
- 2.0% merit increase for staff.

Budget includes:

- 12 months of costs for a Youth & Family Director (to be hired hopefully at the beginning of the year)
- 9 months of costs for Associate Pastor (to be the last 9 months of the year, this person is yet to be called)
- 7 months of costs for Intern (to be the first 7 months of the year – our intern Vicky Lovell)
- Adult Ed Director and Communications Director are not in Plan
- Assumes quarterly Endowment fund distributions like 2016
- Vogel endowment fund is not in the budgeted numbers. Those monies will be used specifically for Church improvements

Questions:

Q: Why are we not increasing what Mission Core Ministry is giving?

A: If we decide we have more to give, we can always increase it. We intend to have a stewardship campaign this Easter season, so think about where you'd want additional

Congregation Council (cont.)

giving to go.

Q: Why are we budgeting less for Buildings and Grounds in 2017 vs. 2016?

A: We are budgeting a little less because we will be able to pay some B & G expenses from the dedicated Vogel gift.

Q: Then why not pay all of B & G expenses from the Vogel gift?

A: The Vogel gift is for church improvement, but the \$206K in the budget for B & G is maintenance, which includes snow plowing and utilities. This is what it costs to run the building from year to year.

Q: Why do we still have building debt if we've paid off the building loan?

A: We have debt to some of our members that we maintain based on the request of these members. We pay interest to these members and they have traditionally donated it right back to Zion.

Q: Who decides salaries? Why are we paying as much as we do for certain positions?

A: The figure on the budget includes both salaries and benefits. The Personnel Committee develops suggestions for salaries based on comparable jobs in the area and then Council approves them.

Motion: David Werner moved to accept the 2017 balanced budget; Terry McCoy seconded it. The congregation voted by voice unanimously to approve the budget.

Pastor Jim noted there are two expenses not in the budget: the Communications Director, and the microphones in the sanctuary. The mics need replacing because the Federal Communications Commission has sold the frequencies that our mics run on to cell phone carriers. These two items may be something we challenge the congregation to provide during the Stewardship for All Seasons Campaign this coming spring.

Young Discipleship

Job Posting -Youth Discipleship Leader and Coordinator of Family Life Ministry

We are currently seeking a Youth Discipleship Leader and Coordinator of Family Life Ministry. The expectation is that the person serving in this position will work with other staff and lay leaders to develop and lead programs and experiences that create an atmosphere of spiritual growth for youth disciples in the middle school through high school age groups and their families. Additionally, the person serving in this position will provide organizational coordination assisting pastoral staff and core ministry groups with adult education offerings and the small group activities of the church.

Applicants should have a genuine passion for working in youth ministry and have the ability and energy to develop a strong relationship with adolescents. Additionally, strong organizational skills, the ability to multi task and be willing to work with both youth and adults in a goal driven environment is vital. The successful candidate will work under a flexible evening, weekend, summer and holiday schedule.

This is a full-time salaried position working a varied forty hour per week schedule. Salary will be commensurate with degree and/or experience. The desired candidate will have a Bachelor degree in a relevant field and have two (2) to five (5) year's successful position-related experience. Emphasis will be placed on a strong youth leadership background and training.

To apply, please send your cover letter, resumé and any other information that supports your application to Pastor James Debner at jdebner@zlc-aa.org or, Pastor James Debner, 1501 West Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Candidates wishing to review a job description for this position or learn more about Zion Lutheran Church are encouraged to visit the church web site: www.zlc-aa.org/jobs.

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."
- Matthew 2:13-15

Thank You and Congratulations

Special thanks to all the women hostesses and handsome servers at the Women's Candlelight Luncheon in December. We are so blessed to have a beautiful memory of Mary's First Christmas. The presentation by Pastor Vicky, Addy Lovell and Sophia Acevedo was inspiring. We truly love having Natalie Downs bring us music. Thank you for a luncheon to remember.

Autumn Kuehne, Helmi Raaska, and Marge Lawson were the leaders on the 2016 planning committee. Take time to tell them what you enjoyed. Thanks leaders so much for keeping our focus on Christ during this Christmas season. Each flickering light gave hope in Piper Hall on the 17th. Zion is grateful you "let your light shine!"

Would you consider stepping forward to help plan or be an important part in the 2017 Women's Candlelight? Pray about being involved in this year's developing women's ministry at Zion. It is my prayer that 2017 be the year that all sisters in Christ confidently feel invited to share God's love. - Barbara Debner



Have you seen the new nativity on Zion's front lawn, announcing Jesus' birth? Many people stepped up to make this vision a reality. Cathy Hightower drew the vision onto the plywood. Craig Barry carefully cut out each piece. Chris LeVasseur painted each piece in the winter cold. And Kent Peterson helped to install it so all can witness Zion's focus on celebrating Christ this Christmas. Many thanks to all who made this vision a reality.

- Pr. Jim

Thank you to the cast, and especially Pr. Vicky, for making an enjoyable afternoon at the Night in Bethlehem Family Adventure on December 10. Many families walked through Bethlehem, making memories and learning about Jesus' birth.



After almost 12 years, I have decided to step down from coordinating/co-chairing the Zion Special Senior Luncheons, in order to pursue the next leg in my life's journey. I hope that someone will step up and chair this incredible ministry at Zion. This ministry started in order to thank Special Seniors (those 70 years and older) who sacrificed so we could enjoy this beautiful church building from which and in which we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

It has been a most fulfilling ministry in getting to know you, the senior members of Zion, and your friends. Thank you for all your support—you attended, encouraged us, helped us when we were short-handed, suggested ways to make it more welcoming—and for your thank you notes. You are indeed special and inspiring! You may remember some of the secular themes, and how we celebrated Advent/Christmas and Easter religious themes with inspirational programs and hymn sings. Thank you for encouraging me to grow in ways that I never thought were possible.

Thanks, Nadine (Nelson), for starting this ministry along with Pastor David Bracklein; current co-chair Gladys Knoll; current team members: Helmi Raaska, Zoe Behnke, Joanne Dence, Marc and Pam Warwashana, Jenn Behnke, Al Dettling, Cathy Sigler, Terri McCoy, and non-Zion members Lisa Robinson and her twins, Bob Hardies, and Gary Huff. Thanks Diane Rinehart and David Beck for your help in sending out the invitations; Chris and Max for setting up; Elgin Clingaman, Elida Malila, and Marie Lee for playing the keyboard over the years. All of you helped to make these luncheons most successful. Last, but not least, thanks, Pastor Jim and Pastor Vicky for your support. I surely appreciated it.

May God bless all of you abundantly.

- Carol Brodbeck

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

- Matthew 2:16-23

Member Caring Ministry

"LUTHER" (The Movie)

January 22 - Piper Hall - 12—3PM
After the *Ignite* Worship Service

We will enjoy a German meal from Metzger's, followed by a viewing of the film *Luther*. This epic film stars Joseph Fiennes as Martin Luther, the brilliant man of God whose defiant actions changed the world. The film traces Luther's exhilarating quest for the people's liberation. Following the movie, Pastor Jim will lead us in a thoughtful, informative discussion of the movie.

Tickets for the meal are on sale now in the Welcome Center. Adults: \$10.00; confirmation students and children under 6 free; children 6 to 12 \$5.00.

Circled in God's Love

Zion's Women are celebrating National Pie Days on January 23 and March 14. Bring your favorite pie recipe to share and wisdom to make the perfect pie crust.

Meeting in Piper Hall 5:30-7PM on January 23, women and girls will enjoy fellowship around a pie plate.

During Lent we are looking at what is inside. So on March 14 from 5:30—7PM in Piper Hall, we will be focusing on unique fillings.

Come for one or both. Bring a friend and make a memory with other cooks. Be creative and come with rolling pin in hand. Mothers are encouraged to bring daughters. And grandmothers, please share your secrets.

Register at the Welcome desk before January 16, so we have enough forks. For more information contact Barbara Debner (babdebner@gmail.com)

February Pancake & Pajama Chick Flick

Women and girls of all ages are invited to the first Pancake & Pajamas Chick Flick in the Gathering space on February 4 from 11AM until the last lady leaves.

We are planning to watch one episode of *Seventh Heaven*, one of *Mary Tyler Moore*, and one of *Andy Griffith*. These are great for the young.

Popcorn will come out in the afternoon. (The younger girls can leave.) We will then experience two more PG films: *Heaven is for Real*, and *Miracles From Heaven* starring Jennifer Garner. They both deal with family crisis. Parents are encouraged to read up on these dramas before watching with young girls.

Wear comfy jammies, bring your blanket and a chair that is fun to settle into for a few fun movies. Sign up at the Welcome desk before January 25th, so we can plan enough syrup and juice.

We are asking for a \$4 per person payment at the Gathering Place door to cover the cost of paper products, juice, syrup, popcorn and pancake mix.

We are also seeking donations of clean new large or extra large undershirts for homeless men.

Our next Chick Flick will be on March 18 at 4:30PM. This will be for women, not young girls. We will watch *Fireproof* and *Courageous*. Look for more information next month.

Mission Core Ministry

Red Cross Blood Drive

Save the Date: Monday, February 13, 2017

The next American Red Cross blood drive at Zion will be on Monday February 13, 2017 (in the Gathering rather than Piper Hall due to a scheduling conflict).

Sign up on line at www.redcrossblood.org, sponsor code: Zion Lutheran, or by email to MarPear@gmail.com or by phone to Deborah Weber at 662-7781.

Warm Hearts / No Empty Hands

Please remember to bring a non-perishable food item to church. Food is given to Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Hope Clinic. If you have given food through school, work, or food drives, thank you!

If you have extra calendars, please donate and we will take them to Hope Clinic. Thank you!

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." -Matthew 3:13-17

Adult Discipleship

Adult Classes—January 2017

With a dedicated education hour, Adult Discipleship is planning to offer more than one class each Sunday for the coming year. So you now have to make a choice. We begin a year-long look at Luther with the Small Catechism, his teaching tool for families, plus many of you may not have been able to attend the Women of Faith classes offered last year, so we've asked four of our "teachers" to reprise their very interesting classes. Luther classes will be held in Piper Hall; Women of Faith classes will be held in Classroom C. We are grateful and pleased that so many of you have elected to join us this fall and hope that you will find the new classes rewarding.

Jan 8—*Ten Words of Life*: The Ten Commandments are not restrictions for their own sake -- "shoulds," "oughts," "no-nos." God gives them as words of life for our sake. Led by Pr. Debner.

Women of Faith: Harriet Tubman was born into slavery in 1822. She became an abolitionist, humanitarian, and a Union spy. After she escaped, Tubman made some thirteen missions to rescue approximately seventy enslaved family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. - Teacher: Avis Ellingrod.

Jan 15—*God Three Times Over*: God created all things and continues to create. God is working in creation to restore it and to establish peace and harmony. God is present now as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to bring you and all creation to its fullness in the age to come. Led by Pr. Debner.

Women of Faith: Biblical accounts of Martha (sister of Mary and friend of Jesus) reveal a woman who succumbed to the business of life, much as we do today. What did Jesus invite Martha to do? How did she respond? What does this mean for us today? - Teacher: Margie Reynolds.

Jan 22—*How to Pray*: Prayer involves what we think about God and the relationship we can have with God. Our thoughts can produce a cozy feeling or an encounter that seems to place one at risk. Led by Pr. Debner.

Women of Faith: One of Pope Francis' favorite 20th century American Catholic women is Dorothy Day. Day had been a journalist; when she had a conversion experience, she was moved to found the Catholic Worker movement and advocate for the poor. - Teacher: Bernadette Quist.

Jan 29—*From Death to Life*: The gift of Baptism is life now and forever. God gives us life by setting us free through the forgiveness of sin. In that gift is the promise of God's presence now and in the life to come. *Food for Travelers:* In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gave his disciples the food necessary to sustain them on their journey in faith. He promised to be with them always, wherever that meal was celebrated. Led by Pr. Debner.

Women of Faith: Madeleine L'Engle was best known for young-adult fiction, particularly *A Wrinkle in 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." - Teacher: Layale Weinert.

Zion Reads *Luther*

Martin Marty's book, *Luther*, has been chosen as Zion's common read in 2017 on the topic of Luther.

That fall day when Martin Luther tackled a challenge on the door of his local church, he was not doing a totally new thing, but what he wrote was new and led to a revolution in Christendom. Marty's book can be purchased now; sale will continue through March 2017, when Pastor Debner will lead discussions based on the book. The cost of the book is \$10 and is available in the Welcome Center.

The Book of Romans: Biblical Roots of the Reformation

As we are all aware, 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, as historians look at Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany as the beginning of that Reformation. In keeping with the Reformation theme, our Thursday afternoon Bible Study for Winter 2017 will be: *The Book of Romans: Biblical Roots of the Reformation*.

Why Romans? Well, Luther's emphasis was on the authority of God's word and Romans had a great impact on Luther's understanding of God's love and how we are saved. In addition, Romans is often referred to as the "Queen of Epistles," as most Biblical scholars consider it to be Paul's most influential book.

Our classes for the Winter will begin February 9, 2017 and will run through April 6, 2017, the week before Holy Week. We meet in the upstairs Omega Room, Thursdays, 1:30—3PM. These sessions will be led by Pastor Walter Schmidt. Please join us!

Adult Discipleship (cont.)

Men's Retreat - February 10-12, 2017 Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan

Gentlemen! It is time once again to add the Washtenaw Men's Retreat to your calendar. Our presenter this year will be EMU professor and frequent Zion adult discipleship teacher Ron Delph. The topic for the 2017 retreat will be *Reformations in Christian History and Today*. Tentatively (possibly slightly revised, not in this order, or adjusted times), the sessions will be:

- Friday evening: The social environment at the time of the Reformation and how the Reformation fit in.
- Saturday morning session 1: Martin Luther's role in the Reformation (hint: it was a big role).
- Saturday morning session 2: Introduction to the 95 Theses.
- Saturday afternoon: Other "reformations" through Christian history.
- Saturday evening (table discussion activity): If we were going to post Theses today, which of the 95 would we keep, and what new ones would we include?
- Sunday morning: Lay worship service (or pastor-led, if ordained clergy joins us) and head home.

In addition to the sessions, there will be ample time for reflection, relaxation, conversation, prayer, walking the labyrinth, and browsing the wonderful Weber Center Bookshop.

The retreat as usual will be held at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan, Friday evening through Sunday mid-morning. The cost for a single room for 2 nights and 4 meals is \$175; if you are unable to afford the full amount, partial and full scholarships are available. Sign up at the Welcome Desk at Zion, or by contacting this year's coordinator Steve Johgart, stevej1@mac.com or 734-904-4936. Please join us! God loves you, and so do we.

New Small Group for Those Looking for a Healthy Start to 2017

Feast on something bigger than a fad. Join Zion's 40 day journey to a healthier life, beginning on January 12. Each Thursday through February 16 from 6:45 to 7:30PM, the group will be meeting in class room C. This is a video-based small group study based on Rick Warren's book, *The Daniel Plan*.

This study focuses on an abundance of healthy choices, giving you the encouragement and inspiration needed to succeed. Join Pr. Jim and Barbara in starting the New Year by deepening your relationship with God and making healthy choices each day. The six weekly sessions are:

1. Faith: Nurture Your Soul.
2. Food: Enjoying God's Abundance.
3. Fitness: Strengthening Your Body.
4. Focus: Renewing Your Mind.
5. Friends: Encouraging Each Other.
6. Living the Lifestyle.

Samaritas News

Home and Community Services

Samaritas, which is the new name for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, is one of our best ways of serving people with the love of Christ. In 2015, the Home and Community group at Samaritas helped arrange affordable housing for 1,466 people at a range of locations, including 15 facilities that are owned and operated by Samaritas. They also operated 9 group homes for a total of 83 persons in the state who have developmental disabilities or mental illness, including Samaritas House of Lansing, which has 14 apartments for physically disabled, low-income persons who can live independently. For seniors and others in need of home care, they provided 306,000 hours of service in 2015 for 611 persons. That sounds like a lot of hours, but works out to only about 500 hours per person per year, or 10 hours per week! These hours are spent helping people with medication assistance, personal care, light housekeeping, meals, social and recreational activities. If you want to volunteer in any of these efforts, you can stop by any of the Samaritas offices or contact Anna Romund at aromu@samaritas.org. If you want to donate, you can send checks to Samaritas, P.O. Box 674855, Detroit, MI 48267-4855 or phone 800-421-3062.

Other News

Licensed Lay Ministry Update

On December 10, I finished my second class as part of the Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) program, administered by the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA.

The first class I took in the fall of 2016 covered the Lutheran Confessions: documents including the Large and Small Catechism (written by Martin Luther) and the Augsburg Confession (written by Philip Melancthon) which defined and defended the teachings of the churches which would become Lutheran. Two of my classmates had grown up as Roman Catholics, and they observed that key aspects of the church which Luther had protested were still part of Catholic teaching today. The second class examined Lutheran ethics. We read several ELCA social statements, and talked about how pastors (and LLMs) need to think carefully and systematically about the moral questions in our church and society. It is likely that people in the congregations we serve will come to us, asking questions and looking for help. As our teacher remarked in nearly every class, it is very helpful to have thought about these questions ahead of time.

On December 4, 2016, I attended the LLM Winter Retreat. My fellow students (about 5) and the roughly 40 women and men who are serving as LLMs met at St. Peter Lutheran in New Haven. At first I wondered why we were driving so far – nearly to Port Huron! As I read the sign on the church, I understood why; the only pastoral presence at this church is filled by an LLM. We heard presentations by the LLM serving St. Peter (Jim Kroll) and another LLM providing pastoral presence at Bethlehem in Harrison Township (Robert Brannon). Since many of us will be called upon to minister to people nearing the end of life, we had a very moving presentation from a pastor who has been working in hospice ministry for the last several years.

Our synod recognized a need for providing additional training for lay people who want to serve in a larger role in their congregation or neighboring congregations. The Lay Ministry Academy is a series of courses taught by SEMI Synod pastors, which are open to all members of congregations in the synod. The list of courses and descriptions are listed on the LLM website, <http://www.semisynod.com/leaders/licensed-lay-ministry> which is part of the synod website. The coursework is inspired by the training given to lay rostered leaders (Deacons) in the larger ELCA, and which is described on their web site <http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Lay-Rostered-Leaders>. People who are not part of the formal LLM program, but simply want to learn more, are welcome to register for classes. – Dale Eckart

Faces of Faith

On Sunday, January 15, 2017 from 4—6PM here at Zion, the Inter-



faith Round Table of Washtenaw County presents the sixth annual “Faces of Faith” program as part of

national Religious Freedom Day observances. The focus this year will be on the stories of religious leaders from the following traditions: Baha’i, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism and Unitarian Universalism. Each presenter will talk about the “personal joys” and the “public frustrations” in being part of their faith tradition. Small group conversation will also be part of the afternoon. \$5 suggested donation. For more information, email gbrides@umich.edu or go to www.irtwc.org.

Information Technology Committee

The Zion IT group urgently needs help! We need volunteers with computer, digital, network or other IT knowledge, experience (or a willingness to learn) to join us. If you are interested, please contact Bob Thompson at (734) 677-0159 or rcthompson@zlc-aa.org

¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

- Matthew 4:17-23

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1

10:00 AM New Year's Day Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, January 2 *New Year's Holiday* *Office Closed*

Tuesday, January 3

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
5:30 PM Personnel Committee Meeting/Church Office
7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Omega Room

Wednesday, January 4

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
7:30 PM Al-A-Teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 5

12:30 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 6

12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge

Saturday, January 7

Sunday, January 8—*BRING A BELL SUNDAY!*

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
6:00 PM Grace Place

Monday, January 9

12:30 PM Monday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, January 10

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
2:00 PM IDAP/Omega Room
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 11

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
5:30 PM Endowment Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Way Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
7:30 PM Al-A-Teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 12

9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
9:30 PM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry/Stellhorn Lounge
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 13

Saturday, January 14

Sunday, January 15

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
1:00 PM Faces of Faith/Piper Hall

Monday, January 16 *Martin Luther King Holiday* *Office Closed*

6:00 PM Reconciling in Christ Core Team/Omega Room

Tuesday, January 17

10:00 AM Nurses Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:00 PM Council Meeting / The Gathering

Wednesday, January 18

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week Worship/Yeager Chapel
5:30 PM Endowment Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Way Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
6:30 PM Knit 2 Together/Stellhorn Lounge
7:30 PM Al-A-Teen Meeting/Omega Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 19

11:00 AM International Neighbors/Piper Hall
1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
6:30 PM Ann Hun Waist Drumming/The Gathering
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 20

12:30 PM Zion Singers Rehearsal/Music Room #1
2:00 PM Zion Singers/Off Site

Saturday, January 21

9:00 AM WELCA Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
12:00 PM Set up For Adult Discipleship Event/Piper Hall

Sunday January 22

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
12:00 PM Lunch with Luther/Piper Hall

Monday, January 23

1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
5:30 PM Pie Celebration/Piper Hall
7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, January 24

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 25

10:00 AM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
6:00 PM Way Of Life/Omega Room
6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
7:30 PM Al-A-Teen Meeting/Omega Rom
7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering
7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, January 26

9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, January 27

Saturday, January 28

Sunday, January 29—*INVITE A FRIEND SUNDAY!*

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
10:10 AM Adult Discipleship/Classroom A
11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

Monday, January 30

1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Tuesday, January 31

12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office

Happy
New
Year!

The Tower

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 West Liberty
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103

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December Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS: William Andrew Watt, parents James and Jamie Watt
WEDDINGS:
FUNERALS: Carolyn Kauper-Johnson; Sarah Mohrlock
NEW MEMBERS:

Elected Ministry Leaders

Congregation Council

President: Dan McConnell (dmcconnell@zlc-aa.org)
Vice-Pres: Vickie Matthews (vmatthews@zlc-aa.org)
Secretary: Laura Berry (lberry@zlc-aa.org)
Treasurer: Bob Bertrand (bbertrand@zlc-aa.org)
At Large: Christine Karshin (ckarshin@zlc-aa.org)
Gordon Loll (gloll@zlc-aa.org)
Connie McComb (cmccomb@zlc-aa.org)
Bob Thompson (rcthompson@zlc-aa.org)
Sharon VanRiper (svanriper@zlc-aa.org)
Mark Warwashana (mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org)

Core Ministries

Worship: Dale Eckart
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, Bill Lehmann
Financial Stewardship: Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes
IT: Ray Vanderbok, Marcus Hunt
Endowment: Marcus Hunt, Leif Fry

Staff

Senior Pastor	James Debner
Associate Pastor	<i>Vacant</i>
Pastoral Intern	Vicky Lovell
Director, Adult Discipleship	<i>Vacant</i>
Finance Manager	David Beck
Office Administrator	Diane Rinehart
Director, Young Discipleship	<i>Vacant</i>
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	Emmeline Weinert
Nursery Care Giver	Kamryn Hayes, Anna Dupke
Librarian	Carleen Vanderbok

Email addresses for staff may be found at our website:

www.zlc-aa.org

Office phone (734) 994-4455

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