

The Tower



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April 2017

For Members & Friends of Zion Lutheran Church

Know Christ! Grow in Christ! Make Christ Known!

What's Happening at Zion

April Focus Statement

"Resurrection means the worst thing is never the last thing." - Frederick Buechner

Holy Week Schedule

April 9—Palm/Passion Sunday
Worship: 8, 9, 11:11AM

April 13—Maundy Thursday
Worship: noon in Yeager Chapel, 7PM with a drama in the sanctuary.

April 14—Good Friday Worship: noon in Yeager Chapel, 7PM Tenebrae Service in the sanctuary.

April 15—Easter Vigil Worship: 7PM

April 16—Easter Sunday Worship: 8, 9, 11:11AM

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 Emmeline 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 want to thank you for your continued prayers, support and engagement.

The committee has identified a strong candidate, and have been blessed as we talked with this person and heard the witness about God's work in this person's life and ministry. As I write this, we are not yet free to give more details. We will be presenting our candidate to Zion's Council very soon and – God willing – scheduling a congregational meeting to consider calling this person as Zion's associate pastor.

We're working on God's timetable, led by His Spirit. We have been very grateful for your continued prayers and support throughout this process.

Building Blocks of Faith

This Lenten Season, we have been contemplating Luther's Small Catechism. We have been exploring the Ten Commandments, the Apostles Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism and Holy Communion each week during the midweek Lenten Services. These chief parts are the heart of our Christian faith. They are the building blocks of our faith. We have created a block sculpture in the main sanctuary to help us visualize how Luther's Small Catechism is the building block of our faith. May these blocks help remind us how God is shaping and building us into believing disciples of Jesus Christ. Come and explore the sculpture and be renewed in what we as Lutheran Christians proclaim as important.



Pastor Vicky's Internship Ending

We are pleased to announce that Pr. Vicky Lovell will have completed all the requirements of her (unpaid) internship with us on Sunday, April 30, and will be graduating from seminary in May, making her eligible for a called position within the ELCA. We will be celebrating her accomplishments and her seminary graduation at a date and time TBD. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable directly to Vicky Lovell and put your gifts and/or cards in the box in the Welcome Center or bring to the church office.

Thank you!

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).

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, April 28th at Brookdale Senior Living. Our rehearsal will be at 12:30PM in Music Room 1 on Level B1, and the performance will be at Brookdale at 2PM.

Luther Year Community Choir

Join us for the Luther Year Community Choir event, part of Zion's Luther Quincentennial Celebration! Our guest conductor, Dr. Zebulon Highben of Muskingum University, will direct music relevant to the Lutheran church on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 4PM. Registration for the concert will begin on April 1, 2017 in the Welcome Center. Singers who wish to participate will pay a fee for the choral music (fee TBD once the program is decided). Rehearsals will be available in the summer at Zion for those who wish to rehearse in a group setting on Thursdays from 7-8PM, July 13—August 31.

Rehearsals with Dr. Highben will be Friday, Sept. 22 (evening), Saturday, Sept. 23 (morning and afternoon rehearsals with a lunch break in between), and Sunday, Sept. 24 (before the 4PM concert). Zion has commissioned Dr. Highben to compose a choral piece for this 500th anniversary, and the choir will premiere the composition at the concert.

Singers who would like to register for this event can contact Natalie Downs: ndowns@zlc-aa.org or call the church at (734) 994-4455. For more information on Dr. Highben, please visit his website: <http://www.zebulonhighben.com/>

April Lectionary

- April 2** Ezekiel 37:1-4; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45
April 9 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66
April 13 (Maundy Thursday) Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35
April 14 (Good Friday) Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42
April 16 Acts 10:34-43, Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10
April 23 Acts 2:14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31
April 30 Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Measure for Measure Concert at Zion

The popular Ann Arbor male choir, Measure for Measure, is coming to Zion as part of the Zion Concert Series on Sunday, April 2 at 4PM. Tickets are \$10, ages 12 and under \$5. You will not want to miss this terrific ensemble!

Over the course of a quarter century, the men of Measure for Measure have grown from a small cadre of University of Michigan Glee Club alumni to a well-honed men's chorus that has ably represented southeastern Michigan locally, nationally, and internationally. From the sonorous tones of the deepest bass to the airy lilt of the highest tenor, the classical and contemporary repertoire for male voices delivers a compelling sound unique in its range and in its ability to engage the listener.

Measure for Measure is committed to not only exposing audiences to the breadth of musical possibilities inherent in men's choral music, but also to growing the ranks of men's choruses by engaging high-school and college choristers in concerts that demonstrate the joy of a rich musical life beyond school years. As you will hear, that musical life doesn't end with school, but extends from young men just out of college to "seniors" in their most mature years, all coming together to share in their common love of music.

New Worship Setting for Lent

The First Light Service (8AM) and the Sola Service (9AM) are using setting nine in the ELW during Lent. The Ignite Service (11:11AM) is using the Ben Larson Liturgy. This is the liturgy that was used last year during Lent.

Prayers Read By Members of Zion

The season of Lent brings a new opportunity at all three worship services for members to read the prayers of the people. The prayers are written and available at the beginning of the service. You may pick one petition to read during the prayers. A microphone will be available in the center aisle for those who are praying to use to offer the prayers. They will be numbered, so those who are praying will know the order. Consider this Lent lifting your voice in prayer during worship.

From Pastor Jim

Jesus Has Risen

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it...

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Matthew 28:1-9

What is your defining story? What is the narrative that shapes the way you view the world and your place in it? What determines how you understand your life mission? What gives you hope?

The women who first went to the tomb on the first day of the week thought they knew their story and understood their life mission. They were going to take care of a dead body. They were going to grieve the loss of their hope, of Jesus and his ministry. The angel's announcement changed everything. Easter changes our story and our life mission.

N.T. Wright, in *Simply Good News* reminds us that Easter is that defining story that shapes and gives meaning to our story: *"Without Easter, in fact, the movement that came into existence around Jesus would not have been about good news. At most it would have been about good advice ('Here's how Jesus taught us to live our lives.')."*

Easter is good news. Jesus has risen from the dead. Jesus' victory over death gives us hope and becomes the narrative for our life, our story. This narrative isn't just for someday when we die. Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of God's new project to colonize earth with the life of heaven now. We as disciples of Jesus are to bring the life of heaven to birth in actual, physical, earthly reality.

Let me ask, do you believe in the resurrection? Does Jesus' victory over death change your story and life mission?

I not only believe in the resurrection, I'm counting on it.

I'm counting on the fact that there is always hope.

I'm counting on the fact that God forgives our sins.

I'm counting on the fact that we don't have to be afraid.

I'm counting on the fact that sin, hate, sickness and death will not have the final word.

What are you counting on? What is your defining story? May Easter and the power of resurrection change your story and give you a new narrative; so that we, like the women, enter into life with both fear and joy. Easter is more than just good advice, it is good news.

Intern's Corner



Question: What is the 40/40 Project?

Answer: While my husband and I were in Africa, we learned about a pig farm that the students of Stawa University had started. The women of the class that I teach each week came up with the idea to start the farm. Their hope was to learn management, business and farming skills. It is a cooperative effort of the group to care for and tend to the pigs. Once the farm becomes profitable, there is a 'give back' component built into the business plan in which the women will gift other women with pigs so they too can

learn a valuable trade. One pig costs \$40 and will literally change the landscape of the future of these women.

Currently the average monthly income of the students is about \$5-10. With the profits from the pig farm that amount could increase to \$50 a month allowing the women to pay for their children's school fees and more nutritional food for their families. Through the empowerment of these women, generations of people will benefit.

After I returned from my trip, I was driving my friends from the Delonis Center Homeless Shelter to Zion for a mid-week service. I was telling them about this pig farm and one gentleman said, "I couldn't live off of \$5 a month! We can do something to help." And then the ideas began to swirl! There I sat listening to a group of people who our culture says has "nothing" and they were the very group of people who wanted to be Jesus to our neighbors on the other side of the world.

Thus the 40/40 Project was born. Together we brainstormed how to raise the needed money. One lady decided we needed to get a pig a day in Lent...40 pigs in 40 days at \$40 a piece. The group agreed that this was a terrific idea. The group came together and spent a morning baking for their first bake sale at Zion, which made \$923!! They still have a bit more to collect but they are confident that they will reach their goal of 40 pigs. There is no stopping them now!

Congregation Council

Annual Congregational Meeting February 19, 2017—Highlights

Congregational Constitution Amendments

After an opening prayer and approval of 2016 congregational meeting minutes, Pastor Jim explained the purpose of the amendments, which is to make our constitution consistent with the required language from the ELCA. Without further discussion, the congregation approved the constitution as amended.

Election of Leaders/Nominating Committee

Vickie Matthews, Council Vice-President and Nominating Committee member, explained that incumbent people needed to be on the ballot if they were appointed. Vickie asked people on the ballot to stand up and introduce themselves. Vickie also explained that according to our constitution, if there's only one candidate for each position, and no nominations from the floor, we can take a voice vote. Without further discussion, the congregation approved the slate of candidates by voice vote. Election results: President: Dan McConnell (incumbent); Secretary: Laura Berry (incumbent); Treasurer: Bob Bertrand (incumbent); Council Members-at-Large: Sharon VanRiper (incumbent), Gordon Loll (incumbent), Chris King, Carrie Morton; Worship Core Ministry Chair: Steve Johgart; Welcome Core Ministry Chair: Joanne Dence (incumbent); Young Discipleship Core Ministry Chair: Tom Clifford (incumbent); Adult Discipleship Core Ministry Chair: Ron Delph; Mission Core Ministry Chair: Layale Weinert (incumbent); IT Committee: unfilled – position still open; Personnel Team Chair: Dave Werner (incumbent); Building and Grounds Team Vice Chair: Bill Lehmann (incumbent); Financial Stewardship Team Vice Chair: Nick Rogers (incumbent); Endowment Committee Members-at-Large: Gladys Knoll, David Daily (incumbent), Bill Malila.

Year End Financial Report

Bob Bertrand, Council Treasurer, presented.

- Zion ended 2016 with \$151K in our cash account, for day-to-day operations.
- Capital projects reserve ended 2016 at \$741K, which is primarily from the Vogel bequest (to be used for capital improvements and large repairs).
- We had more income, but fewer attending in 2016 compared to 2015.
- Our total 2016 income was \$984,393; compared to the budget of \$1,030,829.
- Our total expenses were \$934,540, so we ended the year favorable \$49,853.
- Zion owes \$0 for Church mortgage.
- Our ending 2016 Endowment fund value was \$2.55M vs \$2.47M in 2015, despite utilizing \$78K in 2016. We didn't take four quarterly distributions in 2016 as we had decided, just three because of timing.
- 2016 attendance was 15,931 compared to last year's 17,422
- 2016 offerings were \$875K compared to last year's \$870K

Looking Ahead

Pastor Jim presented, beginning with a thank you to the congregation for bringing on an intern, Vicky Lovell. Our vision has been sitting on a shelf, and with the Council's agreement we are using part of a gift (a bequest) to create a strategic plan to implement the vision. Zion's history is rich, in stepping up and stepping out – examples are campus ministry, Glacier Hills, and Peace Neighborhood Center. What's the next big thing that Zion's going to do for God's Kingdom? Maybe we don't answer it ourselves, but instead ask the community what it needs [see *March Tower for Strategic Planning Discussion Notes from the Annual Meeting*].

Council Meeting February 21, 2017—Highlights

Financial Report

- Cash—Available cash at the end of January was \$203,732. Cash in the operations account as of 2/17/17 is approximately \$197,000, which is sufficient for the foreseeable future.
- Income—For the month of January contributions were \$69,695, which is \$1,367 less than projected in the budget and slightly less than January 2016 contributions of \$70,067.
- Expenses—All ministries were at or below budget for the month. Total spending was \$15,154 under budget. The Uganda Mission dedicated fund, which was formed to track funds raised to assist Pr. Vicky with her Uganda mission work, had a negative balance of \$2,401.79 as of the end of January and that has already been reduced to \$1,676.79. (Tickets were purchased before all funds raised; not an immediate issue as money in other accounts keeps us positive overall.)
- YTD Attendance and Offering

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Attendance	1,189	1,375	(186)
-Including Bibleland	1,528	1,741	(213)
Offering	\$69,695	\$70,067	(\$373)
Offering per Person	\$58.62	\$50.96	\$7.66

Council discussed possible ways to spend the \$5K left from the recent gift on help for the homeless; Dan suggested we ask them when Zion hosts the overflow winter shelter. Dan agreed to do the asking and make an email recommendation.

Strategic Planning

Pastor Mike Ward assisted Council with discussion related to creating a strategic plan to implement Zion's vision. Pr. Ward asked, What are the top 2 ways Zion lives out its values? Our answers:

- Justice for all people and God's creation
- Energy to reach out to the unchurched with the message of Christ
- Spiritual maturity that comes from intentional discipleship
- Faith formation hour
- Catechism classes

Congregation Council (cont.)

- Understanding the radical nature of God's grace and living in it
- What happens in worship
- Service to those who are in emotional, spiritual, and physical need
- The AA meeting
- Vicky's group that does lay leader visits
- Men under the bridge
- Lynne Lande's office

We reviewed the questions and answers from the congregational meeting on March 19 [see *March Tower for Strategic Planning Discussion Notes from the Annual Meeting*].

New questions to consider: Who in the community might we partner with to make a larger impact than we have ever made before? Who would be willing to contact them and find out some information? For example, one church Pr. Ward worked with determined that a nearby school needed help. People at the church decided the church would be this school's best friend. We answered:

- DeLonis Center, Peace Neighborhood Center, Hope Clinic, Washtenaw Refugee Program
- Talk to mayor, city council person – what are the city's biggest needs?
- Talk to the schools, find out if there's a drug problem
- Talk to Samaritas, to the partner in Haiti, to the Synod – if we took it the next level, what could we do?
- We're looking for our next big deal. We're not looking for 3 hours a week and a few hundred dollars.
- National level, heroin epidemic is not getting the attention it deserves—talk to the Dawn Farm

Pr. Ward encouraged us to go and listen. Discern what the need is, and then decide how to reply.

In light of who we are, how would we spend \$5 million, if it had to be spent by December 31, 2018?

- Buy vans
- Build wells
- Build a community center
- Spend \$ on the homeless
- Create a place like Cultivate in Ypsi (coffee house/beer garden) – where the focus is 18 to 35 year olds.
- Build a shower facility here at Zion
- Bus that goes to camps in the summer
- Buy land for small homes
- Build a youth center/gym
- Create a scholarship program

Pr. Ward noted we didn't suggest spending any money on ourselves. He advised us to go and talk to people in our community, and asked if there were any of us willing to go do that listening? Several of us volunteered (Larry, Vicky, Sharon, Gordon, Dan, Laura) and we will discuss it again at a future meeting.

Building and Grounds:

Bill Lehman and Doug Behnke came to discuss several issues with Council.

Roof: B&G hired a consultant to examine the roof. The consultant reported that the roof will last about another 2 – 4 years. We have a 15,000 sq. ft. roof and B&G recommends we replace rather than repair it. Based on recent bids received by St. Thomas Church, the cost of a new roof is about \$19/sq. ft.; we expect our roof will cost between \$220K-300K. The consultant, Roofing Technology Associates, is a specialized company. We have paid about \$3K for them to evaluate the roof. B&G would like to use this company to create the specs and drawings for the new roof, which would cost about \$6200. If we choose to use them for bidding assistance, that would cost an additional \$1800. Council and B&G discussed the information, costs, and timing. B&G believes we are on borrowed time, given the age of the roof, and the known deterioration. B&G believes we should do steeple repairs before the roof. These things need to be done this spring and we now have the money to do them, from the Vogel bequest. Council approved that B&G should proceed with hiring Roofing Technology Associates to create the specs and drawings for the roof and take it out to bid.

Steeple: There's leaking going on in the steeple area. Doug has been up after a rain and there's water on the concrete floors and humidity over time can damage the metal. B&G has had two companies come out to assess what needs to be repaired: the metal is in good shape, and needs to be sealed, caulked, and painted with rust-inhibiting primer; rotten wood needs replacing; stone railing joints need to be cut-out and regouted; windows need reglazing; a new rubber roof is needed on the small roof that's leaking; and the steeple needs power washing and two coats of paint. Both companies will be bidding on this same work. B&G received one bid from Detroit Cornice, but the bid for \$55,700 didn't include first row of windows and B&G is waiting for a complete bid. (For cost comparison, 10 years ago it was \$45K just to have the steeple painted.) B&G is also waiting for a bid from the other company, which is having their painter look at the steeple this week. B&G would like to get these two bids, and then seek Council's approval. Council approved that B&G proceed with getting bids and selecting a contractor, and just keep Council informed of the bid information they receive and the decision they make.

Replacing parking lot lighting with LED lighting: This action will save about \$600/month, and pay for itself in less than a year and a half. The total cost would be \$9,492. Without further discussion, Council approved.

Deteriorating South Entrance to the Church: The foundation at the south entrance is crumbling and the handicap ramp doesn't meet code. B&G recommended working with the firm Dangerous Architects to draft plans for refurbishing this entrance, not to exceed \$5460. The plans would then be used to get bids. Without further discussion, Council approved.

Sanctuary Roof: While up in the steeple, Doug noticed that some of the slate tiles are missing, and repair will be needed. Doug is trying to get in touch with the company that did it in

Congregation Council (cont.)

the first place, and will let us know when he hears.

Stewardship Planning

Stewardship for All Seasons will be rolled out in Lent. Dan reminded us that we have to turn in our pledge cards, so far Dan has received 3 of 10. Dan is asking Council first, then elected leaders, then the congregation. Dan would like us to return them as soon as possible.

One Human Family Banner

We've had a request to put the banner back up. Council discussed. While some members have perceived the banner as political, Council believes it is a faith statement. Council approved that we put up the Interfaith banner "One Human Family," and a banner that says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" – Jesus.

Improving Communication

Dan reported that ministries/committees feel they are operat-

ing in "silos" and Dan suggested we change the Council meeting format to invite chairs/co-chairs to the first hour of the meeting. Vicky Lovell noted she has been to every core ministry meeting in the last few months, and communication is the issue everyone brought up. Council discussed other ideas for improving communication, including inviting two ministries to Council per month; using the Faith Formation hour quarterly for a leadership meeting or social hour; having a social hour another time. Our March meeting will be the last for the outgoing Council members; new leadership begins in April and we will revisit then. We thanked Connie and Christine for their service on Council. We will miss them!

Youth Discipleship Position

We are back to square one. We did not have many applicants with Lutheran background; the one who did thought the salary was not enough to live in Ann Arbor. We will keep praying for the right person.

Adult Discipleship

Adult Classes—April 2017

Apr 2 → **Luther's Legacy.** We value Luther for his theology - justification and the cross; his intellectual uniqueness - the new way he looked at scripture. He was fun, polemical, sometimes nasty; he felt that Christians needed to live out their calling in life, including in political life; he empowered the laity; he developed schools for both boys and girls. - Pr. Schmidt

→ **Let's Look at a Book** - Pr. Debner—We will look at *The Broken Way, A Daring Path into the Abundant Life* by Ann Voskamp. "There's a way that beckons you into more time, more meaning, more authentic relationships. There's a way. Especially when things aren't shaping up quite like you imagined, that makes life take the shape of more-more abundance, more intimacy, more God." She ponders the questions: *What do you do with your unspoken broken? What's the answer to suffering, to the brokenness of all our hearts? What do you do if you really want to know abundant wholeness-before it's too late?* Come and join the discussion.

Apr 9 → **Table Talk 1**— Pr. Lovell—Table Talks are conversations that Martin Luther had around his table with family and students. Let's take a peek into Luther's thoughts on faith and life.

→ **Looking at Holy Week** - Pr. Debner—Where did the traditions come from? What is the history of Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday? Come and join the discussion.

Apr 16 Easter - no classes

Apr 23 → **Table Talk 2**— Pr. Debner—Continuation of Luther's conversations with family and friends.

→ **End of Life Issues 1:** Parish nurses and the Memorial Garden Committee have planned a series with focus on issues facing all of us as we age. What resources do we need, what are available in our community and church to help with the transitions facing individuals and families? Attorney Debbie Weber will address the legal considerations we should expect to face: wills, trusts, federal estate taxes, and financial power of attorney. Health care directives and planning will also be presented.

Apr 30 → **Luther's Prayers** - Pr. Debner—We will explore Luther's letter to Peter, his barber, who asked Luther for simple way to pray. Not surprisingly, Luther used the Lord's Prayer, Ten Commandments and the creed as his model. This personal letter will inspire your own prayer life.

→ **End of Life Issues 2:** This session will address health and safety issues, such as aging in place, downsizing, moving to assisted living, dealing with chronic illness, palliative and hospice care.

Young Discipleship

ZION VBS 2017

Mark your Calendars: June 19 – June 23

Family Night
Thursday June 22nd



VBS Celebration Service
Sunday June 25th

Registration this year is via Google Docs:

VBS 2017 Registration for Participants

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6AXiojM8VzHGmloVcg3Pdwqa4Sgt4z_I7A3zl_ihpvydhiw/viewform?usp=sf_link

VBS 2017 Registration for Volunteers

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuF163CA0gKC9UDf5S3gSMAn4VdKBiBGpaKcU9IBUqRmHg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Director Jessica Rudy -- AAZionVBS@gmail.com

Catechism Classes in April

April 2 and 23 will be Catechism classes for the 6-7-8 grades at the 10:10 Faith Formation Hour in the Youth Room.

Those who are in 8th grade need to sign-up for a Faith Conversation with Pastor Jim or Pastor Vicky. This is a 45 minute time frame to explore faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. At least one parent needs to attend the interview with the student who is being confirmed. A sign-up genius email will be coming to all 8th grade families.

Bibleland Lessons in April

Our theme this year has been the Parables & the Psalms.

During April we're learning about the "Grumblin' Grape Growers"

Matthew 20:1-16 & Psalm 103:1-5

And "The Two Debtors"

Matthew 18:21-35 & Psalm 103:11-12

Save the Date – May 14th 9:00 Sola Service

Bibleland Sings!!

12th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Zion's 12th annual Easter egg hunt for ages 0 through 5th grade will be held Saturday, April 15, 4—5:30PM. After the hunt, we'll have projects, fun and dinner upstairs. This event will happen rain or shine. If inclement weather, the hunt will be moved inside.

You can sign up by the name tag area in Bibleland, in the Welcome Center or by contacting Carolyn King at csking39@comcast.net. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 9, and include the names of all who will be attending (including adults), as well as the names and ages of those participating in the egg hunt.

Festivities will begin promptly at 4PM. If you are interested in helping that day, please let Carolyn know.

This is a lot of fun for the kids, and we hope you can come!

Mission Core Ministry

Zion Welcomes Refugees

Building off of the admonition in Hebrews 13:2, "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it," Zion has now established a support team to welcome and support newly arriving refugees into our community. About twenty Zion members are now meeting on a monthly basis to support the work of other local agencies already working on this issue, including Washtenaw Refugee Welcome [see sidebar], Samaritas and Jewish Family Services, while providing our own unique "spin" on the issue, given Zion's history and Christian vocation to "welcome the stranger."

One of the giving options offered this past Advent was to support the work of Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services) as they expanded their refugee placement work into Washtenaw County. Almost \$10,000 was raised through that effort. This signaled to leaders in the congregation an opportunity to engage more deliberately on this issue. Zion also enjoys a storied history in welcoming refugees, having done so as a congregation in the late 1970s / early 1980s during the huge influx of people from Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War.

Among the efforts that Zion's refugee team is hoping to address include: ongoing education of the congregation on the complexities and human face of this issue, raising of some funds to support specific refugee needs after their initial 90 days of government assistance has ended, offering of opportunities for Zion members to engage with recent arrivals in a social capacity, building friendships and support, helping refugees with their English skills, and letting the larger community know that Zion (and our Christian faith) is there for people when they need it most!

For more information on Zion's efforts in welcoming refugees, please contact team co-chairs Margie Reynolds (margiereynolds@comcast.net) or Marilyn Granner (granner.m@gmail.com). And let's all keep our eyes open for opportunities in showing hospitality to strangers...you never know when you might run into an angel!

Washtenaw Refugee Welcome (WRW) provides an ongoing speaker series to better educate the community about refugees, forced migration, Arab Americans and Islam. These discussions typically take place the first Monday of every month, upstairs in the Gathering Room at Zion at 7PM. The next meeting is Monday evening, April 3. Check the WRW Facebook page or website www.washtenawrefugeewelcome.org for monthly verification under training and events. The lecture is preceded by an update on resettlement activity in Washtenaw County.

Welcome Core Ministry

Online Photo Directory

If you haven't yet had a chance to have your photo taken and want to be included in the online photo directory, here is another option for you. Simply send, to Joanne Dence (joannedence74@gmail.com), the following information:

- A recent photo (JPG format)
- Name (and children's names, if applicable)
- Address
- Phone Number
- Email address (required for mobile access)

Please note whatever information you send will be included in the directory, but you can include all or just some of the contact information. At the very least, we will need your email address so we can send you the detailed instructions on how to download the directory to your smartphone. You can also access the directory from the Zion website. It is password protected, so once you are in the directory, you can call the church office for the password. To ensure everyone's privacy, only Zion members can be included in the directory.

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne at the above email address. We will be scheduling another photo session some time in the spring in Stellhorn Lounge. If you are already in the directory, and any of your contact information has changed, please forward the new information so we can make the appropriate updates.

New Discipleship Orientation

Welcome to Zion! If you are new to Zion and are interested in knowing more about our mission and ministry, come attend the next "New Discipleship Orientation" (New Member Class) scheduled for Sunday, April 30 in Piper Hall from 12:30-2:30PM. Together we will explore what it means to be a Christian, a Lutheran and a member of Zion. We will begin with a working lunch, as discussions will begin as we eat together. There will be time to ask questions and be reminded again of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. On May 7, Zion will welcome in worship those who want to join Zion in our discipleship walk. Contact Zion's Office to indicate your interest.

Member Caring Ministry

Step By Step



In April, Barbara Debner is starting an outdoor women's walking partner ministry called "Step by Step." Walkers can start early April and walk continuously into the fall. We are encouraging women to connect with other women that they may not be

friends with yet. The walking can be outdoor or indoor. Distance is not the goal but you will be surprised how the miles rack up while fellowshiping together.

A Kick Off event for Step by Step will be on the front steps of Zion from 1:30—2:30PM on April 2. Women should bring an index card with their contact information and also their calendars. We will make connections to start walking before Easter.

This is intended to be a very informal opportunity to step into new relationships. There will be a tiny prayer and simple devotional focus available to share before, during or after your walk. Record the miles you log in a journal specifically for "Step by Step" and bring it to our Celebration Connections Brunch on Sept 30. We will reward faithful walkers on that Saturday.

New Bible Study — "Love Lives Here"

Women are opening our homes for simple small group women's bible studies beginning in April. Women are planning to open God's word and fellowship informally.

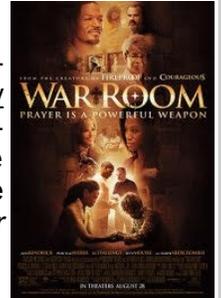
All Ypsilanti women or those interested in traveling to a different neighborhood are invited to meet at Barbara Debner's home starting April 19th at 6:30PM. Bring your calendar so we can finalize 6 future dates to meet. We may not be meeting the same day each session but the goal is to finish the six sessions before the end of June. Please sign up or email Barbara (babdebner@gmail.com) before April 5th so she can provide directions to her home.

April Chick Flick

Our April Chick Flick event will be April 22 in the Gathering place for the showing *Saving Sarah Cain* with plans for a simple Amish craft. This is a story about orphaned Amish children dropped unhappily into their aunt's modern world. A \$3 donation for supplies will be appreciated.

Battling Life with Strategic Prayer

On May 30, we are showing the movie *War Room* to encourage all closet-praying Christians. Arrive at 6PM with your comfortable chair. The movie starts with popcorn at 6:10. This is a family event open to men and women interested in the amazing Power of Prayer. The movie stars Priscilla Shirer and is another amazingly rich Kendrick brothers production that is only a year out of the theater. The Zion prayer team is hoping to challenge a fresh focus on intentional prayer. Please sign up early so you can receive resources after the movie. We hope to share a trailer for *War Room* during worship or in hall monitors in early May.



Samaritas News

In view of the increased attention to refugee issues these days, here is a little more information about Samaritas' refugee-related activities. Samaritas is the largest refugee resettlement agency in the state and the fourth largest in the nation. They have resettled thousands of people from dozens of countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Central and South America. The services that they provide include: 1) Resettlement of about 800 refugees from more than 5 countries each year, including core services such as reception, housing placement, cultural orientation, English as a Second Language, medical case management, and school enrollment, all provided for 90 days; 2) Helping newly arrived refugees find their first job, retain it, and achieve economic self-sufficiency within 180 days; 3) Counseling through the Center for Survivors of Torture, including psychotherapy services and case management support to refugees, asylees, or others eligible under the prescribed federal guidelines; 4) A repatriation program that assists US citizens with core services such as reception, housing placement, financial assistance, food, transportation, referral to medical/ psychiatric evaluation, treatment. All families want to raise their children without worrying about war, religious persecution or other forms of danger. You can help make that possible for New Americans by a donation to Samaritas or by volunteering. The contact for volunteering is:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/d907f1b6-1299-4e44-9b63-649da0b032a7/1>

Other News

Licensed Lay Ministry Update

On March 18, I started my next class as part of the Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) program, administered by the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA.

After a short break, my classmates and I are digging into the Old Testament. This class is taught by recently-retired Pastor Dennis Bux, and introduces us to Biblical scholarship (exegesis) as a discipline in preparation for teaching and preaching the Word. Covering the whole Old Testament in just five Saturdays should be challenging and engaging. The parallel New Testament class will be taught next spring, and will be one of my final classes in the program.

Thanks to everyone who has been coming up to me at church and asking about my LLM studies. I really appreciate the support. Many people ask how the LLM program fits into the overall picture of leadership in the ELCA. Pastors – like Pastor Jim, Pastor Vicky, and all of our pastors before them – attended seminary and earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree. Pastor Vicky has nearly finished her work towards her M.Div. Each person earning this degree may present herself / himself for candidacy to the ELCA for ordination to the office of Word and Sacrament. These people ensure (in the words of Luther and other reformers) that the “Word is rightly preached and the sacraments are rightly administered.” In recent churchwide assembly, the ELCA voted to combine three separate types of lay, rostered leaders into one office of Word and Service. These people are not ordained, and do not usually preside over Holy Communion at worship services. They often do complete a graduate degree, with university level courses in theology and Biblical studies. The ELCA describes these leaders on their web site <http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Lay-Rostered-Leaders>.

Our Southeast Michigan synod (like a few other ELCA synods, though not Northwest Michigan) recognized an additional need to train and equip lay leaders. The LLM program is described on the SE MI synod web site <http://www.semisynd.com/leaders/licensed-lay-ministry>. Our classes are shorter than university level classes, and we apply for licensure with our synod. The LLM status is not a national program – at least, not yet. Presiding Bishop Eaton visited our synod assembly last year, and was interested in the LLM program that we had in place.

- Dale Eckart

Interested in Local / Zion History?

On Wednesday, April 5 from 12-1PM, Zion member Barbara Foster will speak at the Kempf House historical museum located at 312 S. Division in Ann Arbor. The subject is Pastor Frederick Schmid, who was sent in 1833 as a missionary from Basel, Switzerland, to the German settlers in southeast, Michigan. Walking or traveling by horseback, he founded about 20 churches including Zion and Bethlehem in Ann Arbor. Some music familiar to German pioneers in the mid 1800's will also be performed. Kempf House, built in 1853, was home to a German-American musical family. There is a Steinway Concert grand piano from 1877 and an Almendinger pump organ.

A convenient place to park is in the Library Lot, offering ground and underground parking between Fifth Ave and Division. You can also park behind JCPenney at Briarwood and take bus 6 to the Transit Center on 5th, just one block from Kempf House.

Financial Stewardship News

Zion Stewardship 2017

We hope that each of you has received a stewardship letter by now and are prayerfully considering how you might support Zion ministries through your time, talents and resources. If you have not received the letter, please contact the church office (994-4455) and one will be sent to you.

The intent of the letter, our stewardship campaign and this Tower article is two-fold. First, we would like to dramatically increase the percentage of Zion members who fill out a financial commitment card. As you might imagine, it is much easier for church leaders to plan programs and ministry activities if they know what financial commitments have been made. Second, we are asking members to consider increasing their giving to support five Ministry Excellence goals. These goals are to: (1) initiate a transportation ministry, (2) purchase needed wireless microphones used in worship services by our pastors, (3) provide support for refugees in Washtenaw County, (4) hire an additional staff member with expertise in communication and outreach and (5) support a SEMI Capital Campaign focused upon training the next generation of Lay and Pastoral leaders. Will this be a challenge? Yes, it surely will be. Is Zion up to this challenge? The stewardship team and church leader consensus says, “yes!”

Zion is an extraordinarily blessed congregation. Recent bequests and a balanced budget provide an unprecedented opportunity to not sit on our hands, but reach out further through Zion's ministries. We ask you to reflect on the many blessings we have received and prayerfully consider these requests to support Zion's Ministry Excellence goals.

Thus far, Zion Council and Zion elected leaders have received a similar letter and responses have been quite enthusiastic. Now our stewardship team is reaching out to you, our individual members and families. Please consider joining your church Council and elected leaders to achieve these ministry excellence goals by increasing your financial commitment to Zion.

Yours in Christ,

Stewardship and Finance Committee and Stewardship for All Seasons Committee:

Nick Rogers, Lisa Rombes, Margie Reynolds, Dan McConnell, Bob Thompson, Bob Bertrand and Pastor Jim Debner

APRIL CALENDAR

Saturday, April 1

Sunday, April 2

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee/Welcome Center
 8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
 8:45 AM Blood Pressure Clinic/Counseling Office
 9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
 10:10 AM Faith Formation Hour
 11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
 4:00 PM Measure for Measure Concert/Sanctuary

Monday, April 3

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 12:30 PM Monday Women's Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Prayer Team Meeting/Omega Room
 6:15 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 4

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Nurses Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:30 PM Personnel Committee Meeting/Church Office
 7:00 PM Building & Grounds Meeting/Creation Station
 7:00 PM IT Committee Meeting/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Life's Lessons Book Club/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, April 5

12:00 PM Mid-week Lent worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:45 PM Lenten Lunch/Piper Hall
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Family Matters/Creation Station
 7:00 PM Lent Worship/Sanctuary
 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, April 6

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:00 PM PEO Conference Meeting/The Gathering
 12:30 PM Thursday Ladies Cards/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:30 PM Mid-week bible study/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 7

12:30 PM Women's Friday Bridge/Stellhorn Lounge
 1:00 PM Psalm Prepping/Main Kitchen

Saturday, April 8

9:00 AM PEO Conference, entire building

Sunday, April 9

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee Hour/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

Monday, April 10

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 6:00 PM Ann Arbor Fiber Arts/Piper Hall
 6:15 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
 7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 11

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's Office
 10:00 AM Good Thyme Garden/The Gathering
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 12

12:00 PM Mid-Week worship/Sanctuary
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:30 PM Endowment Board Meeting/Youth Room
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Creation Station
 6:00 PM Family Matters Group/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 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, April 13

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Activity Day/Piper Hall
 9:30 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
 12:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship/Chapel
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:00 PM Mission Core Ministry Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge
 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship/Sanctuary

Friday, April 14

12:00 PM Office Closes at noon
 12:00 PM Good Friday Worship/Chapel
 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:00 PM Good Friday Worship/Sanctuary

Saturday, April 15

10:00 AM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 4:00 PM Easter Egg Hunt/2nd Floor
 7:00 PM Easter Vigil/Sanctuary

Sunday, April 16 *Easter Sunday*

7:45 AM Early Bird Coffee Hour/Welcome Center
 8:00 AM First Light Worship/Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Sola Worship/Sanctuary
 11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary

Monday, April 17

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Reconciling in Christ/Omega Room
 6:15 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
 7:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 18

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's office
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM VBS Meeting/Stellhorn Lounge

Wednesday, April 19

12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:15 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM 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-a-teen Meeting/Omega Room
 7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting/The Gathering

7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous/Piper Hall

Thursday, April 20

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 11:00 AM International Neighbors/Piper Hall
 1:00 PM Ruth's Circle/Stellhorn Lounge
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 21

Saturday, April 22

10:00 AM Concordia Women's Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 5:30 PM Chick Flick Evening/The Gathering

Sunday, April 23

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/Main Kitchen

Monday, April 24

6:30 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 1:30 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 5:00 PM Ruth's Small Group/Main Kitchen
 6:15 PM Loss Recovery Support Group/Alpha Room
 7:00 PM Kesler's Small Group/Omega Room
 7:00 PM Weber's Small Group/Stellhorn Lounge

Tuesday, April 25

8:00 AM Uganda Bible Study via Skype/Vicky's office
 12:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 7:00 PM Five Miles More Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 26

12:00 PM Mid-week worship/Yeager Chapel
 12:15 PM Community Lunch/Youth Room
 1:00 PM Samaritan Counseling/Counseling Office
 6:00 PM Way of Life/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Family Matter Groups/Creation Station
 6:45 PM Praise Band Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 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, April 27

7:00 AM Men's ChristCare/Sunday Spot
 9:15 AM Mom's Bible Study/Omega Room
 6:00 PM Rings of the Lord Rehearsal/Sanctuary
 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary

Friday, April 28

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

Saturday, April 29

Sunday, April 30

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
 11:11 AM Ignite Worship/Sanctuary
 6:00 PM Grace Place/Youth Room

The Tower

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March Life Passages at Zion

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS: *Darlene Rittner; Sally Sterk; Nancy Bock*

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: Chris King (cking@zlc-aa.org)
Gordon Loll (gloll@zlc-aa.org)
Carrie Morton (cmorton@zlc-aa.org)
Bob Thompson (rcthompson@zlc-aa.org)
Sharon VanRiper (svanriper@zlc-aa.org)
Mark Warwashana (mwarwashana@zlc-aa.org)

Core Ministries

Worship: Steve Johgart, Christine Nelson
Welcome: Joanne Dence, Karen Salamin
Adult Discipleship: Ron Delph, Peter Bertocci
Young Discipleship: Tom Clifford, Ken Utsunomiya
Member Caring: Dianne Daily, Laura Girbach
Missions: Mark Gunderson, Layale Weinert

Support Ministries

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

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.